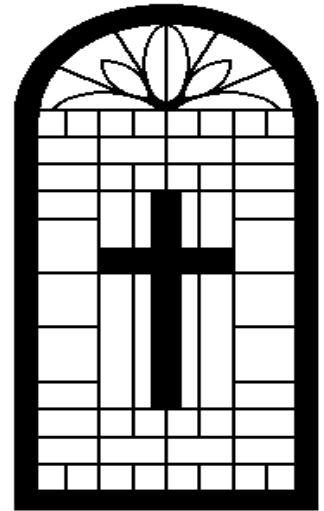


Thru the Windows



Annual Congregational Meeting

St. John's hosted the 2010 Annual Meeting, as well as a special meeting to call the next pastor, on January 31st. Highlights of the meetings included extending a call to Reverend Andreas Stein, approval of reports and budget, and election of council members. The 2010 Congregational Council is:

Scott Pierson (President)

John McClelland (Vice President)

Debbie Almquist (Treasurer)

Emily Laaker (Secretary)

Wayne Andersen (Financial Secretary)

Jan Braden (Special Funds Treasurer)

Dana Tompkins

Jim Pinegar

Dave Sandstedt

Chris Tomjack

Nick Pinegar

Katy Bridgeford

**FEBRUARY
2010**

**BUILDING ON
THE LEGACY**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 14TH
MUSIC IN MISSION
CONCERT
3:00PM**

**FEBRUARY 15TH
BLOOD DRIVE
2:30-6:30PM**

**FEBRUARY 16TH
PANCAKE FEED
5:30-8:00PM**

**FEBRUARY 17TH
ASH WEDNESDAY
10AM AND 7PM
SERVICES**

**Please make note of the following schedule during
Lenten Season on Wednesday nights
February 24th through March 31st**
6:00-6:45pm Soup Supper
6:15pm Adult Bible Study*
7:00pm Lenten Service

***Hand in Hand: A Global Journey Bible Study** as we journey with Jesus and hear the stories and reflections of ELCA missionaries serving in Japan, Palestine, Botswana, Chile and India.

Reverend Clay Skurdahl Shares

Dear Friends in Christ at St. John's,

I continue to marvel at God's Word. The text for last year's Annual meeting was Repent and Believe the Good News. The words were God's gift to help us lay aside any brokenness and sin from the past. As Gerhardt Frost, pastor, writer and seminary professor said at the end of his life, "*Forgive everything and hold on to the best.*" Here was a very good man, saying to his dear family, "Please forgive." What a great message at the end of life! But it's the way we should always live as God's people - in confession and forgiveness. Confession and forgiveness both free us to enjoy living in God's love and grace. They open us to allow Christ to lead us forward.

This year one of the texts for the Annual Meeting Sunday is 1 Corinthians 13 (The Love Chapter). As St. John's votes for their next pastor, Pastor Stein, God seems to be giving us the guideline for our life together as his people. "Love is not jealous, boastful or rude. It does not insist on its own way. Love is patient, Love is kind." All too often, Christ's church has been hurt by what is not love – jealousy, rudeness or insisting on our way. So God's Word for this year seems to be reminding us how we will go forward as Christ's people. Love is still the identifying mark of Christ's church. While our love is still not perfected (though God continues to work in each of us), we receive these guidelines to help us go forward. More than that, we get Christ's Spirit renewed in us every morning.

May God continue to bless and love each of you as this great church moves forward in His grace. It has been my pleasure to share in this year together. I will continue to pray for you with gratitude.

In His love,

Pastor Clay Skurdahl

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Reverend	Rev. Clay Skurdahl
Director of Ministry	Heather Goertz
Office Administrator	Debbie Misfeldt
Director of Youth Ministry	Sharee Maki
Organist/Minister of Arts	Michael Bauer
Pianist/Assoc. Dir. of Music	Jan Braden
Chancel Choir Director	Kerry Greunke
Pre-school Director	Nicki Nutter
Bookkeeper	Gail Pfahl
Custodians	Tom & Cindy Koziol
Youth Intern	Nick Pinegar
Pre-school Teachers	Megan Smith & Shannon Lutter

St. John's has extended a call to Rev. Andreas Stein!

Pastor Stein will be coming to us from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Coleridge, NE. If you weren't able to attend service when he was a guest pastor and would like to learn more about him, please feel free to view a collection of his sermons online. His current church's website is <http://immanuelutherancoleridge.org>

Be sure to provide a huge thank you to the call committee for their hard work in finding a new pastor for St. John's!

