



# The Informer

January 2022

St. John's Lutheran Church of East Moline, IL

Volume 64 Issue 5

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## From Pastor's Pen:

This month we celebrate Epiphany, along with its accompanying season. Christmas and its Sunday's emphasizes the fulfillment of God's promise to the Hebrew people and focuses upon the incarnation and humanity of Christ. Epiphany emphasizes the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation for all people and the manifestation of God's glory through His Son.

Epiphany is a word that was borrowed by kings when they would visit cities that had received their favor. The king was greeted with great pomp and revelry. Days were spent in feasting and celebration, all at the king's expense. He was known to grant generous gifts and give tokens of his favor during the days of his appearance. All this was his "epiphany" and the revelation of his glory and goodness. The epiphany of Jesus is the Lord's greater, gracious appearance to His people with signs and wonders and favors given at His own expense.

It begins with the splendor of the festival on January 6<sup>th</sup> [observed by us on January 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>], when Magi from the East follow the sign of Jesus' birth as King. It marks the fulfillment of the prophecy that the world would bring their gifts to Him and bow down to worship Him. In this Jesus is revealed to the whole world as its Savior. The season continues with the celebration of Jesus' baptism, at which He is declared to be God's Son in whom He is well pleased. The Sundays continue with various manifestations of Christ's glory through various signs and wonders. The season finds its conclusion on the Mount of Transfiguration where the glory of the Lord is revealed in an undeniable way. His nature shines forth with the brightness of the sun and the Father again declares Him to be His beloved Son and commands the disciples to listen to Him. This is the last great event of Epiphany before our Lord turns His face toward Jerusalem where He will offer Himself for the sins of the world. From this mountaintop we will then enter the season of Lent as we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem.

I pray that you will not leave Jesus in the crib after our Christmas celebration, but that you will come to see the manifestation of His glory during the season of Epiphany. I am sure that you will not be disappointed as the King of Kings comes to meet you in worship to grant you generous gifts and give you the tokens of His favor. Come, celebrate the Epiphany of Jesus!

*Pastor Umbarger*



## Vicar's View

### Immersive Prayer

Do you find, as I do sometimes, that your thoughts wander during prayer? So many times when I pray I find that I am distracted, and perhaps you do as well. I find that the best practice of prayer is by engaging as many of my five senses as possible.

1. Eliminate distractions- I find it best to be in a quiet(er) space. Perhaps this is your office, perhaps it's your kitchen, perhaps it's on the porch (when it's warm) or in the living room before everyone gets up. I once read a pastor say that they pray morning prayer while scrolling on Facebook in the morning while lying in bed- do not do this! Prayer while willfully distracted is just empty words.
2. Engage your senses. You have 5 senses (sight, smell, touch, hearing, and taste) Engaging as many of these as possible helps you be immersed in an activity.

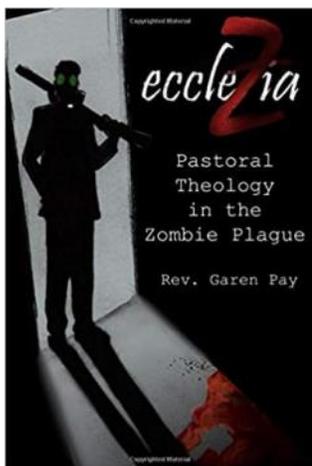
Here are some suggestions:

- a. Sight: Try looking at a crucifix or cross while praying, or visualizing a scene from the Gospels. If you are reading a prayer, well you have this already covered. There is nothing at all wrong with pre-written prayers!
- b. Smell: if you are not allergic, try burning a little incense if you have it. Maybe you have an essential oil diffuser and could diffuse something like frankincense. If you are allergic to incense or just do not have any, try lighting a lightly scented candle. Try to keep this candle in reserve for when you pray, so you associate the smell with prayer.
- c. Touch: try holding a crucifix or a "palm cross." You might also try prayer beads (like a rosary) or a prayer rope. This is to keep your hands occupied if you are prone to fidgeting (as I sometimes am).
- d. Hearing: if you like, you might try putting on sacred music while you pray. I personally find it best to keep it to instrumental (no words) or in a language, I cannot understand (like Latin) otherwise I get distracted by the words.
- e. Taste: I do not know how to engage this sense while praying. If you have ideas, I am all ears.

