

THE JOTTINGS



The Newsletter of Jehovah Lutheran Church

1566 Thomas Ave, Saint Paul MN 55104 • 651-644-1421 • www.jehovahlutheran.org

A Community of Joy . . . Celebrating, Learning & Sharing the Love of God in Christ Jesus

January 2023

Rooted In the Living Word

SUNDAYS

WORSHIP IN PERSON 9:30 am
GROWING IN FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL
FOLLOWING DIVINE SERVICE
LIVING IN FAITH BIBLE STUDY 11:00 am



Join us for worship
Stay Informed
on our Church Website:
www.jehovahlutheran.org

Support our ministry at Jehovah
with your gift.



OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR HOURS

TUESDAY - THURSDAY
8:30AM - 1:30PM
FRIDAY
8:30AM - 12:30PM

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

CALL OR EMAIL AHEAD
PASTOR MAY BE VISITING

TUESDAY - THURSDAY
1:00PM-5:00PM
FRIDAY - OFF

PASTOR'S CELL: 612-600-3514

Email submissions for
THE JOTTINGS BY JANUARY 26TH
to office@jehovahlutheran.org

SCRIPTURES FOR WORSHIP

January 1: Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

January 8: Isaiah 42:1-9, Romans 6:1-11, Matthew 3:13-17

January 15: Isaiah 49:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42a

January 22: Isaiah 9:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-25

January 29: Micah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Walking Together:
Sojourners from the East

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." (Matthew 2:1-2)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At Epiphany we remember the sojourners who came from the east to pay homage to Christ Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. Of course, we know the rest of the story. What begins with the Magi coming to worship God in the flesh ends with a maniacal monarch unleashing infanticide. Through a messenger of God in a dream, Mary's husband Joseph is warned of this coming doom and under divine guidance leads his family as refugees to the safety of Egypt, away from the clutches of the despotic King Herod.

That part of the story, families with children seeking to escape despots, has not changed very much. In our world today, refugees still flee to escape tyrannical leaders who seek to harm their children. Some of these families have come to our own city and even to our own neighborhoods.

More than 1,200 Afghan refugees have fled the murderous regime of the Taliban to Minnesota since the fall of 2021. Katie and I have gotten to know one of these families, who have come to our state so that their children can grow up without the fear of death from the hands of tyrants. Their story is both heartbreaking and full of hope.

continued...

In the last year, another 1,500 Ukrainian refugees have come to Minnesota fleeing another tyrant, cut from the mold of King Herod, who has also caused the deaths of thousands of children in his lust for power. Of course these are not the only countries from which refugees have come to Minnesota. Our state has welcomed many refugees fleeing many conflicts. One of my greatest friends in the ministry came to this country in the late 1970's fleeing the communist takeover of Laos. We all have met refugees from East Africa, and indeed some of them worship in our church building as our brothers and sisters in Christ. In each case, people come to our nation, our state, and our neighborhoods seeking a better life and safety for their children.

It was into this kind of world that our Lord Jesus was born: a world in which tyrants kill children and in which families flee their homelands for safety. Indeed, it was into one such family that our Lord Jesus was born. In becoming human, the newborn Christ also became a refugee, identifying with those who flee for their lives from murderous, power-hungry tyrants.

And the really Good News, is that our Lord Jesus did all of this for us and for all people who desperately need the salvation He brings. For our Lord Jesus was born not just to identify with the victims of sin but also to conquer sin, death, and the devil, and to usher in a new kingdom in which children will never again need to flee. One day, when the same Lord Jesus returns visibly to earth, that kingdom will become a full, visible, and unassailable reality. Right now, that kingdom comes to us in the Church as we are gathered around Christ present in Word and Sacrament.

But in the meantime, as we await Christ's return and as we celebrate His real presence among us, something very interesting is happening. Sojourners from the east are again coming. They are not following a star like the magi of old. They are coming through refugee assistance programs, sponsorships, and government programs. But they are coming. Some have already arrived, more will come.

And they come with needs. They need housing, clothing, the ability to speak English, skills training, employment, and most of all, they need the love, grace, mercy, and fellowship that comes through God in Christ. As Christians, you and I are called to give them both: the necessities they need for life and the Good News that they are loved, accepted, valued, and saved through the Christ child who was Himself a refugee (Matthew 25:31-4 and Matthew 28:16-20).

When you called me to be your pastor at Jehovah Lutheran, you asked me to lead you in outreach. Last January we committed ourselves as a congregation to a three-year outreach roadmap. In the second year of this roadmap, we pledged to work with our brothers and sisters in other LCMS congregations and with the Minnesota South District of the LCMS to reach out to our community. Since that time, we have also strengthened our ties with Concordia University, St. Paul, and its president, faculty, and staff want to work with us in outreach in this time and place.

Friends, I believe that at this time and place, we have the opportunity to engage in intentional and missional outreach in this city through an urban outreach center geographically located at Jehovah Lutheran. Other pastors and I have brought this idea to District President Lucas Woodford and the district mission committee. They have pledged to support this vision with \$20,000 a year to be used for outreach purposes in this urban context.

