

ST. JOHN'S JOURNAL

The monthly newsletter for
St. John Lutheran Church
Loogootee, IN

LIFE TOGETHER

BY PASTOR TIMOTHY FLEACE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At the close of this year, 2025 A.D., the 21st century will be a quarter of a century old. If you are a person of a certain age like myself, this is a startling thing to consider. My grade school friends and I tried to imagine what life in the 21st century would be like. Would there be flying cars like George Jetson buzzed around in? Would folks vacation on the moon or Mars? Would robots do our chores? The 21st century seemed full of exciting promise. Some of those things have come to pass. There are robots that do chores. Drones may develop to the point that a person can fly in them. Some things we did not picture. Cell phones and the internet were not on the horizon. The closest thing to these things in our minds were the communication devices that Captain Kirk used to contact the Enterprise, "Beam me up Scotty!".

2025 is an important year. It is the 1700th anniversary of the forming of the Nicene Creed, the major ecumenical creed of Christianity. It has a number of remarkable

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stories and personalities behind it and we will be exploring some of these this year. The Nicene Creed teaches the basic theology of the Church. It summarizes what the scriptures reveal about Jesus Christ. It holds the full divinity of the Holy Spirit before the Church. These things seem obvious to us now but they were in doubt in the fourth century. The fact that these things are obvious to us is because of the Nicene Creed.

Above everything else let's keep before us the initials A.D. following 2025. These initials stand for *Anno Domini*, meaning the year of the Lord. or more commonly the year of our Lord. There are some who want to do away with A.D. and replace it with C.E. or Common Era. I understand the thinking behind this sentiment. In a post Christian society shouldn't we avoid terms that point toward a specific religious faith? But Christians should be wary of this. The initials A.D. remind us that the history of the human race, including the rise and fall of empires, has unfolded the way that it has for the sole purpose of Christ coming into the world at a specific time and place. Think of the census that Augustus Caesar called for which led Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem where Christ would be born thus fulfilling the scriptures. The peoples of the world are under his care and providence. It is his justice, and wisdom that the world needs in order to live in peace. The world will find its culmination when Christ returns to establish his eternal Kingdom. All time belongs to him. The ancient liturgy of St. John Chrysostom begins with the words, "Blessed is our

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Prayer Concerns

Please be praying for these friends and church family members.

Those with health concerns:

- *Bill Stewart (church member)
- *Brian Wininger (church member)
- Charlie Little family (friend of Drew Davis)
- Charlie Tedrow (friend of Julinda Adams)
- Chris Haag (brother to T. Haag, cousin to J. Love)
- Dave Harder (friend of Linda Goldman)
- David Welch (brother-in-law of Doug & Rita Denson)
- Eleighanna Watkins (friend of Matt Fleace family)
- *Gerry Stewart (church member)
- Hyacinth Prince (sister-in-law of Barbara Prince)
- Jennifer Nolting (friend of Mason Grubbs)
- Jim Leistner (friend of Goldman family)
- Joseph Hart (friend of Barbara Prince)
- Marg Otto (friend of Barbara Prince)
- Michael Byrd (nephew of Pastor Fleace)
- Pam Bullock (friend of Linda Goldman and others)
- Peter & Paula Schaeffer (friends of Wanda Smith)
- Steve Deckard (friend of Hilbert Fuhrman)

Those in the nursing home and homebound:

- *Gerald and Phyllis Lynch (Gentry Park, Bloomington)
- *Verneeda Roach (her home)
- *Bill and Gerry Stewart (their home)

Our College/Graduate Students:

- *Alex Adams, Ivy Tech, Bloomington
- *Isaac Eagle, University of Southern Indiana
- *Carson Shaw, University of Evansville

Our Military Personnel:

- *Kody Neukam-Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota

Other concerns:

- The spiritual state of our nation and churches
- The leaders in our nation and world
- Our church and leaders of our church
- Our sister church in Dubois
- Our own individual spiritual state
- Those experiencing war, unrest, and persecution
- Those who suffer depression & mental illness
- Staff and students at our local schools

*denotes church member

Hallelujah Chorus

(from *the Messiah*)

“His father tried to discourage his musical interests, preferring that he enter the legal profession. But it was the organ, harpsichord, and violin that captured the heart of young George Frideric Handel. Once, accompanying his father to the court of Duke Johann Adolf, George wandered into the chapel, found the organ, and started improvising. The startled Duke exclaimed, “Who is this remarkable child?”

