

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

January 2022

From the Pastor

Merry Christmas and a blessed Epiphany season to you!

Hear the word of the Lord from the book of Hebrews: *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us"* (Hebrews 12:1).

One of the often-neglected features of our hymnal (The Lutheran Service Book) are what are called commemorations. You may remember that throughout the church year there are days assigned to commemorate, remember, and honor certain saints who in various ways lived lives worthy of recognition. You can find the list of these commemorations on pages xii and xiii of the Lutheran Service Book (LSB). First it must be noted that commemorations are very different than veneration. We as Lutherans do not pray to or worship saints. Rather, the commemorations are similar to national holidays (ex. MLK day) except for specifically Christian figures and, as you may notice, even some within our own Lutheran tradition. The Augsburg Confession says: *"Our churches teach that the remembrance of the saints is to be commended in order that we may imitate their faith and good works according to our calling"* (AC 21). It is therefore encouraged among us to reflect on these faithful servants whose lives of service and faith can give us spiritual encouragement and bestow upon us Christian wisdom.

This year, Pastor Gilbert and I will be using these newsletter articles to reflect on one or more saints from the commemorations found in the LSB (pg. xii & xiii) and write a bit about their lives and impact on the church of God. One resource that you may find especially useful as we do this is the devotional tool "The Treasury of Daily Prayer" which not only contains a reading for every day in the year, but includes (where applicable) a description of the saint being commemorated and often even a portion of one of their writings. To those of you who are tech-savvy I recommend the "PrayNow" app (available on iOS and Android) which is essentially an app version of the Treasury. Both are published by CPH, our synodical publisher.

This month contains four commemorations: Jan. 2 - J.K. Wilhelm Loehe, Jan. 10 - Basil the Great of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianzus, and Gregory of Nyssa, Jan. 20 - Sarah, Jan. 27 - John Chrysostom.

For this month I will focus on one figure, Wilhelm Loehe (pron. lay-uh). Wilhelm Loehe was a Lutheran pastor, teacher, and missionary who prepared pastors to serve in North America during the 19th century. After growing up in Fürth, Germany, Loehe attended the prestigious *Gymnasium* in Nürnberg following which he decided to dedicate himself entirely to theology. Specifically, Loehe became a fierce defender of confessional Lutheran theology, prizing the doctrine of justification by grace through faith as: "the greatest jewel a man can receive." Loehe was also a gifted liturgist and preacher and believed rightly that preaching and the administration of the Lord's Supper went hand-in-hand. Christ-centered preaching points to the gifts given upon the Altar, and that these two support each other. Loehe also used his intellect and pastoral gifts to train pastors to serve as missionaries to North America. Due to his significant impact on American Lutheranism, he is more widely known in America than in his own home country.

I will conclude now with a segment taken from the conclusion to one of Pastor Loehe's Epiphany sermons: *"And so we rejoice today, as should all Gentiles with us, in the anniversary of the beginning of the time of the Gentiles. We call upon the Almighty to make this time ever more blessed as long as it endures, that the host of believing Gentiles ever increases in number, that the salvation of Israel may appear as a light at the evening of the world, that the time of this world shall come to an end and be fulfilled to the glory of the Lord and His ancient, holy, blessed design. When our own life is at an end, ah, how good would it be for us to be able to say: Lord Jesus, King of eternal majesty, whose kingdom we await, we wanted nothing but to serve You. It was our desire to live for You, and now it is our desire to die for You, to be ourselves an eternal sacrifice to You, O Jesus! Amen."*

(Sources: Lutheran Service Book, CPH, 2006; The Word Remains: Selected Writings on the Church Year and the Christian Life, Emmanuel Press, 2016)

Rev. Joshua K. DeYoung, Pastor

OFFICIAL ACTS

Weddings:

Katherine Anderson and Steven Riegelman 12-4-21
Nicole Janusz and Matthew Rairie 12-20-21

CHRISTMAS NOTE OF THANKS – FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Today, as I reflect on our past month during our Advent season, I am filled with gratitude and joy and wish to say thank you! The sanctuary couldn't have felt more comforting this Advent season. The Milaeger family and several volunteers did such a beautiful job decorating the trees this year. Thank you for getting everything together prior to our first Advent service. It goes without saying that during this very busy time of year, it is wonderful that you are able to take time and make certain our sanctuary is filled with such warmth and beauty. Thank you Curt Adel, Rodney Adel, and Dodi Sollman for placing the beautiful decorations throughout our sanctuary!

