

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

We live in less than ideal times for the church. Even with the Word of God being shared in-person, in the parking lot, and on the internet, it has become inconvenient for many people to listen to God's Word. It could be tempting to bemoan the situation and wish things were different but that would change nothing. Instead, we look at the less than ideal times around us and recognize that this is the way that it has always been.

In the non-believer's eyes, it seems less than ideal that Jesus would be born to an unwed young woman. Even as we read the account of Jesus' birth from Luke's Gospel, we recognize how unfortunate it was that Jesus was born while Joseph and Mary were travelling, how there was no room in the inn, and only shepherds attended the birth of Jesus. There should have been a great crowd and recognition from worldly rulers when the King of All is born. But there isn't. How unfortunate and less than ideal.

As the people of The Way (Acts 9:20) spoke of Jesus Christ during the time of the book of Acts you hear of the ways in which the world rejected their message. You hear of persecutions, of imprisonments, of mocking, of torture, and murder. It would seem that time was less than ideal.

In the centuries that followed it wasn't popular or safe to be a Christian. There was the constant threat of martyrdom. And yet the people remained faithful to Jesus who had been raised from the dead.

During the time of Martin Luther and the Reformation it was not the perfect time to stand upon the truth of God's Word. Martin Luther had a death warrant on his head for many, many years. The Lutherans were considered outlaws. And yet, coming from that time we have the glorious writings of the Small Catechism and other documents that testify to salvation by God's Grace given through faith as revealed in Scripture.

In all of this, we recognize that it is never the perfect time with no distractions or persecution to be a Christian. The ways of Satan are to turn your

eyes away from Jesus and have you look in fear at a world that seeks your death.

And yet, this is why we are celebrating Christmas. Paul writes "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). We can expand that and say at just the right time Jesus was born in Bethlehem. God the Father had a perfect plan in place for the salvation of the world. He chose Mary and sent an angel to her to announce her pregnancy. It was the perfect time in Judea and in the world for the Savior to be born. It was the perfect time for Jesus to conduct his ministry of preaching and miracles. It was the perfect time for Jesus to lay down his life on the cross. It was the perfect time for Jesus to be raised from the grave.



And in every generation since it has been the perfect time to receive the grace of God in Jesus Christ. As difficult as it may seem to listen to God's Word, to rejoice in his benefits, or to sing His praises; we are still called to do these things at this time.

It may be less than ideal or it may be inconvenient or maybe even dangerous to be a Christian and attend to his Word but that doesn't change the wonderful ways that God is taking care of us. We are in living in a time when we can rejoice that God doesn't

leave us without hope in less than ideal times.

We see in Christmas and the inconvenient birth of Jesus that God is at work in times like these. God's plan will come to fruition and the people of the Lord will be protected, provided for, and nurtured. But this happens in the midst of crosses so when God is protecting, providing, and nurturing it may look like something else. It may look like sickness in you. It may look like needs for you. It may look like you are starving. And yet, God is building you up as a house of living stones that sings his praises.

This Christmas we rejoice that the living God knows our crosses, trials, and less than ideal circumstances. Jesus is Immanuel; God with us.

In Christ,
Pastor Kleinschmidt

ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

We are modifying our Advent and Christmas schedule in order to offer God's Word to His people and keep them as safe as possible. We will only have Wednesday evening Advent services (no morning). The Children's Christmas Service will be moved from 9am to 3pm on December 20th. The Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 9am services will be regular worship services. On Christmas Eve we are adding an additional service. There will be two identical services at 2pm and 4pm. Pick which one works for your family. There is also a candlelight service at 11pm. Christmas Day will be at 9am and the Saturday after Christmas there will be no service. If you are sick, waiting Covid test results, or have household members who are sick we ask that you remain at home, listen in your car, or listen on the radio.

PARKING LOT SERVICES

If you are concerned about coming into the sanctuary to worship, please worship in your cars in the parking lot. Tune your radio to 104.5 and you can listen to the entire service. Bulletins are available in the entry way of church or you can download one from www.stjakobi.org. The Corona Virus shouldn't be an excuse to not worship the Lord who is your Good Shepherd.

