

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

Sometimes you will see signs or social media posts that say something to the effect of 'Keep Christ in Christmas'. This is certainly a good sentiment. It probably comes from the idea that people are removing the Christian faith from our public sphere.

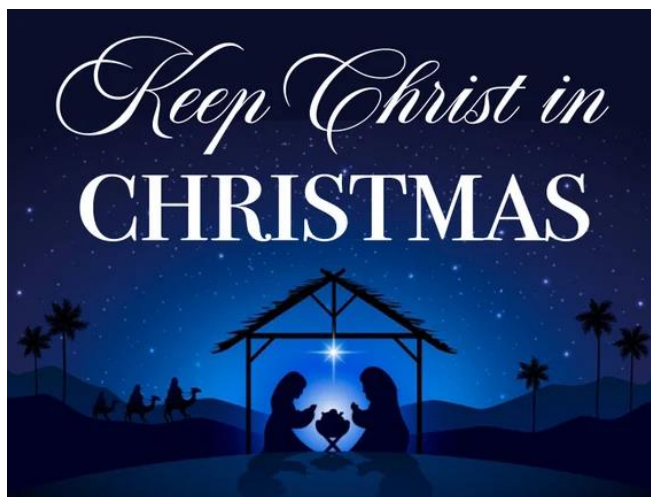
There are plenty of examples of things that are specifically Christian taking on a new meaning when people try and remove Jesus from them. This happens because people are denying Jesus and the power of His Name. The very mention of His Name sets off alarms for people who deny Him. They don't want to think about Him, let alone hear His Name.

Thus, you end up with 'Merry Christmas' turned into 'Happy Holidays'. And yet, if you look at the word 'Holiday' you can see very clearly that it comes from a mashing together of two other words; 'Holy' and 'Day'. What is the Holy Day in December? Of course, it's Christmas! Even when people say, 'Happy Holiday' they can't get away from the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Is this something that we should get excited about as Christians? I think it is fine to be clear that Christmas is the actual holiday. Confess your faith with clarity and purpose. And yet, are we to force people into having faith by making them say 'Christmas'. I don't think that will create faith all by itself. However, in this cancel culture that we live in where people want to ignore the truth of a thing and replace it with some made up substitute, it is useful to continue to say 'Christmas'.

Now another interesting aspect of this is that there are also signs that say, 'Keep the Mass in Christmas'. This is taking the back half of the word 'Christmas' and acknowledging where it comes

from. The word 'Christmas' is a mashup of two words, 'Christ's' and 'Mass'. The word 'Mass' means Communion. Roman Catholics often use this word to refer to the entire worship service and the Lutheran Confessions use this word in both a positive and negative way. Negatively, to condemn the abuses of the Roman Catholic church in regards to Communion and positively to speak of the benefits of Holy Communion in the Lutheran Church.



Thus, Lutheran's can rightly use the word 'Mass' when we refer to Holy Communion. To say, 'Keep the Mass in Christmas' is to say, 'Go to church on Christmas'. This isn't speaking primarily to unbelievers about what they should say when you meet them in December; this is talking to Christians and telling them to go to church.



This shouldn't be a novel concept but yet it needs to be said to a lot of people; even in our own congregation. Are you making the time during your celebration of Christmas to hear God's Word? Are you planning your family time, present opening, or meals around church? You should be. God's people gather around his Word and Sacrament on the holy days.

We receive Holy Communion because we know that Jesus is God Incarnate; God who took on human flesh. He has given us his Body and Blood to eat and to drink. We celebrate his birth by hearing his

Word and receiving his gifts.

Both signs are right, 'Keep Christ in Christmas' and 'Keep the Mass in Christmas'. Both are a good reminder that Christmas is about Immanuel, God with us. We celebrate the holy day by rejoicing in his goodness to us by attending church services.

In Christ,
-Pastor Kleinschmidt

ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

NEW TESTAMENT JOURNEY

St. Jakobi will be hosting a New Testament Bible seminar on **Saturday, February 1, 2025**. We are planning a fun and dynamic, half-day seminar, similar to last year's Walk Thru the Old Testament seminar. This will be led by Pastor Kleinschmidt. We are looking for volunteers to help organize the event. We need people to chair or serve on the following committees: Prayer, Attendance Building (marketing), Registration, Facilities, Hospitality (greeters), Food Services (probably catered in), and Childcare. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Mark Schuster at 715-823-4393 or sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Upcoming schedule at Sunday School:
12/1 Christmas Program Practice
12/8 Christmas Program Practice
12/15 Christmas Program Practice
12/22 No Sunday School or Practice
Christmas Program, 3:00pm
12/29 No Sunday School

BAPTISM

Baptized into Christ on November 17th was **Aliana Mae Drake**. She is the daughter of Derek and Courtney Drake. Her baptismal sponsors are Pamela Drake and Blake Hoffman.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE PRACTICE

This year we will practice on Saturday mornings, December 14th and 21st from 9-11:30. The program will be held on Sunday, December 22nd at 3:00 p.m.

HARVEST DISPLAY

Thank you to all who have donated food items. This year we donated to several families, along with a donation of 191 lbs. of food to SAFEPARC.

