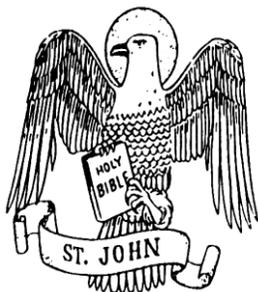


St. John's Lutheran Church  
200 North Hickory  
Toluca, IL 61369

Address Correction Requested



God is always with you,  
wherever you are.

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship: 9:00 AM

Pastor Nathan Johnson

Office Phone: 815-452-2266

Pastor's cell: 641-583-0106

Pastor's office hours:

Wednesdays 10AM – 2PM

Thursdays 3 – 7PM

E-mail: [pastor@stjohnstoluca.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnstoluca.org)

Website: [www.stjohnstoluca.org](http://www.stjohnstoluca.org)

# THE EAGLE CRIER

Newsletter  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
November, 2020



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## Pastor's Reflection:

Grace to you and peace from our God to whom we all owe thanks,

As our church year comes to the end, enter into Advent, the season of waiting before Christmas. Of course, we have grown accustomed to waiting over the year 2020, as we have waited together through a global pandemic and through the tense political season in our country. Now at the end of the year we enter a season of holidays, of holy days, usually spent with family and friends in large joyous gatherings--but like so many things in this year, they too will be different.

That is not to say that we do not have things to be thankful for this Holiday Season. Even as we adjust our traditions to the reality of a pandemic, as believers we know that God is with us, in and among us, working during a time that has been hard for so many people. Every year in Advent we prepare to celebrate the coming of our God on Christmas, who come to this Earth as a child born into poverty, to be with us during the hard parts of this human life and to redeem them with his divine grace.

Because of this, our Friend the Apostle Paul writes to the church gathered in Philippi, we should rejoice in the Lord always: an appropriate reminder in this season of holidays that are less cheerful than the ones to which we have grown accustomed. Paul is someone who knew both good times and bad on this earth, facing persecution and imprisonment for the sake of the gospel and of the church, but through it all he kept an attitude of humble obedience, of thankful service to that God who saved him when he was lost in his sin.

This is what God does for us all, offering us a way to them by coming to us--coming to us at Christmas 2000 years ago in the flesh to gather disciples, teach and send them out to build his body the church; and coming to us again and again as the Holy Spirit, urging us to turn away from sin and this world, to work for the good of our God and our neighbor.

Christ came to show us a way into this new life, to lead us as our good shepherd, guiding his lost sheep towards safety and security. In this particular season of Advent as we wait to celebrate Christ's coming on Christmas, the security that we have in Christ is not well reflected in the world around us. We have been living through a time of pandemic and political uncertainty. It has been a scary time for many, a frustrating time for all, a time of waiting for a culture that expects speed--waiting that likely will continue for some time to come.

In this season of Advent I pray that God waits with you, that God works in you, and that God shows you the gifts that they have already given you and the gifts that they have in store. Then beloved, in spite of the year 2020, I pray that you rejoice in your lord always. Again I will say, rejoice.  
Amen.

—

Pastor Nathan Johnson and Council President David Gerjets presented Charlotte Schulte with her Certificate for 80 years of service to God .and to the church. Witnesses were her sons Rodney and Norman Schulte and Council member Ryan Gerjets.



St. John's is a member of the Central-Southern Illinois Synod (CSIS). To learn more about our synod and its various ministries go to [csis-elca.org](http://csis-elca.org) You can subscribe to the monthly Central/Southern Illinois Synod newsletter by going to this website.

### **Indoor Services Discontinued**

We are sad to announce that the council decided at their meeting on November 17, that indoor Sunday services will be discontinued until further notice.

Pastor Nathan will continue to provide on-line services that can be found on the St. John's website by clicking on the YouTube link or go to the St. John's Facebook page and find them there.

While it is very unfortunate that this decision had to be made, it is to ensure that all parishoners stay safe and no one in the congregation contracts Covid-19 due to attending a service.

We give a big thank you to Jeff McCasky for donating the AM radio transmitter that we have been using for both outdoor and our indoor services so parishoners could remain in their cars if they chose. It has been very helpful in allowing us to reach as many parishoners as possible. Thank you Jeff!

### **We Pray For...**

#### **Charlie Carroll and Jane Spear:**

Heritage Health Center: 201 Locust St., Minonk, IL 61760;  
Alan Richard, Evergreen Place Supportive Living, 1529 Main Street, Streator, IL 61364  
Edna Meinhold, Snyder Village Assisted Living: 1115 Harbers Lane, Metamora, IL 61548;  
Helen Young: St. Joseph's Nursing Home: 401 Ninth St., Lacon, IL 61540.