ST. JAKOBI ON THE RADIO AGAIN!

St. Jakobi will broadcast on WTCH AM960 or 96.1FM for Christmas. There will be a Christmas Eve broadcast of a service at 5pm. There will be a Christmas Day broadcast at 8:30am. These are 30-minute services that follow the same format as before. There will be 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>.

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICES

If you would like to receive Communion but don't feel comfortable coming into church during a normal service, then please contact Pastor. He can arrange a time for you to come to church for a short service of Confession & Absolution, Scripture, Prayer, and Communion.

ADVENT SERVICES

Midweek Advent Services will be on December 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd at 6:30pm. We will not have the morning services this year. Every week there will be a meal in the Parish Hall at 5:00pm. Different groups are providing the meal so you don't have to cook after work or school. You can come, eat, and then stay for worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Upcoming lessons at Sunday School:

- 12/6 Christmas Program Practice
- 12/13 Christmas Program Practice
- 12/19 Christmas Program Practice (Sat)
- 12/20 Christmas Program
- 12/27 No Class

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Children's Christmas Service will take place at a different time this year. It will be at 3pm on Sunday, December 20th. This will enable people to spread out over three weekend services instead of just two. We will have normal church services on Saturday night and Sunday morning that weekend. Especially this year, when there may be parents who don't have their kids participate due to Covid, please contact the church office if you want your child to participate. Practices will begin on November 29th during Sunday school and will also include one Saturday morning practice on December 19th.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

There will be a New Year's Eve service on Thursday, December 31st, at 6:30pm.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The Christmas Schedule is as follows:

- Dec. 20, Sunday: 3pm Children's' Christmas Service
- Dec. 24, Thursday: 2pm Service
- Dec. 24, Thursday: 4pm Service
- Dec. 24, Thursday: 11pm Service
- Dec. 25, Friday: 9am Service

GIVING OPTIONS

Contact the church office for a monthly direct giving form. You can also donate online at <http://bit.ly/DonateStJakobi>. This can be setup as a one-time donation or a recurring donation.

READINGS AT CHURCH

- December 6th:** Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8
- December 13th:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28
- December 20th:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Romans 16:26-27
Luke 1:26-38
- December 27th:** Isaiah 61:10 62:3
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

The *Lutheran Witness* is a monthly magazine published by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As your Pastor I cannot recommend it highly enough. The November issue focuses on the Fellowship of the Lord's Table FOR YOU.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to continue or be a new subscriber to *The Lutheran Witness* for 2021. The renewal is March 2021. Price for a 1-year subscription is \$22.56. Please sign up by Dec. 25th.



PARISH HALL FOR THE KIDS

With kids doing at-home schooling and the weather getting colder, they may not be able to play outside and stay active. Your family can use the Parish Hall to let the kids run off some energy and have fun. Sign up for a one-hour slot at <https://bit.ly/ParishHallPlay>

SCRIP PROGRAM NEWS

Enroll in [SHOPWITHSCRIP.COM](https://shopwithscrip.com) or RAISERIGHT mobile app with our organization's enrollment code: B27D35E633L98. Check out and get eGift cards and reloads faster by securely paying online with a bank account or credit card. Purchase selected \$5 and \$10 gift cards now through 12/28/2020, while supplies last. Using the RAISERIGHT mobile app gives you the option to have physical gift cards, from selected brands, delivered to your door. Stop by the SCRIP table in the Narthex for more details.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Rooted and Built Up in Christ Commitments are underway. You can fulfill your pledges with the pink envelopes that are located in the Narthex above the guest book. You can also put in the memo line of the check "Building Fund" and place the check in your normal offering envelope. If you have any questions, contact Marlene at 920-400-0013. As of November 20th, we have commitments totaling \$438,264.28 and people have already given \$187,399.28 towards their commitments. If you haven't made a commitment yet, you can find a card on the table in the Narthex and place it in the offering plate.

