

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

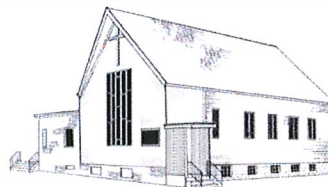
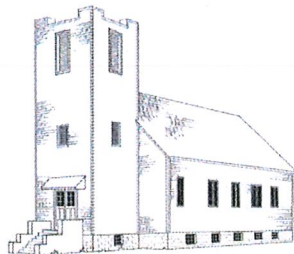
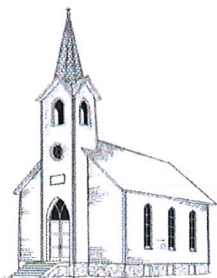
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Burt, Iowa

2021 Annual Report



Burt, Iowa



STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS

Dear Members of St. John's Lutheran Church,

We have much to do in 2022! We begin this new year helping our Partnership congregation through a pastoral vacancy. We've got a growing group of families with newly baptized children that need our support and encouragement. Our list of homebound members gets slowly larger every year. As the world grows more wicked and godless our need to remain firm in our faith and in our ability to boldly confess it becomes all the more important. We also have an obligation to share the hope of salvation and resurrection with a world that otherwise has no hope for the future. There is also the never-ending need for us to repent and receive Christ's forgiveness daily.

With so much to do in 2022, let's get to work! This is no time to pause or loiter or stay put. Now is the time to embrace forgiveness in Christ in every way. Now is the time to grow our faith by the knowledge and trust of God's Word. Now is the time to share the hope of resurrection with our hopeless world. Now is the time to reach the lost and struggling and suffering with the Good News of Jesus.

This sort of zeal for the Lord is exactly what St. John's needs in 2022. We need the personal commitment of each of our members to their faith. We need to work together to find new and effective ways to reach those who are on the margins of our membership and on the margins of society. We need to pray that God would bless us to be servants of His gospel to all of our neighbors.

All of these goals and convictions are exactly what St. John's should be striving after in 2022. However, we must also remember that any of our strivings of faith or evangelism or mercy are all for nothing without one key ingredient: Love. Listen to what St. Paul has to say about the role love plays in the life of a Christian:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. [...]

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- 1 Corinthians 13

Therefore as we get to work feeding and growing our faith, and sharing the hope of Christ with all, let us not forget what St. Paul regards as the greatest Christian virtue. Let us not pursue any project or program as a congregation this year without love for God and love for our neighbor as the top priority. Finally, let us seek for ourselves to grow in our understanding and in our experience of God's love for us and of God's love working in us.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Thomas Cowell
St. John's Lutheran Church, Burt IA LCMS
The Season of Epiphany, Anno Domini 2022

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

STAFF

Pastor:

- Pastor's Office: Rev. Thomas J Cowell
 - Email: 515-924-3388
 - Cell phone: pastor@stjohnsburt.org
 - Office Hours: 319-464-5548
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings, or by appointment

Office Manager/Secretary:

- Office Hours: Rosann Shipler
 - Church Office: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 - Church email: 515-924-3344
 - Church website: churchoffice@stjohnsburt.org
- www.stjohnsburt.org

Newsletter Coordinator

Linda Kerkove

Newsletter Printer and Assembler

Ann Heyes

Organist

Marcia Hanna

Assistant Organist

Kitty Bierstedt

Head Usher

Jeff Madsen

Communications

Lynn Bierstedt, Tony Hatten, & Vern Koestler

Janitor

Stefanie Hatten

Assistant Janitors

Trustees: Randy Reimers, Roger Evans, Terry Briggs
Larry Behnkendorf and Ben Borchardt

ONLINE CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ask the church office to add your email to our Flocknote Announcements group.
- OR
- Go to stjohnsburt.org, click the "St. John's Publications" tab, and select "Announcements."

WORSHIP BY PHONE

St. John's offers homebound members the ability to listen to the Sunday service through their phone. If you are interested in utilizing this option, please contact the church office for the phone number which you will need to dial to listen to the service.

ST. JOHN'S FACEBOOK PAGE

You can find the St. John's Facebook page at: facebook.com/stjohnsburt. We use our Facebook page to post service livestreams, important reminders, and pictures of church events.

LIVE STREAMING

St. John's will continue to stream all of our Sunday Divine Services as well as special Advent and Lenten services throughout 2022. The easiest way to access these videos is to go to stjohnsburt.org and click the following image on the homescreen:



Click on LIVE STREAMING to go to our YouTube page to see live stream of Church service and see recorded streams.

This will take you to our St. John's YouTube channel where you can find and select the live or recorded service you would like to view.

FLOCKNOTE MESSAGING SYSTEM

Flocknote is an email and text message service that will allow St. John's to send you announcements and other resources all from one place.

Here are the options for the types of communications you can receive from St. John's:

St. John's Cancellations:	A text message or voice call when church is canceled (Everyone please sign up for this one!)
St. John's Announcements:	A weekly announcements email as well as occasional reminders for our most important events
St. John's Council:	Reminders for council meetings
St. John's Volunteers:	Occasional notices for volunteer opportunities
St. John's Sunday School:	Occasional announcements/cancellations
St. John's Religion School:	Occasional announcements/cancellations
St. John's Prayer Chain:	Prayer requests once daily
St. John's Text on the Text:	Scripture memory verse once weekly

The easiest way to sign up is to let the church office know which message options you would like to receive and if you would like to receive them via text message, email, or both.