This ‘remarkable child’ soon began composing operas, first in Italy then in London. By his 20s, he was the talk of England and the best paid composer on earth. He opened the Royal Academy of Music. Londoners fought for seats at his every performance, and his fame soared around the world.

But the glory passed. Audiences dwindled. His music became outdated, and he was thought of as an old fogey. Newer artists eclipsed the aging composer. One project after another failed, and Handel, now bankrupt, grew depressed. The stress brought on a case of palsy that crippled some of his fingers. “Handel’s great days are over,” wrote Frederick the Great, “his inspiration is exhausted.”

Yet his troubles also matured him, softening his sharp tongue. His temper mellowed, and his music became more heartfelt. One morning Handel received by post a manuscript from Charles Jennens. It was a word-for-word collection of various biblical texts about Christ. The opening words from Isaiah 40 moved Handel: *Comfort ye, comfort ye my people...*

On August 22, 1741, he shut the door of his London home and started composing music for the words. Twenty-three days later, the world had *Messiah*. “Whether I was in the body or out of the body when I wrote it, I know not,” Handel later said, trying to describe the experience. *Messiah* opened in London to enormous crowds on March 23, 1743, with Handel leading from his harpsichord. King George II, who was present that night, surprised everyone by leaping to his feet during the *Hallelujah Chorus*. No one knows why. Some believe the king, being hard of hearing, thought it the national anthem.

No matter - from that day audiences everywhere have stood in reverence during the stirring words: *Hallelujah! For He shall reign forever and ever.*

Handel’s fame was rekindled, and even after he lost his eyesight, he continued playing the organ for performances of his oratorios until his death in London, April 14, 1759.”

Taken from “Then Sings My Soul” by Robert J. Morgan: Thomas Nelson Publishers Nashville, TN, 2003.

John Chrysostom, Preacher Commemoration Day January 27

"Given the added name *Chrysostom*, which means "golden-mouthed" in Greek, St. John was a dominant force in the fourth century Christian Church. Born in Antioch around AD 347, John was instructed in the Christian faith by his pious mother, Anthusa. After serving in a number of Christian offices, including acolyte and lector, John was ordained a presbyter and given preaching responsibilities. His simple but direct messages found an audience well beyond his hometown. In AD 398, John Chrysostom was made patriarch of Constantinople. His determination to reform the church, court, and city brought him into conflict with established authorities. Eventually, he was exiled from his adopted city. Although removed from his parishes and people, he continued writing and preaching until the time of his death in AD 407. It is reported that his final words were "Glory be to God for all things! Amen."

The Conversion of St. Paul Feast Day January 25

"St. Paul's life-changing experience on the road to Damascus is related three times in the Book of Acts (9:1-9; 22:6-11; 26:12-18). As an archenemy of Christians, Saul of Tarsus set out for Damascus to arrest and bring believers to Jerusalem for trial. While on the way, he saw a blinding light and heard the words: 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' Saul asked, 'Who are You, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, who you are persecuting.' In Damascus where Saul was brought after being blinded,

a disciple named Ananias was directed by the Lord in a vision to go to Saul to restore his sight; 'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel' (Acts 9:15). After receiving his sight, Saul was baptized and went on to become known as Paul, the great apostle."

