

# THE ST. JOHN NEWS

## January 2020

### The Sacredness of Human Life We Are Lutherans, We Are for Life

On January 13, 1984, United States President Ronald Reagan became the first to designate a day of the year to be remembered as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. That day was to be on Sunday, January 22, 1984, the 11th anniversary of the country's legalization of abortion. Churches still recognize the third Sunday of January as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, or sometimes just as Life Sunday. This year, that will fall on Sunday, January 19.

On Monday, January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court announced its decision to legalize elective abortion in all fifty states in the decision that is famously known as *Roe v. Wade*. The Supreme Court cited a right to privacy for the mother as the basis for its decision. Since that date, over 50 million abortions have occurred legally in the United States. For comparison's sake, consider the following list:

- About 500,000 American deaths in the Civil War
- About 405,000 American deaths in World War II
- About 115,000 American deaths in World War I
- About 90,000 American deaths in the Vietnam War
- About 55,000 American deaths in the Korean War
- About 16,000 reported homicides in the United States in 2018

The legalization of abortion in the United States has led to more deaths than all of our soldiers' deaths in United States' wars combined. It is even more than the amount of homicides and suicides this country has seen since its beginning 244 years ago. These numbers are truly astounding and certainly deserve our prayer and reflection as the people of God.

#### ***Lutherans for Life***

It is quite clear that such a day as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is desperately needed in this country and throughout the world. Life is a precious gift from God and deserves our highest protections, as even our country's Constitution declares that all people have a right to life. Because of the plethora of abortions in this country every year, it is the fight against abortion that usually takes center stage on Life Sunday. Thankfully, the number of abortions has decreased consistently since the early 1980s. Prayerfully, this will continue. Our synod, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), includes as one of its Recognized Service Organizations (RSO) the group called Lutherans for Life. Please visit their website for much more

information on the pro-life movement ([lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)). Here is a bit from the stated mission of Lutherans for Life:

The mission of Lutherans for Life is to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for Life... We want to equip Lutherans to be positive, life-affirming voices that uphold the truth of the God-given value of human life, both in local congregations and in society. We strive to affirm that each human life is created and gifted by God, that each human life is someone for whom Jesus Christ died, and that each human life is someone that the Holy Spirit desires to call into an eternal relationship with Him... Our mission is to equip Lutherans so that they understand the life issues of our time are much more than controversial political issues. They are grave spiritual issues, for they assault the Creator of Life and insult the Lord of Life. In short, our mission is to change hearts. Those with changed hearts will change society. Only God, working through the power of His Gospel, can change hearts. That is why the Gospel motivates all that we do. ([lutheransforlife.org/about/missionmessagemanner](http://lutheransforlife.org/about/missionmessagemanner))

Lutherans for Life got its start as an organization in the late 1970s as a result of the passing of *Roe v. Wade*. It continues to promote its mission through Life Teams present in congregations of the LCMS, and has assisted other countries in starting their own Lutherans for Life organizations.

#### ***God's View on Life***

It should go without saying that God, who is Life itself, is for the preservation of life. God created all things perfectly and without sin; death was never part of God's intention for his creation. When sin entered the world, death followed as its wage (Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23). Since then, death has occurred as allowed by God. Yet, life is to be preserved and death avoided in keeping with the Fifth Commandment, so long as life itself does not become an idol and false god to us.

Of course, the Lord Jesus was sent into this world to win for us eternal life. He declares himself to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6), along with

being the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25). Jesus has laid down his own life so that all may live (John 10:10). Through Adam came death into this world, so through Christ comes life to all (1 Corinthians 15:22).

And throughout his Word, the Lord God expresses his concern for the fatherless and the widow, always seeking to preserve their lives and well-being (i.e. Exodus 22:22; Deuteronomy 10:18).

Because God has said in his Word that he has knit us together in the secret place (Job 10:11; Psalm 139:13), and that he has known us before we were formed (Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139), we believe that life begins at conception and thus abortion should not be permitted. Because of God's high views of the life he has given us, we also oppose euthanasia or mercy killing, especially, but not limited to, physician-assisted suicide.

Some opponents to our pro-life positions will argue that we are happy to oppose abortion and euthanasia, but we do not provide feasible alternatives. First, such an argument does not negate the atrocities and evils that abortion and euthanasia are, nor does it remove the need to end such evils. Second, groups such as Lutherans for Life do much more than state their positions on life. They promote adoption and provide resources for care and the well-being of mothers after abortions, along with the support of aid and assistance to those who are suffering in their final days of life.

