



DECEMBER CHURCHLETTER



December is upon us and so is winter. I'm one of those crazy people who loves winter! I love the snow (within reason!), the cold weather, and the warmth of our homes and churches on a typical winter day. The most important reason that I love winter is the season that we celebrate in the church. There are those that focus more on Santa Claus and gifts, but for me it's all about the birth of our Savior. After 57 years, it still amazes me that our Messiah chose to be born as a child, to grow up like we do, to live His life as we live ours, and then start His ministry when He did. As God's Son, Jesus could have come to earth fully grown as the visible image of God. Instead, He came into this world like we do...as a newborn baby. In Jesus's case though, it was to a virgin mother and step-father. They didn't understand, at first, the importance of this child until God helped them to see what wonders this child would bring to this world. He, Jesus, would be a gift to this world unlike any before Him or since.

As I said previously, some people focus more on Santa Claus and gifts at this time of year. Our society has driven us to that mindset and it's unfortunate that this oftentimes is our focus. However, the idea of gifts does actually fit at this time of year. Yes, the Wise Men came to visit Jesus and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh but I'm actually talking about the gift that Jesus is to us. We are blessed to have our Savior...He is a wonderful gift to us! Our faith tells us that He is the gift that loves us, guides us, forgives us, and saves us. Not only that, but He died for us too. What other gift would do that? My friends, Jesus is not only the reason for the season, He is also truly the gift that has given so much and keeps on giving as well! As we all enjoy this wonderful time of the year, let us be truly thankful for the greatest gift we have ever been given...our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!!

We wish all of you a very blessed month of December and a Merry Christmas!!!

Pastor Gary and Brenda

The office phone number is 651-280-0150 You can also reach the churches by email at: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com or NerstrandUMC@gmail.com

Please send **bulletin (deadline-9am Thurs)** and **newsletter (deadline-20th of month)** information to: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com (Lynn Hirschev will be monitoring this email). Phone number 507-330-1831. Notes in the mail are also welcome if you prefer.

Wednesday Wear at Nerstrand UMC
Hours: Wed. 1-5 pm Sat. 9-noon
Remember that donations are welcome!
****No Wed. Wear Dec. 24 or Dec. 31**

Prayer Chain



Please direct all prayer chain requests to **Becky Tatge (507) 210-1214** or **Mary Kindseth 507-789-6879**. Messages can be left on either of the phones. If you want to make any changes on how you are contacted or add your name to the list, you can be on the email or phone list. Let's keep this available to our community.

Prayer chain and worship service link emails:

Becky Tatge has been regularly sending emails with the worship service link and/or prayer chain requests. If you have not been receiving them and would like to, please contact Becky at (507) 210-1214

Loving Thoughts and Prayers Surround:

New Perspective

Joan Schwake
Pleasant View Estates
Shirley Bauer
Lois Bauer
Judy Smith
Faribault Senior Living
Mildred Tatge
Milestone
Marjean Smith
Traditions I- Owatonna
Jean Pederson

At Home

Doris Hildebrandt
Arlene Shaske
Arlene Bultman
Kaye Spike
Marion Bailey
Dorothy Lang



Merry Christmas!



Joys and Concerns

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Richard Budde. Richard, age 78, passed away Nov. 17. Funeral services were

held at St. John's on Tues. Nov. 22. Burial was in the St. John's Cemetery.

The United Methodist Church Christmas Program will be on Dec. 18th at 9 a.m. with a Christmas breakfast to follow. The offering from the service and meal will go to Ruth and Lowell Gess Eye Hospital in Sierra Leone.



Christmas Bags

The St. John's elders will be collecting money for Christmas Bags the first three Sundays in December (Dec. 4, 11, & 18). If you wish to reserve a bag/s please contact one of the elders, Gloria Karl, Todd Lien, or Barb Kleve or the Sunday School Superintendent, Carrie Hess.