A first step in the foundation of this urban outreach center is to begin with the opening of programming working with our MNS District and the LCMS Recognized Service Organization, POBLO. Together with our district, POBLO, other congregations in our St. Paul circuit of congregations, and with help from CSP, we want to open programming here at Jehovah to teach English, provide skills classes, and offer resources to refugee families in St. Paul. Through forging relationships with these families in need, we also will open conversations through which the Good News of Jesus can be shared with them.

This model already has been proven in outreach work throughout the LCMS, and centers like this already exist in Bloomington and in Rochester, Minnesota. We also want to reach others in our community, but this work with refugees is a real need and a real opportunity right now. At our upcoming voters' meeting on January 29, I will be asking for your affirmation and support to work with these entities to take this next step in outreach together as God's people.

If you are interested in hands-on work, there are things to do. Please let me know if you are interested, and I will be happy to share with you. If you are not able to volunteer time and talents towards this work, please pray. Pray for your congregation, for your pastor, and for the sojourners who come from the east that in seeking safety and a better life, they might also come to worship Jesus the King.

Walking together with you,
Pastor Joshua Miller

Hibah Ansari and Hussain Ali Haidari, "Minnesota's Embrace of Afghan refugees has Turned into a Crisis." *Sahan Journal* and *Minnesota Public Radio*. June, 2022. www.mprnews.org/story/2022/06/15/minnesotas-embrace-of-afghan-refugees-has-turned-into-a-crisis, accessed January 3, 2023.

Jon Collins, "Twin Cities Welcomes More Ukrainian Refugees than Any Other Metro." *Minnesota Public Radio*. December, 2022. www.mprnews.org/story/2022/12/22/twin-cities-welcomes-more-ukrainian-refugees-than-any-other-metro-area-in-the-us, accessed January 3, 2023.



Recently a friend of mine wrote this poem, and I offer it here to you for meditation in your Epiphany devotions.

BEHOLD ON BENDED KNEE THEY SING

By Rev. Bror Erickson (LCMS pastor, Rocky Mountain District)

Behold on bended knee they sing,
Whose gifts all bless, and tongues confess
Jesus the Lord their newborn king.
[Isaiah 45:23; 60:6, Romans 14:11, Philippians 2:10-11]

With camels laden from afar,
They follow west and eastern star:
Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar.
[Matthew 2:1-10, Isaiah 60:6]

No royal ransom shekel paid,
But Jesus' blood atonement made,
When Gaspar's gold began to fade.
[1 Peter 1:18-19]

Frankincense for an infant priest,
To sanctify his sacred feast,
Melchior brings from gardens east.
[Exodus 30:34f, Leviticus 2:1 f,]

But Balthazar brings good news too,
The myrrh proclaims a death for you,
That Jesus suffered in your lieu.
[Isaiah 60:6, Mark 15:23, John 19:39]



POBLO 
International Ministries
 The mission field is here; the time is now!

To All the LCMS Churches in the St. Paul Metro Area January 2023

+ OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE +

Have you ever wanted to be a missionary? Moved by a divine purpose, willing to bring good news to interested people? You can, without leaving home.

A growing number of immigrants and refugees are coming to the Twin Cities in response to violence, climate change and poverty. Many of these new Americans face difficult language and cultural barriers, and social isolation. They are our neighbors, now. God allowed their arrival right where we live.

By God's grace, we are kicking off the establishment of the St. Paul International Friendship Center (IFC). However, as a start, it will be a small-scale operation, primarily helping an Afghani refugee family, escaping death from Afghanistan last year. Now, they reside within few miles of Bethel Lutheran, King of Kings Lutheran, Emmaus Lutheran, and Jehovah Lutheran, which will host the St. Paul IFC. Operations in the future will expand, and we need the churches to be involved.

The St. Paul IFC is a welcoming, safe environment for folks from all walks of life, especially nonbelievers. The IFC embraces community members in order to satisfy their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Therefore, we plan to provide and need your help in any or all of these vital areas:

Bibles/Jesus movies in native tongues

Clothing, furniture, and blankets/quilts as needed

Household items, toys, vehicles (as needed and if possible)

Volunteers to teach Free Classes: English, Citizenship, Knitting/Sewing, International Cooking, Driving ...etc.

Be friends, visit and invite, and share the love of Christ through intentional, deeper relationships

We simply desire anyone to know and trust Christ, yes, outside of church, hoping they would be baptized and become members within the Body of Christ. Our POBLO Twin-Cities missionaries and team are helping us 100%. *Please contact the pastor or missions director/council for further information.*



PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, January 1

Isaiah 60:1-6

The prophet sees a restored Israel gathered from distant places, receiving the wealth of the world. Israel becomes light to nations and radiates God's glory.

Ephesians 3:1-12

To Paul has been revealed the "mystery" of Christ that Gentiles are heirs with Israel in the one body of the church.