Council Summary

Council Minutes Summary for December 2009 postponed to January 12, 2010

Pastoral Call Team Report – Pastor Stein and Daniela were at SJLC on 1-10-10 and served in both services and shared in a small reception. The special meeting in regards to Pastor Stein's call recommendation will be held before the Annual Meeting on 1-31-10. This meeting must be held prior to the Annual Meeting to be in compliance with synod procedures. The council needs to set the salary and benefit compensation prior to this special meeting and also needs to be communicated to Pastor Stein to see if the compensation package will be accepted. Once this is established we can complete the 2010 budget.

Stewardship Update – 108 Stewardship cards received to date – pledges are up from last year. Total pledges received totals \$225011.00

Nominating Committee 2010 – Deb Almquist, Mary Pat Schmidt, Chris Tomjack, Nick Pinegar, Jerry Baker are the candidates for 3 year council terms. Katy Bridgeford is the candidate for the youth representative for council for a one year term

Annual Meeting/Budget Forum Planning – The budget draft will be available for the 2 budget forums. The council president will reside over meeting and the council secretary will take the minutes. The council members are strongly encouraged to attend both forums before the annual meeting. Scott will lead the 2 budget forums. Keep Mission Share at \$30,000.00 for 2010.

Treasurer's Report - Line of Credit to the Bank of Bennington paid in full including interest and principal. Review 2010 Budget Draft – We reduced the entire budget by 5% with the exception of salaries. The utility line items have been adjusted. We may need to adjust the Contemporary Worship salary once we hire an employee to fill this vacancy. We will reduce the Repairs and Maintenance Line Item by \$3000.00 from \$6550.00 to \$3550.00. We will do special appeals if needed for any future repairs. Workers Compensation raised to \$2425.00. We will also update the Compensation Package for the Pastor.

Feed the Roots Campaign – Heather and Rev. Clay are preparing letter to the Nebraska ELCA Synod in response to our commitment to this campaign. We have not been able to meet the commitment for the first two years of the 3 year \$35000.00 matching commitment. This letter will be finalized and mailed to the Nebraska ELCA Synod so they know we are addressing this commitment and our lack of response. A ministry team needs to accept the leadership of this.

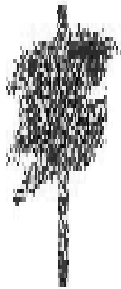
Director of Youth Ministry Shares



On February 7, members of BYG will be collecting donations in the narthex for St. John's Trunk Ministry and Kids Against Hunger as part of the national program, SouperBowl of Caring. Please help us as we reach out to care for our neighbors in need!

(Our 2009 collection benefited the Western Douglas County Food Bank)

BYG NEWS



Teens are welcome and invited to join the Bennington Youth Group

BYG meets in the LLYC on Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS!

Once again, the youth of St. John's will be hosting soup suppers during Lent! The Confirmation and BYG families will take turns providing food and serving from 6:00 to 6:45 each Wednesday Feb. 24-March 31. Proceeds from the free will offering will help support our youth programs and missions projects. We enjoyed a great turn out last year and would love to keep seeing the crowd grow, so join us each Wednesday during Lent and help us invite the community! What a treat—a family meal with great fellowship and none of the cooking! And be sure to thank Chris Burchell for coordinating and working so hard to ensure the meals run smoothly!

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE FEED!!!

**Join us for our Carnival Celebrations
as we prepare ourselves for our Lenten Journey**

Tuesday, February 16th 2010

5:30pm – 8:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Free Will Offering

Donations will be used to help offset expenses for the BYG's Summer 2010 Mission Trip to Puerto Rico



Kid's Kingdom Christian Preschool News

Happy Valentine's Day from the Kingdom Quest Preschoolers!

The preschoolers will have a busy February! Topics planned for the months are: Teddy Bears, Health and Hygiene, Dental Health, Valentines Day, Presidents Day, and Groundhog Day. We are all hopeful that winter is over soon so that we can begin to enjoy the new playground again!

On Sunday, February 21st, the preschoolers will provide special music for the congregation at St. John's. They will sing, "If I Were a Butterfly". We have some budding stars in our midst! Thank you parents, in advance, for bringing your child to church to sing that day!

Two preschool class days were added to the calendar to make up for the multiple snow days the children missed in January. Although Bennington schools were out on the 25th and 26th, we did decide to have classes for those who could attend.

