

## *From Pastor Kleinschmidt*

The following was written by Rev. Rick Stuckwisch of Emmaus Lutheran Church, South Bend, IN. I think this article hits on many of the same thoughts I have about my pastoral ministry at St. Jakobi. From Pastor Stuckwisch:

"We should see more of each other." That was my dentist's gentle way of admonishing me to avail myself of his professional care for my teeth with greater regularity. Going to the dentist is likely not among anyone's favorite activities, but I've been through enough dental issues over the years to know that I really can't afford to neglect this aspect of my health and well-being.

I was struck by the comment, because it was sincerely spoken and to the point. It did not occur to me for even a moment, nor would it ever have crossed my mind, to suppose that he was interested in getting more of my business and my money. He's a good dentist, and his practice has never been hurting for patients. He's cared for my family's teeth for many years, and he's always demonstrated a genuine interest in us as people. His office has been generous and gracious in making time for us and meeting our needs, without ever gouging us. So, I knew that his comment was not about his income but about my teeth. I also knew that he was quite right.

The other thing that struck me, even as I was sitting there in the chair and reflecting on his point, was how apropos the same comment would be in the context of my pastoral care for the people entrusted to my oversight as a minister of the Word of Christ.

I've not actually used the phrase with any of my parishioners, but it has certainly crossed my mind in many cases. To those who are in church only rarely or intermittently, to those who absent themselves from catechesis, to those who do not avail themselves of confession and absolution when it is offered, and to those who do not seek me out for pastoral care when they are facing issues in their lives or contemplating difficult choices and decisions, I should very much like to say, "We should see more of each other." And it would have nothing to do with their "business" or their money, but about my care and concern for them as their pastor.

In conversations with many of my colleagues over the past couple decades, especially with those I am closest to, I know that anxious concern for those who are too often absent from the Liturgy is at the forefront of most pastors' minds and weighs heavily on their hearts. But most do not know how to express this in a way that may be heard and received as it is intended. If anything is said at all, it is likely to be met with resistance, defensiveness, or excuses, perhaps even with anger and increased avoidance, the very opposite of the desired response. A pastor recognizes that such reactions are themselves a symptom of the underlying problem, which is the lack or absence of the spiritual care which is so necessary for spiritual health and strength.

Those who avoid and absent themselves from the liturgical life of the Lord's Church are often fond of saying that they don't have to go to church to be Christians, to be "spiritual," or to be saved. Such comments betray the sickness of a dead or dying faith. It is true, of course, that the good work of going to church, simply going through the motions of being there, will not earn or merit forgiveness, life, and salvation. But staying away and refusing to go to church is far, far worse; it is faithless and sinful, and it is detrimental to the point of being deadly to the Christian faith and life. Because being in the Lord's House in the fellowship of His Body is not a matter of impressing Him or anyone else, but it is the primary way of worshiping the Lord, the one true God, by hearing His Word of the Gospel and receiving His grace, His forgiveness, His divine Life and eternal Salvation, in the flesh and blood of the incarnate Son. It is a matter of being cared for by the Good Physician of soul and body, within the Liturgy of His Word and Sacrament, through the ministry of His called and ordained servants.

Spiritual self-care and spiritual self-medication are far more precarious and ultimately hopeless endeavors than attempting one's own dentistry would ever be. Obviously, to pray and confess the Word of the Lord is a daily discipline of every Christian, regardless of age or circumstances. But nobody can pray or confess what he has not heard or received, nor can anybody pray to One whom he does not know. Which is why it is the self-defeating height of self-righteousness to suppose that being a Christian and being saved could ever be a do-it-yourself project or program. And to suppose that a pastor is being legalistic when he says, in so many words, "We should see more of each other," is to misunderstand the Gospel or to miss it entirely.

No mother would simply dismiss the absence of any of her children from the family table. No father would cavalierly ignore the absence of any of his children from house and home at the end of the day. And no doctor or dentist with any kind of conscientious integrity would neglect the needs of his patients. Neither can a pastor set aside his concern for the sheep of the Good Shepherd who have been entrusted to his care. It's not a desire for cash or crowds of people, nor a craving for celebrity or popularity, but an exercise of love for the children of God.

