

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

We continue the series on how to listen to a sermon this month. The first month I explained how a Scripturally faithful sermon will always include law and gospel. It will convict you of your sins or show you the trouble in your world and then show you your savior, Jesus Christ, who has rescued you from sin, death, and the devil. Last month I showed how the sermon will be directed **for you** and deliver the benefits of Jesus' death and resurrection for you.

In a way, this topic is foundational and the one upon which the other two topics are based. **Every sermon should be based and founded upon the text of Holy Scripture.** It may seem self-evident that the sermon should be based upon Holy Scripture, but this isn't the case in all churches. If a sermon is not based upon Scripture, then the sermon has the tendency to go off into philosophy of life, the pastor's personal experiences, in vogue motivational speaking, or something else like that. But when the preacher is constrained by the Word of God it guides him in his preparation and delivery.

John writes about the purpose of his Gospel, "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31) This is the purpose of God's written Word and so it is also the purpose of the spoken Word of God as it is preached.

The church, in its wisdom created what's called a lectionary so that pastors don't preach whatever they feel like preaching but are instead encouraged to preach the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27) The lectionary is a schedule of assigned readings for each Sunday of the year. They go from Advent in December through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. The readings track the life of

Christ from Advent till Easter and then in the summer months, the season of Pentecost, we hear about the teachings and miracles of Jesus. This order of readings helps the congregation to be attuned to what is to be preached. I would encourage you to make note of the upcoming readings in church. You can find them in the newsletter. Read them the week before and familiarize yourself with them so you are prepared to hear a sermon preached on one or all of them.

The sermon will take a theme that is found in one, two, or three of those texts and bring the law to bear, the gospel to comfort, and present it as for you.

I would encourage you as you listen to the sermon, try and pick out that main thought that is from the Scriptures which is the topic of the sermon. What is it that the sermon is trying to deliver? If this doesn't come through to you, then you should definitely tell me so I understand how to improve my preaching.

The Catechism students in 5th-8th grade regularly are completing sermon note forms that are located by the guest book. They aid the student in listening to the sermon. Perhaps it would be helpful for you to fill one out some time. It will probably help you to remember what was said and how it is for you.

In Seminary, much time is spent in training pastors in preaching, but it is equally as important for all of God's people to learn how to listen to a sermon. I pray that these past three newsletter articles will aid in your hearing of the sermon so you can hear how Christ is delivered to you in both law and gospel from the truth of Holy Scripture.

In Christ,
-Pastor Kleinschmidt



ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

THANK YOU

Our Craft and Bake sale was a huge success. We raised over \$4000, which will allow us to reach out and help others who are less fortunate. We couldn't have done it without the help of the St. Jakobi congregation. We've heard many positive comments about the items that we offered for sale, and we're already planning the sale for 2024. If you'd like to know more about where the money goes, or if you're interested in the Outreach work that is being done by our group, feel free to attend our meetings, which we hold on Saturday mornings in order to accommodate those who work during the week. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, December 9th, at 9:00am in the Jerusalem Room. We'll be packing and delivering Cheer Boxes for the elderly and shut-ins that morning.

ST. JAKOBI BOOK CLUB

The following is the list of books chosen for the upcoming months: December 5th - *Catching Christmas*; January 2nd - *The Great Alone*.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

These are services in addition to normal Worship.

Please note the change to the late service on Christmas Eve.

12/6	6:30 PM	Advent Service
12/13	6:30 PM	Advent Service
12/17	3:00 PM	Children's Christmas Service
12/20	6:30 PM	Advent Service
12/23	No Saturday Evening Service	
12/24	9:00 AM	Sunday Service (HC)
12/24	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service (HC)
12/24	9:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight
12/25	9:00 AM	Christmas Day Service (HC)
12/30	6:30 PM	Saturday Service (HC)
12/31	9:00 AM	Sunday Service (HC)
12/31	6:30 PM	New Year's Eve Service (HC)

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE

Saturday morning practices for the Children's Christmas Program will be held on December 9th and 16th. The program will be held on Sunday, December 17th at 3:00 p.m.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ENCOURAGEMENT

St. Jakobi received a gift that is to be distributed to the children of the congregation under the age of 18. This gift is meant to encourage parents and family to save for the education expenses of their children. St. Jakobi will give \$100 into a 529 Savings Account to encourage and give a jump start to education savings. Forms to apply are in the Narthex and church office.