Registration is now open to the public for the fall of 2010. We have been conducting many tours and enrolling many new children! We are looking forward to continued growth and seeing more new little faces next fall. Limited spots are still open for the current semester in the fours and fives classes.

If you know of anyone looking for preschool classes, please let them know we are here! Tours are conducted from 9 AM to 11:30, Monday through Friday. The preschool phone number is 290-5014.



PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

Kid's Kingdom Christian Preschool has both morning and afternoon enrollments available second semester for children ages 3-5 years. Two, three and five day programs are available, both mornings and afternoons. If you have been thinking about preschool for your little one, please call the preschool office for more information @ 290-5014.

Upcoming Events & Community News

When God Whispers Your Name

Beginning on February 7th, a bible study of the book "When God Whispers Your Name" by Max Lucado will be offered between services. (About 9:45AM) Books should be available for distribution in the office by Sunday, January 31st. If you are interested, please pick up a book and read the first three chapters prior to the meeting. Please let Julie at 238-2659 know that you plan to attend so that there will be enough materials.

Music in Mission—Valentine's Day Concert at St. John's at 3:00pm Organist Stacie Lightner

Biography: Stacie Lightner is the newly appointed Music Director and Organist at St. John Lutheran Church in Beatrice, Nebraska, a post she begins on February 1, 2010. After completing a Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance under the guidance of James Higdon at the University of Kansas, she spent a year studying with Jürgen Essl at the Musikhochschule in Lübeck, Germany as a Fulbright Scholar. Stacie then returned to the University of Kansas, where she completed a Bachelor of Arts in religious studies and a Master of Music degree in church music with Higdon and Michael Bauer. She continued her studies at McGill University in Montreal under John Grew. She was awarded the Doctor of Music degree in November 2008 after presenting a lecture recital on the organ music of German composer Ernst Pepping. Stacie has held a number of positions in church music, including Assistant Organist at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Omaha, Associate Music Director at St. Cecilia's Cathedral in Omaha, Music Director at St. John's/Sankt Johannes, a German/English bilingual parish in Montreal, and chapel organist at Presbyterian College seminary at McGill University. Stacie has given solo organ recitals in the U.S. and Canada, as well as in Germany and Austria. She has also appeared as solo organist and harpsichordist with the chamber ensemble Serenata in Montreal, performing works of Bach and Handel.

**Bennington High school is sponsoring a Hamburger Dinner fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 5th from 5-8pm
Bennington Commons Area, Bennington vs Syracuse Girls and Boys Basketball Games
\$5.00 for burger, chips, drink and dessert
Proceeds are for Post-Prom and Bennington Athletics.**

Valentines Weekend – a Date with your Sweetheart, without the kids?

Register them for the Bennington Elementary PTO Kids Nite Out on Friday, February 12th, from 6-9pm at Bennington Elementary. Kids will have fun playing games, hanging with their friends & watching a holiday movie. We'll even provide dinner! All kids must be toilet trained & not older than 12 years of age. Cost is \$15 for the first child, \$10 for the second and \$5 for any additional children from the same family. Contact Melissa Freed at 960-6904 to register, or with any questions. Deadline to register is February 9th. Space is limited so register today with number and ages of children to beptoinc@gmail.com.

HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE

The City of Bennington has joined with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to provide a Hunter Education Course to any persons 11 years of age (prior to 3-22-2010) or older. Hunters must have successfully completed this state-certified course prior to hunting and must have their valid hunter education card in their possession while hunting. Classes will be held from 6:00 – 9:30 p.m. on Monday, March 22; Tuesday March 23; Thursday March 25 at St. John's Lutheran Church. Contact the city office at 238-2375 to register.

Service Opportunities & Giving Thanks



The Church Mouse scurries around St. John's and notices those who have put in an act of good works or service for our Lord. These servants of God may not always be noticed for they often work behind the scenes. Our church is full of wonderful members who help others and the church mouse likes to bring that to our attention so we can express a warm THANKS. Let us know who has helped you...