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 2022 BOARD OF OFFICERS

<i>Office</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Yr. Term Expires</i>
President (elected by the Council)	Jeff Schutjer	1yr	
Board Secretary	Stefanie Hatten	2yr	2023
Treasurer	Pam Reimers	2yr	2022
Financial Secretary	Vern Koestler	2yr	2023
Elders	Boyd Shipler	3yr	2023
	Jeff Schutjer	3yr	2022
	Tony Hatten	3yr	2022
	Jerry Koestler	3yr	2024
Trustees	Randy Reimers	3yr	2024
	Terry Briggs	3yr	2022
	Roger Evans	3yr	2022
	Larry Behnkendorf	3yr	2022
	Ben Borchardst	3yr	2023
Usher (1)	Jeff Madsen	3yr	2022
	Elder - Boyd Shipler		
Board of Finance	Dave Kerkove	1yr	2022
	Barb Schroeder	1yr	2022
	Don Madsen	1yr	2022
	Trustee - Randy Reimers		
Sunday Superintendent	Karla Schutter	3yr	2023
	Elder - Jeff Schutjer		
Board of Education	Barb Thilges	3yr	2023
	Stefanie Hatten	3yr	2023
	Brenda Schutjer	3yr	2024
	Elder - Tony Hatten		
Worship Committee	Janice Reimers	2yr	2022
	Elder - Boyd Shipler		
Mission Board	Clark Christensen	3yr	2022
	Lynn Bierstedt	3yr	2024
	Usher - Jeff Madsen		
	Elder - Jerry Koestler		
Christmas Committee	Clark & Allison Christensen	2yr	2022
	Joe & Tina Heyes	2yr	2022
	Lucas & Jessie Parsons	2yr	2023
	Steve & Vickie Madsen	2yr	2023
	Trustee - Terry Briggs		
Audit Committee (3)	Barb Schroeder	1yr	
President Appoints Chairperson	Elder - Jerry Koestler		
	Trustee - Larry Behnkendorf		
Nomination Committee (4)	Lynn Bierstedt	1yr	
President Appoints One	Pastor Cowell		
	Elder - Jeff Schutjer		
	Trustee - Roger Evans		

SCHEDULED CHURCH SERVICES - 2022

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

Adult Bible Study (All Year)	8:15	am
Sunday School (September-May)	8:30	am
Divine Service	9:30	am

LENTEN, HOLY WEEK, & EASTER SERVICES

Ash Wednesday Divine Service March 2, 2022	6:00	pm
Lenten midweek services Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 22, April 6, 2022	6:00	pm
Palm Sunday Divine Service April 10, 2022	9:30	am
Stations of the Cross Prayer Service April 12, 2022	10:00	am
Holy Thursday Divine Service April 14, 2022	6:00	pm
Good Friday Service April 15, 2022	6:00	pm
Easter Vigil (at Trinity) April 16, 2022	6:00	pm
Easter Day Divine Service April 17, 2022	9:30	am
Easter Breakfast	8:00	am

THANKSGIVING, ADVENT, AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thanksgiving Eve Prayer Service November 24, 2022	6:00	pm
Advent midweek services November 30, December 7, 14, 2022	6:00	pm
Christmas Eve Children's Program December 24, 2022	5:30	pm
Christmas Day Divine Service December 25, 2022	9:30	am

TUESDAY MORNING/EVENING PRAYER

Every Tuesday (except the 2 nd Tues. of the month Sep.-May)	10:00	am
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PARTNERSHIP RALLY SUNDAY

TBD

WEDNESDAY CATECHESIS - First Day - September 14, 2022

6:00 pm

QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETINGS

2 nd Sunday of January, April, July, & October	10:30	am
Special Council Meeting in December for Budget and Officers	10:30	am

VOTER'S MEETING - 3rd Sunday of January, April, July, & October

10:30 am

* Holy Communion, individual Confession and Absolution, prayer, and Christian counsel are always available for any member at any time. Please call, text, or email Pastor Cowell any time with pastoral care requests.

MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE

2020	2021
200 Communicants	194 Communicants
32 Baptized Children	35 Baptized Children
232 Total Membership	229 Total Membership

SERVICE AVERAGE ATTENDANCE IN 2021

Average attendance at Sunday Services	52
Average attendance at Lenten Services	34
Average attendance at Advent Services	23
Average attendance at Adult Bible Study	13
Average attendance at Sunday School	7
Average attendance on Tuesday Mornings	3

CHURCH ATTENDANCE AT REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

5 services in <i>January</i>	<i>Snow-22-40-45-Snow</i>
4 services in <i>February</i>	<i>45-27-50-51</i>
4 services in <i>March</i>	<i>57-62-62-62</i>
4 services in <i>April</i>	<i>67-48-43-59</i>
5 services in <i>May</i>	<i>58-69-52-56-52</i>
4 services in <i>June</i>	<i>46-45-48-48</i>
4 services in <i>July</i>	<i>37-49-59-38</i>
5 services in <i>August</i>	<i>46-39-55-51-46</i>
4 services in <i>September</i>	<i>44-45-57-40</i>
5 services in <i>October</i>	<i>58-47-61-46-57</i>
4 services in <i>November</i>	<i>53-52-54-51</i>
4 services in <i>December</i>	<i>48-64-56-40</i>

SPECIAL SERVICES - 2021

Ash Wednesday	39
Lenten Services	32-35-32-36-35
Maundy Thursday	40
Good Friday	22
Thanksgiving Eve	32
Advent Services	25-23-23
Christmas Eve	105
Christmas Day	35

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

BAPTISM

Rhett Stafford Briggs

Born: February 1, 2020

Baptism: January 3, 2021

Parents: Wade Briggs & Devyn Briggs

Sponsors: Lindsay Coyle, Nolan Elliott
Tom and Brady Sage

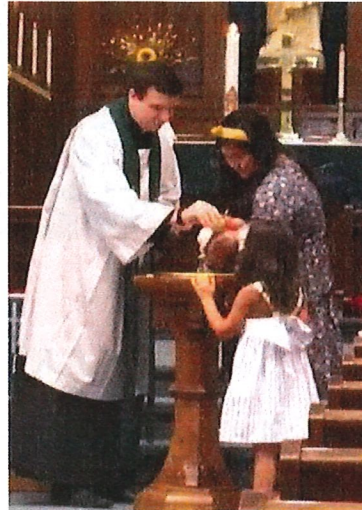
Amelia Opal Cowell

Born: July 26, 2021

Baptism: August 22, 2021

Parents: Thomas & Hannah Cowell

Sponsors: Casey Roegner
Ryan and Rachel VonWald



FUNERALS

Melvin M Haase

July 24, 1932 ~ February 6, 2021

Service: February 10, 2021

Interment: Burt Township

Pamela Sue Madsen

March 9, 1947 ~ May 27, 2021

Service: June 1, 2021

Interment: Burt Township

Wendell Clair Christensen Sr.