NEWSLETTER IN COLOR

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>

HIGHER THINGS YOUTH CONFERENCE

We will begin planning for a Youth Group trip to the Higher Things Conference being held at Calvin University, Grand Rapids Michigan next summer, July 20th – 23rd, 2021. The theme is *Forgiven*. Registration forms need to be given to Pastor by December 1st. **All 8th graders**



and high schoolers should have received a registration form. If you are concerned about what your kids learn from the world and culture, then make sure they learn of the Word of God at the Higher Things Conference. You can get more information at <https://higherthings.org/2021-forgiven>

PRAYER PARTNERS

The Prayer Partners are here to pray with you for your concerns. Contact the Church Office with your prayers at 715-524-4347 or email to church@stjakobi.org. You can also use the prayer pew cards located in the narthex and place them in the offering plates. The contacts for Prayer Partners are Bob and Joanne Behrens. Are you interested in joining the Prayer Partners ministry? Contact the church office with your name and email address and you will be added. "To pray is to let go and let God take over." Phil. 4:6-7



FUNERALS

Leroy Sperberg passed away on November 3rd. His funeral service was held November 8th. We give thanks to God that He called Leroy to faith and blessed him in her earthly life and that he now rests from his labors.

Charles Glock passed away on November 7th. His funeral service was held November 14th. We give thanks to God that He called Chuck to faith and blessed him in her earthly life and that he now rests from his labors.

NEW MEMBERS

Six people joined the congregation on All Saints' Day, November 1st. While we didn't get pictures that day, you can still make them feel welcome as a part of the Body of Christ here at St. Jakobi. They are Rev. Douglas & Lisa Evenson, Tim & Jamie Massey, and John & Darlene Gishkowsky.

HARVEST DISPLAY

All the food that was collected was donated to the Shawano Area Food Pantry on Thanksgiving.



MITTEN TREE

All the mittens, hats, and scarves that were collected were donated to area schools. Thank you for your generosity!

ST. JAKOBI ON FACEBOOK

St. Jakobi has a [Facebook page](#). Stay up to date on happenings at church by liking the page. You don't need a Facebook account, just visit the website: www.facebook.com/lcmsjakobi

SPIRITUAL OUTREACH

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others," Philippians 2:4. We are looking to form a group who are willing to work together to reach out to others in need, regardless if they are members of our congregation or others in the community. Do you have an hour or more a week or month that you can spare? If so, consider joining Spiritual Outreach. For more information, please contact Nancy Thelen. We are planning on having the first meeting in January.



NEWLY ELECTED CHURCH OFFICERS

Treasurer: Bobbi Jo Ladwig

Board of Elders: Bob Behrens & Rich Raddant

Board of Trustees: Warren Gueths

Board of Christian Education: Jenny Stuber

Board of Evangelism: Cindy Winkler

The installation of new church officers will take place on Sunday, January 10th.

BUILDING EXPANSION PROGRESS

Update on Building Expansion Progress and Capital Campaign reports from the October 25th voters meeting.

Rich Raddant reported on progress with the building project. Great news **the project is on pace!** Footings and frost walls have been poured this fall as planned. In addition, the underground utilities are in place and the site prepared for the concrete slab that will be poured next spring. Plans are also being made to set up a camping site for about 12 Laborers for Christ families that are planning to assist with our project next summer. Site location will be on the southeast corner of our property. We will need to supply electricity, water and sewer along with a location for the Laborers to do laundry.

There was discussion on the need for a "Volunteer Coordinator" when work begins next spring. After the meeting Barb Teetzen volunteered to fill the position. Several volunteers will be needed for all the tasks that need to be done. Meals, Clean-up, members helping with construction to mention only a few. There will be more to come when we get closer to spring.

Jeff Theis gave an update on the Rooted and Built Up in Christ capital campaign. All the commitment cards received to date have now been placed on the Altar for the next 3 years. It was an extremely successful campaign so far as members committed \$438,264.28 over the next 3 years. At this time \$187,399.28 has been received. Members that have not yet committed may still do so by placing the commitment card in the collection plate.

Congregation President,
Jeff Theis

ALUMINIUM CAN RECYCLING

The can collection has restarted. You can turn your 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!

