

## From Pastor Kleinschmidt

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, we rejoice to remember the conversion of St. Paul when Christ brought him out of darkness and began to make him a witness to the Light. When this day falls on a Sunday we used special appointed readings. They are Acts 9:1-22, Galatians 1:11-24, and Matthew 19:27-30. Below is an explanation of the day from Rev. William Weedon that is taken from his book, *Celebrating the Saints*.

He'd been so utterly convinced that it was a fraud, a dangerous fraud. He'd believed it was his calling and duty to stamp out the deception spread by those belonging to the Way wherever he found it. He'd already caused all kinds of suffering for the Christians in Jerusalem and the surrounding area. But in his zeal, it wasn't enough to stamp it out in Jerusalem. The supposed heresy was spreading like gangrene, and, like gangrene, required desperate measures. With zeal for the truth and for upholding the honor of the God of Israel, Saul was riding toward Damascus with letters of authority in hand. He fully intended to arrest and haul back to Jerusalem any of these followers of Jesus that he found there.

Yet, in one swift encounter, all Saul's certainties crumbled to the ground. A bright light knocked him flat on his face and blinded his eyes. And he heard a voice. A voice of unspeakable tenderness and mercy addressed him: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" In terror, unable to see in the bright light who was speaking to him, yet no doubt with a sense of foreboding, he asked,

"Who are You, Lord?" Then the One he dared to declare mere deception and fraud spoke. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

Conversion means turning. In that encounter with the risen Lord Jesus, Saul's life would begin to turn around. Instead of opposing and fighting Christians, this formerly persecuting and hate-filled man would become the Lord's chosen vessel to bring to all people the joy and light of Christian hope. "Jesus is Lord" would become his constant message. "Christ crucified, risen, returning in glory" would become his constant theme. Who

would imagine such a thing? Only the God of grace!

Saul, turned to the great apostle Paul, would never cease to marvel at this grace of the Lord Jesus in welcoming even a servant such as he. If this "chief of sinners" can be the Lord's, so can any sinner. If He can turn around someone like Saul, then who is there that is beyond the hope of repentance? There is not one! For that, all glory to the Savior's grace, all glory to the love that turns and captures hearts to do His bidding!

Pastor Weedon does a great job of connecting Paul's conversion to each one of us. It's amazing that the Lord has called each one of us by the

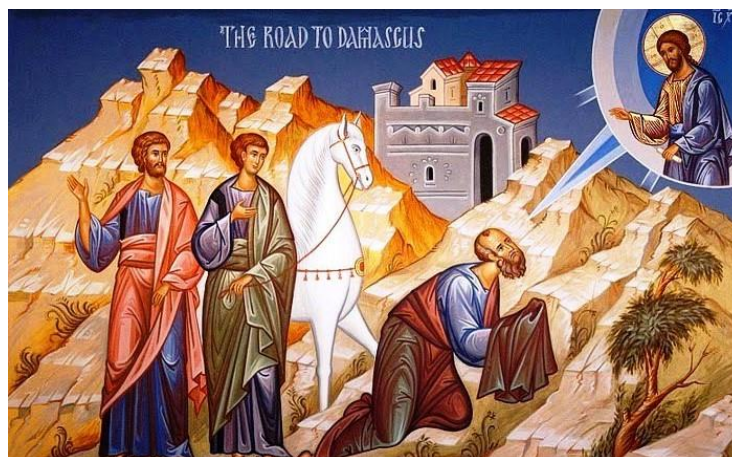
Gospel. May we never lose sight of the fact that God's kindness to us knows no bounds. May we ever keep Jesus Christ born, crucified, and risen before our eyes.

In Christ,

-Pastor Kleinschmidt

Almighty God, You turned the heart of him who persecuted the Church and by his preaching caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant us ever to rejoice in the saving light of Your Gospel and, following the example of the apostle Paul, to spread it to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect of the Day for the Conversion of St. Paul



# 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. There is no cost but we need to know how many people plan to attend. Please register in the bulletin inserts or at this link.

<https://bit.ly/NTClass2025>



## 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:

1/5 The Plot to Kill Paul  
1/12 Paul's Shipwreck  
1/19 Paul Writes to Timothy  
1/26 Jesus Will Return

## BAPTISM

Baptized into Christ on December 15<sup>th</sup> **Elias Lee Ritter**. He is the son of Robert and Amber Ritter. His baptismal sponsors are Jeremy Brown and Nicole Marquette.

## FUNERAL

**Dorothea Lindner** passed away on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Her funeral will be on January 15, 2025 at 11am.

