



St. John's Lutheran Church
 Burt, Iowa 50522
 Phone: 515-924-3344
www.stjohnsburt.org

January/February 2020

He remembers His **Testament** forever,
 the **Word** he appointed for a thousand generations
 Psalm 105:8 (JP)



Rev. Thomas Cowell
 Pastor
 Phone: 515-924-3388

'Telling the good News about Jesus-In Burt, Iowa, and the World'



Dear Christians at St. John's Lutheran Church,

As January comes, so do our New Year resolutions. Many people are quick to criticize New Year resolutions, citing their low success rate among those who make them. However, much research has been done in the field of goal-setting and resolution-making which says that resolutions can be a successful means of achieving a desired outcome if they are made with measurable objectives and clear, specific goals.

When it comes to resolutions relating to our Christian faith, we see in Scripture that followers of Jesus have been resolving to shape their life in the image of Christ from the beginning. St. Paul writes in Philippians 3:

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

As you set New Year resolutions this January, think about resolving to grow in your faith and obedience to Christ. Set clear, specific goals and pursue measurable objectives. To that end, look for a hand out on the back table at church in the next week or two (when I finish writing it [it was a busy Advent!]) which will detail some specific objectives you might consider pursuing, as well as resources at St. John's that can help you along the way. Also, if you've been successful in completing a New Year resolution of faith in the past please share your success and strategies with Pastor and with your fellow parishioners so that we can grow in our faith alongside you!

God bless you this Christmas and Epiphany season.

With Joy in Christ,
 Pastor Thomas Cowell
 The Season of Christmas, Anno Domini 2020

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Gary Huber
- 1 - Peyton Marlow
- 3 - Doris Madsen
- 4 - Jordan Jahnke
- 5 - Betty Koestler
- 5 - Ken McFarland
- 7 - Michael Schroeder
- 9 - Reid Fox
- 12 - Tysen Wickman
- 13 - Clark Christensen
- 15 - Stefanie Hatten
- 16 - Harold Lavrenz
- 16 - Christie Schutter
- 17 - Duane Peter
- 20 - Rialyn Heyes
- 21 - Caley Marlow
- 22 - Ervin Eimers
- 23 - Nicholas Christensen
- 24 - Maci Marlow
- 25 - Troy Fox
- 25 - Eric Reimers
- 28 - Austin Witham
- 29 - Michael Crosser
- 30 - Lynn Bierstedt
- 30 - Howard Eimers
- 30 - Eric Thomas



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - LaVonne Boderius
- 1 - John Thompson
- 2 - Brielle Fox
- 2 - Pam Reimers
- 2 - Mary Shipler-Oleson
- 3 - Alba Lavrenz
- 4 - Russ Parsons
- 4 - Alice Wilhelmi
- 9 - Allison Christensen
- 11 - Scott Peymann
- 12 - Hannah Cowell
- 19 - Laura Knoll
- 27 - Kia McFarland
- 27 - Joan Peymann



SPECIAL SENIORS

- Ervin Eimers - January 22
- Lavonne Boderius - February 1
- John Thompson - February 1
- Russ Parsons - February 4
- Joan Peyman - February 27

St. John's LWML

Members of St. John's LWML served a Christmas Coffee after church on December 8. Thirteen cookie containers were put together for shut-ins and seniors.

LWML would like to thank everyone for giving so generously to the LWML Mites on LWML Sunday. We are very thankful for your support. we would like to invite the Ladies of St. John's to join our group. We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month starting in March at 1:30 p.m. We enjoy a Bible study by Pastor Cowell and a time of fellowship. We appreciate your help and support.

St John's LWML met November 7 at 1:30. Linda Kerkove gave devotions, 'With Thanksgiving - Revelations 1:5-6'. Pastor Cowell gave the Bible study, 'Zaccheus the Tax Collector', Like 19. Roll call was answered by 4 members and Pastor.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read. A thank you from L.F.S. and Lutheran Hour Ministries were read.

The 2020 yearbook are finished. Officers are: Co-presidents- Caradene Parsons and Bev Skadburg, Secretary Caradene Parsons, treasurer- Bev Skadburg, Christian Life and Mites- Mary Gifford.

Motion carried for Christmas giving for Pastor Cowell, Pastor May, Kossuth Food Pantry and Kossuth County Care Team.

Our Christmas coffee is December 8. All members are to furnish 2 dozen cookies. The birthday song was sung for Mary Gifford and Bev Skadburg.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and table prayer.

