

THRU THE WINDOWS



Vol. 68-1

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Bennington, Nebraska

January 2008



**JANUARY 27**

9:30am- One Worship Service only  
10:30am Annual Congregational Meeting  
9:30-10:30am Kid's Kingdom Quest

**Budget Forums**

January 13 and 20 at 9:45am

# January 2008

**ACOLYTES**

**Jan 6**

8:30am Catherine Iltzsch, Madison Pooley  
11:00am David Bressman

**Jan 13**

8:30am Heather Shower, Drew Showers  
11:00am Paige Depperman

**Jan 20**

8:30am Jake Tumbleson, Rebecca Kander  
11:00am Erin Westfall

**Jan 27-Annual Congregational Mtg**

9:30am Cody Bridgeford, Melinda Schmidt

**Counters**

Jenny Hansen, Mark Backhuus, Jim Peterson

**Lectors/Cantors**

**Jan 6**

8:30am Lector- Julie Dunn

**Jan 13**

8:30am Lector- Jane Frost  
Cantor- Kerry Frey

**Jan 20**

8:30am Lector-David Mills

**Jan 27 - Annual Congregational Mtg**

9:30am Lector/Cantor- Fred Barnhard

## **GREETERS**

### **Jan 6**

**8:30am** Dick & Leanna Flynn

**11:00am** Helen Braesch

### **Jan 13**

**8:30am** Butch & JoAnn Redel

**11:00am** Helen Braesch

### **Jan 20**

**8:30am** Dick & Leanna Flynn

**11:00am** Helen Braesch

### **Jan 27-Annual Congregational Mtg**

**9:30am** Betty Deardoff

Helen Braesch

## **Communion Helper**

**8:30am** Paul Holtapp

## **USHERS**

### **Jan 6**

**8:30am** Harry & Mary Carol Junker

**11:00am** Gary & Mary Pat Schmidt

### **Jan 13**

**8:30am** Harry & Mary Carol Junker

**11:00am** Gary & Mary Pat Schmidt

### **Jan 20**

**8:30am** Harry & Mary Carol Junker

**11:00am** Gary & Mary Pat Schmidt

### **Jan 27-Annual Congregational Mtg**

**9:30am** Harry & Mary Carol Junker

Gary & Mary Pat Schmidt

Greetings Members and Friends of St. John's,

I trust that all of you had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year with family and friends, and are now renewed and ready to embrace the New Year.

As I looked back over the past year, I see it was a year full of opportunities for St. John's to carry out its mission to the community of Bennington. Some of the highlights were:

The "40 Days of Purpose" program, we did during Lent, which was the largest group event that has taken place since I became Pastor over five years ago.

Next, was the Women of the ELCA "Spring Gathering," and the theme was "I am a woman of faith!", which was hosted by the Women of the ELCA of St. John's.

Next, came Palm Sunday and the reception of our spring New Member class followed by Holy Week and finally our wonderful Easter services.

In May, we celebrated the 2007 High School Graduates, Mother's Day, and Pentecost Sunday.

Vacation Bible School was held from June 11-15<sup>th</sup> and followed by Bennington Daze and our Annual Outdoor Community Worship along with Father's Day.

In August, we celebrated our Second Annual Community Corn Feed, added Carnival games for the kids, and music from our own Praise Band, Exultation. It was a great community event which we hope to expand even more next year.

In September, we began a new ministry here at St. John's with the start of our new Kid's Kingdom Preschool under the leadership of our new preschool director, Diane Frizzell, which is doing very well.

In October, we celebrated the Reformation along with a special afternoon Rite of Confirmation Service for this years 22 confirmands, our largest class so far.

From there we rolled into Thanksgiving, our Sunday school Christmas program and Christmas.

Now we are standing at the beginning of a New Year full of promise in the life and ministry of this church. As I look ahead to the New Year, I am excited about the opportunities that lie before us.

