

In fact, Advent is full of these sorts of traditions and practices which are neither commanded nor forbidden, yet which help focus our attention on the various arrivals of Christ among us. Here are three more practices you will see at St. John's as we prepare for Christ's coming this Advent season:

1. Preparing to celebrate Christ's Advent into Humanity

We will be preparing to celebrate Jesus' arrival as the Savior of the world during our Advent midweek services by learning about Jesus through Chrismons. Chrismons are actually a very new tradition, yet making use of ancient symbols. In 1957 a Lutheran church in Virginia decorated their Christmas tree with various white and gold monograms and symbols of Christ, calling them "Chrismons." We will learn about the person and work of Jesus during our midweek services this Advent by explaining the meaning behind the Chrismons that decorate our tree at St. John's.

2. Preparing for Christ's Advent in the Means of Grace

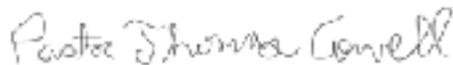
We will be preparing for Jesus' arrival in Word and Sacrament this Advent by receiving these gifts more often during the Advent season. The Lord's Supper will be offered every Sunday during Advent in order to give us the opportunity to experience the joy and comfort of Jesus' presence among us and within us. We will then return to our previous Communion schedule during Epiphany to give us time to reflect on whether a weekly Advent of Jesus' body and blood on our altar is something we desire year-round.

3. Preparing for Christ's Advent on the Last Day

We will prepare for Christ's Advent as the Judge of the living and the dead on the Last Day by inviting others to receive Jesus' forgiveness and promise of eternal life with us at St. John's this Advent and Christmas season. This outreach will begin with, but is certainly not limited to, our fellow members of St. John's. A table is set up in back of the sanctuary with a card for all our members. These cards list our worship schedule for the Advent and Christmas season along with an invitation to join us for worship. I encourage you to pick up cards for your family, friends, or neighbors and personally deliver them on behalf of St. John's. This will communicate to those who haven't been around in a while that their fellow Christians care about them because their Lord cares about them and wants to give forgiveness, life, and salvation to them.

Pay attention at church this Advent on the many other traditions and customs of the season and what they can teach you about Jesus. Notice the Advent wreath, the different colors, the decorations, the prayers, the Scripture readings, and so forth. Remember that while maintaining good order is important and a certain amount of uniformity is helpful, don't get hung up on whether an Advent or Christmas tradition is being done the "right way." Just like choosing the day to hang up Christmas lights, there isn't always a right way and a wrong way. Rather, any tradition that strengthens our faith in Jesus and His birth, death, and resurrection for us is a good tradition.

The Lord be with you this end of the Church Year, Advent, and Christmas season,



Pastor Thomas Cowell
Advent, 2019



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Lynda Heidecker
- 2 – Wendell Christensen, Jr.
- 2 – Rolland Peyman
- 7 – Larry Behnkendorf
- 8 – Zachery Steven
- 9 – Mary Gifford
- 9 – Tess Reutzel
- 10 – Barb Schroeder
- 14 – John Smith
- 16 – Megan Crosser
- 17 – Kim Reutzel
- 19 – Brynetta Lavrenz
- 23 – Gabrielle Kelly
- 24 – Donna Haase
- 26 – Bev Skadburg
- 28 – Dick Knoll
- 30 – Eden Koestler
- 30 – Jerry Koestler



SPECIAL SENIORS

- November 2 – Rolland Peymann
- November 14 – John Smith
- November 24 – Donna Haase
- November 26 – Bev Skadburg
- December 10 – Larry Manus
- December 19 – Wendell Christensen, Sr.

Christmas Coffee

Join us for coffee and cookies after church in December as we celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season. Please watch the bulletin for the date.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Michael Bierstedt
- 1 – Nicolle Marlow
- 3 – Darrel Schmidt
- 3 – Derek Schutjer
- 4 – Gene Hanna
- 9 – Olivia Marlow
- 9 – Karla Schutter
- 10 – Barb Harms
- 10 – Larry Manus
- 18 – Vivian Lavrenz
- 18 – Maverick Smith
- 19 – Wendell Christensen, Sr.
- 27 – Lisa Haase
- 27 – Chardonnay Lavrenz
- 28 – James Bowman
- 28 – Terry Tieman
- 28 – Wanda Tieman

Ladies Aid

St John's LWML met Sept. 5 at 1:30. Bev Skadburg opened the meeting with devotions, 'Jesus Calling'.

Pastor Cowell led the Bible study, 'Study of Masculinity and Femininity.'

Roll call was answered by 4 members and pastor. The secretary and treasurers reports were read.

Correspondence read was an invitation luncheon on October 17 from Zion Lutheran LWML Humbolt – guest day.

The Fall Rally will be at Trinity, Sept. 19 at 4:30. The speakers will be Pastor and Kathy Struecker about their mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

Motion carried to give \$25 to the mission ingathering.

The LWML Sunday will be October 6, with coffee after church.

The birthday song was sung for Pastor.

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

Barb Harms was hostess.

Mary Gifford, Secretary pro-tem

St John's LWML met on October 4th at 1:30.

Pastor gave a prayer for Rev. Allen Henderson of St. Paul Lutheran, Ft. Dodge who died tragically this week.

Mary Gifford gave devotions, 'Choices' Genesis 2:4, the story of creation.

Pastor Cowell gave the Bible study – Luke 17:10, Living a Christian Life.

Roll call was answered by 4 members.

The secretary and treasures reports were read.

Correspondence read: LFS invitation to host group Christmas Parties.

Bev Skadburg gave a report on the Fall Rally at Trinity – 40 attended.

