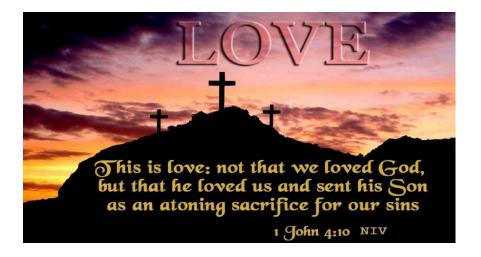
St. John's Lutheran Church

February 2022

Church Bell



From the Desk of Pastor Clark



On February 14 every year, we take a day to focus on love. We seek to show our love to our spouses or significant others. But, if we are going to be honest, much of the "love" that we see, give, and experience in this world is conditional. "I love you when you are loveable." "I love you because of how you make me feel." These kinds of "love" are those we fall into and fall out of because they are based on conditions, on the actions of another. When the other person is loveable, we love them. When they aren't, we don't.

God's love is not like this. His love is uncaused. He doesn't love us because of anything we've done. He doesn't love us when we are loveable, because we often aren't. He doesn't love us because of how we make Him feel. And His love is not

St. John's Lutheran Church

302 NE 2nd Street Buffalo, MN 55313

Phone: 763-682-1883 Fax: 763-682-1936

Noah's Ark Preschool: 763-682-1883

info@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Sharing a changeless Christ in a changing world.

www.stjohnsbuffalo.org

Staff:

Rev. Ryan Clark, Pastor pastorclark@stjohnsbuffalo.org 845-549-0730

Rev. Chris Ryan, Associate Pastor cryan@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Kelly Thole, DCE, Director of Family Ministry kthole@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Paul Nelson, DCE, Director of Youth Ministry paul@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Katherine Clark, Dir. of Special Ministries, Assimilation & Small Groups katherine@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Beth Langland, Office Administrator blangland@stjohnsbuffalo.org or info@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Noah's Ark Preschool noahsarkbuffalo@gmail.com

Jim Chapa, Treasurer

Amy Klemz, Financial Secretary financesec@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Kathy Klemz, Board Secretary

Worship Times:

Saturday 5:00 pm (contemporary) Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 am (traditional) KRWC 1360AM broadcast at 8:00 am

Chairman of the Congregation

Jan Larson

Board of Elders

elders@stjohnsbuffalo.org
Ryan Rutten, Head Elder
Tracey Anderson
Bill Elletson
Dave Haggerty
Russ Hill
Tom Kortisses
Jed Larson
Tom Merrick
Matt Russell
Lee Ryan
Tony Sabraski
Dave Teske

Board Chairs

Altar Guild: Dorothy Bowman
Education: Open
Outreach: Roger Strege
Fellowship: Open
Library: Cheryl Olsen/Shirley Elletson
Memorial Endowment/Investment:
Janice Marschel
Project Compassion: Sandi Baert
Decorating: Nicole Hills
Stewardship: Tim Vergin
Trustees: Scott Spadgenske
Women in Mission: Open

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri. 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Newsletter Deadline:

Deadline for the March newsletter is **Monday, February 14th. Bulletin Deadline:** Every Tuesday at midnight

(cont. from pg. 1)

just words or emotions either; His love is accompanied by radical action. He showed His love by sending His Son Jesus to die for our sins!

So, how do we respond to this unconditional love from our Heavenly Father? First of all, we relax; we don't have to try to earn His love. Secondly, we seek to tell Him "thank you" and "I love you back" by giving our lives over to Him each day for His purposes. This Valentine's Day, may we all revel in the unconditional, uncaused love that our Heavenly Father has for us!

In the Love of Jesus, Pastor Clark



Congratulations to Chris Ryan!
Chris was ordained on Sunday, January 23rd and will now continue on as St. John's Associate Pastor.