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. Both St. James and WRLHS are currently offering in-person instruction. Is that what your children need? Don't let tuition be a stumbling block to a Lutheran school education. Talk to Pastor if you need assistance or have questions.



ISSUES, ETC

MORE TOPICS, MORE GUESTS, MORE JESUS...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's teachings include: Thanksgiving in the Bible, The Lord's Prayer Petition "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread," God Condoning War & Killing in the Old Testament, The Book of 2 Peter and more. You can listen at your convenience at www.issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

Issues, Etc.



Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

CHRISTMAS SCRAMBLE

1. mamornet
2. rete
3. trsa
4. slinet
5. dralgan
6. keiocseo
7. gogeng
8. artwhe
9. lacndse
10. megran
11. eblast
12. glane
13. dreseshph
14. scarlo
15. samhise
16. gleihs
17. tofrys
18. elthemehb
19. usblb

I LOVE THE PROLOGUE IN JOHN! IT'S SO MYSTERIOUS -- IT'S PERFECT FOR CHRISTMAS!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

A LONG TIME AGO IN A GALAXY FAR FAR AWAY...



YEAHHH -- THAT'S THE WRONG PROLOGUE.



JOHN 1:1-14

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I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THE FACT THAT THE ANGELS APPEAR TO SHEPHERDS.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

'CAUSE IT MAKES YOU FEEL PERSONALLY CONNECTED TO THE STORY?



NO! IT'S THE MARKETING! THINK ABOUT IT. "AND THERE WERE IN THAT SAME COUNTRY OSTRICH WRANGLERS..."



LUKE 2:1-20

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Greg Stezenski
3 - Eric Wendorff
3 - Lori Wendorff (Chad)
4 - Cienna Kuhn
5 - DeLila Clark
5 - Garrett Wendorff
6 - Dan Bahr
7 - Judy Betzig
7 - Mike Wendorff
9 - Jessy Clark
9 - Gabrielle Tuma
10 - Kathy Buettner
10 - Reegan Clark
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 - 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 Paiser
20 - Vicki Buettner
20 - Brad Sperberg
21 - Shirley Krueger
21 - Dorothea Lindner
23 - Andrew Schneider
24 - Donna Hawkinson
24 - John Klemens
25 - Lisa Lange
25 - Albert Schroeder Jr.
26 - Tina Hartmann
27 - Dale Hawkinson
27 - Michael Peters
27 - Karen Ross
27 - Jon Wesenberg
28 - Kay Marquardt
30 - Bonnie Sperberg
31 - Ashley Teetzen

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
13, 2014 - David & Judy Betzig
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
29, 1973 - Bill & Deb Laehn
30, 1978 - Chuck & Joan Stoehr
31, 2015 - Steve & Ashley Damveld
31, 2006 - Randy & Dawn Giese
31, 2015 - Matt & Jessica VanBuren

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 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elders: Sat: Bob Behrens Sun: Rich Raddant Jon Wesenberg Special: Mark Schuster	Altar Guild: Joan Stoehr Judi Raddant Mary Theis	1	2 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: Henry Pleshek	3 1:00 Bible Study	4	5 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Madeline Pyatskowit
6 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Madisyn Skalitzky	7 7:00 Altar Guild	8	9 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: Layla Sperberg	10 1:00 Bible Study 6:30 Elders	11	12 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Kelsie Wendorff
13 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Josh Trochil	14	15	16 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: Jai Bisterfeldt	17 1:00 Bible Study	18	19 9:00-11:30 Children's Christmas Practice 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte:
20 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour 3:00 Children's Program	21	22	23 5:00 Advent Meal 6:30 Advent Service Acolyte: Colbie Reinke	<i>24 Christmas Eve</i> 2:00 Service (HC) 4:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Nolan Kleinschmidt 11:00 Service Acolyte: James Lange	<i>25 Christmas Day</i> 9:00 Service(HC) Acolyte: Karter Westphal	26
27 9:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Noah Wendorff	28	29	30	<i>31 New Year's Eve</i> 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Brooklyn Krueger		

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

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

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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