Nominations for 2020 officers will remain the same. The 2020 yearbook will be completed this month.

Our LWML Sunday and coffee is October 6th. Members will furnish cookies.

Meeting closed with the table prayer.

Bev Skadburg was the hostess.

Caradene Parsons,
Secretary



Baptism

Lola Nicole Bierstedt

Born: September 10, 2019

Baptism: October 20, 2019

Parents: Kaitlyn Bierstedt

William Kersten

Sponsors: Aly Bierstedt

Christian Bierstedt



Schedule of Church Service

Thanksgiving Divine Service ~ 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 27, 2019

Advent Services ~ Wednesday
December 4, 11, 18, 2019 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Children's Program
December 24, 2019 ~ 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service ~ 9:00 a.m.
(Holy Communion)

Members Removed

The following members were removed from the Church Rolls at the October 20, 2019 Voter's Meeting.

Jace Alt
Shelley Boots-Haase
Kim Borlik
Brian and JoHanna Boyle
Jennifer Cherland
Jason Christensen
Michael Eimers
Rodney Eimers
Kristin, Carolyn, Caleb, Spencer, Caela Jo, and Christopher Faber
Alexandra Gifford
Galen Gordon
Shannon, Brooklyn, and William Griffin
Chris Hanna
Ivy Rose Helmers
Teri Kathman
Jeffrey Kerkove
Molly Klinger
Kevin Koestler
Angie Krull
Jon Kruse
Grant Lavrenz
Isaac Mino
Stacey Myers
Chris Olson
Allen Person
Michael Person
Scott Peymann
Kassie Renshaw
Kendra Ridenour
Diane Riles
Jeffrey Riles
Conrad Schmidt
Lori Schmidt
Tessa Schmidt
Jessica Sherbondy
Corey Shipler
Lindsay Storevik & Jon
Angela Strait
Jodie Wadsworth
Peggy Hardisty



Church Decorating

We will be decorating the church early this year as Thanksgiving is a little later in the month.

Plans are being made to decorate the church for Christmas following the Service on Sunday, November 24th.

This will be a congregational event and we hope that you will be able to stay and help.

Contact Christmas Committee:

Wendell & Teresa Christensen Jr.

Terry & Vicki Briggs

Allison and Clark Christensen

Joe and Tina Heyes

*Randy Reimers - Trustee

Funeral Planning Workshop

I know you are all *dying* to attend a funeral planning workshop, but let me tell you why you should attend! Your funeral is an opportunity to leave your family with a confident and comforting confession of your faith in Jesus and your hope in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. This is why we encourage you to work with your pastor to choose your own Scripture readings and hymns for your funeral service. For obvious reasons these selections must be made before the day of your funeral... so what better time than our Partnership Funeral Planning Workshop! The event will be **Saturday, Nov. 16th** at the **Trinity Life Center** with breakfast at **8:30 a.m.** and the workshop beginning at **9:00 a.m.** Pastors Cowell and Schlund will lead us in examining our Christian understanding of life, death, and resurrection and offer advice on Scripture and hymn choices for the funeral service. Jayme Lentz will also be there to provide some practical advice on pre-planning funeral details with a funeral home. All ages are encouraged to attend.

A changeless Christ for a changing world:
A look back at our *Parish Messenger* from December, 1932.

[The following poem was published in the December, 1932 edition of the *Parish Messenger* of St. John's Lutheran Church.]

The Children's Christmas Tree

I
am
the child-
ren's Christ-
mas - tree,
Arrayed with
toys and filigree
And brilliant gew-
gaws, deftly hung,
That catch the eye of
old and young. With
fairies bright and tinted
birds I call forth glad
enraptured words; And
merry eyes will greet the
sight When I am viewed by
candle - light. Beneath my
boughs there lies a scene Of
house and yard and village green;
With mimic railways running through
As railways oft are wont to do. I am alas!
a Christmas-tree, and this will be the death
for me; For when the Yuletide season's past,
Upon the ash-heap I'll be cast. However, while
I'm standing here, A host of children I will cheer
And cause their youthful cheeks to glow, Because
of one Child long ago, Who came this waiting world
to bless, And fill our hearts with happiness. And so,
you see, I'm glad to be
The
lit-
tle
child-
ren's
Christ-
mas
tree.

As you, dear friends, young and old, gather 'round the
Christmas-tree in your home, we hope that the Christ-child,
the Tree of Life, may fill your hearts with joyful happiness!

[The following are announcements taken from the December 1932 edition of the *Parish Messenger*.]

- Sunday afternoon, Dec. 18, the canvassers will try to see you and receive your pledge for the support of your church for 1933. Remember, your church and your pastor have pledged their service to you. Is it unfair to expect your pledge for financial support?

- What about that 1932 pledge? Have you made an honest effort to fulfill it? Your contributions are sorely needed to balance the congregation's budget before the new year begins. It can be done with the combined effort of all.

- Help spread Christmas joy among the children at our orphanage in Fort Dodge. Christmas Eve we shall raise a collection for them. Envelopes for this purpose are mailed to you with this issue of *The Messenger*.

- The Christmas committee consists of Raemond Koestler and Raymond Bleich. BRING your contributions to them (they must not be expected to make a special trip and ask for it) not later than Dec. 18, stating at the same time how many Christmas sacks are desired. It is understood that those who do not contribute, do not expect gifts.

- Holiday Services

Dec. 24, Children's Christmas service at 7:30 P.M.

Dec. 25, English Christmas service at 10:30 A.M.

Dec. 26, German Christmas service at 10:30 A.M.

Dec. 31, English service at 8:00 P.M.

Jan. 1, New Year's Day, English service at 10:30 A.M.