Sunday, February 6, 4 PM

A Concert of Bluegrass & Christian Music

The 2-Hour concert will have a brief intermission with refreshments

St. John's Lutheran Church Family Life Center 302 NE 2nd Street, Buffalo

FRFF ADMISSION

A free-will offering will be taken to support The Kingery Family Ministry

www.stjohnsbuffalo.org 763-682-1883

A Gift from our Sewing Group to children of Guatemala

Friends of Verdeen & Beth Langland are part of "Hearts and Hands for Hope" - a group that brings the news of Jesus Christ to Guatemala each year. They asked for items to bring along to share with the children. Beth approached our sewing group, and they graciously made 40 pillow case dresses! Thanks to all who worked to make this happen.





Basketball Fellowship Sundays 12–2 PM in the Family Life Center. Runs February 20–Palm Sunday.

Ages Middle School to Adult Let's shoot some hoops!!



February

Ushers

8:00 Brad Hoseck, Scott

Spadgenske

10:30 Shane Bertsch, Jon

Boonstra, Matt Schlink,

Todd & Steve Jones

Technology

The Jakob Annis
Sound Tim Berteau
& Robbie Ferdig
YouTube Dan Headley
Team Harland Headley

Trent Johnson
Tom Kortisses
Jill Marketon
Ludovic Marquette

Bill Morris

Connor Spadgenske Bobbi Lindgren-Stevens

Contemporary Worship Team

The Deb Chapa Team Josiah Clark

Pastor Clark Lee Claseman Aaron Kubasch LeAnn March Melissa Morris

Organists/Pianists

The Lois Borner Team Deb Chapa

Josiah Clark Penny Steele



Welcome Center Attendants for February

Holly Bode
Doreen Claseman
Elaine Fillmore
Nicole Hills
Dan & Chris Husom
Kathy Klemz
Lynnette Smith
Marlis Thomsen

<u>PEP</u>

Come join us!

Enjoy some relaxed fun with PEP (People Enjoying People). PEP meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month in the Fellowship Hall. We begin with a brief Bible study followed by a variety of activities which may include joke telling, cards and games. In February we meet on the 1st and the 15th from 9-11:30 am.

Coffee is served; come whenever you can; stay as long as you want. There is no regular commitment.
The more the merrier.

Two Opportunities for Thrivent Members:

1) Eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who have designated Choice Dollars:



If you haven't already done so, be sure to direct your designated Thrivent Choice Dollars. New dollars are added to your account each quarter. Don't miss this opportunity to help support St. John's Lutheran Church or Noah's Ark Preschool. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-THRIVENT and state "Thrivent Choice®." Deadline for requesting your yearly Choice Dollars is March 31, 2022.

2) Eligible members of Thrivent Financial Action Team Visa Cards:

As a new year rolls over EVERY Thrivent member is again eligible to apply for TWO \$250.00 Visa cards to be used for a charity. Please contact Janice Marschel if you are willing to use your cards this year. She will help you with the process, which is very easy to follow. We have an ongoing list of projects to use these cards. Also, let her know if you have an idea of how you would like to use your cards.

Women in Mission "Mites Sunday"

Our Women in Mission will have a "Mites Sunday" once per month to provide monies for the mission grants voted on at the LWML Minnesota South District Convention. Please consider giving an offering in our Mites Offering box as you leave worship or take home a box of your own and turn back in! Thank you!



St. John's has just received our quarterly
AmazonSmile donation in the amount of
\$62.47 as a thank you to customers shopping
at smile.amazon.com. To date, AmazonSmile
has donated a total of \$1,136.47 to St. John's

Lutheran Church. If you are a regular shopper of Amazon, considering opening your account through smile.amazon.com., choose St. John's as your charity. An automatic 5% percent of your order comes back to St. John's Lutheran!

Children & Family



Sunday School Offering Project

During the month of **February** all the money collected in children's and Sunday school offering will go to feed kids through Feed My Starving Children.

Just follow these steps...