I am so grateful for, and wish to thank Richard Pierce-Ruhland for taking time just prior to the Christmas Concert, to set up and record the entire Christmas Concert. Thank you also to Bill Badley who will now prepare copies of the concert for anyone interested in receiving a CD. If anyone would like a copy of the December 12, 2021 Christmas Concert, it may be easiest to contact Kimberly Chapman (either by phone 262-637-7011, or by email chapman@stjohnsracine.org) so she can keep track of those requests, and the correct number of CDs can be made.

To Senior Choir members, Handbell members, Children's Choir, our quartet singers, piano accompanist, violinists and flautist, I thank you all for giving your time and sharing your greatest talents towards our Concert, our Advent services, and our Christmas Eve services. I am filled with gratitude for each member that came and placed their hearts where all our hearts should be - Praising our Lord for His greatest gift, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. *God Bless you All, Sharon Adel*

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing . . . Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100: 1-2; 4-5

NEW MEMBER CLASS

The New Member Class at St. John's is coming up! The class will meet on Sunday mornings in the 5th Grade classroom and will begin on **Sunday, January 16**. It meets from 9:00-10:00 am and consists of 13 sessions, concluding on Sunday, April 10. The full schedule is attached. The book that is used for the class, *Lutheran Catechesis*, is provided for those who attend and can be picked up early upon request.

If you would like more information about the class and what it entails, please feel free to contact Pastor Gilbert (pastorjackgilbert@gmail.com) or Pastor DeYoung (deyoung@stjohnsracine.org).

To enroll in the class, please contact Kimberly Chapman at (262) 637-7011 or chapman@stjohnsracine.org.

MAJ JONGG

Mah Jongg will meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 1:00pm in the school library. New players welcome! Please contact Kristine Phillips at (262) 884-4703 if you have any questions.

2022 GIVING ENVELOPES

2022 Giving Envelopes are now available and can be picked up in the back of the sanctuary. If you use Vanco Giving or another type of automatic giving, you were not issued envelopes. If you still want to receive giving envelopes, please contact me in the church office and I will be happy to issue you some. chapman@stjohnsracine.org, (262) 637-7011. Thank you!

DINING OUT NIGHT AT CHIPOTLE

St. John's PTL invites you to their next Dining Out Night at Chipotle, 5720 Washington Avenue, from 5-9pm on Monday, January 10. Please present the voucher attached to the electronic copy of this newsletter, or pick-up a copy in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for participating in this tasty fundraiser!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2-Jan	Kristin Widmar	15-Jan	Elizabeth Olley
3-Jan	Thomas Paulick	15-Jan	Alec Schaefer
4-Jan	Ana Borgardt	16-Jan	Butch Luther
4-Jan	Carrie Underhill	16-Jan	Kenzie Patzke
5-Jan	Robert Billings	16-Jan	Jennifer Rossman
5-Jan	Thomas Dargin	29-Jan	Alonzo Rairie
6-Jan	Walter Peterson	20-Jan	Alex Fiones
7-Jan	Ruth Feldscher	20-Jan	Jeff Lambert
8-Jan	Olivia Knoell	22-Jan	Hunter Jozwiak
10-Jan	Alicia Petkus	22-Jan	Linda Lloyd
10-Jan	Janet Ruppel	22-Jan	Cameron Porcaro
11-Jan	Carol Busarow	23-Jan	Jennifer Mandli
11-Jan	Peter Glassen	24-Jan	Jim Bowe
11-Jan	Bob Nommensen	24-Jan	Dean Hugdahl
12-Jan	Mitchell Jaeck	26-Jan	Quinn Allexandro
12-Jan	John Silvester	26-Jan	Easton Charpentier
13-Jan	Lucy DeYoung	27-Jan	Kevin Barber
13-Jan	Josephine Kellner	27-Jan	Suzanne Jaeck
13-Jan	Paul Ruppel	28-Jan	Cassidy Clausen
14-Jan	Joanne Behling	28-Jan	Joanna Cuellar
14-Jan	Emilie Gilbert	28-Jan	Ashlyn Wasik
14-Jan	Rylie Jaeck	29-Jan	Drake Dahms
14-Jan	Daniel Schweitzer	29-Jan	Jennah Moe
14-Jan	Ryder Stauffer	29-Jan	Linda Puchter
15-Jan	Nathan Busarow	29-Jan	Keith Roberson
15-Jan	Roy Karpinsky		



We apologize if we have forgotten anyone.
Please contact the church office at 637-7011 to correct.
Thank You!

