

eNews January 2, 2022



THE MINISTRY OF

# St. John Lutheran

PROCLAIMING AND PRACTICING THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Seward, Nebraska

## Worship

[This Week's Worship](#)
[Livestreaming](#)

## Church-Wide News

### Christmas Plants, Flowers, Greenery & Trees



Thank you to all who have ordered poinsettias and wreaths, supplied greenery, arranged flowers and supplied trees to adorn the sanctuary for Christmas. Our thanks also to all who helped decorate the sanctuary and church. You may take your poinsettia home after the service on Sun., Jan. 2 (10am service only). [Click here](#) to see list of donations. **There are some additions to this document since last week.**



### Epiphany of Our Lord

*Observed Jan. 8/9 – Communion at all Services*

What a joy it is to celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ (January 6)! This festival day will be celebrated in all three services at St. John on the weekend of January 8/9. The removal of the greens from the sanctuary will take place immediately following the 11am service. If you and your family would like to help remove the greens, please dress accordingly and plan to be at church at 12pm. Please join us in these Epiphany celebrations as we give thanks to God for the Light of Christ shining into all the world.

### Trivia Night - Jan. 21

The 12th annual PTL Trivia Night is coming to the AG PAVILLION on Fri., Jan. 21! Start recruiting your team for Seward's most fun night of the year! Doors open at 5:45pm, and trivia starts at 7:15pm. Your team writes answers to questions in ten themed rounds, such as Sports, Movies,



History, Bible or Food. Between rounds, bid at the silent auction, visit the cash bar or play "Dead or Alive". Bring favorite snacks for your table. Dress up your team and table to win the spirit award. The team with the most correct trivia answers wins \$400; second place wins \$200. All proceeds will benefit the children of St. John. Cost is \$200 per table of 8 players. [Registration is open](#) and [Silent Auction Information](#) is available. If you have questions, please email [stjohntrivia@gmail.com](mailto:stjohntrivia@gmail.com) or call Michelle Meyer at 402-219-3008. Also, contact Michelle to be a corporate or memorial sponsor for a team or trivia round.

## Announcements

### Associate Pastor Call Committee Update

Two pastoral candidates will be coming in January for on-campus interviews with the call committee and church and school leadership. After those visits the committee will discuss what we learned and seek God's will for how to proceed. At each step of the process various candidate names have fallen out of consideration for a variety of reasons. As these are often private matters in the lives of candidates, we do not share them publicly. In some cases even the committee members do not know specific details. Regardless, we continue to diligently seek God's will for His family at St. John. Your prayers for the process, committee, and candidates are much appreciated! Respectfully submitted, Philip Hendrickson, Call Committee Chair

### Principal Call Committee Update

The following individuals have allowed their names to stand on our call list as of December 15, 2021: Preston Doerr (Omaha, NE), Jonathan Heinemann (Arlington Heights, IL), Greg Johnson (Portage, MI), Barb Mertens (Munster, IN) and Joshua Swartz (Frankenmuth, MI). If you have any insights from personal contact with these individuals, please share your input soon with any member of the call committee: Michelle Meyer (chair), Justin Hannemann, Allegra Koehler, Mark Minchow, Sandy Schmidt, Pam Simpson, Sam Sommerer, Aaron Stitt or Don Weber. Pastor Bruick and Lisa Aring are serving as advisory members of the call committee. Please continue to pray that God will guide the committee's work and bring His chosen servant to lead our school ministry.

### Second Grade Teacher Call Process Update

Thank you to all who nominated candidates for the second grade position that will be open beginning in the fall of 2022 following the retirement of Mrs. Connie Meyer. Nineteen individuals were nominated and contacted and of them, the following eleven were open to being considered for the call: *Jalynn Brase; Janessa Brase; Faith Doerr; Rebekah Henschen; Grace Huesmann; Katie Krause; Mary Krc; Amy Schmidt; Corinn Selander; Pam Simpson; and Christina Warner.*

The call committee is working to get to know the candidates through review of written materials and multiple rounds of interviews and looks forward to continuing to discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit through this call process. Committee members include the following congregation members: Linda Brettmann; Tashia Dieckhoff; Anita Foor (chair); Deborah Gebhardt; Cindy Lemke; Kelby Nitz; Sheila Psencik (advisory); Alli Troester; Max Wake.

### Sunday School & Bible Class Schedule.

**NO** Sunday School or Bible classes on Jan. 2

### **The church office is closed on Dec. 31.**

As a reminder, end-of-the-year offerings may be placed in the drop box



by the west entrance by  
the end of the day on Dec. 31.