- 1. Students pick up a tube of mini M&M's
 - 2. Take the M&M's and eat them.
 - 3. Fill the tubes with Quarters.
- 4. Bring back the tube back by <u>February 27th.</u> Need a Tube? Have Questions? 763-682-1883





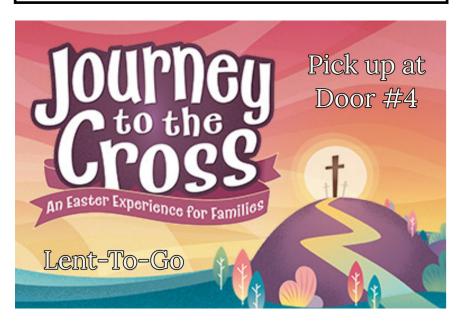
Operation Christmas Child Items for February:

For February, we will be collecting **new, full-size, wrapped bars of SOAP!** Thank you for continuing to donate throughout the year so that we can fill our boxes for this wonderful mission outreach!



Children & Family





Items needed currently for the Wrapped in Love program, which helps teens in need within our Buffalo community:



- Men's black or white socks (no show or crew)
- Men's underwear (athletic style)
- Women's bikini style underwear (various sizes)
- Sports bras
- Leggings
- Sleep pants for guys or gals
- Large sized bags from clothing stores (Old Navy, JCPenney, etc.—not Walmart)



February Birthdays

Joy Decker	2/1	Beth Langland	2/9
Dolores Puffer	2/1	Adeline Ricksham	2/9
Gerald Root	2/1	Cami Davidson	2/10
Wayne Bauernschmitt	2/2	Eric Ebeling	2/10
Jerald Ferdig	2/2	Curt Johanson	2/10
Ryan Ebeling	2/3	Nancy Yonak	2/10
Ben Henson	2/3	Hanna Klatt	2/11
Tyler Korbel	2/3	Abbey Davidson	2/12
Betty Loredo	2/3	Carol Schleif	2/12
Emily Mueller	2/3	Owen Glenz	2/13
Jennifer Smith	2/3	Mary Lambert	2/13
Drew Holland	2/4	Jodi Graves	2/14
Amy Klemz	2/4	Brian Anderson	2/15
Sullivan Marx	2/4	Emmett Elletson	2/15
Raef Rutten	2/4	Sebastian Fouquette	2/15
Beau Schmidt	2/4	Nora Klaers	2/15
Lake Groenke	2/5	Braxten Mader	2/15
Amanda Hommerding	2/5	Diem Miller	2/15
Brandi Korbel	2/5	Julia Peter	2/15
Marie Marquette	2/5	Lee Peterson	2/15
Colin Megaw	2/5	Marti Ryan	2/15
Nick Spadgenske	2/5	Kaleb DeBoer	2/16
Jordayn Spike	2/5	Sarah Hoppe	2/16
Lila Swanson	2/5	Connor Reese	2/16
Lori Steinhibel	2/6	Nicole Riopelle	2/16
Diane Tiegs	2/6	Bailey Anderson	2/17
Tim Berteau	2/7	Leland Bomstad	2/17
Ruth Bonk	2/7	Shawn Hannah	2/17
Kayla Erickson	2/7	Wayne Muelich	2/17
Millicent Jurgens	2/7	Mark Bjork	2/18
Jennifer Saunders	2/7	Ron Enter	2/18
Mackenzie Carlson	2/8	Don Streich	2/18
Leslie Gearey	2/9	Mason Holland	2/19
Zackery Groshens	2/9	Vienna Stoppelman	2/19
Brian Kenmir	2/9	Jeff Erickson	2/20