Email Heather at ttweditor@gmail.com

People that we "caught" in the act this past month at St. John's

THANK YOU to the Budget Committee for their tireless effort at the 2010 Budget Proposal (Scott Pierson, John McClelland, Di Loptin, Debbie Almquist, Jan Braden, Jim Pinegar, Mert Opfer, Gail Pfahl)

THANK YOU to Carol Iltzsch for coordinating the Blood Drives

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Phil: 2.3-4

Consider a Trip to Tanzania

You are invited to visit our companion synod in Tanzania! As we continue to deepen our relationship with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, two Nebraska Synod-sponsored trips to Tanzania are planned for 2011:

February 7-22, 2011

July 12-27, 2011

February 6-21, 2012

Estimated costs range from \$3,700 (February Trip) to \$4,450 (July Trip) which covers all airfare, transportation, meals, safari fees, and visas. The trip includes visits to ministry sites of the Northern Diocese as well as a safari to the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

These trips flow from the relationship we share with our companion synod in Tanzania. The companion synod program enables the Nebraska Synod to experience the gifts and witness of the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

Interested? Please contact Pr. Martin Russell or Stephanie Lusienski in the Nebraska Synod office (402.896.5311). Space is limited.

Feb. 11-21, 2011: Have you ever wondered if other countries farm the same way we do here? Here's your chance to find out! This special agricultural vision trip will take us to Buenos Aires as well as agricultural communities in the Patagonia region. The estimated cost is \$2,500, which covers all airfare, transportation, lodging, and most meals. These trips flow from the relationship we share with our companion synod in Latin America. The companion synod program enables the Nebraska Synod to experience the gifts and witness of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina and Uruguay.

As we prepare for our trip, we believe we will be very blessed by our IELU mission, encapsulated and summarized succinctly in one unusual word: "accompaniment." We accompany one another on the journey of faith, as Luther put it, "showing one another where to find bread."

Interested? Please contact Rev. Martin Russell or contact Stephanie Lusienski in the [Nebraska Synod office](#). Group size is limited.

SNOW REMOVAL

St. John's needs volunteers to help remove snow from the parking lots and sidewalks. If you have blades, blowers, shovels or simply a heart for service, please contact the church office. We greatly appreciate all those who have helped out over the winter so far by keeping the church parking lots and sidewalks safe.



St. John's Women in Action

Coming Events

Fair Trade Sales

February 14th

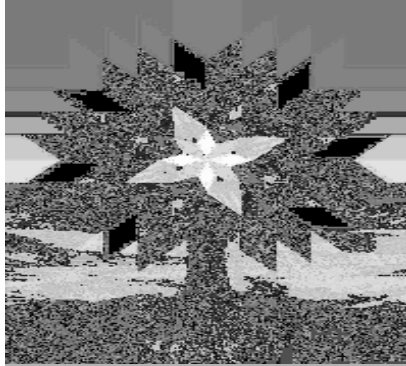
in the Narthex between services

Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Hot Chocolate, Nuts and Chocolate Bars

Spring Gathering

April 17

First Lutheran in Blair



A Bible Study for busy women will meet once a month on the last Tuesday of each month beginning February 23.

The study is based on the Lutheran Woman journal and is supported by the Women of the ELCA. Contact: drheathergortz@yahoo.com for details.

Join Us in Bible Study!

All Women are Welcome!

Faith Circle Bible Study

Feb. 9, at 1:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Lesson Leader – Bernetta Schroeder

Refreshments – Betty Deardoff

Rejoice Circle Bible Study

Feb. 15, at 7:00 p.m.

Conference Room

Lesson/Refreshments –

Emily Laaker

Please help support St. John's Trunk Ministry with food items. You can place items in the shopping carts located in the entry to the lower level and to the fellowship hall.

Campbell's Soup labels may be left in the box below the mailboxes in the fellowship hall entry.

Young Women of the ELCA BE BOLD!

Check out this website!

www.boldcafe.org

[www.twitter.com/WomenoftheELCA](https://twitter.com/WomenoftheELCA)

<http://blogs.elca.org/women>

Café is a free, monthly on-line magazine for young women

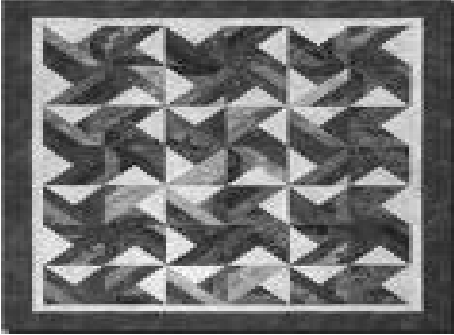
offered by Women of the ELCA.

Women of all ages are reading it!