Being that it is the start of a new year, start a new resolution to pray every day!

In Christ,

*Vicar Lackey*



### Former Vicar, Rev. Garen Pay has written a book! **eccleZia: Pastoral Theology in the Zombie Plague**

Being a small town pastor is harder than it seems, especially when an infectious disease afflicts most of the town with a mindless rage and thirst for flesh. In the middle of a zombie plague, Pastor Darren finds his world undone, his relationships strained, and his faith challenged. Is four years of seminary and a shotgun enough to keep his family, church, and town alive?

It is available on Amazon for only \$8.00, and it is a fun read- Check it out!

### Serving the Lord this Month

#### Ushers

Sat, Jan 1: NO SERVICE

Sun, Jan 2:

Sat, Jan 8: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka

Sun, Jan 9:

Sat, Jan 15: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka

Sun, Jan 16:

Sat, Jan 22: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka

Sun, Jan 23:

Sat, Jan 29: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka

Sun, Jan 30:

#### Greeters

Sat, Jan 1: NO SERVICE

Sun, Jan 2: Margie Schaefer & Carole Krouth

Sat, Jan 8:

Sun, Jan 9: The Mattly Family

Sat, Jan 15:

Sun, Jan 16: Carrie & Aaron Homann

Sat, Jan 22:

Sun, Jan 23: Carole Krouth & Hank VanDamme

Sat, Jan 29:

Sun, Jan 30: Karen Schmidt & Hank VanDamme

#### Acolytes

(Sundays only)

Sun, Jan 2: Lydia Merritt

Sun, Jan 9: Easton Antolik

Sun, Jan 16: Bennett Johnson

Sun, Jan 23: Kinzlee Antolik

Sun, Jan 30: Grace Schmidt



#### Communion Assistants

Sun, Jan 2: Jonathan Schmidt

Sun, Jan 16: Brian Kern

Sun, Jan 30: Dennis Boarts



#### Altar Guild

Kathy Ahrens  
Rebecca Hinman



#### Flower Chart

- Jan 2: Flo Moore, in memory of Jacob
- Jan 9: In honor of Larry & Jane's 60th Anniversary
- Jan 16: Rod Hopkins, in honor a new baby girl Hopkins
- Jan 23: OPEN
- Jan 30: Karen Schmidt

#### Eternal Candle



- Jan 2: OPEN
- Jan 9: In honor of Stratton Churchill's birthday
- Jan 16: OPEN
- Jan 23: OPEN
- Jan 30: OPEN

## Church News

### Birthdays

<b>Jan. 2</b> – Heather Nelson	<b>Jan. 16</b> - Brent Antolik	<b>Jan. 27</b> – Rob Rippon & Pam Sims
<b>Jan. 3</b> - Judy Dugan	<b>Jan. 18</b> - David Cashion & Angie VanRycke	<b>Jan. 29</b> – Clara Aiello, Christopher Belzer, & Amy Dennis
<b>Jan. 4</b> - Donna Green & Leona Flaugh	<b>Jan. 20</b> - Lori Borkgren & Melissa Nickens	<b>Jan. 31</b> - Betty Withrow
<b>Jan. 6</b> - James Hinman & John Iwen	<b>Jan. 21</b> - Marissa Keogh, Matthew Ryan, & Gordon Wulf	
<b>Jan. 7</b> – Stratton Churchill	<b>Jan. 22</b> - Rebecca Hinman	
<b>Jan. 8</b> – Evan Kahle	<b>Jan. 23</b> - Lee Weathers	
<b>Jan. 10</b> – Renee Kahle	<b>Jan. 24</b> - Tyler Belan, Carl Blaser, Amber Mattly, William Schlotfeldt, & Alivia Voelkers	
<b>Jan. 11</b> - Ann Marie McCollum, Brantley McKay, Bonnie McManus, & Jerry Hill	<b>Jan. 25</b> - Joanie Bull, Jennifer Johnson, Erin Walker, & Melody Williams	
<b>Jan. 12</b> - Jason Cass, Shane Parvin, Aubree Medinger, & Chelsea Oakes	<b>Jan. 26</b> - Liz Cockerill, Adam Homann & Karen Newlon	
<b>Jan. 13</b> - Kaytlyn Hill & Donna Ratliff		
<b>Jan. 14</b> - Duane Little, Clark Stojan, Lynne Suess & Stephanie VanRycke		
<b>Jan. 15</b> - Ashley Chaffee & Chloe Hewitt		