St. John's UCC and Nerstrand UMC are doing an outreach program to help the Nerstrand Elementary school. Using the Food Shelf collection bins at our churches, your help is needed to donate the following paper and cleaning supplies:

- Chlorox wipes
- Copy paper
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Floor cleaner
- Sink cleaner

Cash donations are also welcome. Donations can be left at each of the churches over the next several months. Let's help support the Nerstrand Charter Elementary School.

Coffee and Conversation with Pastor Gary!

Join the pastor for a nice visit at Boots & Lu's on Dec. 14 and Dec. 28 at 10:00a.m.



Choir Practice continues at St. John's at 9: 50am

Sunday School at St. John's

St. John's Sunday School will resume for the 2022-23 school year on Sunday, September 25, for any students Pre-K

through 8th grade. We will meet each Sunday from 9:30-10:20 am, and we invite parents/families to stay and join us the first week. Please contact Carrie Hess with any questions, or if you know of a student or teacher who would like to be part of our Sunday School this year; 651-775-5594 or littlehesshouse@gmail.com. We look forward to a fun year, learning about God's love for us *and* about how we can share that love with others!



Bible Study

A Bible Study 7:00pm at St John's. The study is held weekly on Tuesday evenings. "Moses-Calling and Character" by Stephen D. Eyre will be our study guide. Other manuals from the LifeGuide Bible

Studies series have been used in several of our past Bible studies. Please see Doug Spike (952-239-8671 call or text) to sign-up and receive your manual. Last day for this bible study is Dec. 6th.



St John's UCC council

November 8th 2022

The November meeting of St John's council was called to order at 7:30 by moderator Gloria Karl.

Pastor Gary reminded the council that we should be grateful that we live in free country where we have the privilege of voting to elect our leaders. Pastor Gary then led the council in prayer.

Kim Keller reported for the SPRC. She reported that Thanksgiving eve service will be at St John's at 7:00pm. A joint Christmas day service will be held at St John's at 10:00AM. A joint New Year's Day service will be held at Nerstrand United Methodist at 10:00AM. Christmas Eve Services will be held at Nerstrand at 5:00pm and at St John's at 7:00pm.

Secretary and treasures reports were read and approved. Trustees reported that the carpet will be cleaned on November 28th. They will be decorating the church before advent. The globe lights are in need of repair and the trustees are looking to get an upgrade.

The elders will be collecting for Christmas bags after services the 3 weeks before Christmas.

Gloria Karl informed the council of a need for medical supplies in Nicaragua. The council felt it is a good project and agreed we could be a collection point until we get a trailer full to deliver to the cities. Gloria will have more information about what can be used in the newsletter.

LP gas contract was discussed and a motion was made and passed to contract 2500 more gals of LP gas for the upcoming heating season.

The next council meeting will be held December 13th at 7:30 PM.

There being no further business the council adjourned at 8:55 PM.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer
Keith Keller Secretary Keith Keller Secretary

Elders: Gloria Karl, Todd Lien, Barb Kleve
Deacons: Gordie Wiegrefe, Brian Homier, Keith Keller
Trustees: Matt Schwake, Paul Meyer, Dennis Tatge Cemetery
Board: Brian Bauer, Al Meyer, Kyle Keller

To the members and friends of St. John's:

Please remember to get your 2022 contributions in before the end of the year, as the Deacons will be closing the 2022 church books on January 3rd. Thank you! All of you for your continuing generous support of your Church!

--- St John's Deacons

St. John's UCC Cleaning Committee

The St. John's UCC cleaning committee for the months of Jan./Feb.is: TBA



Nerstrand UMC council

Chairman-Duane Bailey
Secretary -Debbie Kerr

Second Saturday Quilters

SSQ is open to people from all churches and their friends. For more info, contact Deb Wille at 507-323-4813 or 83159deb@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Bags

The St. John's elders will be collecting money for Christmas Bags the first three Sundays in December (Dec. 4, 11, & 18). If you wish to reserve a bag/s please contact one of the elders, Gloria Karl, Todd Lien, or Barb Kleve or the Sunday School Superintendent, Carrie Hess.