December 19, 1936 ~ June 15, 2021

Service: June 20, 2021

Interment: Buffalo Township-Titonka

Larry Eugene Manus

December 10, 1937 ~ July 17, 2021

Service: July 21, 2021

Interment: Burt Township

John Fredrick Thompson

February 1, 1937 ~ December 6, 2021

Service: December 9, 2021

Interment: Burt Township

PROFESSION OF FAITH

John Schutter

From: Immanuel Lutheran (ELCA)
Titonka, Iowa
August 1, 2021

TRANSFER OUT

Michael Schroeder

To: St. Paul's Lutheran (LCMS)
Fairmont, Minnesota
July 21, 2021

CONFIRMATION

Tysen Dean Wickman

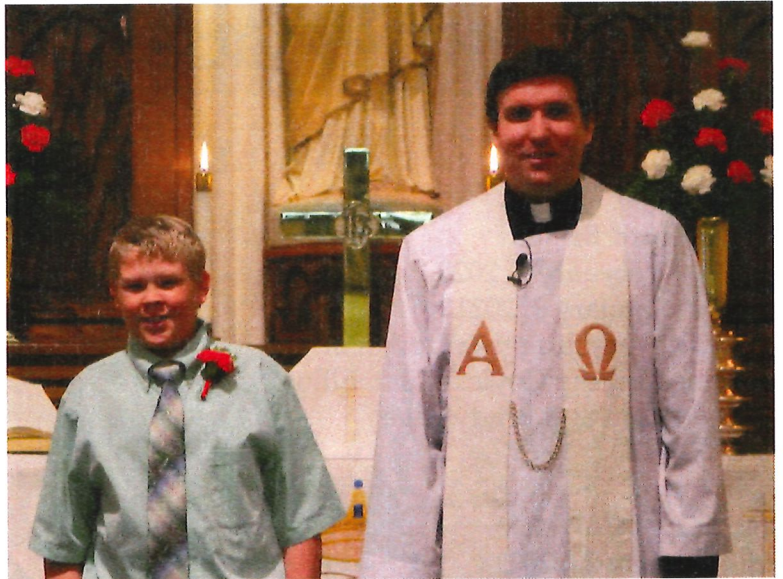
Born: January 12, 2007

Baptism: April 16, 2011

Parents: Chris and Amanda Heyes

Steven Wickman

Confirmation Verse: 1 Peter 1:25



CRADLE ROLL

This year **Rhett Stafford Briggs** and **Amelia Opal Cowell** received the gift of Holy Baptism at St. John's.

Each new member baptized is presented a hand embroidered napkin (by Ann Heyes), candle, and a Thrivent Baptism Medallion with each child's birth and baptism date on it. The medallion is engraved and given by Thrivent. A beautifully framed baptism certificate is given to the parents along with books entitled *The Baptism of Your Child*, a book set of small books for the parents to read to their child entitled: *Follow and Do Gift Set*, and also two Children's Bibles entitled: *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and *The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible*.

Debra and Mary Steven, Beginners Program Coordinators

ST. JOHN'S/TRINITY PARTNERSHIP

On Wednesday, September 8, 2021 St. John's hosted a Partnership Potluck and Hymn Sing with our Partnership congregation, Trinity. The Potluck began at 5:30 p.m. in the church basement. Following the meal we all joined together outside at the outdoor worship area for a hymn sing with requests. An evening of fun and fellowship was had by all. Special thanks to Kitty Bierstedt who played the digital keyboard and those who helped organize the meal.





The Altar Guild is made up of faithful volunteers that take care of the preparations before each worship service. Their job at St. John's is to be sure that Holy Communion and Baptism is set up at appropriate times, flowers available weekly, linens, permanents and candles are changed for all Sunday Services and major festivals. More members have been added to the guild as we have went to every Sunday communion.

We would like to thank Cheryl Batt for her many, many years of service of purchasing and displaying the flowers throughout the church. Cheryl retired at the end of the 2021 year.

We welcomed to the Altar Guild Betty Koestler and Shirlee Alt starting in 2021.

Thank you to these dedicated people:

Worship Chairperson: **Janice Reimers** (elected office)

Orders all worship materials during the year.

Holy Communion: **Janice and Pam Reimers, Rosann Shieler, Barb Schroeder, Hannah Cowell, Kelly Fitzgerald, Betty Koestler, and Shirlee Alt**

Set up and remove communion ware and prepare linens for services.

Holy Baptism: **Ann Heyes**

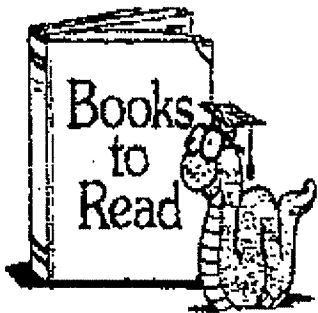
Embroiders Baptismal napkins for each child's baptism

Debra Steven - Medallions given and engraved by Thrivent

Paraments: **Pam and Randy Reimers**

Altar Flowers: If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar on a given Sunday in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an anniversary, Baptism, or special event, please contact the Worship Guild Chairperson.