**Café stands for Community,
Advocacy, Faith, and Enlightenment**

*St. John's
Women in Action*

Quilters in Action



Quilter's Prayer

Thank you for blessing me with the ability to quilt.
 Thank You for the joy, peace and blessing it brings into my life.
 It is a gift that has brought me countless hours of pleasure & enjoyment.
 Father, I return this gift to You.
 Use this talent to serve your purpose in the world.
 Bless each item we quilt so that it radiates
 Your love to the person who receives it.
 Amen.

*And all of you must
 put on the apron of
 humility, to serve
 one another, for the
 scripture says, "God
 resists the proud, but
 shows favor to the
 humble." 1 Peter
 5:5 (TEV)*

You find many real servants in the limelight; in fact, they avoid whenever possible. They are content with quietly serving in the shadows. Joseph is a great example. He didn't draw attention to himself, but quietly served Potiphar, then his jailer, then Pharaoh's baker and wine taster, and God blessed that attitude. When Pharaoh promoted him to prominence, Joseph still maintained a servant's heart, even with his brothers, who had betrayed him.

Many leaders today start off as servants but end up as celebrities. They become addicted, unaware that always being in the spotlight blinds you. You may be serving in obscurity in some small place, feeling unknown and unappreciated. Listen: God put you where you are for a purpose! He has every hair on your head numbered, and knows your address.

On January 11 and 12, the following 8 "quilting servants" met: Betty Deardoff, Cara Nevin, Karen Arp, Emily Laaker, Lorene Andersen, Delores Thorell, Addie Backhuus, and Suzanne Kirby. We were blessed to complete the 3 crocheted lap robes, tied 6 baby quilts, and 11 full size quilts. We were visited in the afternoon by Nicki Nutter and the 5 year old class from Kids Kingdom Pre-school. They are studying the alphabet, and are learning about the letter "Q". As they prepared to leave they sang and signed to the song "Oh, How I love Jesus".

We also packed and delivered 9 fabric toys and 8 baby quilts along with some miscellaneous items. For the Open Door Mission, we packed and delivered 24 full size quilts and miscellaneous items that were donated including 1 afghan, 2 blankets, mattress pad, and 5 pillow cases.

February Quilting Days

Monday, February 8 -9:00am (all day)
Tuesday, February 9 -9:00am (1/2 day)

Help for Haiti

ELCA NEWS SERVICE

January 30, 2010

ELCA Gifts to Haiti Earthquake Response Exceed \$2.7 Million

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- Gifts by congregations and members sent to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for response to the earthquake in Haiti total more than \$2.7 million through Jan. 29, according to ELCA Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton. Nearly 16,000 individual gifts have been sent to the ELCA, she said.

On the same day, the ELCA, through its International Development and Disaster Response (IDDR), increased its total commitment to earthquake response efforts to \$925,000, wrote Megan Bradfield, IDDR associate director, ELCA Global Mission, in a Jan. 29 memorandum.

The Jan. 12 earthquake left more than 112,000 people dead, 197,000 injured and at least 1 million people homeless, according to the Haitian government.

Earlier this month the ELCA committed \$600,000 to three partner organizations working on the ground in Haiti: The Lutheran World Federation/Department for World Service (LWF/DWS), based in Geneva; Lutheran World Relief, Baltimore; and Church World Service, New York. It also provided \$25,000 to Lutheran Services Florida for direct assistance to Haitians coming into the United States -- those who are U.S. citizens or Haitian nationals seeking medical services.

The latest commitment provides an additional \$150,000 each to Church World Service and LWF/DWS. Church World Service, an ecumenical disaster response organization, used ELCA funds to ship medicine, hygiene and baby kits, blankets, and flashlights and batteries to Haiti, Bradfield wrote. It is also providing transportation to relief workers on the ground.

Bradfield said the additional \$150,000 for Church World Service will buy 5,000 more blankets, plus tents, water and fortified food packages. Funds will also be used for shipping costs. "The goods will be prepared and sent over the next two weeks (with) primary distribution to children's centers and clinics," she wrote.

