

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Christmas has now past and our lives seem to be going back to the slower pace they had before the "holiday season" started. Yet, as I said last month, the Church Year is like the flu, we have to let it run its course. We did that during the season of Advent, which was the season in which we prepared for Christmas. We also do that during the season after Epiphany which takes up the month of January and the first part of February.

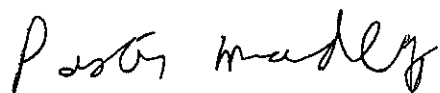
Epiphany is a time of reflecting on what we have celebrated at Christmas: God becomes man in the person of Jesus Christ. Just as a celebration requires preparation, a celebration does not come to an abrupt end but often winds down as time goes by. We see this as our worship will be in the afterglow of Christmas and we let the mystery of the incarnation sink in.

Sometimes we see January as a dark, dull and blah winter month but in the church that is not true. This month we will hear of Jesus being baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, the heavens are opened, the Spirit descends and the Father speaks from the cloud. This is anything but dull and blah. Then we will hear about Jesus healing the sick and raising the dead. This is anything but dull and blah. Then we will see Jesus in His full glory standing next to Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration. This is anything but dull and blah. And then we move to Lent and Easter where we see Jesus die and rise again. Certainly, this is anything but dull and blah. We have some exciting events of our Lord's life coming up and let us gather in God's house to hear about them. Let us not rush through Epiphany but let us reflect on Jesus revealing Himself as Son of God and Savior of the world through word and deed.

Yes, the Christmas decorations will be coming down soon. Yet, in the church we really do not decorate or undecorate, we simply prepare the sanctuary for the next season or celebration. Sometimes the chancel is well decorated and festive looking. At other times, it is very plain; sometimes even bare. Sometimes it is somewhere in between. But however the sanctuary looks, it serves as a reminder of God the Son, Jesus Christ, present among us in a saving and forgiving way.

Let us make the most of the Epiphany season.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Madley".

Memorials & Donations to St. John's Lutheran Church 12-11-22 to 12-26-22

In Memory of	Amount	From
Arthur Strohschein, Maynard & Lillian Jacobs - School	\$100.00	Larry & Nancy Strohschein
Marjean LaFleche - general fund Otto, Olga, Bill, Carl, Herman, Helen, Ida, Martin, Ruth, Edwin Edna, Paul, and Robert	\$200.00	Dellinn & Wayne Keetch
Koenig - general fund	\$100.00	Carl Koenig
Vicky Gammey - building fund	\$15.00	Gerald & Linda Steinke
Raymond Strohschein - building fund	\$15.00	Gerald & Linda Steinke

**Voter's Meeting
12-11-22**

The meeting was called to order by Vice - President Scott Cordes, Pastor Mandley offered an opening prayer. The minutes for 9-11-22 were read and approved with one descent. The financial report was presented for the months of September, October, and November in written form. The motion was made to accept all reports seconded and approved.

Elders Report: Pastor Mandley reported that Mark and Deanna Wenkel ask to tranfer in. A motion was made to accept the Wenkel's as members seconded and approved.

Trustee's Report: Jerry Miller reported that Starlink is set up and is working well. Larry Peck put in 10 new lights in the Christian Life Center. The old Christmas Tree in the garage can go. If any churches would want it, it will be advertised in the Mich e -news.

Youth Report: Pastor thought now would be a good time to start up a youth group. He will ask his midweek class if they would be interested. He is looking for a couple of people to run it. The Sunday school is not working at 9:00 a.m. Pastor thought maybe doing something during a weeknight. It was also brought up that maybe after church for Sunday school. Pastor will ask the parents during the Christmas program practice.

Pastors Report: January 8th will be installation of officers.

Other Business: The 2023 budget was presented and motion made to accept, seconded, and approved. The tree at the cemetery behind the cross can be cut down if anyone is interested. On January 6th the sign, on County Rds. 452/451 will be redone. The kindergarten/preschool signs could come down on the corners. It was brought up to change the voters' meetings from quarterly to monthly, so we are getting more things taken care of. This will be voted on at March meeting. The slate of officers was up for discussion. A motion was made, seconded, and accepted to add Matt Noffze as an Elder. A motion was made seconded and supported to add Ethan Leatzow as a trustee. A motion was made, second and passed with one present vote to accept the slate of officers. The weekly Communion was discussed and a motion was made to not have Communion on the 5th Sundays at this time. Motion was made seconded and passed with one opposed. Motion was made to adjourn seconded and carried. Pastor Mandley closed with a prayer. There were 16 members and 9 guests.

St. John's Lutheran Church

Slate of Officers – 2023

President

Lee Brandt – 1 yr. term

Vice – President

Scott Cordes – 1 yr. term

Treasurer

Chuck Lisowe – 2 yr. term

Secretary

Steve Smith – 1 yr. term

Elders

3 yr. term

Jon Hiveley - 2023

Gary Weiland - 2023

Jared Bahrke - 2024

Walter Elowski -2024

Wally Sauer – 2025

Matt Noffze - 2025

Trustees

2 yr. term

Larry Peck - 2023

Jerry Miller -2024

Rich Shields - 2024

Ethan Leatzow - 2024

Board of Education

3 yr. term

Zach Safford - 2023

Gordon Cordes II - 2024

Billy Vogt - 2025

12/29/2022
12:23 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

January 2023

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day 10:00a-Worship Service W/Holy Communion	2	3	4 4:00p-Confirmation Class	5 10:00a-Bible Class	6	7
8 9:00a-Adult Bible Study 10:00a-Worship Service W/Holy Communion - Installation of Officers	9	10	11 4:00p-Confirmation Class	12 10:00a-Bible Class	13	14
15 9:00a-Adult Bible Study 10:00a-Worship Service W/Holy Communion	16 MLK Jr. B-day	17	18 4:00p-Confirmation Class	19 10:00a-Bible Class	20	21
22 9:00a-Adult Bible Study 10:00a-Worship Service W/Holy Communion	23	24	25 4:00p-Confirmation Class	26 10:00a-Bible Class	27	28
29 9:00a-Adult Bible Study 10:00a-Worship Service	30	31				

12/29/2022
12:30 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

January 2023

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 b. Courtney Metzke	3	4 b. Lydia Walker	5 b. Jared Bahrke	6	7
8	9 b. Ashley Vogt	10 b. Linda Steinke	11 b. Jessica Brandt	12 b. Penny Shumaker	13	14 b. Selina Heussner b. Scott Cordes
15 b. Matthew Noffze w. Larry & Cindy Peck	16	17	18 b. Debra Miller	19 b. Ivan Bahrke	20 b. Robert Haverwahl	21 w. Richard & Linda Cordes
22 b. Erin McIntire b. Gunner Whaley w. Gary & Angela Weiland	23 b. Duane Durlinger b. Elizabeth Earl b. Melissa Schulze	24 b. Jeffrey Safford	25 b. Ryan Herrick	26 b. Jeffery Edgar b. Linda Cordes b. Damian Buchler	27	28
29 b. Deanna Wenkel	30 b. Ricki Steinke b. Nash Steinke w. Lowell & Julie Luebke	31 b. Kristi Snyder b. Lochlan Oesch				

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
22000 COUNTY RD 452
HILLMAN MI 49745

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