**FESTIVAL**/COMMEMORATION **DAYS IN JANUARY**

**Jan. 1 Circumcision & Name of Jesus** – *New Year’s Day*

Jan. 2 J.K. Wilhelm Loehe, *Pastor*

**Jan. 6 The Epiphany of Our Lord**

**Jan. 7 The Baptism of Our Lord**

Jan. 10 Basil the Great of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianzus, &

 Gregory of Nyssa, *Pastors & Confessors*

**Jan. 18 The Confession of St. Peter**

Jan. 20 Sarah, *Matriarch*

**Jan. 24 St. Timothy, *Pastor & Confessor***

**Jan. 25 The Conversion of St. Paul**

**Jan. 26 St. Titus, *Pastor & Confessor***

Jan. 27 John Chrysostom, *Preacher*

**“Growing as One”**

 The following memory items can be used within the **daily office services** in the ***Lutheran Service Book***: Matins (pp.219ff.), Vespers (pp.229ff.), Morning Prayer (pp.235ff.), Evening Prayer (pp.243ff.), Compline (pp.253ff.), Responsive Prayers 1 (pp.282ff.) & 2 (pp.285ff.), and **Daily Prayer for Individuals & Families (pp.294ff.)**.

**Week Passage *Catechism* Hymn(s)\***

Jan. 7 - 13 Mark 1:4 Lord’s Prayer – 4th Petition *LSB* #407

Jan. 14 - 20 John 1:49 Lord’s Prayer – 5th Petition *LSB* #402

Jan. 21 - 27 Mark 1:14b-15 Lord’s Prayer – 6th Petition *LSB* #839

Jan. 28 – Feb. 4 Mark 1:27 Lord’s Prayer – 7th Petition *LSB* #842

 (\*at least 1st stanza)

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Sunday School, 9:10am (school building): Theme of the day; various

 materials, activities

Sunday Bible Class, 9:10am (basement): “A HOLY CONVERSATION:

 Spiritual Warfare” video (Rev. Dr. Robert Bennett, Exec. Dir., Luther Academy,

 Fort Wayne, IN); Lutherans for Life Study: “Just As … I AM” (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Wednesday Bible Study, 10:30am (school building): *The Book of Ruth*;

 Lutherans for Life Study: “Just As … I AM” (Ephesians 2:1-10)

**OFFICIAL ACTS:**

Deaths: 12-5-23: Arlene Zelz (funeral: 12-8-23), Earl Reinke;

 12-7-23: Ann Drews

Holy Baptism, 12-10-23: Westynn Richard Hart (infant son of Timothy &

 Tammy [Kessel] Hart)

***“Baptism Is a Gift!”***

 **How many of you like to receive gifts?** I know I do. Most of us enjoyed receiving gifts at Christmas. It was fun regardless of what we received: clothes, shoes, toys, gadgets, appliances, food, money, whatever. It’s such an amazing thing that our families and friends give us gifts of things that we want, and things that we need just because they care about us. **It’s really a Blessing to us!**

 On the **“1st Sunday after the Epiphany”** (**January 7** this year, as the “Epiphany of Our Lord [Visit of the Wise Men]” is always January 6), the Church celebrates **“The Baptism of Our Lord”** by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, when Jesus was 30 years old, thus beginning His public Ministry.

 **Baptism is a “Present” that God Gives to us – Jesus Gives us Baptism as a Gift.**  **Most of us don’t remember our Baptism** because we were too tiny to remember – maybe only a week, month, or months old. **But your parents, sponsors, family, and friends do remember.** And we should **ask them** to tell us about our Baptism Birthday. They/we were probably **given something to help us remember** the day now and into the future – a certificate, candle, banner, wall-hanging, etc.

 **Baptism is a Different kind of Gift** Given to us. It has **two Parts** to It: **First** of all, we get **water** put on our heads (or, if you came from a different church, you may’ve been totally immersed); but It’s not like a bath or shower (except that Jesus Chose water to **“Wash away” our sins**). While we get water put on our head, we also get a **second** Part of the Gift – **very Special Words** are said: While the water is being poured on our head, the pastor says,

**“I Baptize you in the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.”**

When we receive the water and the Special Words, we get to **Share in Jesus dying on the Cross for us**, Which Makes us **part of God’s Family**.

 **Becoming a part of God’s Family is a most Important Gift**: When we’re Baptized, God Tells us that we’re part of a Family that includes people from all over the world – God’s Family is made up of men and women, boys and girls, of all different places and cultures. **God Promises to Love all** of us in His Family. He Tells us that He **Forgives us** of the things we do wrong, and that He'll **never leave us**. He Promises that when we’re a part of His Family, we’re **Loved and Forgiven and Cared for**. **One Day, He’ll Take His Family to be with Him in Heaven**, Where there’s no sadness, and nothing bad. It’ll be the **Happiest and Best Place** you can imagine!