YOUTH GROUP

There will be no Youth Group on a Wednesday night in December, due to the Advent Meals and Services. The next gathering will be Wednesday, January 10th at 5:30.

SUNDAY SNACK SIGNUP

If you would like to bring a snack to share on Sunday after church, then you can sign up on the counter by the kitchenette in the Narthex.

GIVING OPTIONS



You can now give online by visiting <http://bit.ly/DonateStJakobi> This easy way to give to church can be done as a one-time gift or recurring. You can give from your checking account or credit card. If you would like you can help offset the expense of offering this service, there is information at that website.

NEWSLETTER IN COLOR

The pictures in the newsletter look best in color. You can sign up to view them on your computer by going to this website. <http://www.bit.ly/Jakobisignup>

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

11/26	Program Practice
12/3	Program Practice
12/9	Program Practice, 9-11:30(Saturday)
12/10	Program Practice
12/16	Program Practice, 9-11:30 (Saturday)
12/17	Christmas Program, 3:00 PM
12/24	No Sunday School

LUTHERAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

In order to assist LCMS Lutherans and congregations, a new Credit Union has been started. This credit union is for members of LCMS congregations and offers a full-range of banking products. They offer online and mobile banking with a network of over 5,000 ATMs. This no-cost banking option may be just what you are looking for with the service you desire. You can find out more at www.lutheranfcu.org.



READINGS AT CHURCH

- December 3rd:** Isaiah 64:1-9
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 11:1-10
- December 10th:** Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8
- December 17th:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28
- December 24th:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 2:26-38
- December 31st:** Isaiah 61:10-62:43
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

BULLETIN INSERT CHANGES

The First Sunday in Advent (December 3rd) marks the beginning of a new church year. The bulletin will be a bit different. We will begin printing our own inserts which allows us to edit them. Thus, the Collect of the Day will be prayed by Pastor and the congregation will say 'Amen' at the conclusion. This reflects historical Lutheran practice and the practice of nearly all congregations in the LCMS. This change also creates one less place that a visitor can get lost flipping between the insert and the hymnal. Pastor will be teaching about this briefly in each of the Bible Studies between now and December 2nd and 3rd.

ADVENT SERVICES

Advent services will begin on December 6th. They will be at 6:30pm and there will be a meal served in the Fellowship Hall from 5-6:10pm.

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS CHORAL SERVICE

On Sunday, December 10th, the Voices of Praise choir will be singing a number of Advent and Christmas pieces at the regular 9:00 AM service. It is meant to help get us ready for the birth of our Savior. Bring the family. See you at 9:00 am on December 10th.

HIGHER THINGS YOUTH CONFERENCE

We have begin planning for a Youth Group trip to the Higher Things Conference being held at Concordia University, Mequon, WI next summer, June 25-28, 2024. The theme is *Who am I?* Registration material has been sent to all 8th-12th graders in the congregation.



NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

There will be a New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion on Sunday, December 31st at 6:30 pm.


WALK THRU THE BIBLE

WALK THRU THE BIBLE: Mark your calendars! Our Old Testament Event will take place Saturday, February 3, 2024. Fellowship begins at 8:30 a.m. with the event occurring from 9:00 to noon with a lunch after. Come and experience God's Word like you never have before as we walk through the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi. Registration will begin this month.

ADULT CATECHESIS

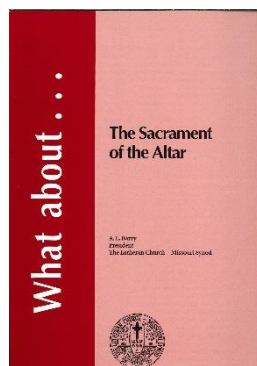
There is a New Member Class that has begun. There are six classes over the course of six months. This is a great review for long-time members and an opportunity to bring a friend to learn about St. Jakobi. The next class about the Apostles' Creed is on December 2nd at 9am. Talk to Pastor to get more information.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Member,  *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* **Let's thrive:** you may have choice dollars that you can designate to be given to St. Jakobi, or Wolf River Lutheran High School. You can designate by calling 800-847-4836 (Mon-Thur 7:00am—8:00pm, Fri 7:00am—5:00pm, best to call between 5pm—8pm) or go on line to www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to make your designations.

WHAT ABOUT...

Each month we'll be highlighting a tract that can be picked up in the narthex by the guest book. This is a series that was written by the former President of the LCMS, Rev. A. L. Barry. They cover a multitude of topics. This month we look at **The Sacrament of the Altar**. This little pamphlet answers the questions of why we need it, what is given, why do we receive it often and others. There are lots questions that we have, and this little pamphlet gives nice, short answers. Please take a copy and begin learning about what God has to say and not just what the world has to say.