### Support St. John Youth "in all things"

St. John will be represented by 43 youth in Houston, TX, for the National Youth Gathering! Please help yourself to a NYG ornament in the narthex. Prayers and financial support are appreciated.

### "Walk Thru the Bible" Is Coming!

Explore the Old Testament from 30,000 feet in 3 hours with friends and neighbors from the Seward community. The unique part about WTB is the use of kinesthetics (hand motions) to remember and internalize God's big picture and His work through history. In person or livestream. No previous Bible knowledge expected.

Sat. Feb. 5, 9-12pm

Harvest Hall, Seward Fairgrounds, 1625 Fairgrounds

Adult / Youth (ages 6th grade and up) \$20 per person

Children (1st-5th grades) \$10 per person

Register online [here](#)

For more information contact [DCE Tim](#).

Christmas 2021

Wish Book



A gift for the  
Ministry of St. John Lutheran  
Church, School, and Child Development Center

### Christmas 2021 Wish Book

[Cover Letter](#)

[Wishbook](#)

[Online Payment](#)

[Online Wishbook Form](#)

[Vanco Mobile App Instructions](#) - Organization name in Vanco: **St. John Lutheran Seward - School**

### Midweek/Confirmation; and DARE2B News

#### Midweek School and Confirmation News

Midweek School and Public School Confirmation resume this Wed., Jan. 5.

#### Dare2B

Dare2B meets this Wed., Jan. 5, at 6:30pm.

Dare2B Jr. High Serves at Matt Talbot Kitchen next Sunday, Jan. 9, 8:30am - 2pm. [Click here](#) for a signed permission form - it is required.

### "Mission of God" Adult Bible Class

Coming in January and February, Rev. John Mehl will lead a class on The Mission of God. This material has been developed by John and will be offered in the fellowship hall on Sundays, 10-10:45am.

### Disaster Relief Donations for Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri

As you know, devastating tornadoes struck numerous communities across Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois in the evening and early morning hours of December 10 and 11. The death toll is staggering and continues to rise, while the devastation to property along the 250-mile storm path is unimaginable. In the wake of such destruction, the need for aid is great. Already, countless calls asking "How can we help?" have flowed into the Mid-South District LCMS office.

To assist with the relief effort, the Mid-South District has established a Disaster Relief Fund. Donations directed to this fund will be used for relief efforts in the tornado-ravaged communities. If you would like to contribute to this fund, you may make a gift online or by check payable to the **Mid-South District Office / 1675 Wynne Road / Cordova TN 38016**. Please note "Disaster Relief Fund" on any gifts sent by check. **When donating online**, please designate your gift as "restricted" for the Disaster Relief Fund.

You can also donate through the Missouri District LCMS. Any funds that are received over and above the need for assisting these affected congregations in Missouri will be sent to the Mid-South District to aid in their relief efforts in Western Kentucky. Visit <https://mo.lcms.org/donate> and choose "disaster relief" when prompted.

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### **Child Development Center Opportunities**

Love children? We have worker openings for early morning shifts, 6:30-8am, and after school shifts, 3:30-6pm. We are also in need of help over the Christmas break (college students home for break?) - age 16 and older may apply. You can find the application under Careers at <https://stjohnseward.org/cdc/> Please call 402-643-3122, if you have questions!

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## **Voting Assembly**

### **Sunday, January 16, 10am, fellowship hall**

No Adult Bible Classes that day

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### **Volunteers Needed**

#### Communion Set-up & Clean-up and Linen Laundering.

Help is needed in all three of these areas. If you would like to assist with these "altar guild" duties, please contact the church office (402-643-2983).

#### Coordinator or Co-Coordinators for Godparent Program

St. John is currently seeking a coordinator (or possibly 2 co-coordinators) for the Godparent Program. This is the premier high school ministry and has been a blessing to youth for generations. Has the Lord blessed you to be a blessing to St. John teens in this way? Contact DCE [Tim Rippstein](#).

#### Godparent Leaders for Freshmen

St. John is currently seeking another Godparent Leader for new freshmen. We have one couple, Pat & Stacey Piskorski, but more freshmen are eager to continue to grow together in the Lord and with each other. If you know of some mature, faithful Christian mentors gifted to lead and love teens, encourage them to contact DCE [Tim Rippstein](#).

#### Drivers for Out-of-Town Appointments

St. John provides rides to medical appointments, church and special events. We currently need more volunteers who can drive to Lincoln. Call Sue Wickersham at 402-643-6287 if you would like to serve in this way.

