



**St John  
Lutheran Church  
January 2020**

## **Pastor's Page**

2020! Two Thousand Twenty! Maybe it deserves to be said twice. Does it feel like the future? In science fiction from the 1960's, In "Lost in Space," the Jupiter 2 was launched on October 16, 1997. Its mission was to be a 5.5-year journey to Alpha Centauri. This means it would have travel 79% of the speed of light. In "Star Trek" the warp drive engine, that allows for faster than light travel, doesn't get invented until 2063. We still have a few more years for that.

In many ways the future we imagined either doesn't show up or it is slower than expected. On the other hand, we now have the internet, a vast reservoir of knowledge at our fingertips, and the beginning of artificial intelligence that may someday drive our cars, diagnosis our illnesses, and solve problems faster than the human mind is capable. We have been able to identify thousands of exoplanets in our galaxy, and with the long traveling voyager probes we are learning exactly what is at the edge of our solar system.

As the human population is ever increasing and science is questioning how long our planet will be viable for life, we are looking ever more at the what is beyond us. Some of the great minds of our age suggest that the long-term survival of our species is dependent on being able to leave our planet and colonize other worlds. No one can really say how this is to be done, or if the human form can survive long-term space travel or live on an alien planet. Only time and events will tell.

As we journey toward the future and between science fiction and science fact, I sometimes wonder about faith. How easy is it for us to become so distracted by the advancements and changes in life that we forget to pay attention to the necessity of faith? Do we believe that the more capable we become the less we need God? Even now the attendance in our churches have continued to decline. Church is not as central to life as it was when I was young. It also feels like acts of violence (shootings, terrorism, and hate) have increased. Sometimes I feel like our political parties are fighting an endless grudge match against one another, and failing to answer critical questions with regard to the cost of health care, the Earth's environment, or the gap between those who have so much and those who can't afford their rent even with a full time job.

The scriptures tell us that, "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom." This means true wisdom comes from holding God in an attitude of reverence and respect. It is not about being scared of God but realizing our own need and design for being in a relationship with the one who created us. It is about humbly understanding our own limitations and appreciating the grace of God that meets us where we are. We may advance in technology, but the human heart never has changed. Our wisdom in using what we know is still dependent upon knowing who we are, and that is found within our faith in God. Otherwise we may just find ourselves blindly stumbling along the way, and never really knowing

why we are here. The true key to our survival as a species is more within than beyond. As the New Year begins may we go forth and boldly venture where no one has gone before, but more importantly may we allow God to truly empower us toward life. Keep the faith and the blessing of a new year will truly be yours.

Pastor Russell Logston

Maybe You Heard This One?

12 Reasons Why a Pastor Quit  
Attending Sports Events

1. The coach never came to visit me.
2. Every time I went, they asked me for money.
3. The people sitting in my row didn't seem very friendly.
4. The seats were very hard.
5. The referees made a decision I didn't agree with.
6. I was sitting with hypocrites—they only came to see what others were wearing!
7. Some game... went into overtime and I was late getting home.
8. The band played some songs I had never heard before.
9. The games are scheduled on my only day to sleep in and run errands.
10. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
11. Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches, anyway.
12. I don't want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

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## The Women of St. John

The Women of St. John helped a local family to enjoy the holidays. We “adopted” two elementary aged children who are being raised by their grandparents. We delivered gifts of clothing, toys and a Wesco gas card to the family.

Thank you to everyone who generously donated money, time and wrapping paper. Please keep this family in your prayers.

There will be no meetings in January or February for our Women's Events and Fellowship Group. As we organize for March, we will be planning our annual Irish Stew Dinner. This event is part of the ministry of St. John and we need everyone's help. With several of our members gone to warmer destinations, we are asking for you to sign up to help with this event. Please consider sharing your time in any way that you can. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. THANK YOU!



## Your Confirmation Class of 2020

**For St. John Lutheran Church Congregation:**

**Your Confirmation Class of 2020 gave an ELCA Good Gift in your honor:**

### **1 GOAT AND A FLOCK OF CHICKS**

- A family gains access to an ongoing supply of eggs from the chickens and protein-packed milk from the goat
- Even better, extra eggs and dairy products can be sold at the market for a steady income

### **1 PIGLET**

- This gift is a source of natural fertilizer, helping a family's crops grow tall and strong.
- If needed, taking the pig to the marketplace is like cashing out a savings account. These funds could be used to pay school fees for children or cover an emergency trip to the clinic

### **1 ROOSTER**

- This gift is helpful for a family to grow and expand their farm.

### **1 WATER FILTER**

- A simple ceramic water filter is a lifesaver especially in times following a natural disaster or emergency.
- It is capable of purifying water without electricity or chemicals, a water filter is a powerful and reliable way to provide safe water when it's needed the most

### **1 LATRINE**

- When you gotta go, you gotta go!
- A startling 2.3 billion people lack access to basic sanitation, including toilets. Without facilities contamination of the local water supply and food chain make far too many people sick.
- A new latrine, along with training to help with maintenance and hygiene, leads to a much healthier community...not to mention a much safer way to take care of business.