MITTEN TREE

Thank you to all who donated to the hat and mitten tree.

ADVENT SERVICES

Advent services will begin on December 4th. They will be at 6:30pm and there will be a meal served in the Fellowship Hall from 5-6:10pm.

ALUMINIUM CAN RECYCLING

You can turn your aluminum cans in south of the church. Put the cans in closed bags and then place the bags inside the fence. The youth group will receive the proceeds of the recycling. Thank you!

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.



READINGS AT CHURCH

December 1st: Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 19:28-40

December 8th: Malachi 3:1-7b
Philippians 1:2-11
Luke 3:1-14

December 15th: Zephaniah 3:14-20
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 7:18-28

December 22nd: Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

December 29th: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:22-40

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

These are services in addition to normal Worship.

12/4	6:30 PM	Advent Worship
12/11	6:30 PM	Advent Worship
12/18	6:30 PM	Advent Worship
12/22	3:00 PM	Children's Christmas Service
12/24	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship (HC)
12/24	9:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight
12/25	9:00 AM	Worship (HC)
12/31	6:30 PM	Worship (HC)

RAISE RIGHT CARDS

Do you need a Christmas gift? Maybe you know someone who could use some help, and you'd like to give them a gift card. Check out the large selection of gift cards available through RAISE RIGHT!! Cards ordered on Monday arrive Friday afternoon.

ST. JAKOBI BOOK CLUB

The following is the list of books chosen for the upcoming meetings: Dec 9th – *The 13th Gift* by Joanne Huist Smith. In December we will meet at Judi Raddant's for potluck. Jan 7th – *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano; Feb 4th – *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave; March 4th – *The Keeper of Hidden Books* by Madeline Martin.

THANK YOU

From St. Jakobi Spiritual Outreach, thank you for your support and donations. We raised \$4450. These funds allow us to continue our Outreach programs throughout the year. We invite all members to join us at our next meeting on Saturday, Dec. 7th, at 9:00am. We will hold our regular business meeting, followed by packing cheer boxes for shut-ins and the elderly. This year we will be working on boxes for 26 households. Why do we do this? Because **St. Jakobi Cares**.

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.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men at St. Jakobi are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 14th, at 7:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

HIGHER THINGS YOUTH CONFERENCE

We will begin planning for a Youth Group trip to the Higher Things Conference being held at Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska next summer, July 8-11, 2025. The theme is *All Things New*. Registration will begin November 1st, and will need to be completed by January 2025. This is for all youth who are beginning 8th-12th grades. Stay tuned for more information.



<https://higherthings.org/events/all-things-new-2025/>

NEWLY ELECTED CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Dave Hoffman

Financial Secretary: Joan Stoehr

Board of Trustees: Josh Ladwig, Brennan Price

Board of Christian Education: Liz Schroeder

Board of Evangelism: Jennifer Utecht

Board of Elders: Tom Tuma, Mike Waldvogel

The installation of new church officers will take place on Sunday, January 12th.

NEW MEMBERS

New members welcomed into the congregation on Sunday, November 3rd were Kathy Anker; Melody Bartz (Zoey, Draxton); Paul Kroenke (Shayla); Warren Hammling & Molly O'Hara (None of the previous pictured) Debbie Mielke; Heather Struebing Peggy Parsons; Bob & Amber Ritter (Jayden); Jerry & Debbie Fisher; Ken Schroeder.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Greg Stezenski
3 - Addison Fischer
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
14 - Finley Ladwig
14 - Kennedi Meyers
14 - Tracie Popp
15 - Evelyn Bedroske
16 - Carol Magee
17 - Nora Stuber
17 - Carol Verstoppen
18 - Dawn Giese
18 - Tyler Hoyer
19 - Noelle Buettner
19 - Emmali McDowell
19 - Alyxis Paiser
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 - Warren Hammling
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 & 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 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Payton Skalitzky	2 6:15 Choir 7:00 Altar Guild	3	4 3:45 Catechism 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: Lincoln Ejnik	5 1:00 Bible Study	6	7 9:00 Spiritual Outreach 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Adam Kleinschmidt
8 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Brielle Reinke	9 12:00 Book Club 6:15 Choir	10	11 3:45 Catechism 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: Jace Bisterfeldt	12 1:00 Bible Study	13	14 7:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Children's Service Practice 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Reegan Clark
15 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Raelyn Krueger	16 6:15 Choir	17	18 3:45 Catechism 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: Ayva Plaster	19 1:00 Bible Study	20	21 9:00 Children's Service Practice 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Ian Stuber
22 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Adam Kleinschmidt 3:00 Children's Program	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Zoey Riesenberg 9:00 Service Acolyte: Raelyn Krueger	25 Christmas 9:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Blaze Ejnik	26	27	28 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Cooper Clark
29 9:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Hailey Fischer	30	31 New Year's Eve 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Payton Skalitzky		Altar Guild: Mary Theis Joan Stoehr Carol Magee Lisa Evenson Judi Raddant		Elders: Sat: Darryl Prodell Sun: Jon Wesenberg Jamison Yorton Special: Mark Schuster

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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Shawano, WI 54166
715-524-4347
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