LIBRARY NEWS



St. John's Library is available to all and we encourage you to use it often at your convenience. We have several new books now available. These books were purchased through a Thrivent Action Card from one of our members.

New Books:

1. *Seed Grains of Prayer* by Wilhelm Loehe
2. *An Explanation of the Common Service*
3. *He Restores My Soul* by Katie Schuermann
4. *The Word Remains* by Wilhelm Loehe
5. *Thank, Praise, Serve and Obey: Recover the Joy of Piety* by William Weedon
6. *Clearly Christian: Following Jesus in This Age of Confusion* by Trevor Sutton
7. *Pew Sisters: A Women's Small-Group Bible Study* by Katie Schuermann
8. *Why Should I Trust the Bible?* by Trevor Sutton
9. *The Spirituality of Wine* by Gisela Kreglinger
10. *The Table Talk of Martin Luther* edited by Thomas Kepler
11. *Christ and Calamity: Grace and Gratitude in the Darkest Valley* by Harold Senkbeil
12. *The Harvest Raise* by Katie Schuermann
13. *Without Flesh: Why the Church is Dying Even Though Jesus is Still Alive* by Jonathan Fisk
14. *Equipped: The Armor of God for Everyday Struggles* by Christopher Kennedy
15. *Praying Luther's Small Catechism* by John Pless

Mary Steven and Deb Steven, Librarians

FUNERAL POLICY

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

BURT, IOWA

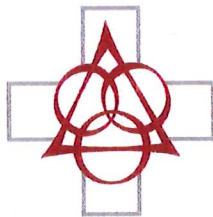
In the event that the funeral of your loved one takes place at St John's Lutheran Church, one of the Funeral Committee: *Ann Heyes, Jessica Parsons, Barb Harms, or Joan Peymann* will contact the family on serving the lunch. If you are working with a funeral home, the funeral home will typically arrange these details on your behalf.

Meal Choices:

1. A noon meal of scalloped potatoes and ham, buns, salads, cake, coffee and drink.
2. A noon meal of Hamburger Hot Dish, bun, salads, cake, coffee and drink.
3. A noon meal of sandwiches, salads, cake, coffee and drink.
4. Afternoon lunch of sandwiches and cake or salads and cake, coffee and drink.

Meal/Services Information:

- The family will pay for the cost of the main dish.
- If you are working with a funeral home, they will take care of this expense for you as a part of your funeral planning package.
- The congregation will provide the salads, desserts, drinks, and tableware.
- The family is welcome to make a donation to the St. John's Funeral Committee to go toward purchasing supplies.
- The committee will contact members of St John's congregation to furnish salads and cakes as well as to serve at the funeral lunch.
- The ushers for the month at St. John's will help set up and take down the tables and chairs.
- The family is welcome to order a catered meal from a local restaurant or grocery store.
- If the family orders a catered meal, the committee will provide congregation members to serve the meal.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School began in the fall where our Vacation Bible School left off from the summer – teaching about how we are all a part of God's family! The lessons are designed to keep us in God's Holy Word and to be a supplement for the families' Bible reading at home. This year we have learned about Joseph and his family. We learned about Moses, the Ten Commandments, the Exodus and the parting of the Red Sea.

We learned that John the Baptist is a cousin to Jesus and his birth was also announced by an angel! We were able to read the familiar story of Christ's birth in a manger. And now after the first of the year, we will continue on into the New Testament where we will learn of Jesus' life, ministry and miracles. All the while remembering why he came. He came to give us an abundant life in him. Through Christ's redemptive work on the cross, we are grafted into his family for all of eternity!



It is our hope that as we continue to learn about the saving work of Christ and the forgiveness offered to each of us, that the children and their families will be blessed knowing the saving work has been done. Which allows us to read, study and meditate on God's Word all the while giving thanks for all that he has done!

"But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments." – Psalm 103:17-18

St. John's Board of Education

OUR DEDICATED STAFF

Preschool – 1st Grade

2nd Grade – 4th Grade

5th Grade – 8th Grade

Sunday School Opening

Adult Class

Sunday School Superintendent

Board of Education

Jessica Parsons

Gabby Kelly

Stefanie Hatten

Pastor Cowell

Pastor Cowell and Pastor Lund

Karla Schutter

Brenda Schutjer, Barbara Thilges,
Stefanie Hatten, Karla Schutter



Please pray for our Sunday school and all the families as we continue to grow in Christ.

WEDNESDAY CHRISTIAN CATECHESIS

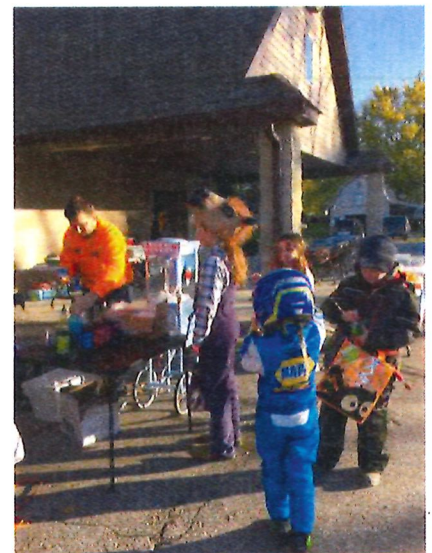
Wednesday Christian Catechesis at St. John's continues to both be a blessing to our congregation as well as a learning and growing experience for everyone involved! Each student continues to work on their Catechesis goals and objectives from home while also attending instructional classes with Pastor on Wednesday evenings. Included in the students' goals and objectives are assignments such as memorizing the Catechism, reading chapters from the Bible, and praying as a family. I am blessed to have a group of children who all come to class with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn.