### Membership Report

**Death:**

11/23/21 Larry Newlon

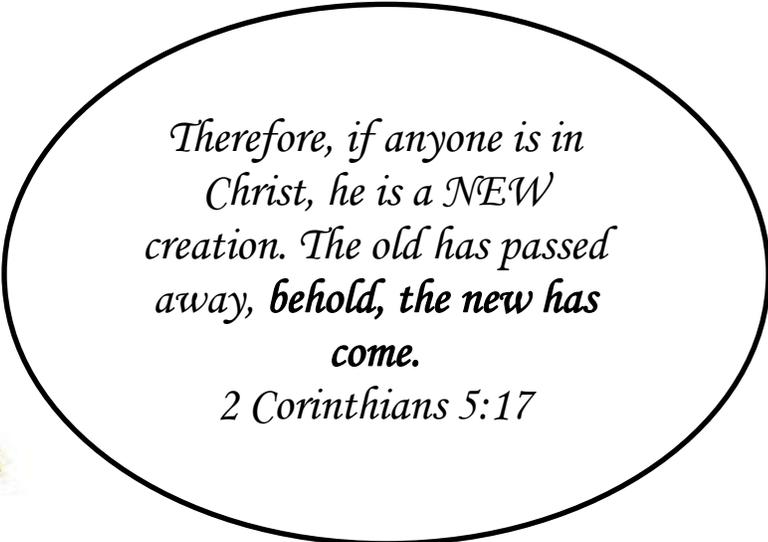
**New Addresses:**

Jan Hanson  
6126 Rockwell Dr. NE Apt. 205  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Craig Wenzel  
7901 4th St. N. Suite 6172  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

### Weekly Attendance & Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
11/21/21	170	85
11/24/21	44	44
11/28/21	146	110
12/05/21	159	119
12/12/21	146	95
12/19/21	172	97



## Church News

### LWML

St. John's LWML will be meeting Thursday January 27th at 1:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there. Watch the bulletins for more information.



### Altar Guild

There is an Altar Guild meeting scheduled for January 11th at 6pm. Please plan to attend!

### Offering Envelopes

The 2022 offering envelopes are available in the concourse. Please pick up your envelopes, but DO NOT use them until January 1, 2022. On January 1, discard any 2021 envelopes that you have left over and start to use the new 2022 envelopes.

Note that your envelope number may not be the same next year as it was this year. Therefore, it is important to use the proper envelopes in order to get credit for your offering. Those who did not pick up their envelopes for 2021 will not be assigned envelopes for 2022 unless you request them. A sheet will be on the table for you to request envelopes if you do not find yours in the boxes.



We encourage youth and teens to tithe also and will gladly give them envelopes upon request.

### Stewardship

**Genesis 46:1 – “So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.”**

Every sacrifice in the Old Testament pointed forward to the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus upon the cross. That is the one sacrifice for sin. But the New Testament tells us to offer sacrifices as well – sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving. We’re even called to present our very bodies and selves as “living sacrifices” to the Lord.

## Church News

# RE:VITALITY

## BECAUSE WE'RE THE CHURCH

Our church is exploring participation in an LCMS revitalization program called Re:Vitality. Our participation in Re:Vitality will provide opportunities to strengthen our congregation for years to come. In order to make the most of this program, we need your input to know where to start. We *want your opinion*.

We are asking everyone to go online and fill out a simple survey about our church. We want input from every one of you. It makes no difference if you have been a churchgoer all your life, or whether you just started coming this week; whether you are a member, guest, or regular attendee – We want to hear from each one of you.



To begin online, simply open your smartphone or tablet's camera and hold it over the QR Code. A new page will open with a welcome message and a login code. Click the blue arrow at the bottom of the page. Now it should say "St. John's Lutheran Church". Click the blue arrow again. The next series of screens will be the survey questions. All of the question are Strongly Agree– Strongly Disagree options. This survey should only take about 5-10 minutes. It is completely anonymous, so please be honest!