- I am excited for all the children of this community that are being blessed through the ministry of our new Kid's Kingdom Preschool, and for all the new children that will be enrolled in 2008.
- I am excited for all those who will be taking part in this year's Lenten Program, "The 40 Days of Community," as a continuation of the "40 Days of Purpose" program that we did last year.
- I am excited to take part in a mission trip to Ocean Springs, Mississippi to assist some of the people affected by hurricane Katrina.
- I am excited about the "Jakson House" project that is underway to build a handicapped accessible house for Jakson DeLancey that the Social Ministry Committee and members of the Bennington Public School have undertaken.
- I am excited about the renovation of our church buildings as we move onto the church Sanctuary.
- I am excited about the new Assisted Living Center that is under construction here in Bennington and about the new ministries it will provide St. John's in the future.

So as I look ahead to 2008, I would only ask you to pray for this church and for the ministry that it has been called to do, that God will go before us and lead the way, that God will provide all that we need, and that God will call people to step forward to assist in the ministry of this church so that miracles can and will happen and lives will be changed, all in the name of Christ and for the Kingdom of God. May we all give our Utmost for His Highest!

See you in Church,

Pastor Jim Price

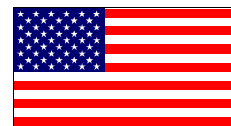
**Did you know.....** By action of the Church Council beginning in January the undesignated offerings will be split 90% to Current and 10% to Mission Share. This is being done to more closely align the income with where the disbursements should be taken from. The previous formula was 85% Current, 10% Mission Share, and 5% Property Improvement.

As our church grows it becomes increasingly important to maintain good record keeping practices. The Church Council would like to remind everyone that communion and gift records are important. Each member can help by completing the communion registration when taking communion. Giving records can be maintained when the member uses Simply Giving for automatic gifts, the offering envelopes, using personalized checks, or putting cash in an envelope with the givers name on it. Since loose currency or coin in the offering plate cannot be attributed to any individual, it cannot be used for a gift of record. These records are important because by recommendation of the synod and our own church constitution, each individual has to be baptized and to commune periodically and have a gift of record periodically to be considered a full member.

**Please help us save postage.** Your 2008 offering envelopes can be picked up from your church mailbox located in the Fellowship Hall Foyer.

**If you are interested in being a candidate** for the 2008 Church Council or Endowment Fund Committee, please check the "Sign Up" Opportunities Form enclosed in the Sunday bulletin.

**Altar Committee Volunteers are needed for 2008.** If you are interested in assisting with altar preparations, (for example, set for communion), please check the "Sign up" Opportunity form enclosed in your bulletin. Volunteers usually are assigned monthly increments and usually no more that twice a year. (maybe one month a year depending on the number of volunteers) This is a great opportunity to get involved. Please call the church office at 238-2483 if you have questions.



We would like to be in contact with our local and congregational service men and women. If you know of anyone serving, please call the church office with this information.



**On Sunday, January 6**, Everett's Trisler's girls are planning an open house for my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in Arlington at the Multi Purpose Center, 305 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from 2 to 4 pm. All are welcome.  
No gifts. Erma Trisler

### Can you spare an hour a month?

Whenever first time visitors fill out registration sheets, we send them a letter and take a loaf of bread to their homes to thank them for worshiping with us. Then, within the next few weeks, it is our intention to make an appointment with them for a little longer visit, in which we can get better acquainted and answer any questions they might have about St. John's. We try to match the age of the caller to that of the newcomers. We are in need of a few people who would be willing to call on young couples and families. If this is something you would be willing to try, please call Emily Laaker (238-2583) or the church office (238-2483). Thank you.

### HOUSE FOR JAKSON

#### Fundraiser: Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction Jan 12th

The fundraising committee is planning a spaghetti dinner and silent auction for Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at Bennington High School. **Desserts** and **workers** are needed for this event.

Please call Annette Kay at 238-2529 to let her know how you can help.