Stacey Bertsch	2/21	Iris Whitney	2/24
Maya Gerold	2/21	Bill Henson	2/25
Hope Matter	2/21	Joyce Stecker	2/25
Saylor VanLith	2/21	Kari Triplett	2/25
Gary Bonk	2/22	Faith Botzek	2/26
Genelle Gregorich	2/22	Mike Endreson	2/26
Sheila Hamilton	2/22	Traci Heidebrink	2/26
Jaxx McKenzie	2/22	Holden Stodola	2/26
Marilyn Sotebeer	2/22	Adrian Graves	2/27
Anna Baumgard	2/23	Dan Hewett	2/27
Miles Johnston	2/23	Shirley Holland	2/27
Jed Larson	2/23	Samantha Klatt	2/27
Robbie Ferdig	2/24	Blake Miller	2/27
Craig Groenke	2/24	Randy Otten	2/28
Eliana Loberg	2/24	Maverick Ricksham	2/28

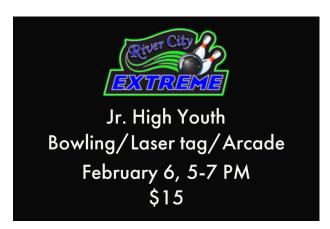
Anniversaries



2/1
2/5
2/7
2/9
2/12
2/14
2/14
2/18
2/18
2/19
2/21

Youth





Jr. High youth are welcome to meet at River City Extreme in Monticello on **February 6th from 5-7 PM**

Enjoy unlimited bowling, arcade games, and laser tag! The cost is \$15, but bring extra money if you would like to buy any food or drink. Contact Paul if you are planning to attend!



Our Jr. High Youth have the opportunity to help package food for those in need around the world on Saturday,

February 19th. We will meet at church at 8 AM to carpool, package food from 9-10:45 AM, have lunch and be back a little after noon. Contact Paul if you would like to join this event.

Youth





Sr. High Youth—Test your wits by attending this event at Enigma in Maple Grove on Saturday, February 26th. We will meet at church at 4:15 PM, have 2 groups experience the escape, and play a game of Whirlyball (basketball with scoops and bumper cars). We will be back to church around 7:45 PM. The cost is \$30, but message Paul if that is an issue. Sign up by Sunday, February 13th at: https://bit.ly/3fGWhVw



Youth are selling Heggie's Pizza for a fundraiser for our summer mission trip to Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Order forms are due by February 2nd from youth. Pizza should be available for delivery around Sunday, February 20th. Thank you for supporting our youth!



Noah's Ark Preschool



February 2022

Announcements NO SCHOOL

Monday February 21st

Now Enrolling for the 2022-23 School Year!



Online Registration opens January 31st!

Call today to set up a visit to learn more about our preschool and enroll for the new year. We can't wait to meet you and your family. Register and more info at stjohnsbuffalo.org or call Kelly @ 763-682-1883

OPEN HOUSE

February 24th 4-6 PM

What is happening this month?

Our Bible theme this month is ...

Jesus is our Good Friend!

In our Jesus Time this month we learn about how Jesus is our friend. In the classroom and at chapel we will hear these stories: The Good Samaritan, The Prodigal Son, Jesus Blesses the Children & Zacchaeus.

February is "I Love to Read" month!

We will be discovering new books and exploring new authors throughout the month. We will even have a few surprise "readers".



Special Ministries & Life Groups



LIFE Groups February 2022					
Day/Time	Location	Facilitator	Topic		
2nd/4th Tuesdays 9:15am	Church Rm 228	Katherine Clark	Women - Jeremiah: Daring to Hope in an Unstable World		
Thursdays 6:30 AM	Perkins	Jed Larson	Men's Study - Old Testament - Patriarchs, Prophets, and Kings		
Thursdays 6:30 PM	Youth Rm	Pastor Chris Ryan	Men's Study - <i>Acts</i>		
Thursdays 6:30 PM	Larson Home	Jed & Del Larson	What's So Amazing About Grace		
2nd Saturday of the month	Culvers	Various Hosts	Saturday Supper Club - Dinner + Conversation!		
Sundays 9:15am	Noah's Ark, Rm 121	Pastor Chris Ryan	Men's Study - A Man's Guide to the Spiritual Disciplines		
Sundays 6:30pm	Borner Home	Ed & Lois Borner	The Chosen, Season 2		
Sundays 6:45pm	Youth Room	Pastor Chris Ryan	Young Adult Study (~18-25 yrs) [Begins Feb 20th]		

brand new

College / career

LIFE Group

Led by Pastor Chris Ryan

Starting FEB 20 6.45 PM YOUTH ROOM

6 week study on spiritual disciplines for 18 - 25 yr olds



Men's Bible Study at Perkins

St. John's Men's Bible Study meets weekly at Perkins in Buffalo on Thursdays at 6:30 AM.