ST. JAKOBI ON THE RADIO AGAIN!

St. Jakobi will broadcast on WTCH AM960 or 96.1FM for Christmas. There will be a recorded Christmas Eve broadcast of a service at 5:30pm. There will be a recorded Christmas Day broadcast at 8:30am. These are 30-minute services that have a psalm, Scripture readings, hymn, sermon, and prayer. You can listen on your radio or you can tune in live through the internet at <https://bit.ly/WTCHShawano>.

HARVEST DISPLAY

All the food that was collected was donated to the Shawano Area Food Pantry on Thanksgiving. This year we collected 433 lbs. of non-perishable food items.



MITTEN TREE

This year the items collected were distributed to Little Blessings Daycare, Bullfrogs & Butterflies Daycare, Olga Brener School, St. James Daycare and School, and Keshena, Gresham, Suring & Bowler schools. Thank you for your generosity!

NEWLY ELECTED CHURCH OFFICERS

Treasurer: Bobbi Jo Ladwig (2nd term)

Board of Trustees: Kevin Zogleman

Board of Christian Education: Rachelle Price

Board of Evangelism: Jennifer Bisterfeldt

Board of Elders: Mike Daley, Darryl Prodell

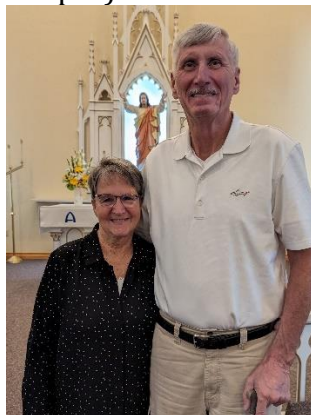
The installation of new church officers will take place on Sunday, January 14th.

CHRISMONS

The ornaments on the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary date back to 1973, and were a gift to St. Jakobi from the Ladies Aid in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of their society. Each ornament has a specific meaning. If you would like more information about the Chrismons, there are copies available in the Narthex explaining the symbolism. If you receive your newsletter by email, there is a link in the email allowing you to open a copy of the explanation.

NEW MEMBERS

New members welcomed into the congregation on Sunday, November 5th are below. Not pictured are Christopher & Ashley Voelz (Clayton, Claire & Harper)



Bob & Chris Johnson



Paul & Ann Wollangk



Rachel Feivor (Lyle)



Johnathon Ebert, Joseph & Wendy Ebert, SueAnn Danley



Walk thru the Bible Old Testament

Join Us on Saturday February 3, 2024
THE STORY BEGINS...

Experience an event that unveils God’s Word as you’ve never known it before.

As you walk thru the Old Testament, you’ll realize that the Bible is coming to life and your knowledge of its people, places, and themes is rapidly increasing.

In just a few short hours, you’ll see the big picture. As you’ll develop a deeper connection with the God who wants you to know Him, and who will never stop pursuing your heart. The more you understand His story, the more you’ll realize it’s your story too. And the more you realize it’s your story, the more His words will change your life.

- Experience the story of the Bible in a way that validates God’s Word is alive.
- Learn 40 handsigns and stories designed to help you understand the big picture of the Old Testament.
- See beyond the facts of the Bible and encounter its author.

STEP INTO THE STORY – REGISTRATION IS DUE BY JANUARY 21, 2024

Saturday, February 3, 2024.

Check in & Fellowship begin at 8:30 *** Event begins at 9:00 and goes until Noon
5th grade to Adults are invited. Free daycare is provided for younger children.

A generous donor is covering all St Jakobi Confirmation Students’ cost for the day
The cost of \$10/person covers the mandatory workbook needed for each participant.
Morning snacks, a break and a lunch that follows the event are included.

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Registrant 1: First & Last Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Registrant 2: First & Last Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Registrant 3: First & Last Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

List Daycare children by Name and Age and include any food allergies they may have:

Additional registrants may be listed on the lower half of the back of this sheet.

Number of attendees ____ x \$10 = ____

Number of St Jakobi Confirmation Students attending ____ x \$0

Payment should be by check (payable to St Jakobi), cash or online by visiting

<http://bit.ly/DonateStJakobi> and click on the Walk Thru the Bible Box.

If you would like to attend but are unable to pay, please confidentially check here ____

Registration forms may be placed in the offering plate or placed in the drop box in the Narthex.