I am likewise exceedingly proud of our Catechesis parents as this program continues. The parents have faithfully embraced their vocation as Christian mothers and fathers and have been willing to try new things and be actively involved in raising their children in the Christian faith. I think the parents would agree that their closer connection with the Christian education of their children has also opened doors for them to be more open to discussing and practicing their faith at home.

I also want to offer a reminder that our Wednesday classes are always open to the congregation to attend. Ask for a schedule and feel free to sit in on any topic that interests you. You will find out that the content that the children are learning is beneficial to Christians of any age. You will also find out that we have an incredible group of young Christians at St. John's, both in terms of the children as well as their parents, whose eagerness to grow in the faith is an inspiration to us all.

- Pastor Thomas Cowell

CHURCHES OF BURT TRUNK OR TREAT



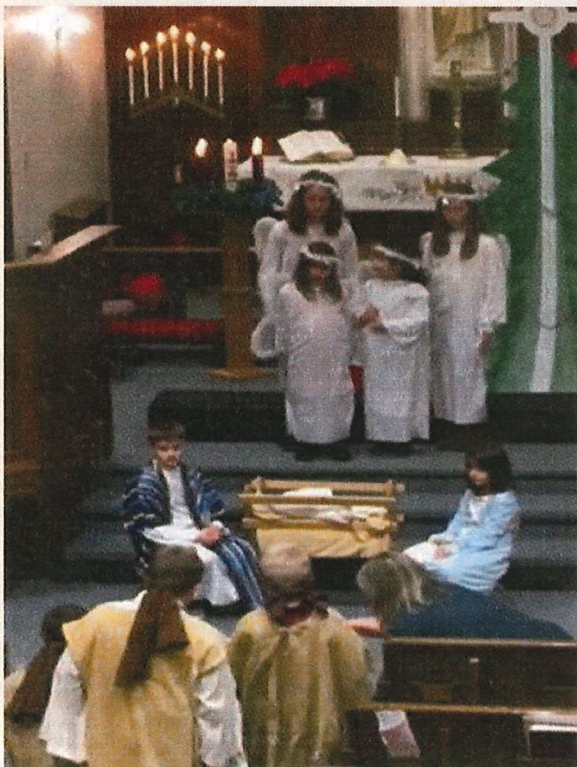
Many thanks to everyone who hosted a trunk, Burt Presbyterian and St. John's Lutheran Church for providing the meal and hosting the event, Titonka Food Center for donating scotcheroos, Thilges Pumpkin Patch, Bode Farm and the Knechts for donating their pumpkins!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM

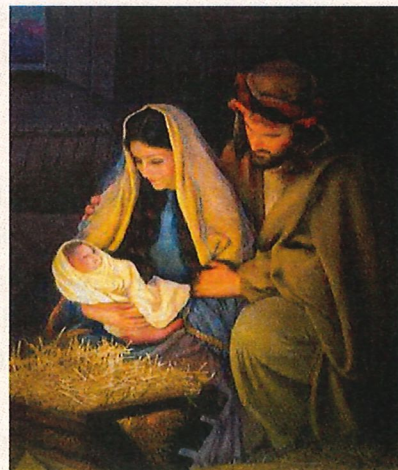


Pastor Cowell taught us that the Bible is really ONE story – the story of salvation. And on Christmas Eve, fourteen students from St. John's took part in telling a part of that ONE story – the story of Christ's birth.

We all love the story of Christmas – Christ's birth. What makes the Christmas story even more amazing is WHY Christ came. And that is why our program began with a reading from Genesis. Genesis tells us of the creation of the world and of man. It tells us how God walked with Adam and Eve in perfect fellowship within the Garden of Eden. It describes an unbroken relationship that was uncontaminated. The Bible tells us it was man who left God by sinning. Thanks be to God that He did not leave us in our sin and he promised a Savior who would make a way back to the Father. That Savior would be Christ himself.



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.





The students preschool through high school played "Good Christian Men Rejoice" and "O Come All Ye Faithful" on the bells, led by Hannah Cowell.



The high school students reminded us how the baby born in a manger grew to be a man and in fact became the Savior that was promised in Genesis. Creating a Christmas tree with the seven I AM statements from Christ's teachings, we learned that Christ is the Tree of Life – He is the Great I AM!

"Thank you" to:

Marcia Hanna for playing the organ at our program;

Hannah Cowell for leading the children's bell choir;

Kitty Bierstedt, Lucas Parsons, Kenny McFarland, Boyd Shipler, Brenda Schutjer, Barb Schroeder, Hannah Cowell, Beth Borchardt, & Mary Shipler-Oleson for blessing us with special choir music;

Shirlee Alt for sharing her talent and creating the Great I AM Christmas tree for our program;

Sunday school teachers for their help at practices and for working with the students to learn their parts;

The Board of Ed. for creating the program; Parents for faithfully bringing their students to practices;

and Rosann Shipler and Kelly Fitzgerald for sharing their pictures of the program with all of us!



