

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

In a book written by a Swedish Lutheran entitled *The Hammer of God*, Bo Gieritz powerfully exhibits the grace of God and the power of God's Word over deadness, pietism, rationalism, and liberalism. This novel is actually a compiling of four short stories. The stories focus on the same region during successive generations. From the book cover, "Based on the theme of spiritual regeneration, *The Hammer of God* reads like a good detective story, immersing the reader in the unfolding events that present a spiritual drama of death and life, of despair and hope, of upheaval and peace, of sin and grace. Faith comes down to a matter of relying either on our own accomplishments to be right with God or on receiving as a free gift by grace the righteousness Christ gained for us. This basic question of faith remains the same today as in generations past."

In a pivotal scene that provides a great insight into the book the following exchange takes place. Fridfeldt is a young pastor who is into holy living and has "given his heart to Jesus." The older pastor has just enjoyed an after dinner drink and a smoke and the young pastor confesses to him that he is a believer who has given his heart to Jesus.

The older man's face became suddenly as solemn as the grave.

"Do you consider that something to give Him?"

By this time, Fridfeldt was almost in tears.

"But sir, if you do not give your heart to Jesus, you cannot be saved."

"You are right, my boy. And it is just as true that, if you think you are saved because you give Jesus your heart, you will not be saved. You see, my boy," he continued reassuringly, as he continued to look at the young pastor's face, in which uncertainty and resentment were shown in a struggle for the upper hand, "it is one thing to choose Jesus as one's Lord and Savior, to give

Him one's heart and commit oneself to Him, and that he now accepts one into His little flock; it is a very different thing to believe on Him as a Redeemer of sinners, of whom one is chief. One does not choose a Redeemer for oneself, you understand, nor gives one's heart to Him. The heart is a rusty old can on a junk heap. A fine birthday gift, indeed! But a wonderful Lord passes by, and has mercy on the wretched tin can, sticks his walking cane through it and rescues it from the junk pile and takes it home with Him. That is how it is."

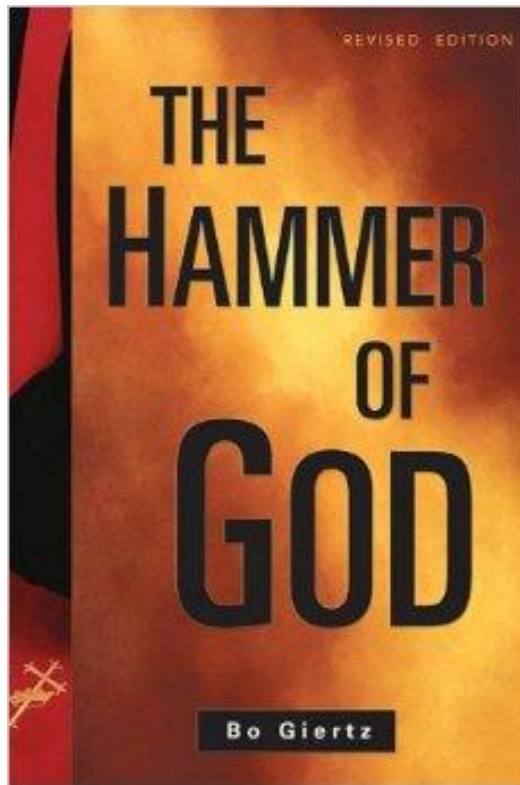
The older pastor concludes: *And now you must understand that these two ways of believing are like to different religions, they have nothing whatever to do with each other."*

We often want to give God things, even our own hearts in order to show God how much we love him or in order to worship him. The above quote shows us what God thinks of our gifts. They are incomplete and stained with sin. The path of the true Christian life is to receive the grace of God and thereby be that rusty old can and be made new by the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

This Christmas season as you give presents to the people you love, be reminded that God has given you the greatest gift that exists, forgiveness of sins leading to life everlasting. This comes to you by the person and work of Jesus and is delivered through the Word and Sacraments. Rejoice in God's gift for you and in turn give the love of God to other people this Christmas season. Share that Jesus is born and he is the Savior and you will be giving a gift that lasts throughout eternity.