**Special thanks to everyone** for their cards and their get well wishes while I was ill. They were greatly appreciated. Pat Mahoney

**The Red Cross** would like to thank everyone who gave blood on December 20. 26 units were donated. Special thanks to Suzanne Kirby, Mary Bequette and Carol Iltzsch for all of their assistance during the day.

Early reminder: **February 18** is the next Community blood drive.

# YOUTH NOTES...

As we end Christmas season, I hope that each of you had a very Merry Christmas with your family and friends. For me, this year was a fun, with my son, Dathan, getting more and more into the season and the beauty of all the lights. We too can rejoice in the light that has come this Christmas season. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world." Let us follow the light throughout this New Year, like a child at Christmas.

Our Jr. High ended the year with a adventurous trip to Aurora, NE for the Middle School Gathering. The theme this year was TAG. I had my first taste of planning a synod event as I was on the planning team for the Middle School Gathering. When all said and done, the event was a great success.

Also, this month starts the re-launch of our Sr. High youth ministry. We have named it The BYG's, Bennington Youth Group. I am excited to begin this new page in our Sr. High programming.

The Confirmation classes have started following a short Christmas break. A group of youth will be participating in the Urban Plunge coming up on Feb. 1-3. This was a great experience for all those that participated in November. If you would like to attend, we are still looking for adults that are will to take the plunge and possibly drive for the weekend.

ROCK ON! Jeremy

## Urban Plunge Feb. 1-3

Not just for Confirmation students. We would like to have adults take the plunge with our Confirmation students. The Urban Plunge is a short term mission trip locally. We explore many different ministries to see were God may call you to serve further. A chance to get out of our comfort zone and explore God's calls.

## Sr. High Events and Retreats...



# Survive'' Tour February 22-23, 2008

presented by Dare 2 Share Ministries

Sign up today for an experience that will change your life. Come and see great artists perform, along with the amazing speaker Greg Stier. I guarantee this will be a time that you talk about for a life time. The cost is right for only \$20 a spot. Not sure yet, then you may check out the dare 2 share ministries out online and watch the videos and check out what the conference may be like. Again, grab a form from the youth bulletin board

## Welcome to

# THE BYG's

## Bennington Youth Group

BYG's, Bennington Youth Group is for all youth in 9th-12th grade. We meet every Wednesday Night, 7:30-9:00pm at the St. John's Youth Center. Each night starts with a gathering time for you and your friends to join in a game of pool, PS2, Xbox, or just relax with some food and drink. Based on the night and the theme, we gather as a large group for varied activities; games, faith discussion, prayer, and/or videos (all depending on the night). BYG's is meant to be a place for you to gather and grow in friendship and faith.

ROCK ON! Jeremy and the BYG's Team

## Men's Ministry at St. John's

Our January Men's Ministry Meeting will be held Saturday, January 12 beginning with breakfast at 7:15am. During our meeting, we will be discussing the upcoming Lutheran Men in Mission Conference coming to the Qwest Center in Omaha this August. So come have breakfast and help us make plans for 2008.

## AUGUST 1-3, 2008

Early registration discount extended to March 15.  
[www.visitomaha.com](http://www.visitomaha.com) for more information o Omaha.

## Coming of Age . . .

### It's a Book,

### It's a Conference,

### It's a Movement

in the church to "come of age" and reach out to and connect with younger men August 1-3, 2008, men of all ages will gather in Omaha, NE, under the same theme verse as the founders, "...your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." (Acts 2:17).

We will celebrate 20 years of ministry and launch the next great step. Lutheran Men in Mission will continue to grow and become a financially self-reliant, separately-incorporated ministry of the ELCA. Lutheran Men in Mission will COME OF AGE. More importantly, generations of men will come together in Jesus Christ. We will serve, we will play, we will learn, we will worship, we will encounter God – and each other – and we will grow! Bring your son, bring your friend, and bring your dad – join us

# 40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY

*St. John's Women  
in Action*



**40 Days of Community** moves people from focusing on God's purposes in their personal — "What on Earth am I here for?" —to focusing on God's purposes in their church and community — "What on Earth are here for?" It is an effort to build the sense of community here in Bennington and in our church.