**Prayers Appreciated:** Bob Baldwin, Erin Breyne, Ruth Ann Clanin, Heidi Cook, Blake Hert (Lyle Carey's grandson), Sandi Houtz (Ruth-Ann Clanin's sister-in-law), Leta Laible, Nancy Lohr (Tim O'Connor's cousin), Emma Myers, Lisa Keen (Dan Siegmann's aunt), the Lindberg family, Susan Petri, Zach Richardson, Charlie Robinson, Gladys Schmillen, Charlotte Schulte, Holly Schumacher (Heidi Cook's niece), Eva Stutzman.

#### **Currently Serving Our Country:**

Hunter Conn, Frank and Frederick Hall, Chris Leigh, Jeremy Luning, Jeremy Merdian, Sean O'Connor,

Nicholas Swartz, David Thies, Josh Toepper, and Joe Tooley.

### **Liturgical Calendar**

Year A focuses on the Gospel of Matthew. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings focus on major Genesis narratives, the covenant with Moses, and the establishment of Israel in the Promised Land. The second, New Testament, readings are from Romans, Philippians and 1 Thessalonians.

#### **Time after Pentecost**

May 31 – November 25, 2020

Year B focuses on the Gospel of Mark with more selections from the Gospel of John than any other year. The semicontinuous readings from the Old Testament focus on the covenant of David and Wisdom literature. The second, New Testament, readings are from 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, James and Hebrews

#### **Advent**

November 29 – December 24,  
**Christmas**

December 24 – January 6,  
2021

## **Church Council Election**

New Church Council members were elected on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and terms will begin on January 1.

David Gerjets – will remain as President

Phil Cook – Vice President

Ruth Ann Clanin – will remain as Current Fund Treasurer

Ryan Gerjets –

Bldg./Benevolence Fund Treasurer

Paula Nenne – will remain as Secretary

Council Members at large:

Melinda Tiraboschi

Katelyn Reynolds

Dennis Dahlbach

Tim O'Connor

Alex Paulen – will be replaced by David Hall

Dawn Gray – will be replaced by Carol Miller.



## **December Birthdays:**

2 Emmalyn Shide

3 Sharon Nenne

Adalyn Suffern

5 Andrew Gochanour

Connor Gochanour

Ryan Gochanour

Marty Moreno

6 Hailey Smith

8 Ruth Ann Clanin

8 Jodi Gerjets

8 Melinda Tiraboschi

15 Jeff Gochanour

16 Gary Kroeschen

19 Bev Ruestman

Cheyenne Sunken

29 Lena Greskoviak

31 Tim Goderjan

Todd Guderjan

Carolyn Smith

We wish everyone a blessed birthday! We are thinking of all of you.

## **December Anniversaries:**

10 Linda & Tom Kratochvil

20 Carol & Paul Imm

## **November Anniversaries:**

5 Gene & Sharon Nenne

Happy Anniversary!

## **How to Receive St. John's text messages**

You can receive text messages regarding church scheduling changes, e.g. no outdoor service due to poor weather, or service cancellation during winter, or special church events by doing the following:

Go to St. John's website at [stjohnstoluca.org](http://stjohnstoluca.org). On the left side of the page a ways down, is an orange box that says "Mobile Text Alert Sign-up". Click on that box. Then click on 'follow the link' (even if you don't have Facebook) and it will take you to a sign-up page where you will need to put your name and phone number. You then click in the box further down by St. John's Lutheran Church. You will then automatically receive church messages when one is sent out. (this is also the same site to receive City of Toluca messages regarding garbage pick-up, events, etc. by clicking the box next to City of Toluca)



Lutheran World Relief supplies were shipped this year. They included 85 quilts, 11 personal care kits, 15 school kits and 15 baby kits. Thank you to all who

helped in any way with these projects.

## **Operation Christmas Child**

Thank you to all who helped in any way with this year's Operation Christmas Child, whether it was purchasing supplies, filling shoeboxes, setting up supplies to be packed, paying to have them sent or manning the stations when they were collected. Every one of you was important. Thank you again for your help!

## **Portals of Prayer & Daily Bread and Daily Message**

We are still getting both of these publications. Small Daily Breads begin in December. Large Daily Breads begin in January. Portals of Prayer, both large and small, begin in January. If you would like one, give Rhonda a call and she will get one to you. Rhonda at (815)257-2791

## **Pastor's Address**

Pastor Nathan's home address is:

716 E. Lake Ave.

Peoria Heights, IL 61616

## **Newsletter Information**

We ask all ministries of St. John's to please contribute updates on events and/or accomplishments to The Eagle Crier. It is the newsletter of St. John Lutheran Church and its congregation.

Contact Carla and Tim

O'Connor at (815) 452-2529 or [toccmoc@att.net](mailto:toccmoc@att.net). Thank you.