The LWF/DWS has used ELCA funds to provide for emergency food distribution, water, sanitation and health programs, and shelter in Haiti. Bradfield reported that the LWF/DWS plans to provide shelter needs in several areas:

- + St. Therese: Supporting 7,000 people living in settlements, including providing water, shelter and material aid
- + Gressier: Assisting with food distribution, sanitation and temporary shelter for 3,000 people in 26 settlements, and providing psychosocial support
- + Leogane: Providing food, sanitation and temporary shelter to 3,000 people
- + Ti Goave: Providing food, water, sanitation and hygiene, and temporary shelter and material aid for up to 5,000 people
- + Thiotte: Providing food and material aid for 1,000 people

Bradfield wrote that the LWF/DWS "has already identified primary activities for implementation in the post-crisis phase" of the response. Those activities include food security, and livelihood through farming and cash-for-work programs, community shelters, education and school assistance, psychosocial services, training of local leaders, and disaster preparedness/risk reduction activities.

Financial contributions to support earthquake relief efforts can be made at <http://www.ELCA.org/haitiearthquake> or by calling 800-638-3522.



Help for Haiti

ELCA DISASTER RESPONSE HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

JANUARY 2010

www.elca.org/disaster

On Tuesday, January 12, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake rocked the island country of Haiti, primarily impacting the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Offices, hotels, houses and shops have collapsed. The presidential palace is in ruins and many churches have been destroyed. Hospitals are overflowing and the search for survivors is intense.

The streets of Haiti are filled with people in shock and searching for loved ones among the rubble.

Your help is needed today to bring immediate relief and continued hope for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. About 3 million lives, one-third of Haiti's population, are affected by this earthquake.

Already one of the poorest countries in the world (70 percent of Haiti's population lives in extreme poverty), this catastrophe will exacerbate the suffering felt by many already living with hunger and poverty.

ELCA Disaster Response is already working through long-standing partnerships on the ground to provide emergency food, water, shelter and medical supplies.

Financial gifts are urgently needed. **Your gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response, designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief, will be used entirely—100 percent—for immediate relief and ongoing recovery in Haiti.** Your prayers and generous gifts will make a life-saving difference. Please give today.

.....
Yes, I want to help!

- ELCA Disaster Response: *Haiti Earthquake Relief* \$ _____ IDG0059
- ELCA Disaster Response: *Where Needed Most* \$ _____ IDG0060

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Email Address _____

Give through your congregation or send your check directly to:
ELCA Disaster Response, PO Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764
To give by credit card, visit www.elca.org/disaster or call 800-638-3522



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Joys and Concerns

- ♥ Julayna Lanae Esper and Jadynd Judith Esper were received into God's Holy Kingdom on January 10 through the washing of Holy Baptism at the 11am service. Julayna and Jadynd were born on July 29, 2009 and are the daughters of Rick and Laura Esper. Julayna's sponsors are Darcy Kapke and Anne Murphy. Jadynd's sponsors are Chadd McLaughlin and Laura Yomtoob.
- ♥ Altar flowers were given on January 10 by Grace Baty. She gave them in memory of her brother, Jim Knudsen of New Jersey, who passed away on December 26, 2009 and in honor of the January 4 birth of her great grandson Ryder Blaschka, son of Brent and Ashley (Olsen) Blaschka of Illinois.
- ♥ Bulletins were given by Jean Olsen on January 10 in honor of the birth of her great grandson, Ryder Blaschka. Ryder was born on January 4 and weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz and was 21 ½ inches long.
- ♥ The rose on the altar was given on January 17 by Wayne & Wendy Andersen in celebration of the birth of their grandson, Tate Mitchell Andersen. Tate was born on January 14 and is the son of Brian and Nichole Andersen. Tate weighed 8 lbs. and 3oz and is 20 ½ inches long. He will be welcomed home by big sister-Ella, age 3.
- ♥ Our sympathy to the Marcia & Al Weberg family in the recent passing of Marcia's father, Aloysius Little on January 9. Funeral services were held at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church.
- ♥ Our sympathy to the Verjean and Bill Bohn families in the recent passing of Verjean's mother, Eleanor Peterson of Iowa on January 23.
- ♥ A memorial was given on January 31 in memory of Roger Petersen and his February 5 birthday by his mom, Lois Petersen.

A Special Note of Thanks...

We just want to say Thank you to everyone who helped out and was apart of our mom's funeral. We are sorry if we didn't get to tell you thanks or if you didn't get a thank you sent to you.

We really appreciate everyone's kindness and generosity. We couldn't have done it with out all of you. She loved her church, and everyone in it. I'm sure she was with us all that day smiling down..

