

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

It is the time of year that people consider how to make improvements in their life and that typically involves a New Year Resolution. I wouldn't want to discourage you from making one, but how well do they usually work out? Normally people do pretty well for a week or maybe even a couple months. Staying on the diet works for a little bit and then seeing some pounds drop off is some extra incentive. Exercising is good but you miss a couple sessions and it's hard to get back into it.

The normal New Year resolutions are practically doomed to fail because our goals are too big and we aren't realistic about what we plan to do.

I would offer you a challenge this coming year. Instead of making a resolution that has to do about your physical health or your mental health, make one that has to do with your spiritual health. But don't make it so big that it will be unrealistic.

Here are some things you might consider for resolutions that will help your spiritual health. If you don't currently read the bible daily, then take just 5 minutes a day and begin reading the Gospel of Matthew and continue on with the rest of the New Testament. If you already read Scripture often, perhaps try to read the entire Bible in a year or maybe two years. If you miss a day, don't worry. Just pick up where you left off and then take a bit longer to finish.

If you are regular in your devotion reading with Portals of Prayer, consider using a book with a little bit more depth to it. There are lots of options; go ahead and ask me and I can point you in a helpful direction.

If you attend church only a couple times per month or maybe just once a month, consider trying to attend more often to hear God's Word and receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. You could also

make a concerted effort to attend a Bible class or make more of an effort to attend Mid-week services when they are offered.

As with any resolution you have to consider why you want to make this change. For these spiritual resolutions it is important to recognize their eternal benefit. Soaking in more and more of God's Word will strengthen your faith and give you comfort and hope in times of trouble. In addition, reading more of God's Word will give you insight into how you are to interact with people around you and how to live a holy and Christ-filled life. Your God knows you need this so he tells us to pray and he tells us to hear his Word.

In that same vein, it is also good to recognize obstacles. Satan will try hard to pull you away from Christ and keep you from Scripture and a deepening prayer life. He will work on you and tell you that you don't have the time, that you are just fine without it, that you can make it through this life on your own. The answer to Satan's temptations is always Jesus Christ. Christ has bought and paid for you with His very own blood. You have nothing to fear. Jesus and his Holy Spirit will strengthen you. If you do fail, you have a forgiving God who will pick you up and set you right back down onto the path of holiness.

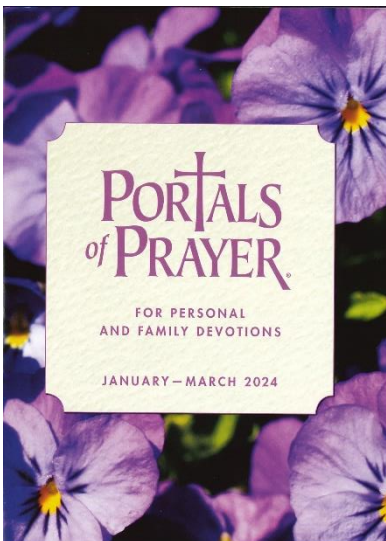
Remember, don't bite off more than you can chew and the most effective spiritual resolutions will start off small so that you can achieve them and then set new goals. Don't try to do everything at once but just trust that God will continue to strengthen your

faith each and every time you hear his Word.

If you want more suggestions or have questions about what might be a good spiritual resolution, don't hesitate to talk to me.

In Christ's love,

-Pastor Kleinschmidt



ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2024

President: Jeff Theis*

Vice President: Mark Buettner

Treasurer: *Bobbi Jo Ladwig**

Financial Secretary: Marlene Weckwerth

Recording Secretary: Jayne Mott

Board of Elders: Jamison Yorton*, Brian Sperberg, Mark Schuster*, Jon Wesenberg, *Mike Daley, Darryl Prodel*

Board of Trustees: Carl Monture*, Greg Samson, *Kevin Zogleman*

Board of Education: *Elizabeth Schroeder* (Finishing 1-year term), Patti Samson, *Rachelle Price,*

Board of Evangelism: Elizabeth McDowell*, Mary Theis, *Jennifer Bisterfeldt*

Italicized names are newly elected

* Indicates 2nd Term

The installation of new church officers will take place on Sunday, January 14th. Thank you to those who finished their terms of service: Warren Gueths, Jenny Stuber, Jennifer Murdock, Cindy Winkler, Bob Behrens and Rich Raddant.

ST. JAKOBI BOOK CLUB

The following is the list of books chosen for the upcoming months: January 9th – *The Great Alone*; February 6th – *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*.

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

Youth Group will meet again on January 10th at 5:30. We'll have a meal, a devotion led by Pastor, and then an activity. This is for youth in grades 5th-12th.

WALK THRU THE BIBLE

We are only one month away from the exciting event! Don't forget to register at the discounted price of \$10 per person. It's easy to register, just fill out the enclosed registration form and either send it in to the church office or drop it off in the little white church in the narthex. You can also download the form from the church's website and pay on-line. The 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.