 So let’s remember, **Holy Baptism is a Gift from God.** The Gift has **two Parts:** **water** and **God’s Special Words:**

**“I Baptize you in the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit”** –

the same Words of the **Invocation** that begins each “Divine Service.” **What does it Mean to be Baptized?:** That we’re Made a **part of God’s Family**; and being a part of God’s Family is the **Best Gift of all!**

 In His service & yours,

***Pastor Dodge***

**“*ASK THE PASTOR*”**

Please note the **“Ask the Pastor”** box in the entryway. Questions submitted in the box (anonymously if you wish) may be used for this section of the newsletter.

**Q: How is the date of Easter each year determined (since it’s a different date every year)?**

**A:** From the front of our hymnal – ***Lutheran Service Book* – p.xxiii**:

**“Easter Day is always the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the Spring equinox on March 21. This full moon may happen on any date between March 21 and April 18 inclusive. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, Easter Day is the Sunday following. Easter Day cannot be earlier than March 22 or later than April 25.**

**Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls in the seventh week before Easter. The Ascension of Our Lord occurs on a Thursday, forty days after Easter Day. The Day of Pentecost is seven weeks, or the fiftieth day, after Easter Day.”**

 The hymnal then lists all the dates of Easter from 2007 – 2050. (There’ll probably be a new hymnal by then!) This coming Easter (2024) is fairly early – March 31; and the following year’s (2025) is fairly later – April 20. The earliest in that span of years was in 2008 – March 23; and the latest in that span will be in 2038 – April 25. (The very first Easter – the Morning of Christ’s Resurrection – was Sunday, April 5, *A.D*. 33.)

 The Seasons that this affects are the Season of Epiphany and the Season of Pentecost/Trinity: Since Epiphany Day is always January 6, the “Sundays after the Epiphany” will end with “Transfiguration Sunday,” the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. So the earlier Ash Wednesday falls, the shorter the Epiphany Season is. Likewise, if Easter is later, that pushes Pentecost/Holy Trinity Sundays later, thus shortening the number of “Sunday’s after Pentecost/Trinity.” (In the 3-Year Series, it’s “Sundays after Pentecost;” while in the 1-Year Series, it’s “Sundays after Trinity” – so one Sunday different, as Holy Trinity Sunday is the “1st Sunday after Pentecost.”) As mentioned in last month’s “*Ask the Pastor*,” the “1st Sunday of Advent” is always the Sunday closest to “St. Andrew, *Apostle*” (always November 30). The “Last Sunday after Pentecost/Trinity” would be the Sunday before that.

 It should be noted that since Western Churches (churches established from the original Roman Catholic Church and the Reformation) follow the “Gregorian” calendar, and the Eastern Orthodox Churches (mostly Eastern European & Asian, and churches here that come from that tradition) follow the “Julian” calendar, the date of Easter is different in each tradition. Thus, about 50% of the time the Eastern Easter is one week later than ours; but can occasionally be four-to-five weeks later. (Similarly, the West celebrates Christmas Day on December 25, and the East on January 6 [the West’s Epiphany Day].) These differing dates of Easter was a major factor in the split between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church (the “Great Schism” of *A.D.* 1054).

**SERVICE WINTER WEATHER NOTICE**:

In the case of severe Winter weather, a decision will be made as early as practically possible by Pastor and the head Elder on whether or not to officially cancel a worship Service. If a Service is to be cancelled, the decision will be disseminated on local media (WLEW AM/FM and website, and FM 103.7) and, if possible, added to the new church Facebook page.  If, however, you don’t get the message of a cancellation, know that Pastor will be present to conduct some sort of service so that you didn’t venture out for nothing.

**JANUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Ray Emerick | 11 | Jennifer Iseler  | 22 | Matthew Koglin  |
|  | Scott Iseler |  | Jamie Sadro  | 23 | Jodi Geiger |
|  | Shirley Piotter  |  | Heather Schultz  | 25 | Pastor Dodge |
|  | Mary Tice | 12 | Joel Gaffke  |  | Arnie Eggert  |
| 2 | Claire Burton | 13 | Easton Iseler | 26 | Carol Hunter |
|  | Howard Griffore | 15 | Melvin Hartz  |  | Randy Schulte |
|  | Terry Friedland | 17 | Ryan Finkel  | 27 | Duane Pleiness |
| 4 | Anita Schave |  | Paizley Iseler |  | Calvin Witherspoon |
| 5 | Tanda Bucholtz |  | Ruth Richardson | 28 | Brenda Friedland |
|  | Eric Reinke  |  | Brittany Smaglinski  | 29 | James Bucholtz |
| 6 | Sarah Birchfield | 20 | Audrey Zinger | 30 | Avery Weiss |
| 7 | Ashley Koglin | 21 | Ryan Johnson  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Kevin Wooster  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Sherri Bucholtz |  |  |
|  |  |  |   |  |  |