## 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.



## READINGS AT CHURCH

**January 5<sup>th</sup>:** 1 Kings 3:4-15  
1 Ephesians 1:3-14  
Luke 2:40-52

**January 12<sup>th</sup>:** Isaiah 43:1-7  
Romans 6:1-11  
Luke 3:15-22

**January 19<sup>th</sup>:** Isaiah 62:1-5  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

**January 26<sup>th</sup>:** Acts 20:28-35  
Titus 1:1-9  
Luke 10:1-9

## CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2024

**President:** *Dave Hoffman*  
**Vice President:** Mark Buettner  
**Treasurer:** Bobbi Jo Ladwig  
**Financial Secretary:** *Joan Stoehr*  
**Recording Secretary:** Jayne Mott  
**Board of Elders:** Mark Schuster\*, Jon Wesenberg, Mike Daley, Darryl Prodell, *Tom Tuma, Mike Waldvogel*  
**Board of Trustees:** Greg Samson, Kevin Zogleman, *Josh Ladwig, Brennan Price*  
**Board of Education:** Patti Samson, Rachele Price, *Elizabeth Schroeder*  
**Board of Evangelism:** Mary Theis, Jennifer Bisterfeldt, *Jennifer Utecht*

*Italicized names are newly elected*

\* Indicates 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

The installation of new church officers will take place on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to those who finished their terms of service: Jeff Theis, Marlene Weckwerth, Jamison Yorton, Brian Sperberg, Carl Montoure, Liz McDowell.

## **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!

## **ST. JAKOBI BOOK CLUB**

The following is the list of books chosen for the upcoming meetings: Jan 7<sup>th</sup> – *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano; Feb 4<sup>th</sup> – *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave; March 4<sup>th</sup> – *The Keeper of Hidden Books* by Madeline Martin.

## **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 2025 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 2024, 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](http://www.lutheranfcu.org).



## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Church Council will meet on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. The annual voters meeting will be on January 26<sup>th</sup>. All boards should be represented at both.

## **SPIRITUAL OUTREACH**

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am in the Jerusalem Room. All members of the congregation are invited to attend. We will be discussing the upcoming Senior Connections Luncheon that will take place in February.

## **PORTALS OF PRAYER**

The Church purchases 125 Portals of Prayer and 10 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**

Note that the Men's Breakfast has been changed from January 11<sup>th</sup> to January 18<sup>th</sup>. All men of the congregation are invited to attend. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

## 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 - Debbie Fisher  
7 - Stephanie Hoffman  
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.*

# JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Elders:</b> <b>Sat:</b> Mark Schuster <b>Sun:</b> Darryl Prodel Mike Daley <b>Special:</b> Jon Wesenberg			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>6:30 Service (HC)</b> Acolyte: Layden Plaster
<b>5</b> <b>9:00 Service (HC)</b> <b>10:30 Education Hour</b> Acolyte: Lincoln Ejnik	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>1:00 Book Club</b>	<b>8</b> <b>3:45 Catechism</b> <b>6:30 Bible Study</b>	<b>9</b> <b>1:00 Bible Study</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>9:00 Spiritual Outreach</b> <b>6:30 Service (HC)</b> Acolyte: Ian Stuber
<b>12</b> <b>9:00 Service (HC)</b> <b>10:30 Education Hour</b> Acolyte: Zoey Riesenber	<b>13</b> <b>5:00 Elder</b> <b>6:15 Choir</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>3:45 Catechism</b> <b>6:30 Bible Study</b>	<b>16</b> <b>1:00 Bible Study</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>7:00 Men's Breakfast</b> <b>6:30 Service (HC)</b> Acolyte: Brielle Reinke
<b>19</b> <b>9:00 Service (HC)</b> <b>10:30 Education Hour</b> Acolyte: Jace Bisterfeldt	<b>20</b> <b>5:30 Council</b> <b>6:15 Choir</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>3:45 Catechism</b> <b>6:30 Bible Study</b>	<b>23</b> <b>1:00 Bible Study</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>6:30 Service (HC)</b> Acolyte: Reegan Clark
<b>26</b> <b>9:00 Service (HC)</b> <b>10:30 Sunday School</b> <b>Annual Voter Meeting</b> Acolyte: Ayva Plaster	<b>27</b> <b>6:15 Choir</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>3:45 Catechism</b> <b>6:30 Bible Study</b>	<b>30</b> <b>1:00 Bible Study</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Lorine Raddant Roxy Martzke Liz McDowell Brenda Gast

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

