

The Messenger

NOVEMBER 2026; Vol. 15, Issue 11

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JAKOBI LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SHAWANO, WI

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

I'm continuing my series on death, dying, and funerals. Last month I wrote about the funeral service and why we say and pray the words that we do. This month I will cover some common questions that come up in regard to burial and cremation.

It's common for me to receive questions about cremation and burial. People ask if cremation is proper, how the costs are different, what to do with the ashes, and why burial is important. So, with that in mind, we'll answer some of these questions and do it in such a way that you treasure the body the Lord has given you and know that on the Last Day he will raise all the dead.

So, first we consider the death of Jesus. The disciples who stood by the cross took the body of Jesus from the cross and buried him. We hear of how Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus used a mixture of myrrh and aloes to anoint the body and then to bury it in linen cloths "as is the burial custom of the Jews." (John 19:40) Even the body of Jesus that had been brutalized with the scourging, crown of thorns, piercing, and crucifixion was treated with the utmost respect. It wasn't that it was only the body of God, but it was a body, period. Jesus rises from that grave with his body to confess that death has no power over anyone who has faith in him and has received the forgiveness of sins through his death and resurrection.

Scripture doesn't give a positive example of cremation. There are times that enemies burn the bodies of those they conquer and there is a time when the body of King Saul is burned to keep further atrocities from happening to it by Saul's enemies; but the burial customs of the Old Testament show the burial of bodies was typical.

In addition, fire consuming a body is a common image to describe the torture of hell and those who reject Christ. Why should we participate in that when Jesus uses that image as a description of hell?

This body that you have is a creation of the Lord and it is to be treasured in life and but also to be treasured in death. It is still God's creation and in fact the Lord will raise this same body on the last day and give eternal life to you. This body will be perfected

and glorified so that you will be perfect and holy with your body in heaven.

In the resurrection on the Last Day Jesus will raise every single person who has ever lived and then died. That includes Adam and Eve whose bodies have decomposed to nothing, those who have died at sea, those who have been burned, and those who lay in our own cemetery over that last 140 years. The question is not about what Jesus can do, but rather how do we treat the body that the Lord will do great things with.

I don't believe cremation is a sin, but I encourage families to reconsider and think about the blessings that God has given in and through the body of the one who has died and the great things the Lord will do with that body in the resurrection.

That said, the person who is cremated, the ashes and bone fragments should be buried in the cemetery. The historical practice was to scatter the ashes of criminals so that history would forget them. However, we remember those who have died because Jesus loves them and remembers them. To bury ashes in the cemetery creates a place of remembrance and is a testimony that the body will be restored on the Last Day.

Now, a pastoral word. I am not condemning you. I'm giving you something to think about in the future and encouraging you towards good practices with the body the that the Lord has given you. If you feel guilty because of a past decision, know that the Lord knows you and yet calls you his beloved child. Rest in the peace of Jesus knowing that He forgives, loves, and restores.

In regards to the costs associated with funerals, you should talk to the funeral home. But I would have some advice for you. A fancy coffin doesn't matter. Embalming is not required. A magnificent headstone is not necessary.

There's much more to be said on this topic, but I am open to your questions and concerns if you have them. Books have been written on this topic, and an article of 800 words can't cover it completely; so, let's talk.

In the resurrection of Jesus,
-Pastor Kleinschmidt



ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

THANKSGIVING, ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

These are services in addition to normal Worship.

11/26	9:00 AM	Thanksgiving Worship (HC)
12/2	6:30 PM	Advent Worship
12/9	6:30 PM	Advent Worship
12/16	6:30 PM	Advent Worship
12/20	3:00 PM	Children's Christmas Service
12/23	6:30 PM	Advent Worship
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)

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Upcoming lessons at Sunday School:

11/1	A Family Grows
11/8	A Dreamer Rises
11/15	A Family Reunites
11/22	Christmas Program Practice Begins

FALL BACK TIME CHANGE!

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 1st at 2am. Set your clocks one hour back before you go to bed or you will not be on time for church Sunday morning.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

There will be a Thanksgiving Service on Thanksgiving Day at 9am.

HARVEST DISPLAY

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for our Harvest Display here at St. Jakobi. You may bring your items to any of the church services and put them around the Harvest Display in the front of the church. The last day we will collect the food is November 16th and then it will be distributed to a needy family or the Shawano Area Food Pantry.

ADVENT SERVICES

Advent services will begin on December 2nd. They will be at 6:30pm and there will be a meal served in the Fellowship Hall from 5-6:10pm.



POTATO PANCAKE DINNER

We served 725 people (a new record!) and couldn't have done it without so much support and help in the congregation. Thank you to everyone who helped, invited friends, or gave financially.

MITTEN TREE

Anyone wishing to donate children's mittens, hats or socks to our Mitten Tree project please bring them and put them on the tree in the Narthex. Right after Thanksgiving we will be collecting all of them and taking them to area schools to be given to needy children. We had a great response last year and this is a wonderful way to share God's love.

