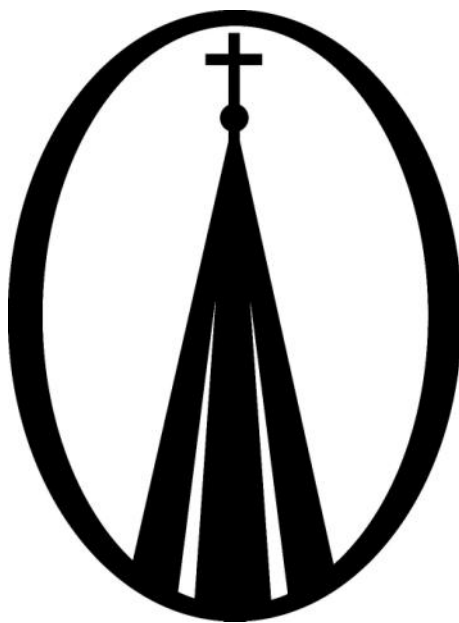


St. John Journal

**News & info for the family of St. John
Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill**



A loving and welcoming family of faith,
excited about what God has done (and continues to do!) for us

**Volume 14, Number 1
January 2021**

St John Lutheran Church is a congregation of
the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Grace to you and peace! As your incoming Interim Pastor, this is the first ministry in my 39 year career where my last name has been familiar at the outset. My father (Bruno) came out of the Zionsville community; 4 generations of my Gaskamp family are buried in that cemetery. Meanwhile my wife Carol, a native of Houston, has generational roots in the William Penn community. We have retired to Washington County, reclaiming the old William Penn farm house where her Feusse grandfather was born.

Following in my father's footsteps as a Lutheran Pastor, I was ordained in 1981. My internship was in a small Wisconsin dairy farming community, and then first 2 calls as a Pastor were in rural western Kansas (wheat farming and ranching), followed by planting a new ministry in the suburbs of Wichita (Ks). When our 2 sons left the nest in 2001, I followed Carol back to Texas to continue her vocation of teaching in a university. In spring of 2002, I was called to plant another new ministry in an Austin exurb, only to discover that the previous playbook for starting a new ministry in 1990 was hardly useful amidst the huge upheaval that came after 9/11.

Since 2015, I have served multiple "interim" appointments within central Texas ELCA congregations, each experiencing unique transitions. My most recent appointment was with the Synod staff of the Southwestern Texas Synod, from which I retired the end of September.

Our two sons live out of state, one in Boston MA area and the other in Olathe KS; through them, we have 6 grandchildren.

Over the last 5+ years, I have discovered "congregational transitions" to be anything but serving as a placeholder. There is inevitably grief, uncertainty, anxiety about when a new Pastor will be called, and a desire to rush through this wilderness time.

A huge part of my role will be to listen, ask pertinent questions, accompany you in a time of both grief and uncertainty, and in all of it, wonder with you *"Where is God in all of this (WIGIAT)?"*

Know up front that I do not see my role as to do all the praying for you. Or, discernment for you of which path to travel forward. I will not be the one to restore St John to a favorite era of the past, and good old days.

Rather, I trust that God is bringing us together in this journey to explore, WIGIAT? To experiment and engage in spiritual practices like a renewed prayer life (which is both speaking AND listening), spending time in scriptures (like stories of journey and challenge), spending time in deep listening for the Spirit's stirring, pointing the way ahead into something new.

Blessings as you now move through the final days of Advent, and celebration of Christmas story, one in which God shows up in unexpected places and ways.

See you in January 2021!

Pastor Greg Gaskamp





READINGS FOR JANUARY



JANUARY		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
3	Christmas 2	JEREMIAH 31:7-14	PSALM 147:12-20	EPHESIANS 1:3-14	JOHN 1:1-18
10	Baptism of Our Lord	GENESIS 1:1-5	PSALM 29	ACTS 19:1-7	MARK 1:4-11
17	Epiphany 2	SAMUEL 3:1-20	PSALM 139: 1-6, 13-18	1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20	JOHN 1:43-51
24	Epiphany 3	JONAH 3:1-5, 10	PSALM 62:5-12	1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31	MARK 1:14-20
31	Epiphany 4	DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20	PSALM 111	1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13	MARK 1:21-28

January	Layreader	Flowers Given By
3	Taylor Klatte	--OPEN--
10	Sandy Ordner	--OPEN--
17	Kaden Seeker	<i>Brandy Moehlmann</i>
24	Bethany Janner	<i>Trey & Cathy Boeker</i>
31	Riley Moehlmann	--OPEN--

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Johanna Becker prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com 979-836-8666 (church office)

Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8-4pm

Website: www.stjohnnpairiehill.org

Baptismal Anniversaries



1/01/1946	Allen Parker	1/18/1987	Rachel Church
1/01/1953	David Stegent	1/20/2002	Lea Alcala
1/01/1959	Mark Williams	1/21/1996	Hunter Seeker
1/01/1970	Robert Fairlie	1/24/1965	Mark Marburger
1/01/1979	Alexandra Amann	1/24/2010	Logan Boeker
1/02/1949	Judy Wagner	1/26/1936	Dolores Seeker
1/04/2004	Kayla Rosenbaum	1/26/1969	Sandra Tillman
1/05/1969	Lisa Chavelas	1/27/1946	Carol Westerfeld
1/08/1936	Myrtle Randermann	1/29/1970	Jerome Cavner
1/08/1950	John Haarmeyer	1/29/2012	Colt Kmiec
1/08/1956	Anne Merkel	1/30/1949	Charles Gaskamp
1/08/1995	Colby Seeker	1/30/1983	Wayne Ehlert
1/09/2000	Kory Moehlmann	1/31/1960	Gayle Bednar
1/12/1986	Justin Reuter	1/31/1988	Lauren Davis
1/13/1980	Trenton Kuecker	1/31/1992	Garrett Schramme
1/15/2012	Wyatt Davis		
1/15/2017	Oliver Schramme		

Wedding Anniversaries



1/01/2005	Ryan & Linda Tosta	1/15/1983	Brian & Pam Knebel
1/13/2001	Lance & Shannon Altman	1/17/1998	Mark & Karen Eckert

You are in our thoughts and prayers as you celebrate your special day. May God richly bless you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and was able to enjoy quality time with family and friends celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Wow...what a whirlwind 2020 was. I for one am glad that one is in the rear view! The children of St. John did an awesome job of rolling with the punches to continue our beloved Christmas program under the covid guidelines. While we had to video it this year instead of our traditional Christmas Eve in person, the joy of seeing our youth tell the story still had that touch of magic only children can bring. The program would not have been such a great success without the help of some amazing people. First and foremost I want to thank Heather Myers. God Bless her...she got a doozy of a year to manage the program through a pandemic, and there's no one who could have done it with more grace and patience than she did. Thank you, friend! She did a great job of finding a program that would be fun for the kids, and it was precious watching them become 'actors' for their parts to share the reason for the season. A special thank you to our pianist, Linda Schulze for her time and providing music for the Christmas program. I also want to thank the parents and children. We were unsure of things this year, but you all showed up for zoom call practices, practiced on your own, learned songs and handbells, and made it a great success! Last but certainly not least a big thank you to all of the congregation for the Christmas bag donations and those who helped prepare those bags. The children look forward to receiving these bags every year, so that was something we wanted to ensure didn't change. As they say in Hollywood, "The show must go on!" I'm so thankful amidst everything we were able to find a way for the kids to do just that.

I want to take another moment and thank Heather Myers for a wonderful job as Sunday School Superintendent for the 2020 year. As mentioned above...it was a difficult one and she smiled through it all. We appreciate your time and dedication to the youth of St. John's. I would also like to welcome our new Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, Megan Schramme. Megan is excited to serve our congregation and has so much to share with us at St. John's. I am looking forward to a wonderful 2021 Sunday School year which will kick off January 10th.

Brooke Huckert
Sunday School Superintendent





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
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Special Envelope:
Lutheran Disaster Response

3 Christmas 2 <i>No Sunday School</i> 8:00 AM Parking Lot Worship	4 6:00PM Executive Committee Meeting	5 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	6
10 Baptism of Our Lord 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:15AM Sunday School	11 6:00PM Council Meeting	12 Food Pantry Confirmation	13
17 Epiphany 2 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:15AM Sunday School	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 Confirmation	20
24 Epiphany 3 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:15AM Sunday School	25	26 Food Pantry Confirmation	27
31 Epiphany 4 Congregational Meeting 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:15AM Sunday School			

y 2021



THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
		1	Office Closed 	2	
7	Office Closed	8	Office Closed	9	
14	Office Closed	15	Office Closed	16	
21	Office Closed	22	Office Closed	23	
28	Office Closed	29	Office Closed	30	

COMMUNION BREAD

Debra Westerfeld

SCREEN

Brandy Moehlmann

ALTAR PREPARATION

Connie Rohde

Janet Wehring

FAMILY AID

Carolyn Kessel

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Deanna Giese

Susi Bentke

SANCTUARY PREP

Brandy Moehlmann

Sherry Randermann

CHURCH TELLERS

Gayle Bednar

Christin Seeker

USHERS

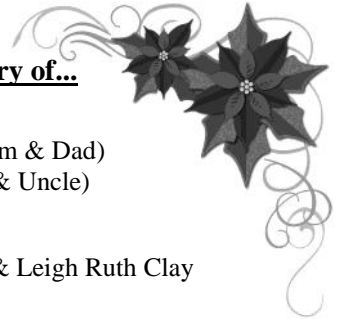
Fed & Debra

Westerfeld

Larry Pieper



POINSETTIAS 2020



<u>Given by...</u>	<u>In Loving Memory of...</u>
Donna Bentke	Herman Bentke, Jr.
Kimberly A. Kraft & Mina A. Kraft (3)	Geneva & Sonny Ehlert (Mom & Dad) Pat & Dee Schroeder (Aunt & Uncle) Esther Ehlert (Grandma)
Jones & Patti Clay (3)	Burney & Sis Riechers; TC & Leigh Ruth Clay
Butch Seeker (2)	LaNell Seeker
Dolores Seeker	Eugene Seeker
Janet Wehring (2)	Harry Wehring; Robert, Lena & Jerry Finke
Woodie & Betty Wolfenberger	Loved Ones