**JANUARY ALTAR GUILD:**

Linda Schave

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE:**

Average Church attendance for the month of November 2022: 96

Average Church attendance for the month of November 2023: 98

**REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

**For the month of November 2023**

**Budget Income:** General Fund: $ 15,664.00

 Loose Offering: 1,041.00 **TOTAL:** $16,905.00

**Non-Budget Income:**

Special Stewardship: $630.00 Missions: $60.00

Stained Glass: $175.00 Trustees: $345.00 Higher Things: $100.00 Tuition: $310.00 Debt: $520.00 Barnabas: $100.00

**Acolyte Schedule January, 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jan. 6  | 9:00  |  Maddix Thoms |   |  |
| Jan. 7 | 8:00 | Jett Zimmerman | 10:00 | Sophia Koglin |
| Jan. 14 | 8:00  | Jensen Zimmerman | 10:00  | Brady Iseler |
| Jan. 21 | 8:00  | Maddix Thoms | 10:00  | Sophia Koglin |
| Jan. 28 | 8:00  | Jett Zimmerman | 10:00  | Brady Iseler |

Acolyte numbers for Substitutions

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Phone** | **Name**  | **Phone** |
| Sophia Koglin  | 989-553-1040 | Jett/JensenZimmerman | 989-551-7822 |
| Brady Iseler | 810-434-1231 | Maddix Thoms | 989-553-0889 |

**THANK YOU** for all of your generous cards, gifts, and well-wishes. Your love and support are greatly appreciated.

 Pastor Dodge & family

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Jason Zimmerman | 14 | David Berndt | 19 | Madelyn Bender |
| 3 | John Kelley |  | Cody Brown | 20 | William Kelley |
|  | Darla Pankow |  |  | 25 | Ramona Reinke |
| 5 | Travadon Schave | 15 | Brantley Brown |  | Jerry Schave |
|  | Vicki Bucholtz |  | Anthony Prill | 26 | Theodore Rink |
| 6 | Corinne Abraham  | 16 | Logan Iseler | 27 | Duane PleinessHappy 60th! |
|  | Gregory Brown |  | Declan Schultz | 28 | Jeffery Miller |
| 9 | Nevin Pleiness |  | Eric VerEllen |  | Anthony Reinke |
| 10 | Rodney Damm  |  | Rodney Weiss, Sr. | 30 | Leroy Koglin, Jr.  |
|  | Ruth Leese | 17 | Michael Lloyd |  |  |
| 12 | Tom Grills | 18 | Rebecca Koglin |  |  |
|  | Sheila Jurgess |  | James McNeil |  |  |
| 13 | Daniel Strozeski |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

If there are any corrections for the Birthday calendar, call the Church Office 428-4140.

***January Wedding Anniversaries***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** |  | **Yrs** |  |
|  16 | Niko & Otyllia Vercelletto |  2 |
|  23 | Jerry & Joy Schave |  18 |
|  27 | Milton & Linda Iseler | 51 |
|  |  |  |

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are now available for pick up in the entryway. Please sign up on the numbered clip-board sheet on the bulletin table and take the corresponding numbered envelope box.

**2024 Flower Chart** is up on the window in the entryway, Please sign up on your special occasion dates to provide flowers to beautify our Chancel; or call Vicki Koglin at **989-225-7060.**

|  |
| --- |
| January 2024**St. John Ev. Lutheran Church****Ushers 8:00 Ushers 10:00**Galen Young Don ClarkKevin Arndt   **SUNDAY SCHEDULE****8:00 Divine Service w/Communion****9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class** **10:00 Divine Service w/Communion** |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  | 1*Circumcision & Name of Jesus - New Year’s Day* | 2 | 310:30 Bible Study | 4  |  5Pastor’s Day Off | 6 9:00 Worship w/Communion***The Epiphany of Our Lord*** |
| 7 *The Baptism of our Lord* | 84:00 6th Grade Conf. Class7:00 Finance Board | 910:00 “Winkel” @ St. John, Port Hope7:30 Long Range Planning | 1010:30 Bible Study | 117:30 Church Council | 12 | 13Pastor’s Day Off |
| 14 | 154:00 6th Grade Conf. Class7:00 Ladies Aid | 167:00 Trustees7:00 Elders | 1710:30 Bible Study | 18*The Confession of St. Peter* | 19 | 20Pastor’s Day Off  |
| 2111:15 Quarterly Voters’ Assembly***“Life Sunday”*** | 224:00 6th Grade Conf. Class7:00 Finance Board | 23 | 2410:30 Bible Study *St. Timothy, Pastor & Confessor* | 25*The Conversion of St. Paul* | 26*St. Titus, Pastor & Confessor* | 27Pastor’s Day Off  |
| 28  | 294:00 6th Grade Conf. Class | 30 | 3110:30 Bible Study | 339 Snowflake Clipart Svg SVG PNG EPS DXF File - Free Download SVG Cut ... |  | Elders: Dan Blacker 989-428-4598Don Clark 989-551-2255Harold Collings 989-550-7618Gary Eggert 989-553-7259Rick Finkel 989-550-8141Les Weiss 989-551-4148Greg Woodke 989-550-5931 |