A Baptist pastor once stated his hope that a day comes when he never has to preach a sermon on the sanctity of human life because of how natural such a concept should be. Of course, in a world broken by sin, such a need will always be present, for all need to be reminded of how important the life God gives is, that we all sin against God's great commands, and we all thoroughly need the mercy and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he gives us freely in his Word and Sacraments.

God's blessings to you this New Year, as you enjoy the life God has given to you, and support the well-being of the lives of your neighbors, in keeping with our Lord's will.

Pastor Caithamer

### Men's Prayer Breakfast

On Thursday, January 9th, at 7:00am, the men's prayer breakfast will meet at the Farmhouse Restaurant at Harvest Market on 2029 S. Neil St. in Champaign. All men are welcome to attend!



### E.A.T. Night @ Panera

The January E.A.T. Night will be at Panera on **Monday, January 13, 4-8pm!** Panera is giving back at least **20%** of our purchases! Bring in the flyer to make sure that the proceeds will be donated to St. John Lutheran School.

Don't forget to get your Panera Gift Card from Ram Rebate.



### Ice Skating Party

The annual St. John Ice Skating Party will be on Saturday, January 11th from 6:00-8:00pm at the U of I Ice Arena. There is no charge for this family fellowship event!



**LIFELIGHT is back!** Join us for 2 Corinthians, a 9-week Bible study. You can join us Wednesday evenings at 5:45, Thursday mornings at 9:00, or Thursday evenings at 6:30. Classes start January 29-30. Look for our table in the overflow to sign up or contact Neil, Matt or Eunice.

### Mission Statement:

United in faith, we serve the Kingdom of God by building lives that are rooted in the Word, centered on Christ, and motivated by Grace; to reflect Christ's love and share His Gospel with all.

## *Let Us Pray*

**For Peace and Comfort:** John & Beth and family at the death of John's Lois , the family of Floyd at his death December 2nd, Tony & Jennifer and family at the death of Tony's mother Sharon



**Following Surgery:** Dave

**Hospitalized:** Chad, Huck-Joyce nephew's son

**For Healing and Recovery:** Karla, Tom -brother of Alex, Jill, Linda, Lorene, Jim & Kim, John, Alex, Aaron, Whitney-wife of Ellie's grandson, Maria, Merv, Brett-cousin of the Kindts', Jessica -granddaughter of Bob & Joan, Jacob -great grandson of Bob & Joan, Joan -mother of Bill , Judy-mother of Rochelle, Rebecca-daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy-father of Anne, Dan-brother of Bonnie, Todd-grandson of Harold

**For Successful Treatments:** Earl, Roger-father of Stephanie, Jayne, Linda, Roxy, Philip-son of Starley, Jeanette , Joan , Nancy, Shawn-sister of Maxine

**For our Military:** Roberto, Adam, Joshua, Nick, Zachary, Taylor, Andy, Brandon, Suzzanna, Ben, Allyson

**For our Missionaries:** Pastor Randrianasolo Dembiniana Havanjanakary and the Madagascar Lutheran Seminary, Pastor Magnus Bengston and Lielsalaca Lutheran Church in Latvia, Pastor Obot Ite and the Lutheran Mission in Kingston, Jamaica

### **Lutheran Women Mission League (LWML)**

#### **December Cookie Walk and January Soup Supper**

The LWML Cookie Walk held December 7 raised a total of \$976.50, which will provide funding for on-going mission work. A special thank you goes to all who participated in making this event such a success!

Monday, January 27, 2020, is the date set for the LWML Soup Supper, which will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. Immediately following the soup supper will be a devotion and a business meeting. During this January meeting, decisions will be made as to how the money raised from the Cookie Walk will be distributed for local and global mission projects.

More information and reminders will be made available in January's Sunday church bulletins prior to the event. Questions regarding this event may be directed to Donna or Linda.

### **New Church Directory:**

The Evangelism Board is working on creating a new church directory. We want to update addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. This photo directory will be a great opportunity to accomplish this task. We have scheduled Lifetouch to help us take the photos and gather the information. The dates to come in and have your photo taken are: Tuesday, April 28 - Saturday May 2 and then Tuesday May 5 and Wednesday May 6. As we get closer to the actual event we will be sharing more information through bulletins and newsletters.

Mrs. Block



### **Youth Board January News**

This month the St. John Youth and their families are invited to the Ice Skating Party on Saturday, January 11, 6-8pm at the UI Ice Arena. There is no charge for this family fellowship event. No need to sign-up – just meet at the arena.

**Pasta Dinner Fundraiser & PTF Talent Show**



The Pasta Dinner will be held on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7pm. There will be a dessert Auction. Please consider donating a dessert. A sign-up sheet will be posted by the school office. This is a fundraiser for the class trip to Washington, D.C.