<u>Given by...</u>	<u>In Honor of...</u>
Jones & Patti Clay	Grandchildren-Payton, Lyla, Rex, Arabella, Ayden, Cayd, Canaan and Cambry
Randy & Sandy Janner	Children & Grandchildren
Danney & Connie Rohde	Grandchildren
Butch Seeker	Our Church Family at St. John's

DONATIONS TO PRAIRIE HILL FOOD PANTRY

<u>Given by...</u>	<u>In Loving Memory of...</u>
Elsie Herrmann	Loved Ones
Ben & Carolyn Kessel	Loved Ones
Elaine Lindgren	Michael Lindgren
Sandy Ordner	Loved Ones
Emery & Helen Schulze	Allen Schulze
Rosa Sloan	Carl Sloan; Mr. & Mrs. Henry Witt Jr.
Al & Audrey Steinbach	Loved Ones
Evelyn Thielemann	Walter Thielemann
Dorothy Wiesepape	Loved Ones
<u>Given By...</u>	<u>In Honor of...</u>
Rosa Sloan	All of my Family
Jones & Patti Clay	Grandchildren - Payton, Lyla, Rex, Arabella, Ayden, Cayd, Canaan and Cambry

**Thanks
for Your
Help!**

Thank you to Glenda Stegent for taking the orders,
delivering the poinsettias and keeping them watered
for all of us who purchased and gave donations.
We appreciate you and couldn't have done it without you!

Annual Reports due on Tuesday, January 5th

Prairie Hill Food Pantry Upcoming Dates:

January 12 & 26

6:30AM-8AM



Submissions received after this date will be
included if time and space allow. Thank you!

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 31st
at 9:15AM



**2021 Offering Envelopes are available in the annex. If
you need the church entry code please call the office.**

If you have not been assigned offering envelopes and
would like some please notify the church office.

Flower Chart

The 2021 Flower Chart has been posted in the Annex.
Please sign up for your altar flowers for next year!



Council Highlights

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on December 14, 2020, at 6:00 pm. Council President, Charles Gaskamp, called the meeting to order. Charles Gaskamp opened the meeting with prayer. All members were present except Brandy Moehlmann.

MSC to approve the November minutes.

Old Business

- Reviewed bid for carpet stretching in Sanctuary.

New Business

- **MSC** to approve 6 month contract for Interim Pastor Greg Gaskamp
- Discussed ordering additional offering envelopes for new members
- **MSC** to approve acceptance of monetary gift from Gus Neumann Estate
- Date for Council installation set for January 10, 2021
- **MSC** to approve bonus for church secretary

Committee Reports:

Community Concerns Report:

Food Pantry served 108 families and 261 people in November. There was no Senior Day. Graveside service was held for Gus Neumann at Prairie Lea Cemetery.

Parish Education Report:

Sunday School Christmas Program will be prerecorded and posted on the website and Facebook. Confirmation is set to resume on January 12, 2021.

Evangelism Report:

Good Neighbor Sunday served 196 members.

MSC to accept all reports as given.

MSC to adjourn.

President	Charles Gaskamp	Evangelism.....	Rachel Church
Vice-President	Jon Westerfeld	Financial Secretary.....	Cathy Boeker
Treasurer.....	Betty Feldmann	Parish Ed	Kelly Antkowiak
Secretary	Christin Seeker	Property.....	Grayson Marburger
Community Concerns	Cathie Klatte	Worship & Music.....	Brandy Moehlmann

**Thank you to all the 2020 Council Members for
donating their time and serving St. John!**

Dear members of St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill,

At this time, without a pastor, we would like to open a conversation about our future.

1) Do you feel the ELCA is the best fit for St. John?

2) Do you want to know more of what the ELCA represents?

3) Are you willing to take time to explore other options prior to looking for a new pastor?

4) What are you looking for in a pastor to meet your needs?

5) What time do you prefer to worship?

St. John Lutheran Church Council



**St John Lutheran Church
of Prairie Hill**

6605 Old Independence Rd.
Brenham, TX 77833



www.stjohnprairiehill.org

979-836-8666

**Semi-Annual
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 31st
at 9:15AM**

Interim Pastor
Church Secretary
Sexton
Accompanists

The Rev. Greg Gaskamp
Johanna Becker
Sherry Randermann
Mary Longhofer,
Linda Pieper, Linda Schulze

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