THE CATECHISM REVISITED PART 2: BAPTISM

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 6th from 9am-Noon. We'll be having another Saturday Seminar and we'll be learning about Baptism as it is taught from Scripture and the Small Catechism. Come with your questions and ready to learn!

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday, November 1st is New Member Sunday. Be sure to come and welcome the new members to the congregation.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE

This year we will begin practice for the Christmas program on November 22nd. There will also be Saturday morning practices on December 12th and 19th from 9-11:30. The program will be held on Sunday, December 20th at 3:00 p.m.

FUNERAL

Barbara Bahr passed away on October 13th, 2026. Her funeral was on October 24th. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

MEN'S NIGHT

All men of the congregation are invited to join us for a night of fun and fellowship on Tuesday, November 17th at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring some snacks or drinks to share.

ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN CHRIST

Our new 3-year commitments have been collected. There were 67 commitments made for a total amount of \$228,295. These go from October 2026 through October 2029. In addition, over \$103,000 was given up-front to pay down the principal of the loan. With this additional payment on principal, we have knocked 5 years off the loan and saved a projected \$381,000 in interest! This puts us in excellent financial situation for the long-term.

DID YOU KNOW?

The last three Sundays in the Church Year are November 8th, 15th, and 22nd. These last three weeks of the church year focus on the return of Christ. We'll hear about how to be prepared for the coming of Jesus, what the last day will be like, and that we are to be watchful for Jesus' 2nd Coming.

ONLINE GIVING

With the new commitments, now may be the time that you want to sign up for recurring donations to St. Jakobi. You can set it and not worry about having your offering envelope each week. Sign up with the website or QR code. <https://tinyurl.com/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.



HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES

We have had hearing assistance devices the past several years that can help those people who have trouble hearing at church. These small devices fit in a pocket and there are three different options for how they transmit the sound to you. They can have (1) an in-ear speaker, (2) an over the ear speaker (this works on the outside of a hearing aid), (3) or a hearing loop system. The hearing loop system is worn around your neck and transmits the sound directly to the t-coil of your hearing aid. We've had great reviews of these devices. **They work!** Talk to an usher before church and he will help you get acquainted with these new devices. *Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.* (Romans 10:17)

ST. JAKOBI BOOK CLUB

The following is the list of books chosen for the upcoming meetings: November 3rd – The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick. December 1st – Theo of Golden by Allen Levi.

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NEWS

Help us prepare for Veteran's Day on November 11th. The cemetery guidelines indicate that planters, vases, and decorations placed on or after May 1st must be removed by October 1st. Items not removed may be removed or discarded. Winter or Veteran's Day decorations may be placed November 1st.

HYMNAL RIBBONS

We are trying to preserve the hymnal ribbons for as long as possible. Please do not braid or pick at the end of the ribbons in the hymnals.

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.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

Do you want the Small Catechism on your smartphone or tablet? There's an app for that. You can download the free Small Catechism for iOS at <https://tinyurl.com/AppleLutherSC> or for Android at <https://tinyurl.com/AndroidLutherSC>



READINGS AT CHURCH

November 1st:	Revelation 7:9-17 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12
November 8th:	Amos 5:18-24 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13
November 15th:	Zephaniah 1:7-16 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30
November 22nd:	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 Matthew 25:31-46
November 29th:	Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 11:1-10

HIGHER THINGS YOUTH CONFERENCE

We will begin planning for a Youth Group trip to the Higher Things Conference being held at Concordia University, Mequon, WI next summer, June 22-25, 2027. The theme is *Torah*. Registration will begin November 1st, and will need to be completed by December 1st, 2026. This is for all youth who are beginning 8th-12th grades. Stay tuned for more information.



LUTHERAN EDUCATION

St. Jakobi has funds available to help pay for tuition at [St. James Lutheran 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.

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!

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.

NEWSLETTER IN COLOR

The pictures in the newsletter look best in color. You can sign up to view them on your computer by going to this website.

<https://tinyurl.com/JakobiNewsletter>

CHURCH BUILDING LOAN BALANCE

The amount owed for the loan to build the new addition as of June 30th was \$1,290,479.09. After our regular payments, the balance at the end of 3rd Quarter is \$1,284,916.75. Thanks be to God for His blessings.

ST. JAKOBI ON FACEBOOK

St. Jakobi has a [Facebook page](#). Stay up to date on happenings at church by liking the page.

USED PORTALS OF PRAYER

When you turn in your used Portals of Prayer into the basket in the Narthex they are collected and sent to the LWML of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Forestville, Wisconsin. They recently sent Christian literature in 54 huge boxes throughout the world via an organization named Love Packages. This organization exists to glorify God through the distribution of Christian reading material. Please support this effort by returning your Portals of Prayer when you are done with it so other Christians can be edified and uplifted. You can learn more at www.lovepackages.org.