**40 Days of Community** is going to change all of our lives because this is the one time we align every age group in our church - children, youth and adults - to focus on spiritually deepening ourselves and our church. Small groups will be meeting in homes or at the church once a week for six weeks where we will focus on deepening relationships with Christ and serving God in our community.

In order to get the most out of **40 Days of Community**, you need to be in a small group! We are asking everyone in the Community family to participate in the following ways:

1. Join or host a 40 Days small group. Your group will meet once a week for six weeks.
2. Attend a Sunday worship service every week. Commit to attending all six weekends during the campaign.
3. Read the 40 daily devotionals based on the "one another" passages found in the Bible. We will all read these daily through the six weeks of the campaign in the "Better Together" workbook.
4. Help us meet needs in our community by participating with your small group in our 40 Days Community Outreach

40 Days of Purpose was the first step of faith we took as a church during Lent last year and the **40 Days of Community** is the next step in our spiritual growth and development at St. John's. By joining a small group, you're not only going to experience all the campaign has to offer, you're going to make some friends and help meet needs in and around our community.

Our **40 Days of Community** program will begin on **Sunday, February 3**. This is a great opportunity for everyone, so be sure to stop by the **40 days of Community table** in the Church Narthex and sign up today! If you have any questions about becoming a part of the 40 Days of Community Program this Lent, just call the church office at 238-2483. May God Bless you!

*News and Information for all  
Women of St. John's  
January, 2008*

## **Coming Events**

### **Fair Trade Sales**

**January 13th**

in Narthex between services  
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Hot Chocolate, and  
Chocolate Bars

### **Winter Retreat**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Grand Island

January 19<sup>th</sup>

Cost \$18.00

### **"Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls"**

January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in fellowship hall

Plan to attend!

**Join us in Bible Study  
All Women are welcome!**

Faith Bible Study – Jan. 8, at 1:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Lesson Leader – Betty Deardoff  
Refreshments – Bernetta Schroeder

Rejoice Bible Study – Jan. 21, at 7:00 p.m.  
Conference Room

Lesson/Refreshments – Debbie Almquist  
General Meeting – January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
Hostesses – Rejoice Circle  
Karen Anderson, Annette Kay,  
Emily Laaker, Jane Frost

## **‘Great Expectations’ Retreat**

“Great Expectations” is the theme for the Winter Retreat, which will be at St. Paul/Grand Island on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008. It will feature a presentation by Stephanie Grace Whitson, award-winning Nebraska author. Whitson will use quilts and quilt tops to illustrate her talk, “A Patchwork Life,” about her personal faith journey. A native of southern Illinois, she has lived in Nebraska since 1975. She began writing fiction when she became encouraged and challenged by the lives of pioneer women in Nebraska History, while home schooling her four children.

Shirley Daire, a Parish Ministry Associate, who lives in Alma, will tell about the work Lutheran World Relief does every day in 35 countries, illustrating with pictures she took of LWR at work in Nicaragua. The third feature will star fun-loving clowns from the Life in Christ Circus, who use colorful antics to reveal human frailties and encourage people to laugh at themselves.

Registration is \$18.00, and is due January 7<sup>th</sup>. Offerings will go to Lutheran World Relief. See Karen Anderson about registration info and to carpool to Grand Island.