ST. JOHN'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

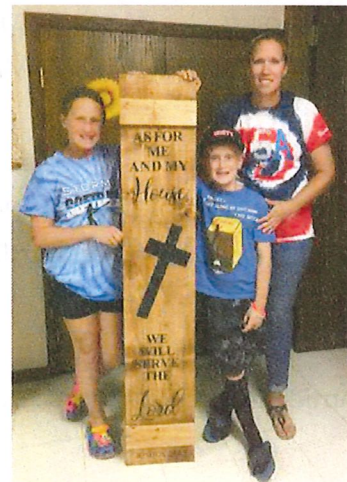
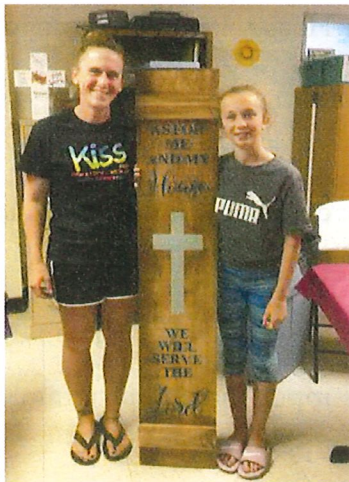
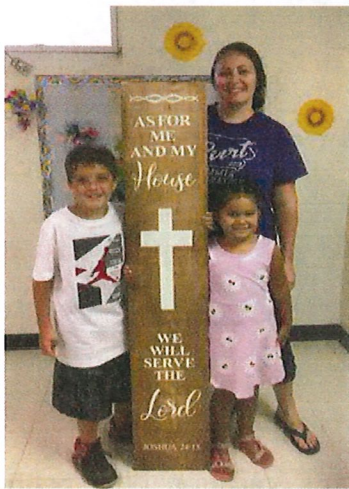
The Family of God

Our Bible School theme verse was Joshua 24:15b -

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

*"I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God - I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, for I'm part of the family, the family of God."
(Bill & Gloria Gaither, "The Family of God")*

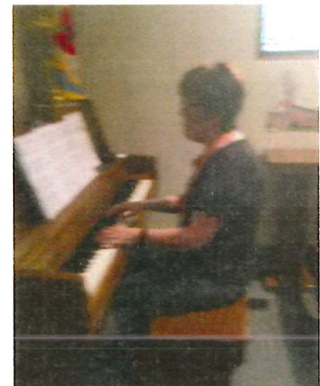
The 2021 VBS was planned as a Bible School for the family. Each aspect of the night was designed with the family in mind. We began each night with supper for the entire family. We then went to lessons in the sanctuary where there was enough room for everyone to learn together. Next, we created crafts that required the family to complete together. Lastly, we had closing and music each night that all could participate in.





Our 2021 Vacation Bible School raised \$439.75 for Lutheran Family Services!

It's a great day to PRAISE the LORD!



Thank you to these Church family members for helping to make this year's Vacation Bible School a success: Brenda Schutjer, Shirlee Alt, Barbara Thilges, Vickie Madsen, Lisa Haase, Peggy Schadendorf, Barb Schroeder, Pam Reimers, Betty Koestler, Kitty Bierstedt, and Marcia Hanna.

Also, **thank you** to those who provided bars/cookies each night: Peggy Schadendorf, Cheryl Batt, Vickie Briggs, Barb Schroeder, Mary Schmidt, Donna Haase, Beth Borchardt, and Mary Lou Marlow.

A special thank you to Jeff & Brenda Schutjer for furnishing the hot dog supper for our program! We appreciated all the support very much!

- St. John's Board of Education

HAPPENINGS AT ST. JOHN'S

Baby Shower

On Sunday, June 27, 2021 a Baby Shower was held for the Cowell Family. They were showered with many baby books and cards as they anxiously awaited for Amelia Opal to arrive.



Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. St. John's held its first Easter Egg Hunt. The event consisted of an opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus' resurrection, participate in an Easter Egg Hunt, and enjoy refreshments afterward. Each child received a Easter bag with goodies and a children's Bible. A fun morning was had by all!



New LED Lights

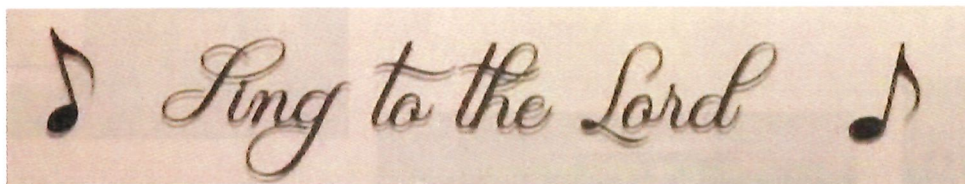
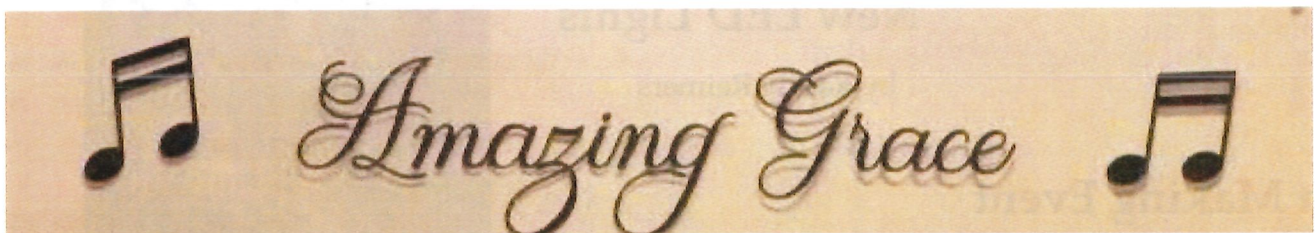
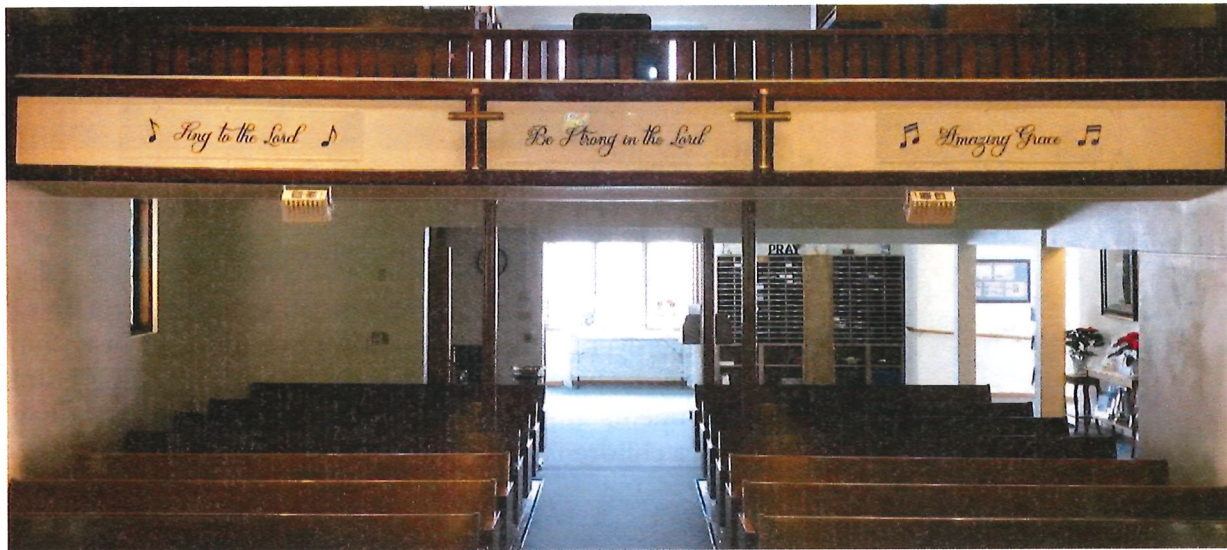
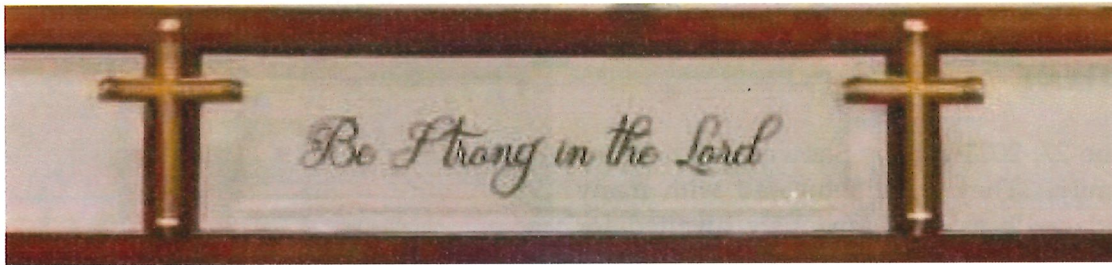
by Randy Reimers