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

1/7	A Water Wonder
1/14	A Confident Confession
1/21	A Mountaintop Wonder
1/28	Mission Wonders

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sign up to provide flowers for the Altar, you can do so on the bulletin board in the hallway at church. The flowers should be here before church on Saturday evening. You can provide them in memory of someone, in honor of someone or some event, or just because. Thanks for beautifying church in this way!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your offering envelopes for 2024 are in your mailbox in the Narthex. Please be sure to pick them up, and if you use envelopes in the offering plate, be sure to use the correct year's envelopes. Your envelope number may be different than it was for 2023, due to membership changes in the congregation.

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

- January 7th:** Genesis 1:1-5
Romans 6:1-11
Mark 1:4-11
- January 14th:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51
- January 21st:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20
- January 28th:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28


PORTALS OF PRAYER

The Church purchases 125 Portals of Prayer and 5 Large Print. They are free for you to take. This little daily devotional book has a Bible reading and Psalm with a devotion that ties to the reading. There are also prayers in the back that are tied to the Church Year and for each day of the week. You can pick up your copy by the Guest Book or on the Bulletin table. Your old Portals of Prayer can be placed in the basket beneath the bulletins and they will be donated to Christians who need devotional material.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men of the congregation are invited to a Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 12th at 7:00am.

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.

BAPTISM

Baptized into Christ on December 10th was Ellie Jo Buntrock. She is the daughter of Brandon & Alyson Buntrock. Her baptismal sponsors are Josh & Courtney Ludwig.

THANK YOU

There are numerous Thank You cards on the bulletin board in the hallway from schools that hats and mittens were donated to. Take a minute to read them.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council will meet on January 16th. The annual voters meeting will be on January 28th. All boards should be represented at both.

SPIRITUAL OUTREACH

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, January 13th, at 9:00 am in the Jerusalem Room. All members of the congregation are invited to attend.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 - Arvin Bahr
4 - Lyle Feivor
4 - Marjorie McGahan
4 - Tony Szucs
5 - Rachel Bedroske
5 - Riley Tuma
6 - Tony Bisterfeldt
6 - Zachary Fischer
6 - Khloe Giese
6 - Colton Peters
6 - Michael Walby
7 - Stephanie Ciancio
8 - Lori (Steve) Buettner
8 - Doug Gast
9 - William Grab
9 - Jackson Sperberg
9 - Kaci Wendorff
9 - Derek Wesenberg
11 - Heidi Teetzen
12 - Wrenley Buntrock
12 - Viola Verstoppen
15 - Adam Kleinschmidt
16 - Mikayla Carroll
16 - Lewis Popelka
16 - Jayden West
17 - Emma Ladwig
17 - Isaiah McDowell
18 - Jason Schmidt
18 - Layla Sperberg
19 - Brooke Breitrick
19 - Laine Waldvogel
21 - Laine Gast
21 - Gage Skalitzky
22 - Shawn Stueck
23 - Lucille Thiel
24 - Jamie Popp
26 - Khloe Wendorff
27 - Crew Carroll
27 - Marsha Opperman
27 - Benjamin Sperberg
29 - Kaslyn Buntrock
30 - Donna Ward
31 - Aubrey Allen
31 - Miranda Hoyer
31 - Kaitlin Phillips-Grassl

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.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

05, 1985 - Douglas & Lisa Evenson
17, 2014 - Nathaniel & Angela Gueths
28, 2006 - Chad & Lori Wendorff
29, 1984 - Carl & Martha Gebert

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.



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.

-----cut here and return lower half for registration-----

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

JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 4:15 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	4 1:00 Bible Study	5	6 6:30 Service (HC) <small>Acolyte: Kavion Franklin</small>
7 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour <small>Acolyte: Brooklyn Krueger</small>	8 4:00 Elders 6:15 Choir 7:00 Altar Guild	9 1:00 Book Club	10 4:15 Catechism 5:30 Youth Group 6:30 Bible Study	11 1:00 Bible Study	12 7:00 Men's Breakfast	13 9:00 Spiritual Outreach 6:30 Service (HC) <small>Acolyte: Nolan Kleinschmidt</small>
14 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour <small>Acolyte: McKenzi Kuhn</small>	15 6:15 Choir	16 7:00 Council	17 4:15 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	18 9:00 WTB Meeting 1:00 Bible Study	19	20 6:30 Service (HC) <small>Acolyte: Colton Peters</small>
21 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour <small>Acolyte: Blake Weishoff</small>	22 12:00 Blood Drive 6:15 Choir	23	24 4:15 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	25 1:00 Bible Study	26	27 6:30 Service (HC) <small>Acolyte: Khloe Wendorff</small>
28 9:00 Service (HC) <small>Acolyte: Blake Weishoff</small> 10:30 Sunday School Annual Voters Meeting	29	30	31 4:15 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	Elders: Sat: Mark Schuster Sun: Jamison Yorton Jon Wesenberg Special: Brian Sperberg		Altar Guild: Lorine Raddant Roxy Martzke Liz McDowell Brenda Gast

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