In the gift of God's love,

-Pastor Kleinschmidt



ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

ADVENT SERVICES

Advent services will begin on December 3rd. They will be at 6:30pm and there will be a meal served in the Fellowship Hall from 5-6:10pm.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE PRACTICE

This year we will practice on Saturday mornings, December 13th and 20th from 9-11:30. The program will be held on Sunday, December 21st 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Upcoming schedule at Sunday School:

- 12/7 Christmas Program Practice
- 12/14 Christmas Program Practice
- 12/21 No Sunday School or Practice
Christmas Program, 3:00pm
- 12/28 No Sunday School

BAPTISMS

Baptized into Christ on November 1st was **Rilynn Rose Nietzer**. She is the daughter of Riley and Brittany Nietzer. Her baptismal sponsors are Kendra Westphal and Killian Eggert.

Baptized into Christ on November 2nd was **Dawson Alexander Watters**. He is the son of Carson and Maria Watters. His sponsors are Halie Damveld, Gracie Damveld and Danny Damveld.

FUNERALS

Daniel Krueger passed away on October 29th. His funeral was on November 3rd. We give thanks to the Lord for the blessings he has given to us through Dan.

HARVEST DISPLAY

Thank you to all who have donated food items.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

These are services in addition to normal Worship.

- | | | |
|-------|---------|------------------------------|
| 12/3 | 6:30 PM | Advent Worship |
| 12/10 | 6:30 PM | Advent Worship |
| 12/17 | 6:30 PM | Advent Worship |
| 12/21 | 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) |

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

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

WALK THRU THE HYMNAL

WALK THRU THE HYMNAL: Mark your calendars! Our next Saturday Seminar will take place Saturday, January 31, 2026. Fellowship begins at 8:30 a.m. with the event occurring from 9:00 to noon with a lunch after. Come and find out what is actually in the hymnal, why it's there, and learn about some of the hymns and services. Registration will begin this month.

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.

MITTEN TREE

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

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 7th:** Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 33:1-12
- December 14th:** Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-11
Matthew 11:2-15
- December 21st:** Isaiah 7:10-17
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25
- December 28th:** Jeremiah 31:15-17
Revelation 14:1-5
Matthew 2:13-18

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!

RAISE RIGHT CARDS

The holidays are fast approaching! To get gift cards on time, the deadline to order is December 14, at 5pm. Payment on all orders (whether online or in person) must be made before being submitted. Contact Dawn Wesenberg with questions, 715-853-4352.

THANK YOU

From St. Jakobi Spiritual Outreach, thank you for your support and donations. We raised \$5692. 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. 6th, 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.

HIGHER THINGS YOUTH CONFERENCE

We have begun planning for a Youth Group trip to the Higher Things Conference being held at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri next summer, June 23-26, 2026. The theme is *Dying Church, Rising Hope*. This is for all youth who are beginning 8th-12th grades.



NEWLY ELECTED CHURCH OFFICERS

Vice-President: Mike Kroenke
Recording Secretary: Patti Samson
Board of Trustees: Paul Uttecht
Board of Christian Education: Kaitlynn Gueths
Board of Evangelism: Marlene Weckwerth
Board of Elders: Jeff Buettner & Tim Massey

The installation of new church officers will take place on Sunday, January 11th.

NEWSLETTER IN COLOR

The pictures in the newsletter look great in color plus you can zoom in for more detail! You can receive a copy of the newsletter in color and save the church the printing cost by signing up for email delivery. You can sign up at <http://www.bit.ly/Jakobisignup>

ST. JAKOBI BOOK CLUB

The following is the list of books chosen for the upcoming meetings: Dec 16th – *The Christmas Bells* by Jennifer Chiaverini. In December we will meet at Marlene Weckwerth's house. Jan 6th book is *Where the Rivers Merge* by Mary Alice Monroe.

CONSIDERING A LUTHERAN SCHOOL?

St. Jakobi has funds available to help pay or tuition at [St. James Elementary School](#), [Wolf River Lutheran High School](#), or at Concordia University if your student is majoring in a church-work field. Don't let tuition be a stumbling block to a Lutheran school education. Talk to Pastor if you need assistance or have questions.



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML)

Every woman who is a member of the LCMS has the opportunity to take part in the amazing group known as LWML. What does



it mean to belong? Each woman has the option to be involved as much as they would like. From putting a coin in a Mite Box to planning a meeting or serving on a committee at zone, district, or national level. You get to chose how much or how little.

But what exactly does LWML do? We get to tell people about Jesus! With our offerings (mites) we get to support ministry and missions that are spreading the gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We have the opportunity to gather at Zone rallies, district events, and national conventions. We get to be part of the decision-making process of our organization. We get to share with each other in God's Word and in fellowship with like-hearted sisters in Christ.