They will be starting to explore the Old Testament. We invite you to join us for "Patriarchs, Prophets and Kings." Questions? Contact Jed Larson or Richard Marquette.







Grieving the Death of a Loved One?

Find support and healing at GriefShare. GriefShare is a

video seminar series that features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a Biblical perspective.



The group will meet Sundays in Room 229 at 12:30 PM beginning Sunday, March 6th. Contact Gary Nalevanko or Katherine Clark with any questions.



Dear members of St John's:

It is my pleasure to announce that through the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ, the entire Lutheran Church Extension Fund Loan debt has been paid off!



Existing debentures of \$540,000 were renewed and new debentures totaling approximately \$735,000 were raised in the last capital campaign. The New funds raised were utilized to pay off the existing bank debt and some of the debentures which were not renewed.

I would like to express the Church's thanks to all those who were involved in the debenture program. Also, I would like to have a special note of thanks to my fellow members of the debenture team: Jim Chapa, Jan Larson, Amy Klemz, Janice Marschel, and Beth Langland.

And finally, a thank you to the entire church body who supports our fundraising efforts on a weekly basis for our building fund initiatives.

With God's blessing, Tim Vergin, Stewardship committee chairman

Do you enjoy knitting? We are in need of some knitters to make prayer shawls. Yarn has been brought in and left in the East Narthex by the prayer shawl shelf, but we are in need of



some people to make them. If interested, please stop by and pick up the yarn, or call the church office with any questions. Finished prayer shawls can be dropped off in the sewing room.



Are you receiving St. John's "One Calls"?

Information and announcements about St. John's are provided weekly by phone through our "One Call" system. If you are not

currently on the One Call list and would like to receive this information by phone, please call the Church Office to be added. You can have multiple phone numbers per household.



Join us on the 2nd Saturday of the month after Saturday night service for dinner and fellowship.

Location will rotate.



Board Meeting Minutes 12/21/2021

Call to Order 6:30 p.m.: Tim Vergin Open with Prayer: Vicar Ryan Review of Agenda: Note to add Paul

Nelson to agenda

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Amy Klemz, seconded by Scott Spadgenske to approve the secretary's report with edit. (In New Business paragraph, 60 percent was changed to 90 percent for Paul Nelson's housing allowance) Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor was not present. Vicar Ryan went over the highlights during his report.

Vicar's Report: Vicar Ryan reported that they are continuing with the sermon series, "Thy Word is Truth". Lots of positive feedback. The next New Member class will be held in February. Pastor and Vicar continue with visitations. They are able to visit 90% of our shut-ins. Thanks to Jim Marty for installing the new shut-in Board in the office. Paul Nelson is doing great! We are so blessed to have him and Abi! GriefShare is going well. There are 9- 12 people attending each class. Don't forget the special day of January 23rd when Chris will be ordained as a pastor.

DCE Report: Paul Nelson reported that there has been a number of youth events. Forty attended the Jr High Christmas Party. Sixteen attended the Sr High Christmas Party. Weather predictions may have affected the attendance. The first Youth Board meeting was held Dec 7th. Lots of vision casting occurred. He bought a Nintendo Switch for the youth room and new hockey sticks and sports balls. Lots of upcoming youth events. He will be gone Jan 11-14 for NADCE conference. Katherine Clark will be covering the youth while he is gone.