Linda Kerkove was hostess.

Caradene Parsons, secretary

Kids of the Kingdom Preschool

Kids of the Kingdom Preschool had to make the difficult decision this fall to disband the preschool due to low enrollment numbers the past 2 years.

Our next decision was how to disperse the supplies and funds. Deciding that most supplies were purchased with donations and by doing fundraisers, we decided to donate them back where they could be used to better the preschool mission. All area preschools were given first opportunity to come to the church and select what they needed. Remaining supplies were opened up to the public. The remaining monetary funds were donated to Our Saviors Little Lambs in Swea City, and to St John's in Burt to be used for many purposes.

We thank all of you for your many years of supporting the preschool mission.

Kids of the Kingdom
staff and board



Baptism

Cora LuMae Christensen
Born: April 17, 2019
Baptism: December 8, 2019
Parents: Jacob & Natalie Christensen
Sponsors: Brooke Kelley

Funeral

Wilma June Presthus
April 11, 1923-November 28, 2019
Service: December 7, 2019
St. John's, Burt
Interment: Burt Township Cemetery

End of the Year Articles

Annual Report

Please get these articles in to me as soon as possible as I will be working on the report in January! You can email them to churchoffice@stjohnsburt.org or bring it to the church office.



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 26, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

A changeless Christ for a changing world:
A look back at our *Parish Messenger* from February, 1931.

[The following article written by Rev. Richmann was published in the February, 1931 edition of the *Parish Messenger* of St. John's Lutheran Church.]

Eight Mysteries

First Mystery: That folks who are friendly and sociable at home, in business, on the street, are cold, distant and retiring in church.

Second Mystery: That some people who are careful that all other bills and dues be paid promptly, think that church dues can very well wait until December.

Third Mystery: That people who occupy the front seats when they attend a social affair, will strain every effort in church to get the seat farthest away from the pulpit.

Fourth Mystery: That folks who insist on electric lights and all other facilities of modern time expect a church to be run on the old hoop-skirt, spring-wagon plan.

Fifth Mystery: That folks who do the least for the real progress and upbuilding of the church want the most attention.

Sixth Mystery: That people who sleep on advertised mattresses, shave with advertised razor blades, eat advertised breakfast foods, and wear advertised clothing, cannot see the profit of an advertised church.

Seventh Mystery: That people who have plenty of money for themselves and their own amusements, plead poverty when they are asked to contribute towards the church.

Eighth Mystery: That people who pray, "Thy kingdom come," refuse to give for missions.

[The following are announcements taken from the February 1931 and 1932 editions of the *Parish Messenger*.]

1931

- Received into membership by the rite of confirmation: Mr. August Robison, Mrs. Raymond Bierstedt. We are pleased to have them in our midst and extend a hearty welcome to them.

- Your pastor has charge for the time being of the vacant sister congregation in Algona.

- Do not forget the Lutheran Hour over the Columbia chain stations on Thursday evenings at 9 o'clock.

1932

- On Dec. 24th 1931 the marriage of Hans Boderius and Marietta Hoeck was solemnized in the parsonage, witnessed by Will Hoeck and Anna Marie Doose. We extend congratulations, and hope that their married life may be attended by the constant blessings of God.

- As you know, the congregation at the annual meeting passed a resolution which limits the number of German services to but one a month. A German and English service is held on the first Sunday of every month, and English only on the remaining Sundays. The request for the change did not come from any one individual in the congregation, nor from the pastor, but it came from within the congregation, and therefore it was thought that the welfare of the congregation demanded this change. – Now, remember, you who have been complaining of too much German, you have received consideration, and another excuse for non-church attendance is taken from you. How are you going to respond? There ought to be a marked increase in church attendance this year.

- Be sure to study the financial report very carefully. In looking over the list of contributors it will occur to you that there are quite a few names with a blank. Don't you think there are more than there should be? Suppose you would take this same list of names and write down how much each one spent for non-essential things, for luxuries, yes, even for sinful purposes, such as movies and dances, - would there be so many blanks? --- Does your conscience begin to raise its accusing voice? Better listen to it! Yes, blush, and hide your face in shame. How can you face God, and pray Him to send you relief in this period of depression, and to bless you, while you refuse to give Him something in return? And how can you expect to be honored and respected by your fellow-church-members? Or could you ABSOLUTELY contribute nothing? We asked you to tell us.

Our list contains names of contributors with quite large amounts, and some with considerable less. We refrain from further comment. May the Lord richly reward your offerings of love!