*Don't forget to **support the Western Douglas County Pantry** with food items. You can place them in the shopping carts located in the entry to the lower level and to the fellowship hall. Also, **Campbell's Soup labels** may be left in the container below the mailboxes.*

**Young Women of the ELCA – BE BOLD!** – Check out this website! **[boldcafe.org](http://boldcafe.org)**  
*Café is a free, monthly on-line magazine for young women offered by Women of the ELCA. Women of all ages are reading it!*  
**Café stands for Community, Advocacy, Faith, and Enlightenment**

## Quilters in Action

**A New Year-a new beginning: begin each day  
with the Lord.**

**Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth.**

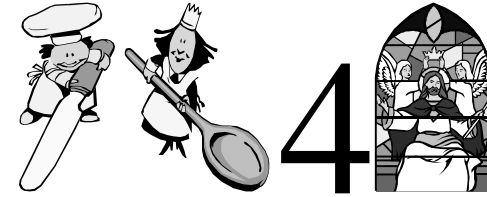
**Isaiah 65: 17**

The Quilting Frame: Have you ever noticed how much easier a task is when your heart is in it? God's Word says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (Colossians 3:23-24). In context of the chapter, this refers to the job that we do for someone in authority. Hard work has a greater reward than just a paycheck.

On Monday, December 10 the following eight ladies met: Betty Deardoff, Suzanne Kirby, Emily Laaker, Gloria Jacobsen, Doris Gottsch, Addie Backhuus, Lorene Andersen, and Carol Iltzsch. They were able to tie and complete: 2 baby quilts and 3 lap robes, and 3 full size quilts. Again, we cannot express our thanks and appreciation to all who spend their time and talents at home preparing backs and tops for the quilters to tie when the time comes to meet each month. We couldn't complete all we do if it weren't for all that the ladies do.

On December 18 and December 19, we delivered 13 full size quilts and 20 baby quilts to the Rainbow Houses in Omaha. The Rainbow House is affiliated with the Children's Hospital of Omaha. The Ronald McDonald House is affiliated with the University of Nebraska Med. Center.

The Binding Stitch: Lord, keep me in Your framework,  
so my work is not in vain.



## Community Christmas Party a Success

The weather forecast was awful. For ten days we wavered between canceling or not. The committee said lots of prayers and three large tables of food were prepared. Volunteers offered to deliver meals with their 4 wheel drives. We set the tables sparingly. Friday evening we were still unsure as the ice was on the way.

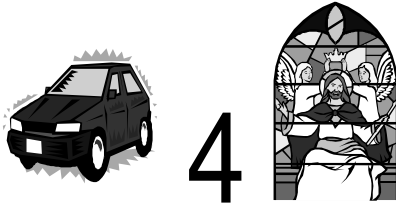
For the very first time we had to set more places at our tables. Our third Christmas party was a blessing from heaven. Wheels 4 Christ was extra busy bringing three loads of passengers. There was plenty of great food and lots of warm friendship. Santa had gifts for everyone, but he insisted in playing the Right, Left game. As with all of our events, we had great help with food donations, decorations, clean up and participation. We celebrate our intergenerational group and praise God for the change in the weather.

**Heaps of appreciation to each and everyone for all their help, we couldn't have done it without YOU! Jodi & Julie**

Jan 15 Benn View Noon  
21 Keenagers Noon  
29 Planning Meeting 9:30AM



**Benn Town Gals** enjoyed the food and atmosphere of our own Sugar Cubes. Bunko was the game of the evening. A fun directional Christmas gift exchange was enjoyed by all. The gifts were unique and the dessert was yummy. Gals of all ages are invited to join our group and let their hair down once a month. Contact Emily at 238-2583 or Joyce at 238- 2802. They will add you to the list.



### **Wheels 4 Christ**

We have been very busy providing transportation to church, doctors and to work. Are you available to help with the driving? As our ministry grows, there are more times when we have to decide which need has the priority. Please consider volunteering. WE NEED YOU. Call Bill @ 238-2659 for details.

**Thank you to everyone who helped to  
make our Cooks 4 Christ Ministry a  
success!  
We appreciate all of your hard work!  
Jodi and Julie**

### **Volunteer and make a difference!!!!!!**

There are many opportunities to volunteer to help your church for the year 2008. You could usher, greet, serve the fellowship coffee, help with the communion, and assist the Kingdom Quest in a variety of ways. The office needs help. Our ministries need volunteers in every area.

