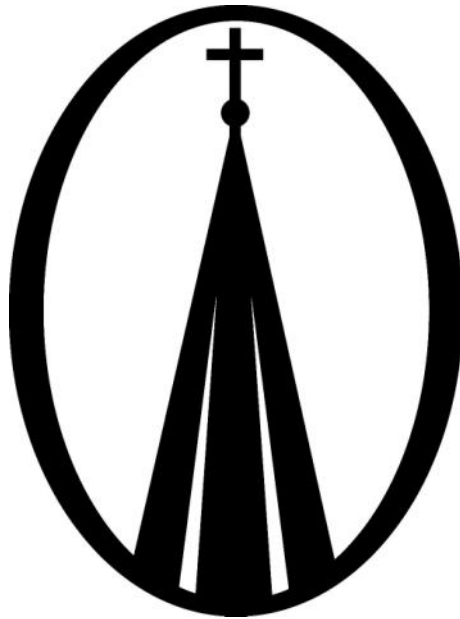


St. John Journal

**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 2
February 2021 ♥**

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

Greetings, from your current Interim Pastor,

It has been good to lead Sunday worship with you, since January 1. How you all have adapted Sunday worship to respect the physical well being of each other, has impressed me. I've told the story of your Parking Lot worship to other colleagues in different settings; your creative gift might benefit other congregations!

Yet like you, I miss getting better acquainted via conversations before and following worship. Unfortunately, vaccinations are not rolling out as quickly as hoped, so social distancing and face masks will continue to be an important for safeguarding the health and well being of each other.

In learning some of your recent history, having an Interim Pastor is nothing new for you. As each Interim is unique, I want to clarify expectations for this one of 2021. After Bishop Rinehart asked me to consider providing pastoral leadership with St John-Prairie Hill, I subsequently had a mid-December conversation with your 2020 Congregational President and incoming President for 2021.

The primary requests of me were: a) Provide Sunday worship leadership; and b) assume responsibility for the midweek Confirmation class. Upon asking about some other common ministry areas, I was impressed to hear that the following are being capably carried out by congregational lay leaders or staff, including:

- pastoral visits with the elderly/shut in's/homebound
- Feeding ministry; and
- Church Office hours and administration.

As to Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals, I agreed to be available. If you have requests of the latter three, please share such inquiries with your Congregational President or another member of the Congregational Council so they can pass it along to me. The Office Administrator is quite capable to assist you with administrative type of matters.

One question raised recently, may also be of interest: how long will Pastor Gaskamp be Interim Pastor with St. John-Prairie Hill? Our written agreement is for 6 months, with the additional provision that either party can end this Interim relationship with two weeks notice. Such an agreement provides both some continuity, and flexibility if needed.

In my initial conversation with the Bishop's Office, it was clear that Bishop Rinehart and staff values this congregation and special ministry. Please keep them in your prayers, as they are likewise upholding you in prayer.

Together, I trust the Spirit will lead St John through the challenges of a pandemic, pastoral resignation, and interim time. Let us all collectively join in prayers for healing, patience, wisdom, and a deepening trust in the Holy Spirit preparing the way for St John's next chapter! Pastor Greg Gaskamp

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
7	Epiphany 5	ISAIAH 40:21-31	PSALM 147:1-11, 20	1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23	MARK 1:29-39
14	Transfiguration of Our Lord	2 KINGS 2:1-12	PSALM 50:1-6	2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6	MARK 9:2-9
17	Ash Wednesday	JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17	PSALM 51:1-17	2 CORINTHIANS 5:20--6:10	MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21
21	Lent 1	GENESIS 9:8-17	PSALM 25:1-10	1 PETER 3:18-22	MARK 1:9-15
28	Lent 2	GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16	PSALM 22:23-31	ROMANS 4:13-25	MARK 8:31-38



LAYREADERS

February	8:00AM Parking Lot	10:00AM Indoor Sanctuary
7	Clay Boeker	Kaden Seeker
14	Sandra Tillman	Karen Rosenbaum
21	Charles Gaskamp	Jennifer Anderson
28	Connie Rohde	Kallie Finke

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Johanna Becker prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com 979-836-8666 (church office)
 Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8-4pm Website: www.stjohnprairiehill.org

Baptismal Anniversaries



2/01/1976	Karen Spinn	2/16/1964	Damon Wegner
2/02/1975	Amber Westerfeld	2/17/2013	Brandon Estes
2/05/1961	Gerald Wehring	2/18/1940	Donna Bentke
2/05/1984	Leigh Cavner	2/18/1996	Kallie Finke
2/06/1944	Deanna Giese	2/19/1989	Valerie Garner
2/07/1937	Marjorie Hohlt	2/19/2006	Colin Hagerman
2/07/2016	Canaan Wilkerson	2/20/1983	Jennifer Schroeder
2/08/1942	Dorothy Haevischer	2/22/2003	Riley Moehlmann
2/09/1975	Trey Boeker	2/24/1935	Arlie Parker
2/09/2014	Kayden Patterson	2/26/1933	Earline Moody
2/10/1944	Al Steinbach	2/26/1995	Falyn Knebel
2/10/2002	Wesley Neuendorff	2/28/1971	Joel Wellmann
2/11/1968	Steve Skrla		
2/14/1993	Jordan Kaminski		
2/15/1986	Jessica Wehring		
2/15/2004	George Boswell		