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.

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.

LUTHERAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

In order to assist LCMS Lutherans and congregations, a new Credit Union



LUTHERAN
FEDERAL 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.

ISSUES, ETC

Issues, Etc. is an internet radio program hosted by LCMS pastor, Todd Wilken. They address topics in the news from an intentionally Lutheran Christian perspective and interview guests about issues within the church. **You can listen to stories of guests who have come to Lutheranism from Islam, Mormonism, Atheism, Agnosticism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, Pentecostalism and more.** You can listen to what you want, when you want at www.issuesetc.org. You can download the episodes to your Smart Phone or stream on any device.

Issues, Etc.



Christ-Centered Cross-
Focused Talk Radio

ALL SAINTS' DAY

November 1st is All Saints' Day. The Church remembers in great joy those who have gone before us and have received the blessing of life eternal. The picture on this page is designed to give great comfort to those who remain on earth because of the separation between those living and those who have died in the faith. This picture is designed to show that you are most closely connected to those who have died in the faith when you come up to the Communion rail to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. It is for this reason that the pastor says before Communion, "With angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and saying..." Then the people sing the song of the angels from Isaiah 6, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" Those who have died in the faith are numbered in the company of heaven so you are around the Altar with your loved ones who are in heaven. So the next time you approach the Altar rail, be reminded that you join in Communion with Christ not just with the people at St. Jakobi, but also all the saints in heaven



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 - Katelyn Jashinsky
2 - Colbie Reinke
3 - Skye Breitrick
3 - Debra Daley
3 - Kersten Stueck
4 - Stacie Robbins
5 - Marshal Giese
7 - Lily Matsche
7 - Layden Plaster
8 - Jim Oberstein
9 - John Boyles
9 - Scott Wendorff
10 - Judi Raddant
10 - Jessica Van Buren
11 - Randy Burr
11 - Cathy Hoffman
12 - John Brady
12 - Daryl Seelig
13 - Lucas Bedroske
13 - Mckenzi Kuhn
13 - Alec Raddant
14 - Lillien Murdock
15 - Rylee Trochil
16 - Michael Daley
16 - Rebecca Owen
16 - Bob Ritter
17 - Brittney Angeli
17 - Connor Angeli
17 - Jed Schuettpelez
17 - Kayla Szucs
18 - Elliot Clark
18 - Hope Peters
18 - Henry Pleshek
18 - Brielle Reinke
18 - Bruce Teetzen
19 - Barbara Berkhahn
19 - Dale Magee
19 - Jonathan Riesenberg
19 - Morgan Riesenberg
20 - Travis Kleinschmidt
20 - Dawn Lehman
21 - Daniel Buettner
21 - Gerald Ludolph
22 - Nicole Horne
23 - Jacob Berkhahn
23 - SueAnn Danley
23 - Jennifer Utecht
24 - Randy Giese
24 - Ian Stuber
24 - Lori Buettner (Robbie)
25 - Bonnie Cotter

25 - Jamie Massey
25 - Ashlee Pethke
26 - Rhet Pedersen
26 - Zach Pedersen
26 - Noah Wendorff
26 - Shania Skalitzky
28 - Georgia Ladwig
29 - Tom McGahan
29 - Steve Verstoppen

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.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

02, 1969 - Bob & Chris Johnson
05, 2022 - Chris & Kelly Matsche
05, 2022 - Taylor & Ashlee Pethke
06, 2021 - Joshua & Brinlee Gueths
06, 1971 - Curt & Margie Wendorff
08, 1989 - Andy & Lori Schmidt
10, 1973 - Bill & Darlene Ross
13, 2021 - Nate & Lindsey Cumberland
15, 1986 - Doug & Barbara Berkhahn
26, 1994 - Douglas & Brenda Gast
26, 1966 - Dale & Carol Magee

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.

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Raelyn Krueger	2 6:15 Choir 7:00 Altar Guild	3 1:00 Book Club	4 4:00 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	5 1:00 Bible Study	6	7 9:00 Bazaar 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Ayva Plaster
8 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Zoey Riesenberg	9 6:15 Choir	10	11 4:00 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	12 1:00 Bible Study 6:30 Elders	13	14 9:00 Spiritual Outreach 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Ian Stuber
15 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Isabel Thoma	16 6:15 Choir	17 6:30 Men's Night	18 4:00 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	19 1:00 Bible Study	20	21 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Zoey Bartz
22 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Harper Ejnik	23 6:15 Choir	24	25	26 <i>Thanksgiving</i> 9:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Brysen Halvorson	27	28 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Carson Hietpas
29 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Emma Ladwig	30 6:15 Choir			Elders: Sat: Tom Tuma Sun: Darryl Prodell Jeff Buettner Special: Mike Waldvogel		Altar Guild: Barb Teetzen Karleen Brei Mary Jung-Wians Chris Johnson

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

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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

