



# January/February 2021

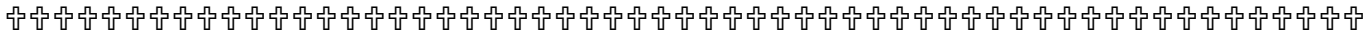


St. John's Lutheran Church  
Burt, Iowa 50522  
Phone: 515-924-3344  
[www.stjohnsburt.org](http://www.stjohnsburt.org)

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'**



Happy New Year friends in Christ!

In lieu of a formal "pastor's article" for this Parish Messenger, I would like to share with you some of our plans for our life together in Christ in the new year. With all of the struggles and uncertainties of last year, it is exciting to start to see more and more events on the calendar once again! We of course have what seems to be a long road ahead in terms of sticking to our coronavirus mitigation measures. However, now that we have some practice in worshipping and working in a safe manner we can begin to explore new ways to serve the present spiritual needs of our members.

Here are some of the new ways St. John's will be able to help you feed and strengthen your faith in the next few months:

## **New Devotional Book**

In the back of church there are devotional booklets focused on giving comfort from God's Word concerning several of the struggles of our pandemic-ridden world. The booklet touches on God's answers to the illness, loneliness, anxiety, and uncertainty that many are experiencing during this time. Feel free to take and distribute as many as you'd like.

## **Member Check-In Project**

Beginning in January a group of members will begin the task of checking in on all of our members the phone. These callers will want to know how you are handling the restrictions and stresses of the pandemic. They will also want to make sure you know all of the resources available for the sustenance of our faith during this time. This is our way of loving our neighbor and letting the Church continue to be God's distribution center of His forgiveness and grace during these challenging days. If you would like to help with these member phone calls, please let Pastor Cowell know as soon as possible.

## **Epiphany Day Worship Service**

Since the Day of Epiphany (January 6) lands on a Wednesday this year we will be having a special Epiphany day worship service at 6:00 p.m. to begin our Wednesday Catechesis. This will be a spoken service of Scripture and prayer in which we will hear the account of the Magi bringing their gifts to Jesus and reflect on the old Epiphany tradition of house blessings. All are welcome to attend!

## **Morning & Evening Prayer Opportunities**

Beginning in January there will be a few more opportunities for gathering for public prayer and praise at St. John's! There will be a **morning prayer every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m.** and an

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**evening prayer every last Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.** These will be spoken services of Scripture and prayer which will last around 20 minutes. Also, if you would like to receive the Lord's Supper during one of these services, just let Pastor know when you arrive and he will prepare bread and wine for the service. These prayer services will be great, safe, socially-distant opportunities to gather with other Christians for prayer.

### **Lent Midweek Services**

If you can believe it, Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup> this year! Our theme for our Lenten services this year is "The Illuminated Word." During the Lenten season we will be studying the Scripture references connected with each of our stained glass windows at St. John's. As we reflect on the historical events of the life of Jesus which our windows depict, we will also consider the doctrines of the Christian faith which these windows teach. In this way we will let our windows not only teach us the basic historical facts of Jesus' life, but we will also let the windows "illuminate" us to the divine reality of who Jesus truly is and what He has done for us. Our series will end on Easter Sunday as we reflect on the Scriptural basis of our newest stained glass windows which will be installed on the east side of the building later in the year.

**All of our evening Lenten services will begin at 6:00 p.m.**

### **Sunday Preview Partnership Videos**

The Partnership pastors are airing a "Sunday Preview" video every Thursday on the Trinity, Algona website ([trinityalgona.org](http://trinityalgona.org)), YouTube page, and Facebook page. In these short videos the pastors go through some of the themes and details of each Sunday in the Church Year as well as the three Scripture readings for the day. These videos are meant to prepare you for Sunday morning so that you can know what to listen for as you receive God's Word from the lectern and pulpit.

As you can see, the pandemic is not stopping God from sustaining and growing our faith in Him and love for our neighbor through His Church on earth. We at St. John's are, in fact, using the pandemic to find even more ways to bear fruit in God's kingdom as we increase in our knowledge of His Word, receive His gifts of grace, and show mercy to our neighbor. As always, if you have any suggestions as to how we can serve you and your faith well in the coming months feel free to speak with Pastor or an elder.

God bless you in the coming Epiphany and Lenten seasons,

Pastor Thomas Cowell  
319-464-5548  
[pastor.cowell@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.cowell@gmail.com)



## 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 - Rhett Briggs  
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 - Reid Briggs  
12 - Hannah Cowell  
14 - Devyn Briggs  
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