Registration is due by January 21, 2024!

Questions can be directed to Mark Schuster 715-823-4393

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Greg Stezenski
3 - Hailey Fischer
3 - Eric Wendorff
3 - Lori Wendorff (Chad)
4 - Cienna Kuhn
5 - Reese Scray
5 - Mikayla Schroeder
5 - Garrett Wendorff
6 - Dan Bahr
7 - Laurie Bartels
7 - Judy Betzig
7 - Rachelle Price
7 - Mike Wendorff
9 - Jessy Clark
9 - Gabrielle Tuma
10 - Kathy Buettner
10 - Reegan Clark
10 - Brennan Price
11 - Art Nelson
12 - Bradley Felckowski
12 - Madeline Pyatskowitz
12 - Rich Teetzen
13 - Samantha Cotter
13 - Addison Fischer
14 - Finley Ladwig
14 - Kennedi Meyers
14 - Tracie Popp
15 - Evelyn Bedroske
15 - Carol Cieslak
16 - Carol Magee
17 - Nora Stuber
17 - Carol Verstoppen
18 - Dawn Giese
18 - Tyler Hoyer
19 - Noelle Buettner
19 - Emmali McDowell
19 - Alyxis Paizer
20 - Vicki Buettner
20 - Brad Sperberg
21 - Shirley Krueger
21 - Dorothea Lindner
23 - Dawson Jaskinsky
23 - Andrew Schneider
24 - John Klemens
25 - Lisa Lange
26 - Tina Hartmann
27 - Dale Hawkinson
27 - Michael Peters
27 - Jon Wesenberg
28 - Kay Marquardt
29 - Judy Oberstein
30 - Bonnie Sperberg
31 - Ashley Schuh

A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. Look with favor on name as he/she celebrates his/her birthday. Grant that he/she may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Strengthen his/her trust in Your goodness and bless him/her with Your abiding love all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

8, 1991 - Jeff & Kathy Buettner
9, 2006 - Troy & Danielle Kuhn
12, 1992 - Paul & Ann Wollangk
13, 2014 - David & Judy Betzig
13, 2003 - Ross & Amber Fischer
14, 1974 - John & Tracie Popp
18, 2004 - Randy & Lynn Trochil
20, 2003 - Jeremy and Heather Pyatskowitz
23, 1967 - Rich & Faith Teetzen
26, 1996 - Jamison & Jana Yorton
29, 2001 - Virgil & Jacqueline Gueths
30, 1978 - Chuck & Joan Stoehr
31, 2015 - Steve & Ashley Damveld
31, 2006 - Randy & Dawn Giese

AN ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE PRAYER



O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank You for another year of married life together for name and name. Open their hearts always to receive more of Your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Contact the Church Office if you find anything in need of correction to the Birthdays and Anniversaries.

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elders: Sat: Bob Behrens Sun: Jon Wesenberg Mark Schuster Special: Jamison Yorton		Altar Guild: Carol Magee Donna Ward Judi Raddant Joan Stoehr Laura Prodell			1	2 10:00 Christmas Decorating 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Payton Skalitzky
3 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Brooklyn Krueger	4 5:30 Elders 6:15 Choir 7:00 Altar Guild	5 1:00 Book Club	6 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: McKenzie Kuhn	7 1:00 Bible Study	8	9 9:00 Spiritual Outreach 9:00 Program Practice 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Colton Peters
10 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Connor Stuber	11 6:15 Choir	12	13 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: Blake Weishoff	14 1:00 Bible Study	15	16 9:00 Program Practice 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Khloe Wendorff
17 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Cooper Clark 3:00 Children's Christmas Service	18	19	20 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: Blaze Ejnik	21 1:00 Bible Study	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Hailey Fischer 4:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Nolan Kleinschmidt 9:00 Candlelight Service Acolyte: Lincoln Ejnik	25 Christmas Day 9:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Adam Kleinschmidt	26	27	28	29	30 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Layden Plaster
31 New Year's Eve 9:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Brielle Reinke 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Jaelyn Hietpas						

Listen to WTCH 960 AM for weather cancellations or check www.stjakobi.org or www.facebook.com/lcmsjakobi

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

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www.stjakobi.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“We Preach Christ Crucified”



Church Services:
Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am

Bible Study:
Wednesday at 6:30pm, Thursday at 1:00pm, and Sunday at 10:30am.

Sunday School:
Sunday at 10:30am