Confession of St. Peter Feast Day January 18

"The confession of St. Peter did not arise in the imagination of Peter's heart but was revealed to him by the Father. The reason this confession is important is seen in Jesus' response: "You are Peter (Greek *Petros*), and on this rock (Greek *petra*) I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18). As the people of God in the Old Testament began with the person of Abraham, the rock from which God's people were hewn (Isaiah 51:1-2), so the people of God in the New Testament would begin with the person of Peter, whose confession is the rock on which Christ would build His Church. But Peter was not alone (the 'keys' given to him in Matthew 16:19 were given to all the disciples in Matthew 18:18 and John 20:21-23). As St. Paul tells us, Peter and the other apostles take their place with the prophets as the foundation of the Church, with Christ Himself as the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). The confession of Peter, therefore, is the witness of the entire apostolic band and is foundational in the building of Christ's Church. Thus the Church gives thanks to God for St. Peter and the other apostles who have instructed Christ's Holy Church in His divine and saving truth."

Lectionary Readings for January

Please find below the daily lectionary readings for this month. Reading the Bible every day will increase your spiritual health in the same way that exercise helps you physically to stay well. We encourage you to make time in your day for the care of your soul.

- 1 Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 1:57-80
- 2 Isaiah 62:1-12; Luke 2:1-20
- 3 Isaiah 63:1-14; Luke 2:21-40
- 4 Isaiah 63:15-65:2; Luke 2:41-52
- 5 Isaiah 65:8-25; Luke 3:1-20
- 6 Isaiah 66:1-20; Luke 3:21-38
- 7 Ezekiel 1:1-14, 22-28; Romans 1:1-17
- 8 Ezekiel 2:1-3:11; Romans 1:18-32
- 9 Ezekiel 3:12-27; Romans 2:1-16
- 10 Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32; Romans 2:17-29
- 11 Ezekiel 33:1-20; Romans 3:1-18
- 12 Ezekiel 34:1-24; Romans 3:19-31
- 13 Ezekiel 36:13-28; Romans 4:1-25
- 14 Ezekiel 36:33-37:14; Romans 5:1-21
- 15 Ezekiel 37:15-28; Romans 6:1-23
- 16 Ezekiel 38:1-23; Romans 7:1-20
- 17 Ezekiel 39:1-10, 17-29; Romans 7:21-8:17
- 18 Ezekiel 40:1-4, 43:1-12; Romans 8:18-39
- 19 Ezekiel 44:1-16, 23-29; Romans 9:1-18
- 20 Ezekiel 47:1-14, 21-23; Romans 9:19-33
- 21 Joel 1:1-20; Romans 10:1-21
- 22 Joel 2:1-17; Romans 11:1-24
- 23 Joel 2:18-32; Romans 11:25-12:13
- 24 Joel 3:1-21; Romans 12:14-13:14
- 25 Zechariah 1:1-21; Romans 14:1-23
- 26 Zechariah 2:1-3:10; Romans 15:1-13
- 27 Zechariah 4:1-5:11; Romans 15:14-33
- 28 Zechariah 6:1-7:14; Romans 16:17-27
- 29 Zechariah 8:1-23; 2 Timothy 1:1-18
- 30 Zechariah 9:1-17; 2 Timothy 2:1-26
- 31 Zechariah 10:1-11:3; 2 Timothy 3:1-17

(Life Together, continued from page 2)

God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages." May you have a blessed year of our Lord this 2025.

Pastor Fleace

Servers for January

5 January Christmas 2

Lector/Comm. Asst: **Leanne Love**

Acolyte: **Kyra Shaw**

Greeters: **Duane & Karen Mann**

Nursery: **TBD**

Color: **White**

12 January Baptism of our Lord

Lector: **Tammy Winger**

Acolyte: **Tammy Winger**

Greeters: **Ross & Sarah Adams**

Nursery: **TBD**

Color: **White**

19 January Epiphany 2

Lector/Communion Asst: **Deron Steiner**

Acolyte: **Deron Steiner**

Greeters: **Dick & Kay Barber**

Nursery: **TBD**

Color: **Green**

26 January Epiphany 3

Lector: **Jennifer Holt**

Acolyte: **Jennifer Holt**

Greeters: **Bill & Karen Whorrall**

Nursery: **TBD**

Color: **Green**

Financial Assistant: **Jennifer Holt**

Church Cleaning: **Jennifer Holt**


**Worship Services
will begin at 11 AM
starting in January
and continue at
that time until the
end of April 2025.**

The Church Mouse

Looking back at December 2024 I am filled with awe at how exciting it all was...the Advent services, the concerts of the Celebration Singers, the Hanging of the Greens, Ringing the Salvation Army Bell, the Toy Store, the Christmas Eve Service and the Baptism of Urbane Carl Fleace. I just get chills thinking about it all. God is so good! And now here we are about to start another year. I wonder what God has in store for this year!?! I can't wait.