Sign Making Event

On Wednesday, August 11, 2021 a family event was held to make a wood sign based on the Bible verse Joshua 24:15.



IN MEMORY OF PAM MADSEN



The Family of Pam Madsen donated the new Crosses and Hymn decorations on the front edge of the balcony in her memory. We thank them for this gift of love for the music that Pam so enjoyed singing in church and with the choir.

MISSION BOARD

The Mission Board held the Rally Day Picnic on Sunday, August 29th at 10:30am. It was held on the shore of Smith Lake. A brief service was held in which Pastor Lund gave a short sermon on the Armor of God. Pastors Schlund and Cowell installed the Sunday School teachers and presented the students with their Bibles and Catechisms. Everyone brought chairs and blankets to sit on.

St. John's furnished the sides: baked beans in a roaster pan, potato salad from Fareway, chips in small individual bags; condiments: dill pickles, ketchup, mustard; drinks: lemonade, water; and tableware. Trinity was responsible for the meat, buns and bars. It was a good crowd and a fun time.

Other activities of the board included Lynn Bierstedt and Mary Schmidt assisting with the serving line at the free meal during the Kossuth County Fair on August 4, 2021.

August 10th, volunteers from our church (Pastor Cowell, Mary and Darrel Schmidt and Lynn Bierstedt) picked up trash along the section of Highway 169 that is sponsored by St. John's.

On August 11th, volunteers Larry Behnkendorf, Jeff Schutjer, Pastor Cowell and Lynn Bierstedt helped Roger Lavrenz move his furniture to his new home in Burt.

A special thanks to Doris Blocker and Deb and Mary Stevens for organizing the gifts for our adopted family at Christmas.

Sincerely, the Mission Board, Lynn Bierstedt, Clark Christensen
Elder: Jerry Koestler, Pastor Cowell

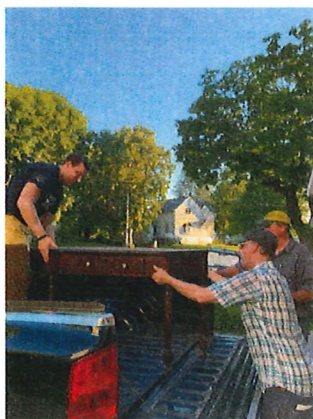


Rally Sunday



Highway Trash Pick-up
Crew

Moving
Roger Lavrenz



THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Reported by Deb Steven

Advocates for St. John's in 2022 are: Debra Steven, Darrel Schmidt, Doris Blocker, Vern Koestler, Clark and Allison Christensen. We have space for an additional advocate if any of our church Thrivent members are interested in joining this group.

This year's funds were used to:

- Supported the Stain Glass Windows Project
- Adopted Family
- Engraved the Baptism Medallions
- Christmas Committee
- Confirmation Crosses to the Confirmands

These projects are funded by Thrivent Choice Dollars that are directed to us from our members. Under Thrivent's Choice program, members who meet minimum requirements are given Choice Dollars to allocate to the organization of their choice. These dollars are given at no cost to the member. Thrivent members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2022 to allocate dollars from 2021.

Choice dollars that are not allocated by that date will be lost. Please consider allocating your Choice Dollars to St. John's who is registered as an eligible recipient for choice Dollars. In order to see if you have Choice Dollars available and to allocate those dollars, call 1-800-THRIVENT (1-800-347-4836) or access your account through Thrivent.com. Your Choice dollars need to be allocated each year or they will be lost.