Thank you and God Bless,
The Family of Connie Smith

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours, Due Dates & Such

Please help our office to be as efficient and helpful as possible by keeping the following in mind:

Monthly Publication: Thru the Windows

The due date for information for the monthly newsletter, "Thru the Windows," is the 15th of each month. Any articles or information after that date will go into the next month's newsletter. Please submit all articles to ttweditor@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday through Friday are 8:00am-4:00pm. The church staff meets at 9:30am on Tuesdays. Usually there are volunteers to answer the phones during that time. If not, the phone will go to voicemail. Occasionally, the staff will have lunch offsite on Tuesdays so please call before coming to make sure we are here. If you need access to the church at other times, please call and we will work with you to make other arrangements.

Voice Mail & E-mail

All voicemail & email messages will be answered as soon as possible. Messages left after 4:00pm on Friday will be returned on the next business day.

Service Schedule - February Servants

2/7/2010	8:30am	11:00am
Greet	Michaela Bohn & Cassidy Sandstedt	Jacob Menard, Zach Westfall
Usher	Taylor Dreessen, Ben Giebelhausen	Trevor Logeman, Alec Knutson-Smith
Lector	Jane Frost	Chris Tomjack
Acolyte	Kaylee Bourg, Zachary Goertz	Alec Knutson-Smith
2/14/2010	8:30am	11:00am
Greet	Haley Melvin & Zac Melvin	Abby Misfeldt, Payge Ehrp
Usher	Zachary Goertz, Brook Boehmer	Natalie Schmidt, Megan Witt
Lector	Wade Junker	Kelly Witt
Acolyte	Megan Witt, Coby Wallingford	Zach Westfall
2/17/2010	Ash Wednesday, 10:00am	Ash Wednesday, 7:00pm
Greet	Grace Baty	Kaylee Bourg, Jady Tomjack
Usher	Curt Frost	Coby Wallingford, Gage Sorensen
Lector	Jane Frost	Fred Barnhard
Acolyte	_____	Natalie Schmidt
2/21/2010	8:30am	11:00am
Greet	Daniel Bressman & Jacob Bressman	Nick Brown, Derek Christensen
Usher	Tyler Brunk, Layne Laaker	Kelsey Carl, Alexis Farris
Lector	David Mills	Kylee Earll
Acolyte	Paige Depperman, Michaela DiMauro	Bailey Hartman
2/24/2010	Lent, 7:00 pm	
Greet	Amy Iltzsch & Adam Iltzsch	
Usher	Nicole Japp, Brynlee Loptin	
Acolyte	Brook Boehmer	
2/28/2010	8:30am	11:00am
Greet	TBD	Dillon Hilger, Hayden Renter
Usher	Bailey Hartman, Madison Pooley	Paige Depperman, Michaela DiMauro
Lector	Mark Sukraw	Michelle Pierson
Acolyte	Layne Laaker, Madison Pooley	Trevor Logeman

Altar volunteers needed

Would you like to help set up communion and other duties that are required before Sunday morning worship?
If you are interested or have questions, please contact Joann Warrick at 238-2378.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 2 | James Tompkins
Sarah Tompkins | 14 | Merlin Opfer
Derik Knock
Teri Nelson |
| 3 | Janice Braden
Julie Omer
Shelby Arp | 15 | Grace Baty
Andy Christensen |
| 4 | Karla Backhuus | 16 | Michelle Pierson
Ronda Bourg |
| 5 | Carole Cox
Robert Frahm
Lauren Circo
Natalie McClelland
Joslyn Frost
Kendall Keysor
Jennifer Nelson | 17 | Michele Reed |
| 6 | Connie Timm
David North, Jr.
Rick Esper | 18 | Kacey Eggink
Nancy Mohr |
| 7 | Tara Meador
Michael Smith
Malique Schmoltd | 19 | Allison Junker
David Bressman
Stacy Laue
Dawn Metcalf
Sonny Schmidt |
| 8 | Adrienne Dutchuk | 20 | Sheri Crawford
Rob Loptin |
| 9 | Roxanne Lenhartt
Paul Pooley (88!)
Troy Sass
Sonya Tompkins | 21 | Linda Book
Chris Circo |
| 10 | Patrick Baker
Kylee Earll | 22 | Jodi Grothendick
Grant Lurvey
Jadyn Tomjack |
| 11 | Ryan Backhuus
Michael Murphy | 23 | Bethany Schmidt
Braylon Schmoltd |
| 12 | Michaela Bohn
Nadine Frost (86!)
Ken Jensen
Kelsey Arp
Dana Tompkins | 24 | Madison Dreessen
Sue Goedeker
Erynn Westfall
Tricia Schneider
Seth Krivohlavek |
| 13 | Hannah Misfeldt
Ella Cox
Jaiden Blanchard | 25 | Jackie Weidner
Matthew Turner
Justin Kramer |
| 14 | Darrell Logemann | 27 | Virginia Andersen
Brenda Blacketer
Peggy Spicka
Helen Braesch |
| | | 28 | Katherine Andersen
Damon Miller
Annette Kay |