Beloved of the Lord, you and your pastor "should see more of each other," that you might hear and receive the Lord Jesus in the Liturgy of His Gospel, in the courts of the Lord's House, in the fellowship of His family, the Church. God grant that I and all His pastors might find the ways and words to say so as gently, sincerely, and to the point as my good and faithful dentist.

We should see more of each other.

-Pastor Kleinschmidt

# ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

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## CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2019

**President:** *Jeff Theis*

**Vice President:** Darryl Prodell

**Financial Secretary:** *Marlene Weckwerth*

**Treasurer:** Donna Ward

**Secretary:** Judi Raddant

**Board of Elders:** Chuck Stoehr, Mike Kroenke, Bob Behrens & Rich Raddant, *Jon Wesenberg, & Jamison Yorton*

**Board of Trustees:** Jeff Buettner, Warren Gueths & *Carl Montoure*

**Board of Christian Education:** Jamie Popp, Andrew Gueths & *Sally Kroenke*

**Board of Evangelism:** Dawn Wesenberg, Cindy Winkler & *Elizabeth McDowell*

*\*Italicized names are newly elected*

The installation of new church officers will take place on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

## VOTER MEETING

The regular January Voter Meeting will be held on January 27<sup>th</sup> after Church. Watch the bulletin for an announcement of the agenda.

## ST. JAKOBI CEMETERY ASSOC.

The cemetery association will hold its annual meeting after the annual church meeting held on January 27<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for three new candidates for our association. If you are interested please contact Richard Raddant @ 715-851-2601 or Betty Szucs @ 715-851-9821.

## 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 and they will be donated to Christians who need devotional material.

## FELLOWSHIP

January is our next get-together will be at Anello's Torchlight, January 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm. Sign up by January 6<sup>th</sup>.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

On New Year's Eve weekend we will have our normal weekend schedule with services on Saturday night at 6:30 and Sunday morning at 9:00. There is an additional New Year Eve service on Monday night at 6:30.

## THANK YOU

From Pastor Kleinschmidt & family: We received so many gifts this Christmas season that it is nearly impossible to thank all of you individually. The generosity that is borne out of love for Jesus Christ is amazing and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

## PASTOR'S CALL TO MINNESOTA

Pastor Kleinschmidt had received a call to serve as Pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Triune God in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> he announced that he had returned the call and will continue to serve the Lord here at St. Jakobi.

## DEVOTIONS IN THE NEW YEAR

Do you want to start the New Year out right by becoming more regular in your devotions and reading of the Bible? A resource you may try is Around the Word. These daily devotions are emailed out once a week. They contain a Psalm, Verse, Prayer, and Hymn for the week as well as the order of devotion from the Small Catechism. Download the most recent copy at [www.whatdoesthismean.org/devotions](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org/devotions) and you can also sign up for a weekly email.



## 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!

## USHER SCHEDULE

January 6 <sup>th</sup> :	Donna & Troy
January 13 <sup>th</sup> :	Marshal & Dale
January 20 <sup>th</sup> :	Jim & Jeff
January 27 <sup>th</sup> :	Mike & Troy

## VOICES OF PRAISE - CHOIR

Many thanks to the members of the Voices of Praise for all of the beautiful music they provided over the Christmas Season. We thank you for the time you spend in practice and all of the beautiful sounds and words which lead us to the wonderful celebration of our Savior's birth. We appreciate and thank all of you!