## Church News

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT PURCHASED A POINSETTIA THIS YEAR!  
THE SANCTUARY LOOKED BEAUTIFUL!**

Frank and Carole Hodshire– In memory of Loved Ones  
The Kjera's– In memory of Herb Petersen  
Barbara Honert– In memory of Loved Ones  
Mr. & Mrs. Norm Antolik– Many Blessings  
Rick & Janet Newlon– In memory of Larry Newlon  
JoAnn Sager– In memory of Gary Sager  
Charles & Beverly Brokaw– In memory of Michael  
Dennis & Lois Kelly  
Dennis & Marsha Boarts– In memory of Loved Ones  
Troy & Valerie McDonald– In memory of Loved Ones  
Judy Dugan– In memory of Loved Ones  
Lucille Perley– Thank you, Baby Jesus  
Nancy Davis  
The Belan Family– In memory of Ed Belan  
Susan Bowman  
Ruby Pancrazio– In Glory of God  
Ken & Janet Hill– In memory of Loved Ones gone too soon  
Don & Donna Hakeman– In memory of Loved Ones  
Bill & Donna Green– In memory of Charles Vallee, and in memory of our fathers  
Karen Schmidt– In memory of Marlin Schmidt and Jim Quinn  
James & Brenda Hanerhoff– In memory of Eugene McDaniels  
Jerry, Brandi, and Cori– In memory of Jerry Hill  
Arlene French– in memory of Andy Hemminghaus  
Theresa Roberson– In memory of Norman Duncan, Jr.  
Flo Moore– In memory of Loved Ones  
Wendy Rossmiller– In memory of Carol McDonald  
Bob & Patsy Mills– In memory of Bill & Betty White  
Joyce Hoffman



## 2022 Elected Officers

### **Executive Board:**

President– Kevin McAnally  
Vice President– Rod Hopkins  
Secretary– Val McDonald  
Treasurer– Norm Antolik  
Asst. Treasurer– David Sountris  
Financial Secretary– John Iwen  
Asst. Financial Secretary– Brenda Roggendorf  
Counters– Jean Morrival & Margie Schaefer

### **Board of Elders:**

Ed Wachs  
Ralph Grotelueschen  
Dennis Boarts  
Glen McMillin  
Jonathan Schmidt  
Brian Kern  
Jim Homann

### **Board of Human Care:**

Carrie Homann  
Janet Hill  
Janet Newlon  
Greg Burke  
Stacey Reed  
Shannon Brand  
Kay Iwen

### **Board of Outreach:**

Charlie Britton  
Larry Dodge  
Cora Whipple  
Steve Sullivan  
Rose Sullivan

### **Board of Trustees:**

Evan Antolik  
Hank VanDamme  
Brent Antolik  
Ken Hill  
Larry Hipple  
Flo Moore  
Chuck Brokaw  
Bill Girard

### **Board of Youth:**

Kris McAnally  
Rebecca Hinman  
Holly Belan  
Cris Braddy

**ALL BOARDS WILL MEET ON JANUARY 6TH AT 6:30PM.** This is your first meeting with the 2022 line-up, so please plan to attend!



# Church Calendar

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Vicar Vacation 5:00p NO SERVICE
2 Vicar Vacation 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	3 Vicar Vacation 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	4 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	5 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Confirmation Class	6 6:30p All Boards Meet	7	8 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship
9 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	10 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	11 10:00a Food Pantry 2:00p ASL 6:00p Altar Guild Meeting 6:30p Guitar Jam	12 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Confirmation Class	13	14	15 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship/ Communion
16 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	17 Informer Deadline 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	18 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	19 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers	20 11:30a Ladies Luncheon	21	22 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship
23 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	24 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	25 10:00a Food Pantry 2:00p ASL 6:30p Guitar Jam	26 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Confirmation Class	27 1:00p L.W.M.L	28	29 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship w/ Communion
30 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	31 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion					

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Web: [www.stjohnsem.org](http://www.stjohnsem.org)



## Worship Times

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15am

*\* Please note, there is NO SERVICE on  
Saturday, Jan. 1. \**

Office Hours  
Monday- Thursday:  
8:30am-12 noon



*St. John's in Winter Snow*