If everyone would volunteer for something, everyone would benefit. Not only would the volunteers feel good about helping our church, but would be growing toward the mission of serving. Looking for an opportunity? Call 238-2659



### **Prayers 2 Christ-Weekly Prayer Schedule**

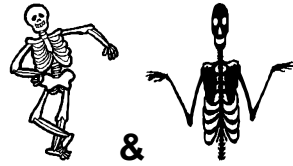
Jan 7: Pray for a prosperous and healthy year  
Jan 14: Pray for our spiritual growth  
Jan 21: Pray for our annual congregational meeting  
Jan 28: Pray for congregational unity.

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge that won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit-- -  
\_\_Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace,  
\_\_Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten Lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So I wonder if we were in a similar situation---What would be the words to our song?



## Benders & Stretchers

**Eat too much for the holidays?**

**Join us!**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**

**9-9:30AM**

**Choir Room Lower Level**

## National Health Observances

January Observances	2008
Blood Donor Month, National	1-31
Birth Defects Prevention Month	1-31
Cervical Cancer Screening Month	1-31
Glaucoma Awareness Month, National	1-31
Healthy Weight Week	20-26
Thyroid Awareness Month	1-31
Women's Healthy Weight Day	24

## Financial Peace University?

Would YOU like to pay off \$5,300 of your debt and save \$2,700 at the same time?

We need a few more families to get this wonderful class started, if you are interested, call 238-2659 by Jan 14.



## *Volunteer Award Nominations are being accepted*

To be eligible to receive the **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD**,

Applicants' service hours must be confirmed by a registered Certifying Organization. St John's Wellness Committee

There are three levels of the AWARD varying by hours of service completed within a 12-month period Jan 2006-Dec 2006:

Kids - 14 and younger	Adults – Ages 26 and up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bronze Award 50 - 74 hours</li> <li>• Silver Award 75 - 99 hours</li> <li>• Gold Award 100 or more hours</li> </ul>	Bronze Award 100 - 249 hours Silver Award 250 - 499 hours Gold Award 500 or more hours
Young Adults - Ages 15 - 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bronze Award 100-174 hours</li> <li>• Silver Award 175- 249 hours</li> <li>• Gold Award 250 or more hours</li> </ul>	<b>Families and Groups (two or more people)*</b> Bronze Award 200 - 499 hours Silver Award 500 - 999 hours Gold Award 1,000 or more hours *Each member contributing at least 25 hours towards the total

### **PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD**

Individuals who have completed 4,000 or more volunteer service hours over the course of their lifetime are eligible to receive the **PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD**.

If you would like to nominate a person to receive the President's Volunteer Service award, put a note in church box 57 or call Julie at 203-2649. There are awards for individuals beginning at age 5 and there are also awards for families.

Here is a chance for you to say thank you to someone publicly. You don't have to sign your name, but be sure that you have the correct spelling of your nomination and which group they are being nominated for. Julie



**HANDY LITTLE CHART**  
**God has a positive answer:**

<u>YOU SAY</u>	<u>GOD SAYS</u>	<u>BIBLE VERSES</u>
You say: "It's impossible"	God says: All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
You say: "I'm too tired"	God says: I will give you rest	(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: "Nobody really loves me"	God says: I love you	(John 3:1 6 & John 3:34 )
You say: "I can't go on"	God says: My grace is sufficient	(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
You say: "I can't figure things out"	God says: I will direct your steps	(Proverbs 3:5- 6)
You say: "I can't do it"	God says: You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: "I'm not able"	God says: I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: "It's not worth it"	God says: It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28 )
You say: "I can't forgive myself"	God says: I Forgive you	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: "I can't manage"	God says: I will supply all your needs	(Philippians 4:19)
You say: "I'm afraid"	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear	(II Timothy 1:7)
You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: "I'm not smart enough"	God says: I give you wisdom	(I Corinthians 1:30)
You say: "I feel all alone"	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)

HELP IS NEEDED  
 40 Days of Community needs people with all kinds of different talents with a little time for the next three months. Please Contact Pastor Price, or Julie ASAP  
 238-2659, 238-2483

**FLOWERS**

**December 2**

**The rose on the altar** was in celebration of the birth of Mia Taylor Korth on November 27 by her grandparents, Vic & Deb Sass. Mia, the daughter of Katie & Ryan Korth, weighed 8 lbs. 9.2 oz and was 20 ¾ inches long. Mia's great-grandparents are Howard & Phyllis Almquist and was welcomed home by big brother Ethan who is 3 years old.