Wedding Anniversaries



2/04/1961	Marvin & Dorothy Haevischer	2/20/1955	Wilber & Marjorie Hohlt
2/04/2017	Brandon & Kaley Bednar	2/20/1982	David & Betty Feldmann
2/05/1967	Ben & Carolyn Kessel	2/24/1973	Fred & Debra Westerfeld
2/05/2005	Kim & Bruce Weilbacher	2/26/1976	Donald & Carolyn Lange
2/12/2000	Trey & Cathy Boeker	2/26/1983	Don & Regina Holtkamp
2/12/1994	Gail & Shannon Mitschke		

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Greetings from Sunday School! We had our first zoom class of the year and learned all about what it means to be a disciple to Jesus. We quizzed ourselves on the names of the 12 disciples, and we played a game of follow the leader BLIND.

I got some wonderful news from our Parish Ed director, Jennifer Schroeder, that we will be able to resume in person Sunday school on February 7th. We are thrilled at this news and can't wait for that day to arrive.

Megan Schramme has taken over as assistant superintendent and I am so grateful. Her sweet smile and passion for teaching kids about Jesus is heartwarming, and we are blessed to have her on board. She also knows a thing or two about Music!

We welcome all children to join us each Sunday at 9:15 (currently thru zoom) as we learn more about God's love. If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents please feel free to contact me at 512.203.9591; there are many ways you can help and we always need teachers.

Brooke Huckert
Sunday School Superintendent



The Worship & Music Committee met and decided on music for the month of January. We will meet again on January 31st to chose songs for February and the start of Lent.

The Video Tech Committee needs 2 more people to help set-up the service to place on the Screen in the Sanctuary.

The Usher Committee needs persons or family to serve in October 2021 at the early service.

Please call me at (979) 251-2904 if you are interested in either opportunity.

Thanks,
Mary Longhofer





Februa

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1 6:00PM Executive Committee Meeting	2 Confirmation	3
7 Epiphany 5 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:05AM Indoor Worship	8 6:00PM Council Meeting	9 Food Pantry Confirmation	10
14 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:05AM Indoor Worship	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16	17 Ash Wednesday 7:00AM Parking Lot Service 7:00PM Indoor Service
21 Lent 1 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:05AM Indoor Worship	22	23 Food Pantry	24 Lent Wednesday 6:00PM Indoor & Parking Lot Service <i>No Soup Supper</i>
28 Lent 2 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:05AM Indoor Worship			



Flower Chart: The 2021 Flower Chart has been posted in the Annex. Please sign-up if you would like to put flowers in church! **All February dates are available!**

ry 2021



THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
4	Office Closed	5	Office Closed	6	
11	Office Closed	12	Office Closed	13	
18	Office Closed	19	Office Closed	20	
25	Office Closed	26	Office Closed	27	

COMMUNION BREAD

Becky Schulze

ALTAR PREPARATION

Connie Rohde

Janet Wehring

FAMILY AID

Carolyn Kessel

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Deanna Giese

Susi Bentke

SANCTUARY PREP

Dale Reisner

Mary Roese

CHURCH TELLERS

Donna Skrla

Gary Schulze

USHERS

Johnny Randermann

Family,

Huckert Family



Special Envelope: Lutheran Campus Ministry



Prairie Hill Food Pantry Upcoming Dates: February 9 & 23 6:30AM-8AM

Food Pantry Report to the Congregation

The Food Pantry passed its annual inspection without any violations or complications. In the report given to us by the Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB) we were able to feed 50 families twice a month. While staying within our budget, we provided what would have cost \$70,500 if we had not been able to purchase through the Food Bank itself. That amount purchased 47,327 pounds of food. This is why monetary donations are best since the money goes much further than just purchasing through grocery stores or wholesalers. Pantry items from your homes are always welcome though. The Food Pantry received approximately \$3,500 from donations this year. Most of this is still available for the rising cost of food in 2021. Some of the money will be reserved for any Activity Center repairs or upgrades. Our committee encourages any of you who wish to join us, to come and see how the pantry works. You will see the definite need for food and all the good it is providing.

*37*Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? *38*And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? *39*And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' *40*And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:37-40

Thank you for your responses to the questionnaire in the January newsletter. Additional information will be forthcoming.