#### Sunday School

Teachers are needed for the kindergarten class and the 1st/2nd grade class for January through May. If you'd like to serve in this way or have any questions, please contact Michelle Meyer (402-219-2008 or [mkerh.meyer@gmail.com](mailto:mkerh.meyer@gmail.com)) or Tim Rippstein ([tim.rippstein@stjohnseward.org](mailto:tim.rippstein@stjohnseward.org)).

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### **End of the Year Contribution Statements**

**will soon be** available for pick-up in the narthex (sorted alphabetically).

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### **LWML - All Women Invited to Attend**

St. John LWML will meet in the fellowship hall on Tues., Jan. 4, at 7pm for a Bible study led by Juanita Ebert and Betsy Werner. New circles will be announced and there will be time for gathering with circle members to plan and organize for 2022. All ladies are invited to join us.

## Lutherans For Life News

### *Life Week 2022: God Chose You - Calling All For Life Supporters!*

Plan to join Lutherans For Life each day from **Sun., Jan. 16 – Sat., Jan. 22**, to learn about, share, and build excitement For Life in your home, church, school, and community! Each themed day will explore a distinct aspect of life ministry through local activities, online educational events, and interviews. Watch for more news on the [Lutherans For Life](#) Facebook page or on the [Lutherans For Life](#) website.

### *Nebraska Walk for Life, Sat., Jan. 29, Lincoln*

Fellow Lutherans for Life are welcome to attend a brief worship service at the sanctuary of Trinity Lutheran Church at 724 S 12th ST, Lincoln. The service will start at 8:45am, and then the group will walk 3 or 4 blocks to the State Capitol building where they will hear from various speakers (10am). The group will then walk through downtown Lincoln to the UNL Student Union (14th and R) where they will hear from Ashley Bratcher, star of the movie "Unplanned." Please join the group as they walk for life. Donations of size 3-6 diapers and/or boxes of wipes are welcome in support of Forward (a ministry assisting families of Lincoln with these consumables). People can register to join the [Nebraska Walk for Life here](#).

## When Bad Weather Hits . . .

When weather or disaster dictates that worship services need to be cancelled, the church office will inform the community through the following means: ●church Facebook page; ●Channel 8 website – [www.klkntv.com](http://www.klkntv.com) (community cancellations); and ●Channel 10/11 website – [www.1011now.com](http://www.1011now.com) (community cancellations). When there is bad weather in the area, please use common sense and do not put yourself in harm's way. If services are held and you are unable to attend, you may always get a copy of the service on DVD or live-stream. [Livestream option: [Click here](#) for our YouTube channel, which also includes archived services.

## Weekend Custodian Position

St. John needs a weekend custodian for locking and unlocking and light cleaning (mainly in the Sunday School room); 5-10 hours; if interested contact Jeff Adams at 402-643-2983; [jeff.adams@stjohnseward.org](mailto:jeff.adams@stjohnseward.org).

## Church Office Hours

The church office is open to the public Monday through Friday, 8am-4pm.

### St. John Is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

If you need someone to help you through a difficult time, call any of the following:

- church office (402-643-2983)
- Deanna Dowding (402-643-3148)
- Mary Ann Steinbeck (402-643-2677)
- Lana Urban (402-643-3964)



Sunday Bible Study Options

Worship Options

Recurring Events/Monthly Reminders

Please send Prayer Requests to [sjcstaff@stjohnseward.org](mailto:sjcstaff@stjohnseward.org)

If you know someone who is not getting emails from St. John, please contact [brenda.rief@stjohnseward.org](mailto:brenda.rief@stjohnseward.org).

## Newsletters of Interest

[St. John Lutheran Church](#)



[St. John Lutheran School "Parent Bulletin"](#)  
[St. John Child Development Center](#)  
[Nebraska District Lutheran Reporter](#)  
[LFL Life News](#)

[Church Website](#)  
[Church Calendar \(public events only\)](#)  
[Christian Nurture - Faith Formation](#)  
[St. John Lutheran School](#)  
[St. John Child Development Center](#)  
[CUNE Events Link on Website](#)  
[St. John's Christ's Cupboard](#)  
[Food Bank of Lincoln Food Distribution Schedule](#)  
[Orphan Grain Train Lincoln Collection Center](#)

Give Now

[402-643-2983] [sjcstaff@stjohnseward.org] [stjohnseward.org]



St. John Lutheran Church | 919 N Columbia AVE, Seward, NE 68434

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