**December 9**

**The flowers on the altar** were in memory of grandma, Alma Gottsch whose birthday was in December and in celebration of all the other birthdays in our families during the month of December.  
 Mike & Debbie Almquist

**December 16**

**The flowers on the altar** were given in memory of Marjorie Biffar by her family. Marjorie passed away on December 7. The funeral service was held at St. John's Lutheran Church on December 11 with interment at the German Cemetery.

**December 23**

Flowers were in honor of Mallory Mohr's graduation from UNL on December 22 with a degree in Fashion and Clothing Design. They were given by her parents Van and Nancy Mohr.

**December 30**

**Altar flowers** were given in loving memory of Lillian Hansen by her family. Lillian passed away on Christmas Eve. The funeral service was held at St. John's Lutheran Church on December 27 with interment at Mount Hope Cemetery.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1. Amond Ohms  
Diane Ryan
2. Karen Boever  
Carol Loptin
3. Erma Christianson  
Becky Mills  
Lana Murphy  
Cynthia Rivera  
Kelly Stockhaus  
Jennifer Hansen
4. Meade Laaker
5. Autumn McDaniel  
Mary Weberg  
Amber Wilson  
Lillianne Howard  
Katie Misfeldt
6. Dorothy Bauermeister  
Richard Musel  
Gage Reed  
Pat Taylor
7. John Christensen  
Ryan Christianson  
Dee Clark  
Jennifer Wilson
8. Courtney Kinser  
John Klabunde  
Steven Staats  
Cynthia Barnhard  
Jamie Stastny
9. Brandon Wynn
10. Amy Laaker  
Marlene Reed  
Erma Trisler
11. Lori Armstrong  
Chet Auch  
Tim Sass
13. Sara Lund  
Danielle O'rourke  
Katy Bridgeford
14. Donna VanBuren

15. Tim Janecek  
Bobbie Valandra
16. Tayler Goertz
17. Mary Mueller  
Cathy Price  
Connie Smith
18. Mark Misfeldt  
Trent Omer
19. Duane Braesch
20. Wally Boever  
Clancy Laaker
21. Erin Backhuus  
Holly Peterson  
Caydence Simmons
22. Jonathan Mahon  
Justin Mahon  
Chad Simmons
23. Andrew Smith  
Ashley Wilson
24. Brandon Pierson  
Brock Pierson  
Austyn Flesner
25. Gene Baldwin  
Timothy Engel  
Justin Grothendick  
David Price
26. Carol Stephens  
Kip Mildward
27. Jared Baty  
Connor Stichler
28. Tim Sass  
Brenda Teller
29. Scott Wesemann
30. Jim Bonge  
Derek Slechta  
Lena Smith
31. Lonny Japp  
Elyce York

## SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

- ❖ Mary Weberg, 80
- ❖ Erma Trisler, 80
- ❖ Dorothy Bauermeister, 81
- ❖ Chet Auch, 88



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

16. Doug & Mindi Laaker  
Duane & Helen Braesch  
Chad & Jessica Simons
26. Mark & Susan Coe
27. Jeff & Elizabeth Pooley

## SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

- ❖ Doug & Mindi Laaker, 20
- ❖ Duane & Helen Braesch, 54



**Madison Joy Johnson**, born on July 27, 2007, was received into God's Holy Kingdom through the washing of Holy Baptism on December 23. Her sponsors are Nik & Christie Sather and Justin Miller. Madison is the daughter of Heath and Melissa Johnson.