(Highlights, continued from page 7)

Pastor's Report - Pastor Tim combines activities for both churches in his report for November.

- Pastor Tim made twelve pastoral calls
- Attended two meetings
- Led three Bible Studies
- Conducted two confirmation classes
- Attended a retreat at Lutheran Hills for Advent preparation

Pastor Tim's report noted that the combined Thanksgiving service and meal were well attended.

He appreciated the recent vacation time off and will take another vacation the week following Christmas.

OLD BUSINESS

Items to be addressed by the Property Deacon were tabled until the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Duane will secure a credit card for Barbara Prince to use when purchasing office supplies. He will create a letter and complete the bank application.

Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 7pm.

The council reviewed a draft of the 2025 budget presented by Duane.

The Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2025. Barbara will announce this in the upcoming Sunday bulletin and newsletter.

Beginning January 1st, the church council will meet every other month. (January, March, May, July, September, November. Additional meetings will be called as needed throughout the year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 24th – 7pm service

January 19th – Annual Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM with everyone praying the Lord's Prayer together.

Submitted by,
Angie Steiner, Council Secretary

a little lutheran levity!

WISHING
YOU A
BLESSED
NEW YEAR!

For we are God's
masterpiece. He has
created us anew in Christ
Jesus, so we can do the
good things he planned for
us long ago.
- Ephesians 2:10



Highlights of the Church Council Meeting and Joint Council Meeting December 19, 2024

An Update on the Shared Ministry between St John's Dubois and Loogootee

Meeting Attendees – Deanna Linne, Missy Cooper, Eric Cooper, Gary Moeller, Travas Eichmiller, David Schneider, Jillian Eckerle, Tara Eichmiller, Harold Eichmiller, Peggy Wiesehan, Deron Steiner, Angie Steiner, Duane Mann, and Barbara Prince.

A meeting of both Councils and Finance Groups from each congregation, met on Thursday, December 19, 2024. The purpose was to address any questions, concerns, and financial aspects of the current Covenant of Shared Ministry between the two churches. Gary Moeller offered a prayer and Barbara Prince read a devotion prior to the meal and discussion followed.

The meeting was called to order by Tara Eichmiller. All members present agreed that the arrangement is working well. Our only concern was to ensure that Pastor Tim feels that the schedule is manageable. The topic of budgets was put on hold until treasurers from both councils can meet to go over salary and benefit options for 2025. Compensation was also discussed. Deron and Duane will speak with Pastor Tim in the next few weeks about his preference for how the current arrangement is working and if any changes are needed. The following schedule for services was agreed upon. We will continue the current schedule through 2025. January – April (Dubois 9am, Loogootee 11am) May – August (Loogootee 9am, Dubois 11am) September – December (Dubois 9am, Loogootee 11am) Christmas schedule: Dubois – Christmas Eve 4pm; Loogootee – Christmas Eve 7pm
The meeting adjourned with the two counsels separating to conduct their own regular meetings.

The St. John's Lutheran Church Council met on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 6:30 PM in the Dubois Crossroads church basement. Members present were Deron Steiner, Barbara Prince, Angie Steiner, and Duane Mann. Absent were Pastor Tim Fleace, Tammy Wininger, Drew Davis, and Karen Mann. Chairman Deron Steiner called the meeting to order following the joint meeting with Dubois Crossroads.

The minutes from the November meeting were approved as printed in the St. John's Journal per a motion made by Duane Mann, seconded by Deron Steiner. The motion carried. Treasurer Duane Mann presented the financial report for November. As of November 30, 2024, the report shows an ending balance of \$44,203.38. Duane reported that we have had a good few months with no unusual expenses, along with the profits from Chili Day. Barbara Prince moved to accept the report, seconded by Angie Steiner. The motion carried.
Financial Trustee Report – no report
Property Trustee – no report
Worship Deacon – no report
Youth Deacon – nothing to report.