At January's council meeting, the council revisited the guidelines for in-person worship during the ongoing corona virus pandemic. After much discussion, the council voted to repeal the previous guidelines and adopt the following:

Effective February 1, 2021, the church building will reopen its doors to in-person meetings and worship. This includes Sunday School, quilters, Ladies Aid, Bible studies, and Lutheran Men in Mission. If your group does decide to resume meeting in person, we ask that you follow safety guidelines and that you sanitize your space with provided supplies upon leaving. The council has set the following guidelines, (*which may be modified dependent upon government authority orders or church council directives*) for in-person attendance:

- Masks are required while inside the building.
- Appropriate social distancing guidelines are to be followed.

Parking lot worship will continue at 8:00am, with the service broadcast on 87.9 FM. The 8:00am service will also be recorded and uploaded to the church website and Facebook page. In-person worship will resume February 7th at 10:05am and will look similar to the services held in October.

A face mask is required, and we will have some available if you forget yours. A council member will hand you a bulletin as you enter, and there will be a collection plate for your offering. We will safely space out the seating. You may continue to bring your own communion elements, or you may use the individually prepackaged wafer and wine kits that are available. Linda Pieper and Linda Schulze will continue to provide music during worship, and we will add the singing of the Hymn of the Day. Traditional sharing of the peace may be done with members of your own family that are seated with you, but a smile and a wave to others will have to do for now. There will be no reception line following the service.

These are some of the changes that we will be implementing to insure that everyone remains safe and may be added to or adjusted if deemed appropriate or necessary.

Council Highlights

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on January 11, 2021, at 6:00 pm. Council President, Jon Westerfeld, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. All members were present except Betty Feldmann.

The December minutes were approved as distributed.

Old Business

- Steve Skrla will obtain a second bid for stretching sanctuary carpet.

New Business

- **Motion** to approve Donna Bentke as Memorial Committee Chairman. **MSC.**
- **Motion** to accept transfer of Sandy Janner's membership from Grace Lutheran Church. **MSC**
- **Motion** to rescind the COVID guidelines as set by the council in September 2020, effective February 1, 2021. **MSC**
- **Motion** to establish the below listed guidelines and service schedule, effective February 1, 2021. **MSC.**
 - ◆ Sunday Worship Services:
 - ◇ 8:00am: Parking lot worship service
 - ◇ 9:00am: In-person Sunday School
 - ◇ 10:05am: Indoor worship service with the following protocols:
 - Mask upon entering and leaving the church.
 - Pre-packaged communion will be provided.
 - Seating to accommodate social distancing rules.
 - Hymn of the Day will be sung.
 - ◆ Additional Meetings of Church Committees, etc. may resume following social distancing rules.
- **Motion** to allow rehearsal dinner for Reagan Randermann wedding on Thursday, March 18. **MSC.**
- **Motion** to allow Mary Roese to use the church for a bridal shower on February 21 or 22 (date to be determined). **MSC.**
- Agenda for January 31 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting was approved.
- **Motion** to hold Ash Wednesday services on February 17 at 7:00am (parking lot worship) and at 7:00pm (indoor worship). **MSC.**
- **Motion** to hold weekly Wednesday Lenten Services at 6:00pm with indoor worship. Service will be transmitted on FM 87.9 for those wishing to remain in their cars. **MSC.**

Committee Reports:

Treasurer Report

Betty Feldmann

Report as submitted.

Financial Secretary Report

Cathy Boeker

Report as submitted, with a minor modification.

Community Concerns Report

Cathie Klatte

Food Pantry served 55 families and 141 people in December at only one distribution. Graveside service was held for Esther Mae Klatte.

Worship and Music Report

Mary Longhofer

Worship Committee will meet to plan for February.

Parish Education Report

Jennifer Schroeder

Sunday School via zoom will resume January 17.

Youth Report

Kenneth Seeker

No report.

Evangelism Report

Rachel Church

No report.

Property Report

Steve Skrla

No report.

Motion to accept all reports as given. **MSC.**

Motion to adjourn. **MSC.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Fairlie, Council Secretary

President	Jon Westerfeld	Evangelism.....	Rachel Church
Vice-President	Kenneth Seeker	Financial Secretary.....	Cathy Boeker
Treasurer.....	Betty Feldmann	Parish Ed	Jennifer Schroeder
Secretary	Janice Fairlie	Property.....	Steve Skrla
Community Concerns	Cathie Klatte	Worship & Music.....	Mary Longhofer

**St John Lutheran Church
of Prairie Hill**

6605 Old Independence Rd.
Brenham, TX 77833



www.stjohnprairiehill.org

979-836-8666

The deadline for the
March newsletter is:
**Monday
February 15th**

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

Thank you!

Interim Pastor
Church Secretary
Sexton
Accompanists

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

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FEBRUARY

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**