Every Thrivent Member is also eligible for two \$250.00 Thrivent Action Cards per year, which can be used to help the church or community in a variety of charitable ways. If you have an idea for how you would like to use your Action Cards at St. John's, please contact Pastor Cowell and he can help you with the application process.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW PROJECT

In 2019 St. John's saw the closing of the Kids of Kingdom Preschool and in 2020 the passing of a long-time Sunday School and Preschool teacher Esther Christensen and substitute teacher Helen Smith in 2018.

In dedication of the many children that passed through the Kids of Kingdom Preschool and to the two teachers who volunteered and dedicated their time to the program and to St. John's Sunday School programs, an idea was brought forth to honor them. It was decided to use the Preschool Endowment and memorial money to install stained glass windows above the coat rack on the east side of the church. These windows would be inviting to the children of our congregation and all who enter the church. A decision was made to go with three windows which represent children's bible stories.

Bogenrief Studios out of Sutherland, Iowa was contacted and hired to create these windows. One window was to be of Jesus welcoming the little children, one window was to represent the story of Zacchaeus, and the other window, which would be located in the Pastor's office, would represent the Tree of Life and Crucifixion of our Lord. Mark Bogenrief did an awesome job with the renderings and the project took off from there. The new windows were installed on July 23, 2021 and are a beautiful addition to our church. A plaque for the dedication was placed between the two windows.

Jesus said to them "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Mark 10:14-15

These stained glass windows are dedicated to all teachers, past and present, who volunteered their time and talents to bring the Word of God to all children who enter this church and to the children of our community.

Kids of the Kingdom Preschool 1980-2019

In Memory of Helen Smith 1927-2018

In Memory of Esther Christensen 1935-2020



The cost of the project was \$15,320.26

Preschool Endowment	\$6,406.25	Helen Smith Memorial	\$1,140.00
Esther Christensen Memorial	\$2,350.00	EuClaire Meyer Memorial	\$1,100.00
Terry Schutjer Memorial	\$ 20.00	Donations	\$5,430.00

GREETERS AND USHERS

January

2 Al and Peggy Schadendorf
 9 Ben and Beth Borchardt Family
 16 Barb Schroeder
 23 Evin and Pat Eimers
 30 Lynn and Kitty Bierstedt

February

6 Terry and Vicki Briggs
 13 Cheryl Batt
 20 Betty and Jerry Koestler
 27 Gordon and Mary Oleson

March

6 Jerry and Betty Koestler
 13 Gabby Kelly and 2-4th Grade SSchool
 20 Lynn and Kitty Bierstedt
 27 Gordon and Mary ShiplerOleson

April

3 Tony and Stefanie Hatten Family
 10 Lynn and Kitty Bierstedt
 17 (Easter)
 24 Al and Peggy Schadendorf

May

1 Terry and Vicki Briggs
 8 Ann Heyes
 15 Cheryl Batt
 22 Hannah Cowell, Penny and Amelia
 29 Tony and Stefanie Hatten

June

5 Harold Larvrenz
 12 Jerry and Betty Koestler
 19 Barb Harms and Donna Haase
 26 Jeff and Brenda Schujer

July

3 Boyd and Rosann Shiplier
 10 Roger and Marilyn Evans
 17 Bud and Mary Lou Marlow
 24 Al and Peggy Schadendorf
 31 Terry and Vicki Briggs

August

7 Hannah Cowell, Penny and Amelia
 14 Shirlee Alt and Barb Thilges
 21 Barb Schroeder
 28 Roger and Marilyn Evans

September

4 Larry Behnkendorf
 11 Kenna Hatten and Taylor Parsons
 18 Jesse and Kelly Fitzgerald Family
 25 Vern and Joan Koestler

October

2 Darrel and Mary Schmidt
 9 Jerry and Betty Koestler
 16 Lucas and Jesse Parsons Family
 23 Joe and Tina Heyes & Rialyn
 30 David and Lisa Haase and Jacob

November

6 Boyd and Rosann Shiplier
 13 Lucas and Jesse Parsons Family
 20 Al and Peggy Schadendorf
 27 Ben and Beth Borchardt Family

December

4 Jeff and Brenda Schutjer
 11 Jesse and Kelly Fitzgerald family
 18 Lucas and Jesse Parsons family
 25 Hannah Cowell, Penny & Amelia

USHERS

January	John Schutter
February	John Schutter
March	Ben Bochart
April	Lynn Bierstedt
May	
June	Harold Lavrenz
July	Boyd Shiplier
August	
September	
October	Roger Evans
November	
December	

EVANGELISM & CHARITY AT ST. JOHN'S



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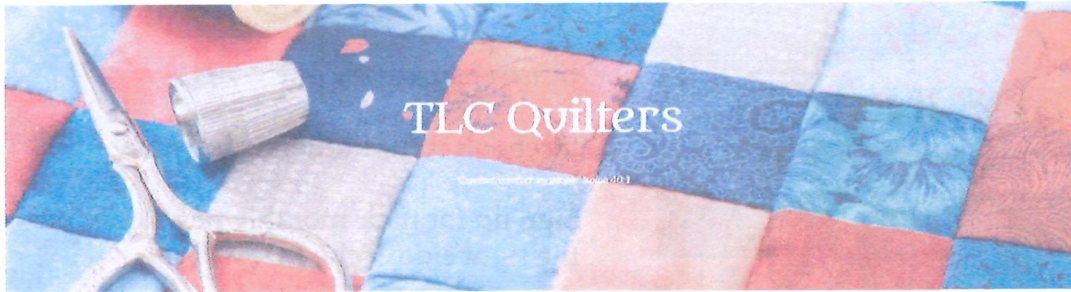
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Lutheran Family Service

lutheranfamilyservice.org

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