Life Thoughts for Lutherans – January 2022

January 2 – Christmas II – King Solomon acknowledged depending upon God like a little child. The Lord recognized it as wisdom and multiplied it (1 Kings 3:7, 10). Only Jesus sanctifying childhood by experiencing it Himself represents greater wisdom (Luke 2:40, 52). He extends this grace to gestating as an embryo – and finds favor with God for it. How delightfully Christian to treasure all little ones!

January 9 – Epiphany I/Baptism of Our Lord – The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth (Psalm 29:9). And does not His Word likewise will the conception of every child (Genesis 30:22)? He creates, redeems, and calls each one (Isaiah 43:1) even more precious than the other creatures. His incarnate Son displays His desire to claim every human life as His beloved son or daughter (Luke 3:22). That includes you, me, and all other neighbors!

January 16 – Epiphany II – God chose humankind in Christ Jesus. God chose you with the celebration of a wedding (John 2:11). God chose you with the love a husband has for his bride (Isaiah 62:4-5). God chose you and all offspring of Adam and Eve (Psalm 128:3). God chose you and every variety of human being, chose us into existence, chose us with forgiveness, chose us for making a difference (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

January 23 – Epiphany III – Did Nehemiah's people weep for gladness or grief at the Word of the Lord (8:9)? Were they ashamed or excited to hear how He values even the seemingly weakest among us (1 Corinthians 12:22)? Did they resist or insist on acclaiming and proclaiming His favor unto people of whatever abilities or impairments (Luke 4:18-19)? Will we let these gracious words of good news fall silent before the altars of abortion and assisted suicide?

January 30 – Epiphany IV – Physician-assisted suicide prizes autonomy. Abortion prioritizes "my body, my choice." But Christlike love "endures all things" and "does not insist on its own way" (1 Corinthians 13:5, 7). Only this love, which speaks truth, shows hope, and shares joy, can unshackle hearts from the demonic deception of using death as a solution (Luke 4:35). The Gospel love of Him who knows all before any are born (Jeremiah 1:5) changes minds and saves lives.

Thinking About Our Shut-Ins:

A New Year's Resolution: MAKE ROOM FOR ONE MORE

How many New Year's resolutions do Christians make? Hopefully, some of these: Read my Bible every day. Pray every day. Attend Bible study. Start tithing. Memorize scripture. Be more loving. Be content. Be forgiving. Volunteer.

Maybe one should be, "**Make room for one more!**" ...add one more person into your life! In bearing Christian witness, we can "EACH ONE – REACH ONE." Please consider going through the shut-in list and then REACH out to one of them. A cute card with a winter greeting would brighten their day. A phone call to say hello will warm their heart. A visit, for even ten minutes, can carry them through a whole week in happiness. You could also pray for all those on the following list, fellow members who can no longer be with us in worship on Sundays.

If you would have any questions about how to start doing any of these things, please contact me. **MAKE room for one more** person in your life and see how God will bless you through your service in blessing one of these special members of our church family.

Louise Borgardt
louiseborgardt@gmail.com

SHUT INS

Name	Address	Phone Number
Merle Barta	5321 Douglas Avenue #304, Racine WI 53402	262-898-4000
Ann Beckett	6603 Medley Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Betty Borgardt	Home Inspired 1201 Village Center Drive, Kenosha, WI 53144	262-859-2500
Leola Christian	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 1324, Racine, WI 53402	262-886-0734
Pat Cole	6551 Mariner Drive, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406	
Sue Erickson	5101 Wright Ave #215, Racine, WI 53406	262-260-8454
Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	262-639-3721
Janet Fisa	McMynn Tower 110 7th St, Racine, WI 53403 Room #904	262-234-9859
Marcella Geyer	3139 Conrad Drive, Racine, WI 53404	262-634-8105
Gail Gotch	1916 Wisconsin Avenue, Apt. 352, Racine, WI 53403	262-221-6912
Mimi Hynek	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 1156A, Racine, WI 53402	
Sue Monson	418 Shoreland Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Kathy Patzman	5404 Idlewood Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Linda Puchter	1463 28th Ct, Kenosha, WI 53140	262-553-9470
Edna Roberts	5321 Douglas Avenue #1323, Racine, WI 53402	
Marlene Roepke	1201 Kingston Avenue, Racine, WI 53402	
John Smith	1636 Raintree Lane, Racine, WI 53406	262-456-0073