**Please keep Judy and Al Barber in your prayers.** Judy's mother, Clarissa Hansen, passed away. The Funeral Service was held at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Omaha on December 6. Interment was at the Mount Hope Cemetery.



Congratulations to Eric & Ashton (Klahn) Nelson who were united in marriage at St. John's Lutheran Church on December 22, 2007.

**DECEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS**

**The Church Council met on December 11.**

**Present:** Bill Dunn, Jan Braden, Pastor Jim, Jenny Hansen, Jim Peterson, Jeremy Hansen, Caryn Stichler, Mark Misfeldt, Sandra Kander, Jim Pinegar, Ted Kirby, Mark Backhuus, Wayne Anderson, Debbie Almquist. **Absent:** Mert Opfer

**Devotions:** Given by Pastor Price Devotions for next month: Wayne Andersen  
**New Business:** Bishop DeFreese and representative for CCJH will meet with the Council on Dec. 18 to address the congregation’s Mission Support. Set Mission Support goal for 2008, \$35,106, a 5% increase over last year’s pledge. Discussed items for January Thru the Windows, part-time bookkeeper, software needed/recommended by Neal Finken, short refresher course given to counters.

**Unfinished Business:** Task force reports, membership roster, nominating committee, Insurance, 2008 Budget discussion-Forums Jan 13 and 20. Annual meeting scheduled for Jan 27 with one service at 9:30am and the annual meeting scheduled following the service.

**Committee reports**

Youth Ministry: Posted on bulletin board located in the office hallway

Evangelism: Posted on bulletin board located in the office hallway

Stewardship: Posted on bulletin board located in the office hallway

Finance: November Current Fund Beginning Balance: -\$740.53

Mission Share for November: \$3,395.89. November Ending Balance: \$661.51

Line of Credit: -\$3,800.00. Actual balance: -\$3,580.13

Pastor’s report: Posted on bulletin board in the office hallway.

**Complete Church Council Meeting Minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the office hallway.**

**The next church council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8.**

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>	
Dec 2	91	72	
Dec. 9	87	279	Kid's Kingdom Christmas Program
Dec. 16	80 est.	91	
Dec 23	93	74	
Dec 30	81	98	

**Christmas Eve**

5:00pm	265
11:00pm	155

**THRU THE WINDOWS**

St. John’s Lutheran Church

322 North Molley Street

**James M. Price, Pastor**

238-2483 (Church)

238-2958 (Home)

[WWW.STJOHNSBENNINGTON.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNSBENNINGTON.ORG) (website)

STJOHNSOFFC@msn.com (Email)

**Worship Services**

**8:30am Traditional with Holy Communion**

**11:00am Contemporary\***

\*Holy Communion will be celebrated on the First and third Sunday of each month

**2007 Church Council**

- Caryn Stichler.....President
  - Jim Peterson..... Vice President/ Evangelism
  - Mark Misfeldt..... Co-Current Fund Treasurer/Mission Share Treasurer/Music & Worship
  - Deb Almquist\*..... Co-Current Fund Treasurer /Mission Share Treasurer
  - Jan Braden.....Secretary/Worship & Music
  - Wayne Andersen\*.....Financial Secretary
  - Wayne Andersen\*.....Finance
  - Mert Opfer.....Social Ministry/Special Funds Treasurer
  - Jim Pinegar.....Property
  - Ted Kirby.....Property
  - Mark Backhuus.....Mutual Ministry
  - Jim Peterson.....Property
  - Bill Dunn.....Stewardship
  - Sandra Kander.....Christian Education
  - Jenny Hansen.....Social Ministry
- \* Appointed

\* \* \* \* \*

- Youth & Family Director.....Jeremy Hansen
- Secretary ..... Debbie Misfeldt
- Organist.....Michael Bauer
- Choir Director.....Kerry Frey
- Junior Choir Director ..... Kerry Frey
- Custodians..... Tom Koziol/Cindy Koziol