Children & Family Ministry: Kelly Thole reported that Journey to the Manger was

attended by around 40 people. Some of the novelty seems to have worn off. The Sunday School program, The Littlest Watchman, was a huge success with over 300 people in attendance. Kelly is trying to create an opportunity to introduce the kids to a choir format. The M&M offering project will start up in January. The Sunday School kids will be given the M&M tubes to fill with quarters. Proceeds will go to FMSC to feed children around the world. Upcoming: January 28 – Family Game Night BINGO.

Noah's Ark: NA student art will be displayed in the Coffee Commons in December. The Christmas Program will be December 22 at 9:30am. With the starting of the new year, Kelly will be working to assemble and update the 2022-2023 registration packets for current and interested families. Registration will open the end of January. Special Ministries: Katherine Clark was not present. Kelly Thole highlighted Katherine's report. Hopefully the new website will be ready to launch in late January. Katherine is working to get video releases from everyone who is in the promotional video. Pictures will be taken for the new directory on Jan 16 & 23. There will be 3 photographers assisting those days. A chili supper is being planned for Saturday, Jan 8, after the Saturday night service.

Financial Secretary & Treasurer Reports:
Jim Chapa presented the Financial report
for November. Contributions: \$60,399
Expenses: \$80,999 Net Ordinary Income
\$(20,600) There were a number of
events that explained the larger
variances: Outreach Thanksgiving Meal \$3100 Journey to the Manger, Operation
Christmas Child, Book Fair - \$2300
Stewardship Timing - \$1000 DCE Comp/
Expenses not in original budget - \$4500
Noah's Ark 2nd Class not in original

budget - \$1800 Amy Klemz added that attendance was down in November. Jim also brought up that there are two line items in the savings account details that involve the church van which was sold in 2015. He asked if we should re-allocate the monies. After some discussion. Janice Marschel made a motion that we move the van funds into the undesignated memorial fund. Second by Kathy Klemz. Motion carried and \$3845 will be moved. 2021 housing allowances: • Pastor Clark - 40% of compensation • Vicar Ryan - 90% of compensation • Kelly Thole - \$40,000 annual amount • Paul Nelson- 60% of compensation. A motion to accept the financial report as written was made by Jan Larson, and seconded by Kyle Bjork. Motion carried. **New Business:** There have been many requests to do liturgical services more often. The Elders will look into the possibilities of doing them once a month.

Old Business: The organ has been ordered. Donations have covered the costs.

BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Elders: Kyle Bjork reported that he and Gabe Licht will be stepping down from the Board of Elders. He is talking with people about their replacements. Only one membership change: transfer. Stewardship: Tim Vergin reported that the debenture program is going exceptionally well. The meetings have been well attended.

Trustees: Scott Spadgenske submitted a written Trustees Report. The trustees helped move the Christmas decorations out of storage. He talked about the difficulties right now of finding someone able to do the snow removal for the church. Kelly Thole mentioned that the pile of snow in the parking lot is attracting neighbor kids with their sleds. Scott said he would

have the pile removed.

Outreach: Written report sent via email. The Outreach Team will be handing out gifts at Christmas Eve services. They will also be serving lunch at GriefShare on Jan 9. Google web statistics: 280 website visits, 287 searches, 1261 profile views, 84 people asked for directions, 61 calls.

Fellowship: no report

Women In Mission (LWML): no report Library: No report.

Project Compassion/Health Cabinet: Sandi Baert reported that the group filled over 100 Christmas bags. Chris Rvan has been doing the deliveries. Thrivent paid for most of the cost. Missions: Nothing new to report. **Technology:** Ludovic Marquette reported that they have purchased a new microphone for Pastor Clark. Also, Beth will be working from home for two weeks so he has configured her VPN so she can log in remotely as needed. **Decorating:** Nicole Hills was not present but she sent thanks to the trustees for their help pulling everything out of storage. And a huge thank you to everyone who helped decorate. There were 14 in attendance for this meeting held in the Board Room. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Vanessa Meyer





The Kingery Family in Concert p. 4 p. 12 p. 12 p. 15 p. 16 group p. 16 group p. 16 p. 16 group p. 16 p