Immediately following the dinner will be the PTF Talent Show. Do you have a special talent or skill?

Want to perform a skit, sing a song, etc...?

If you would like to perform in the talent show, please fill out a registration form (one per act) and return it to the school office no later than Tuesday, January 21. Acts should run no longer than 3-4 minutes. All acts must be approved by the Talent Show Committee.



Come out and join us for our first-ever trivia night where you can have fun while raising money for our school!

The evening's trivia theme will be "Through the Decades". Participants will get to compete in nine rounds of trivia as well as other events like a Gift-Card Bidding Frenzy, Heads-or-Tails game, and a Dessert Auction.

Make Your Reservations Now!

\$120 for a Team Table (8-10 players per table)

\$15 for Individuals (Individuals will be teamed up with other players)

Saturday, February 1, 2020

Doors Open at 5pm

Mulligan Sale from 5-6pm

Dessert Auction starts at 5pm

Trivia Starts at 6p

Admission includes popcorn and drinks.

Players are encouraged to bring their own snacks to share with their team.

Want a pizza or two delivered to your table?

Old Chicago Pizza can be ordered on the registration form.



\*\*\*\*\*

Individual and Corporate sponsorship opportunities are available.

Levels begin at Ram-Shout Out for \$25 and go to Premier Sponsor for \$2500.

For details, contact the school office.

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Registration and Sponsorship Forms are now available.

Please email with any questions or contact the office.

**SECOND SEMESTER CHAPEL OFFERINGS**

Chapel offerings will go toward the Military Project at Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne. This project support chaplains of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and other military personnel in theaters of war and their families, with prayers, encouragement and items of support for both their body and, most especially, their life in Christ.

Chapel Offering for the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month will be food items for the St. John Food Pantry.

**The Box Top Program Is Changing.** Clipped Box Tops are being phased out. The new Box Tops will be scanned using an app. More information is available at [www.BTFE.com](http://www.BTFE.com).

- ◆ Clipped Box Tops will continue to be collected until they are completely phased out.



## January 26 - February 1

National Lutheran Schools Week provides nearly 2,000 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families. National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve. Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike. Our students will kick-off the week by singing before each service on Sunday and will enjoy special activities each day throughout the week.



## St. John Athletics

### Volleyball \* Home Games

- Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 6pm – vs. St. Thomas, Philo
- Thursday, Jan. 30 at 6pm – vs. Next Generation





# Music Notes



We continue to be blessed with talented musicians of all sorts in our congregation. Our Alleluia Ringers, Mixed Choir and Men’s Choir all provided beautiful leadership throughout Advent and for our Christmas Eve services. Our instrumental forces continue to grow – 7 brass and 4 wind players were a special part of our 7:15 Christmas eve service.

My prayer is for all of you who are already taking part in this worship ministry, and that smore of you will join with us!

Alleluia Ringers                      Wednesdays 6 - 7 pm  
**Rehearsals 1.2, 1.15, 1.22, 1.29**

Men’s Choir                              Thursdays 6:00 – 6:45 pm  
Mixed Choir                              Thursdays 6:45 – 7:30 pm  
**Rehearsals 1.9, 1.16, 1.23, 1.30**

Sunday, January 5                      Epiphany (observed) Alleluia Ringers

Sunday, January 12                      Baptism of our Lord                      10:45 Men’s Choir

Sunday, January 19                      2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany                      Instrumentalists

Sunday, January 26                      3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany                      10:45 Mixed CHoir  
Start of Lutheran Schools Week – School choirs at Prelude in both services

Several books in our music library will soon be added to the library collection in the meeting room next to the church office. I want to especially mention the newly-published 2-volume *Companion to the Hymns – Lutheran Service Book*. This wonderfull resource represents many years of extraordinary scholarship about the history of every hymn text and tune in our LSB. Among its principal editors was joseph Herl, Professor at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska, and my pre-decessor here at St. John Lutheran!

A special opportunity fo choral music lovers – The St. Olaf Choir, under the directopn of conduc-tor Anton Armstrong, will be appearing at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts on Tues-day, February 11 at 7:30 pm. This is sure to be a special treat.

*Soli Deo Gloria, Keith*

## Ram Rebate Gift Cards

Purchase gift cards for hundreds of stores and restaurants through Ram Rebate and a percentage will go towards your tuition or a school or church account of your choice. Stop by the school office or visit [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) or [www.myscripwallet.com](http://www.myscripwallet.com) for details.

In Stock cards are available during school office hours. Orders will be placed the first Monday of the month.