## 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



## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Upcoming lessons at Sunday School:

- 1/6 Worship in the Tabernacle
- 1/13 The Bronze Serpent
- 1/20 Jesus Preaches on the Mount
- 1/27 Jesus Teaches Us to Trust

## NEWSLETTER IN COLOR

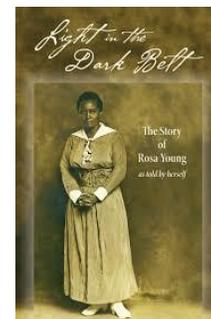
The pictures in the newsletter look great in color plus you can zoom in for more detail! You can receive a copy of the newsletter in color and save the church the printing cost by signing up for email delivery. You can sign up at <http://www.bit.ly/Jakobisignup>

## READINGS AT CHURCH

- January 6<sup>th</sup>: Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12
- January 13<sup>th</sup>: Isaiah 43:1-7  
Luke 3:15-22
- January 20<sup>th</sup>: Isaiah 62:1-5  
Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11
- January 27<sup>th</sup>: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:16-30

## PLANTING SEEDS

Book Section 4) Rosa Young's passion for education led her to influence the founding of 30 Lutheran schools, 35 Lutheran congregations, and Concordia College Alabama. An advocate for children, she touched the lives of more than 2,000 students in Alabama alone. First published in 1930, Rosa Young's autobiography is a story of faith, courage, labor, and perseverance



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> the Children presented *What Child is This?* Thank you to the children, the teachers, the Board of Education, and the director, Mark Buettner. The Christmas message was a pleasure to hear from the lips of little children.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 - Tony Szucs  
4 - Marjorie McGahan  
4 - Arvin Bahr  
5 - Riley Tuma  
5 - Elmer Ackermann Jr.  
5 - Samantha Tonn  
6 - Colton Peters  
6 - Tony Bisterfeldt  
6 - Khloe Giese  
6 - Lewis Popelka  
7 - Stephanie Hoffman  
8 - Lori (Steve) Buettner  
8 - Doug Gast  
9 - William Grab  
9 - Kaci Wendorff  
9 - Jackson Sperberg  
11 - Heidi Teetzen  
11 - Geraldine Gueths  
12 - Viola Verstoppen  
13 - Randy Opperman  
15 - Adam Kleinschmidt  
16 - Jayden West  
16 - Phyllis Habeck  
17 - Isaiah McDowell  
17 - Emma Ladwig  
18 - Layla Sperberg  
18 - Joyce Hogan  
21 - Gage Skalitzky  
22 - Shawn Stueck  
22 - Debbie Schroeder  
23 - Eileen Skalitzky  
24 - Jamie Popp  
26 - Bill Teetzen  
26 - Khloe Wendorff  
27 - Marsha Opperman  
27 - Benjamin Sperberg  
30 - Donna Ward  
31 - Miranda Montoure  
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

10, 1954 - Charles & Shirley Glock  
17, 2014 - Nathaniel & Angela Gueths  
24, 2004 - Jeremy & Melanie Buenning  
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.*

# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Elders:</b> Sat: Bob Behrens Sun: Rich Raddant Jon Wesenberg Spec: Chuck Stoehr	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Laura Prodel Roxy Martzke Jana Yorton Carrie Westphal	<b>1</b> <i>New Year's Day</i>	<b>2</b> 4:15 Catechism	<b>3</b> 1:00 Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Layla Sperberg
<b>6</b> 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Josh Trochil	<b>7</b> 6:15 Choir 7:00 Altar Guild	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 4:15 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	<b>10</b> 1:00 Bible Study	<b>11</b> 6:30 Fellowship @ Anello's	<b>12</b> 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Kelsie Wendorff
<b>13</b> 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Chloe Bohl	<b>14</b> 6:15 Choir 7:00 Elders	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 4:15 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	<b>17</b> 1:00 Bible Study 6:00 Council	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1:00 Bldg Committee Mtg 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Isaac Buettner
<b>20</b> 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Blake Hartmann	<b>21</b> 6:15 Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 4:15 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	<b>24</b> 1:00 Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Isaiah McDowell
<b>27</b> 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Voters Meeting Acolyte: Colton Olson	<b>28</b> 6:15 Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 4:15 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	<b>31</b> 1:00 Bible Study		

Listen to WTCH 960AM for weather cancellations or check <http://www.stjakobi.org> or [www.facebook.com/lcmsjakobi](http://www.facebook.com/lcmsjakobi)

# St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

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[www.stjakobi.org](http://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