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Budget Report for November 2024

General Fund:	Balance on 11/1/24	\$39,066.01
Total Receipts	\$13,515.30.....	\$52,581.31
Disbursements		
Salaries	\$3,324.94	
Worship	\$150.00	
Office	\$505.66	
Utilities	\$1,198.54	
Rep/Main	\$40.00	
Misc.	\$3,158.79	
Total Disbursements.....		\$ 8,377.93
	Balance on 11/30/24	\$44,203.38

Special Funds:

Building Fund	\$8,783.05
Good Samaritan Fund	\$944.04
Synod Mission Support	\$300.00
Memorial Fund	\$9,236.99
Grace LC Legacy Gift	\$1,526.71

Stewardship Report November 2024

Date	Attendance	Offering
Sunday, November 03	34	\$1,730.00
Sunday, November 10	25	\$470.00
Sunday, November 17	24	\$1,473.00
Sunday, November 24	45	\$980.00

Needed weekly to meet the budget \$1190.63

Urbane Carl McDonough Fleace



was baptized on Saturday, December 28, 2024. He is the son of Matthew and Madeline McDonough Fleace.

Sponsors for Urbane were Grant and Myranda Phillips. He wore a baptismal gown that was made in 1886 by his great, great, great grandmother and has been worn by many in the family over the years. We welcome him into our church family and ask God to bless him and his family!



This month we have no special birthdays to celebrate (members 80 years old and up). We will see you next month!

St. John Lutheran Church will have its Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, 19 January, after the 11 AM worship service.

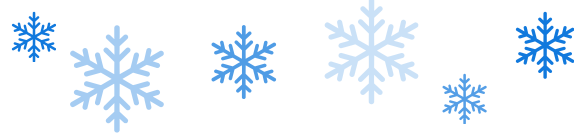
Please plan to attend worship and stay for the meeting. We will be voting on church council officers and the annual budget for 2025. Thank you for your faithfulness to our church in your attendance, giving, time, and talents. Each

person in the body of Christ is needed to make the body function properly.

Opportunities for Ministry

- Church offering envelopes are ready for pick-up in the church narthex.
- The cleaning and financial assistant schedules for 2025 are in the narthex awaiting your name!

January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Feast Day for the Circumcision and Name of Jesus	2 Commemoration Day for J.K. Wilhelm Loehe, Pastor	3	4
5 The Divine Service 11 AM	6 Celebration of Epiphany	7	8	9	10 Commemoration Day for Basil the Great of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianzus, Gregory of Nyssa, Pastors and Confessors	11
12 The Divine Service 11 AM Baptism of Our Lord Church Council Meeting @ 10:30 AM	13	14	15	16 Church Council Meeting, 6 PM	17	18 Feast Day for the Confession of Peter
19 The Divine Service 11 AM Congregational Annual Meeting after worship	20 Commemoration Day for Sarah	21 Newsletter Items are due today. Thanks!	22	23	24 Feast Day for St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor	25 Feast Day for the Conversion of St. Paul
26 The Divine Service 11 AM Linger Longer Feast Day for St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor	27 Commemoration Day for John Chrysostom, Preacher	28	29	30	31	

- 2 Deron & Angie Steiner (A)
- 10 Danielle Love
- 11 Alex Adams
- 12 Linda Goldman
Myles Hayden
- 13 Nikki Hayden
- 15 Kristie Hawkins
- 16 Kody Neukam
- 25 River Whorrall
- 26 Lisa Divine
- 31 Rita Denson



Celebrations

Church Council

Chairperson - Deron Steiner

Secretary - Angie Steiner

Treasurer - Duane Mann

Financial Trustee - Karen Mann

Property Trustee - Drew Davis

Worship Deacon - Tammy Wininger

Youth Deacon - Barbara Prince

Contact Information

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