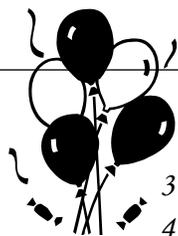


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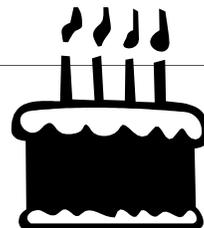
# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Sina, Carson, Sherry, Miranda
- 2 Katie, Edna, Maria
- 3 Sarah, Sherrie, Linda
- 4 Major, Kody, T.J.

- 5 Jennifer, Jeanette
- 6 Bennett, Donaven, Brad
- 7 Ali, Mia, Abby
- 8 James, Hendricks
- 9 Olivia, Dylan, Ken, Lou Ann, Donna Parsons, Kamryn
- 10 Peter, Margaret, Judah George
- 12 Meaghan, Jim
- 13 Karen, Ryan, Betty, Allison, Chad
- 14 Kaleb
- 15 Carrie, Doug, Lindermann
- 16 Suzanna, Dennis
- 17 Zoe, Reagan
- 18 Ben, Jill, Christian
- 19 Van, Bret, Steve
- 20 Tryston, Gary, Karen, Barb, Michael
- 21 Mike, Larry, Kaitlin, Richele, Taylor

- 22 John, B.J., Jacelyn
- 23 Donna, Juleigh, Lorraine
- 24 Mikayla
- 25 Matthew, Charlene
- 26 Dawn
- 27 Dick
- 28 Joshua, Robin, Erin
- 29 Esther, Kevin, Jennifer, Laura, Joseph
- 30 Tom, Daryl, James, Linda
- 31 Lila, Myla, Christian, Sierra



# JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Eric & Kristina (15)
- 12 Matt & Kylene (19)
- 13 Daniel & Linda (30)
- 18 Bill & Phyllis (51)
- 19 David & Donna (57)
- 28 Jim & Jeannine (59)

# ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR DECEMBER



Sundays	8:00	Comm	10:45	Comm
Dec 1	143	119	124	82
Dec 8	200	160	118	83
Dec 15	212	172	105	67
Dec 22	149	136	146	111
Dec 29	140	99	89	68
Wednesdays	3:30	Comm	7:15	Comm
Dec 4	70	55	40	32
Dec 11	83	71	31	24
Dec 18	78	69	31	30
Christmas Eve	5:00	7:15	Comm	10:00
Tue, Dec 24	302	119	78	103
Christmas Day	10:00	Comm		
Wed, Dec 25	162	120		
New Year's Eve	7:15	Comm		
Tue, Dec. 31	51	n/a		

PLEASE notify the church office (359-1123) if your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect. Unfortunately, we don't have 100% of our members' birthdays & anniversaries on file. Letting us know of errors or omissions is a great way to help us complete & correct our records.

# january

*I praise you, for I am  
fearfully and  
wonderfully made.  
Psalm 139:14*

# 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
<i>Devotions &amp; Hymn-sing at Amber Glen on the 12th &amp; 26th at 2:30pm</i>	<i>Pastor Caithamer's day off: Fridays</i>	<i>Church Office 359-1123 School Office 359-1714</i>	<b>1</b> <i>New Year's Day  7:15 Holy Communion  Church Office Closed</i>	<b>2</b>  12:00 Widow's Group 6:00 Handbells	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  9:00 Take down the decorations																																																	
<b>5</b> <i>Epiphany (Obs.)  8:00 Holy Communion (AR) 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <i>Day School resumes  10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Evangelism, Trustees 6:30 School Board</i>	<b>8</b>  8:05 Chapel 5:45 Midweek School 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>9</b>  7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 Men's Choir 6:45 Mixed Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  6:00 PTF Ice Skating Party																																																	
<b>12</b> <i>1st Sunday after Epiphany  8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion (MC)</i>	<b>13</b>  9:15 MOPS 6:00 Finance Board E.A.T. @ Panera 4-8	<b>14</b>  6:00 Elders	<b>15</b>  8:05 Chapel 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:45 Midweek School 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>16</b>  6:00 Men's Choir 6:45 Mixed Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>																																																	
<b>19</b> <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany  8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion</i>	<b>20</b>  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>21</b>  10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Council	<b>22</b>  8:05 Chapel 5:45 Midweek School 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>23</b>  6:00 Men's Choir 6:45 Mixed Choir	<b>24</b>  5:30 Pasta Dinner & Talent Show	<b>25</b>  <table border="1" style="font-size: 8px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">December 2019</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	December 2019							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
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