**Message from Confirmation Class 2020:**

*Thank you for all of your support! We are able to help those in need because of your generosity.*



## **AND THE ANGELS SANG**

**On Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> nine members of St. John shared their holiday spirit and went Christmas caroling. One family represented three generations of Lutherans! We visited eight homes of members from the east end of the county and into Cadillac. We sang, visited and left a small gift. THANK YOU to everyone who helped share our ministry of music and caring.**



December 2019

Hats off to members of the church helping with organizational structure and trying harder to openly communicate with each other. Smiles are on faces. Communicating is our goal with the Constitution alignment with the Congregation, Committees, Council and the Pastor. It is already working – thanks to you! I am feeling a certain energy that is giving us “life again”!

How about that beautiful presentation from our youth this past Sunday!! And... how the teachers were able to get the congregation involved in the process. The presentation with our youth was joyful, mindful, and meaningful and it was the teachers that made it so. Hats off to Missy McGiness and Melissa Penney for working to teach our youth the importance of sharing the word through our Christmas celebration. It would be so much fun to see our youth more during the Sunday service – I know it is hard work, however, it builds the spirits in the minds of our adult community.

You may have noticed the updated and informative bulletin boards. This is where you will find who is chair of what, their number, and an easy guide to make a contact if you need to. Thank you Jeanene Brandt and Laurel Bradley for making it happen – I really wanted to look and see what was going on – very attractive!

You may have seen more announcements in the church newsletter or heard announcements during Sunday services - we are working to keep each other informed. Each one of us is important to help make this church the vehicle for ministry, community outreach, and sharing love with one another – caring about each other as congregants of St. John Lutheran Church. It is happening!

Thanks to all of you who care to attend Sunday services, who care to chair a committee or be a member of a committee, who “count” on Sunday, who tries to get out the newsletter in a timely manner, you are appreciated.

God is love and each one of us is an instrument of sharing that love with others. Have a very happy holiday season and look forward to a celebrated New Year 2020 at St. John Lutheran Church with our members!

With love,  
Nancy Ingram

**St John Lutheran  
Church Council Meeting  
December 11, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Opened with prayer by Jeanene Brandt.

Present: Pastor Russell, Jeanene Brandt, Gloria Foster, Jim Bartholomew, Doug Gensler, Brenda Pylkas and Laurel Bradley. Excused absence: Marcia Rackov and Marcia Martinez.

Secretary's Report: Review of minutes for November. Motion to accept minutes by Jim Bartholomew and second by Gloria Foster. Council approved.

Treasurers report: Motion to continue with benevolence of \$100.00 per month from January 2020 thru December 2020 by Doug Gensler and second by Gloria Foster. Council approved. Annual audit to be done by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Gloria Foster and second by Jeanene Brandt. Council approved.

Pastor's Report: Jam Session Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at UMC 7 PM, Christmas Eve Dec 24<sup>th</sup> at St John Lutheran at 5:30 – UMC at 7 pm.

Committee Reports:

Fellowship/Events – Women's Group event:

Women's fellowship group met Dec 10 at 6 pm for light supper, meeting and wrapped gifts for the adopted family. Mailed Christmas cards to families we haven't seen in a while with Christmas Service times.

Building /Grounds: Jim Bartholomew to talk to Luke to train a couple more people to run Power Point on Sundays. Laurel Bradley to get Atkins Electric to get estimate for projector relocation.

Evangelism: Jim Bartholomew has been visiting several shut-ins and nursing homes. Please contact Jim if you have anyone who needs to be visited.

Christian Education: Confirmation is scheduled for May 31, 2020. Confirmation photos are on the new Bulletin Boards in the Narthex.

Altar Guild: Poinsettias have been ordered for the sanctuary.

Other Business: Building rental/reimbursement.

Fifty dollar deposit returns were given to Jim Bartholomew and Jennifer Bills. Council approved for Pat Beirens to use fellowship hall on Dec 28th.

Noisy offering to resume the 3rd Sunday in January. The tree take-down is on Jan 5th. (will need help)

Next meeting: January 15, 2020 6 pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Closed with Prayer by Pastor Russell.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Laurel Bradley

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## **Your Evangelism Committee**

**Did you know that we have an Evangelism Committee?**

**This committee helps Pastor with visiting members in the hospital or those who are at home and need some friendly conversation. The Committee's purpose is to reach out and share our ministry in the community. If you would like to be on this committee and help, please see or call Jim Bartholomew at 231-920-29**

# St John Lutheran Church

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> H.B. Fred Doederlein  H.B. Laura Bradley	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:30 Worship & Communion	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:00 Bible Study  H. B. Chase Pylkas	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30 Worship of the Word <b>CONFIRMATION CLASS</b> H.B. Lanny Miller	<b>13</b> H.B. Travis Hamel	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00 Council Meeting	<b>16</b> 10:00 Bible Study  H.B. Kaitlin Cole	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> H. A. Doug & Gay Gensler
<b>19</b> 9:00 Class 9:30 Worship & Communion 10:30-12:00 Conf. Class <b>Fundraiser Brunch</b> H.B. Marlene Miller	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> H.A. Dru & Colleen Mativa  5:00 FIT Board Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 Bible Study  H.B. Judy Booms H.B. Bob Haskin	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 Class 9:30 Worship of the Word	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00 Bible Study  H.B. Ross Colon	<b>31</b> H.B. Phil Foster	