Dec. 13 St. John's council-7:30pm

Dec. 18 NUMC Christmas Program 9 a.m.

Dec. 20 newsletter deadline

Dec. 24 Christmas eve services: NUMC-5:00pm, St. John's 7:00pm

Dec. 25 Joint Christmas service St. John's 10:00am

Jan. 1 Joint New Year's Day service NUMC 10:00am

Service Schedule for 2022: Sundays

(Communion on first Sunday of month)

9:00 AM WORSHIP AT NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

12 Maple Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053

E-mail: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

Website: <https://nerstrandumc.org>

Phone:507.332.4089

10:30 AM WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault, MN 55021

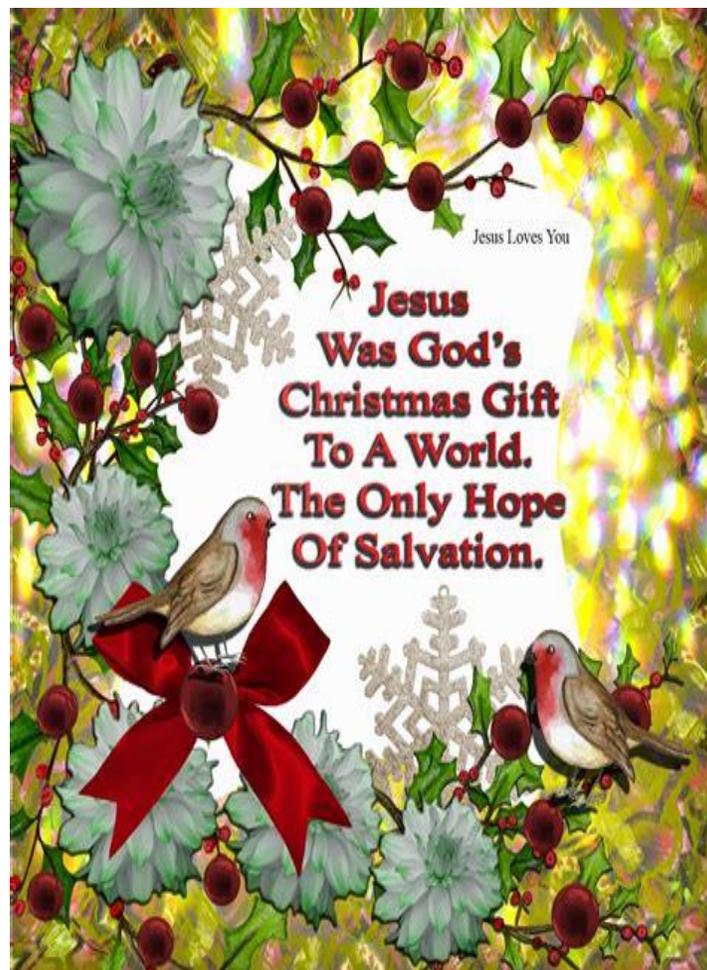
E-mail: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

Website: <https://stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info>

Phone: 651-280-0150



Pastor- Gary Liker



ANGEL
BELLS
BETHLEHEM
CANDLES
CANDY CANE
CAROLS
DECORATIONS
EGGNOG
FAMILY
FRANKINCENSE
FRIENDS
GABRIEL
GIFTS
GOLD
GREETING CARDS
HOLLY
ICICLES
JESUS
JOSEPH

FRUITCAKE

LIGHTS
MARY
MISTLETOE
MYRRH
ORNAMENTS
POINSETTIA
SANTA
SHEPHERDS
SKATES
SLEIGH
SNOWMAN
STABLE
STAR
STOCKING
THREE WISE MEN
TOBOGGAN
TOYS
TREE
WREATH

MANGER

SNOWFLAKES

E N A C Y D N A C H T A E R W S S
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