As the LWML, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Our LWML group meets with our Altar Guild the first Monday of each month, September through May at 7pm. Anyone interest in visiting or joining is welcome.

If you would like a Mite Box to contribute to our mission, you can find them in the Narthex at church, along with a large Mite Box where we will collect your contributions.

RIDDLE ME THIS

What Christmas hymns do these refer to?

1. Sir Lancelot with laryngitis
2. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
3. The event transpired when a smogless bewitching hour arrived.
4. Exuberation to this orb.
5. Far back in a hay bin.
6. Leave and go an elevated broadcast.
7. That exiguous hamlet south of the holy city.
8. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully.
9. Festoon the entryways with colorful decorations.
10. 288 Yuletide hours.
11. Do you perceive the same longitudinal pressure which stimulates my auditory sense organs?
12. A joyful song relative to hollow metallic vessels which vibrate and bring forth a ringing sound when struck.



NEW MEMBERS

New members welcomed into the congregation on Sunday, November 2nd were Chris & Kelly Matsche (Lily), Brandon & Crystal Thoma (Isabel, Maverick, & Torvi), Ben Kallies & Bridgette Hill, Jennifer Brady (Holly, John & Lexi), Glen & Letha Seering, Devin & Kayla Mayer (Draxton, & Deagan), Brenden & Melissa Halvorson (Brysen & Vera), Denise Darling, Bob & Pam Fenn, Patrick & Dawn Lehman, Sharlene Bork, and Nathan Teske.



Chris & Kelly Matsche (Lily)



Brandon & Crystal Thoma
(Isabel, Maverick, Torvi)



Devin & Kayla Mayer
(Draxton, Deagan)



Patrick & Dawn Lehmann



Bob & Pam Fenn



Glenn & Leetha Seering



Daryl &
Charlene Seelig



Sharlene Bork



Denise Darling
(with Jim)



Jenny Brady
(Holly, John, Lexi)



Brenden & Melissa
Halvorson
(Brysen, Vera)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Greg Stezenski
2 - Elias Ritter
3 - Addison Fischer
3 - Hailey Fischer
3 - Eric Wendorff
3 - Lori Wendorff (Chad)
4 - Cienna Kuhn
5 - Klayton Krull
5 - Reese Scray
5 - Mikayla Schroeder
5 - Garrett Wendorff
6 - Dan Bahr
7 - Judy Betzig
7 - Rachelle Price
7 - Mike Wendorff
9 - Jessy Clark
9 - Gabrielle Grzymalski
10 - Kathy Buettner
10 - Reegan Clark
10 - Brennan Price
11 - Art Nelson
12 - Bradley Felckowski
12 - Madeline Pyatskowit
12 - Watson Raddant
13 - Samantha Cotter
13 - Jared Krull
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 Paizer
20 - Lexi Brady
20 - Vicki Buettner
20 - Brad Sperberg
21 - Shirley Krueger
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
20, 2003 - Jeremy and Heather Pyatskowit
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 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:15 Choir 7:00 Altar Guild	2	3 4:00 Catechism 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: Lincoln Ejnik	4 1:00 Bible Study	5	6 9:00 Spiritual Outreach 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Zoey Bartz
7 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Lexi Brady	8 6:15 Choir	9	10 4:00 Catechism 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: Reegan Clark	11 1:00 Bible Study	12	13 9:00 Children's Service Practice 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Raelyn Krueger
14 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Brysen Halvorson	15 5:00 Elders 6:15 Choir	16 1:00 Book Club	17 4:00 Catechism 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: Zoey Riesenberg	18 1:00 Bible Study	19	20 9:00 Children's Service Practice 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Ian Stuber
21 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Bible Class Acolyte: Isabel Thoma 3:00 Children's Service	22 6:15 Choir	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Carson Hietpas 9:00 Service Acolyte: Brielle Reinke	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 9:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Jase Bisterfeldt	26	27 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Hailey Weishoff
28 9:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Kinlee Meyers	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Emma Ladwig	Altar Guild: Chris Johnson Barb Bubolz Karleen Brei Cindy Winkler Donna Ward		Elders: Sat: Mark Schuster Sun: Jon Wesenberg Tom Tuma Special: Darryl Prodell

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
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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