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|---|
| 4 | Roland & Dorothy Sass, 54 years! |
| 10 | Michael & Lana Murphy |
| 11 | Robert & Janie Frahm
Marvin & Brenda Blacketer |
| 14 | Mike & Carol Iltzsch |
| 22 | Paul & Linda Holtapp |
| 25 | Howard & Phyllis Almquist, 59 years!
Dean & Deborah Slechta |
| 26 | Roy & Dorothy Eipperle, 55 years!
Bill & Dorothy Mohr, 61 years! |
| 27 | Tyler & Angie Schmidt |



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S
DAY!!!**

The Social Ministry's Card Ministry Team believes that relationships are key to the outreach ministries and wants you to know that we are here for you. On your birthday, & special occasions, you should receive a personalized note from us! Would you consider being a Card Ministry Sponsor? Sponsors are asked to give a donation to fund the expenses of the card supplies & postage for the month of their birthday or anniversary. We will then recognize the sponsor on the back of each card that is sent out.

Thank You February Sponsors

- ♥ Bob & Janie Frahm
Happy Anniversary -Feb.11
- ♥ Nancy Mohr
Happy Birthday-Feb 18

February 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 6:30-8:30 Tiger Cubs-FH 7:00 Evangelism	2	3 9:00 Over 60 Center 6:30 6,7,8 Confirmation Jr. Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:30 BYGs 8:00 Exultation	4 10:30am New Beginnings	5	6
7 8:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:30 Kingdom Quest 9:30 WELCA Review of Book, "Radical Welcome" 9:45 Bible Study 11:00 Contemporary	8 9:00 Quilters (all day) 6:00 City Council Mtg 3:30-5pm Mom's Club-LL 6:00 City Council Mtg-FH	9 9:00 Quilters (half day) 1:30 Faith Circle 7:00 Council Mtg	10 9:00 Over 60 Center 6:30 6,7,8 Confirmation Jr. Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:30 BYGs 8:00 Exultation	11 9:30 Premiere Club	12	13
14 8:30 Worship 9:30 Kingdom Quest 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:45 Thrivent 9:45 Bible Study 11:00 Contemporary 3pm Music in Mission	15 12noon Keenagers 2:30-6:30 Community Blood Drive 7:30 Rejoice Circle	16 5:30-8 Fat Tuesday Pancake Feed-FH 6:30pm Pre-school Board Mtg	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 Over 60 10/7 Services with Holy Communion	18 10:30am New Beginnings 7pm KQ Mtg 7pm BHS Honor Society	19 3:30 Girl Scouts-LL	20
21 8:30 Worship 9:30 Kingdom Quest 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:45 Bible Study 11:00 Contemporary	22 5:30-7:30 Girl Scouts-LL	23	24 9:00 Over 60 6:00 Soup Supper 6:15 Adult Bible Study 6:15 Jr. Choir 7:00 Lenten Service 8:00pm Exultation	25	26 6:30-8:30 Girl Scouts-FH and LL	27
28 8:30am Worship 9:30 Kingdom Quest 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:30 WELCA Executive Board Meeting 9:45 Bible Study 11:00 Contemporary						

St. John's Lutheran Church

322 North Molley Street

Bennington, NE 68007

Reverend Clay Skurdahl, Interim

Dr. Heather Goertz, Director of Ministry

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402-238-3398 (fax)

www.stjohnsbennington.org

STJOHNSOFFC@msn.com

St. John's Lutheran Church "The Place to Be"

Music in Mission—Valentine's Day Concert at St. John's Lutheran Church

Valentine's Day is a great day to enjoy an afternoon out with someone you love or to simply celebrate great music in the company of friends. On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 14th at 3:00 Stacie Lightner will play an organ recital in our Music in Mission series. A free will offering will be collected for the Evangeline Meyer Scholarship Fund for Lutheran seminarians and church music students.

For Stacie's biography please see page 6 of the Thru the Windows.