Matthew 2:1-12

Wise Men come from the east, Gentiles bearing gifts to honor the one born king of the Jews, "who will be the shepherd of my people Israel".

Sunday, January 8

Isaiah 42:1-9

God's promises have been fulfilled: Servant Israel brings light to the nations.

Romans 6:1-11

Through baptism the Christian has identified with Christ's death and resurrection; The "self" is transformed so as to exclude sin from his daily life.

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus' baptism identified him as Messiah and Son of God - the suffering servant.

January 15:

Isaiah 49:1-11

God calls servant Israel both to restore herself and to be light to the nations.

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

God has set apart the church at Corinth to lie in the *koinonia* of his son.

John 1:29-42a

John leads a chain of witnesses to Jesus: from John the Baptist to Andrew to Peter.

Continued . . .

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

January 22

Isaiah 9:1-4

“In the past” God’s people suffered gloom and darkness.
“In the future” they will see the light of salvation.

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their divisions and quarrels
and to live in the unity that is theirs in the saving power of the cross of Christ.

Matthew 4:12-25

Shortly after John the Baptist was arrested, Jesus began his ministry,
proclaiming that the kingdom of heaven is near and calling disciples to “Follow me!”

January 29

Micah 6:1-8

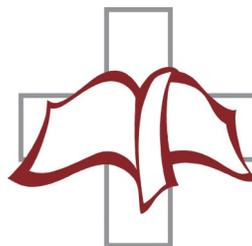
The people have forgotten the Lord’s saving acts.
What now does he require of them?

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

God works power and salvation through weakness and suffering.

Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus proclaims God’s favor toward those who aspire to live under his rule.



JEHOVAH SERVICE AND EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Divine Service

9:30am Sundays in the Sanctuary

Invite a friend and join us
for a year of connecting and *Walking Together*.

Living by Faith

11:00am on Sundays

Ages 14 - 100+

Join us in person in the lounge

Contact Pastor Miller with questions
at 612-600-3514 or pastorjoshuamiller@gmail.com.

Growing in Faith

Ages Birth - 13 years

Gather with us weekly in the nursery after the Divine Service.
Parents are welcome to stay with their children.

Men's Bible Study

Join us for Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am in the lounge.

We are studying Peter's message of hope in his first letter.
Bring your own Bible and coffee mug, if you like, or use the ones provided.

No RSVP necessary

Contact Pastor Miller with any questions.

Jehovah Lutheran Church Women

Join us for coffee, conversation, prayer, and Bible Study
on the first Thursday of the month, February 2, at 1:00pm.

Open to everyone.

Our curriculum comes from the Lutheran Women's Quarterly

If you have questions or would like more information,
contact Pastor Miller.





VOTERS' MEETING

Sunday, January 29, 2023

11:15am in the Sanctuary

You will receive your Prospectus via email by Sunday,
January 22.

2023 GIVING ENVELOPES ARE HERE

The giving envelopes for 2023 will be available for pickup in the narthex before or after church on Sunday January 8, 2023. After that they will be in your individual mailboxes.

CENTENNIAL TEAM

A Centennial Team is being formed as we prepare for Jehovah's Centennial. Suzanne Hequet will be leading the team. If you are interested contact Suzanne at hequet@csp.edu.



LWML/LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION MISSION GRANT FOR JANUARY 2023

Your Mites in Action: Leaders and volunteers are reaching out with the Gospel message to the multicultural population living in the International District in Albuquerque, New Mexico. God Cares About You Mission distributes food and clothing, hosts after school programs, and shares the Gospel message. The ministry provides hope for this life and for eternity. The LWML Mission Grant, Showing God's Love in the International District, Albuquerque, New Mexico, will help to expand their services. To learn more about the mission and how you can support them through mite offerings, check out the bulletin board in the hallway or go to: www.lwml.org/2021-2023-mission-grant-23. Thank you!



JANUARY

- 2** Diane Grandstrand
Delaree Johnson
- 3** Julie Wynn
- 5** Katie Benke
Gunnar Miesen
- 10** Jim Kinsel
- 17** Amy Peterson
- 19** Christian Koch
- 22** Debbie Gagner
George Hild
- 24** Jennifer Olson
- 28** Chris Koch
- 30** Charlie Avoles
- 31** Matthew Baerthel

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face
shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face
toward you
and give you peace.
Numbers 6: 24-26

JOIN US FOR OUR FRIENDLY FRIDAY CALL - IN CHAT



We chat at **11:10am each Thursday**. All you need is your phone. Dial: 978-990-5000. If you are using a land line please dial 1 and then the number. When prompted enter the JELC code:

796345#

After the beep just say hello and your name. We can visit about how our days are going, silver linings, concerns, etc. We also will have a short devotion and prayer.

Join us on Thursdays at 11:10am

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,
as indeed you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11*



Emmanuel
GOD WITH US

Wonderfully Made

Free Event!

A Lutherans for Life Event

The Divine Value of Being Human

A Biblical conversation about abortion and end of life issues
with Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, LCMS MN South District President

Saturday, January 21 | 9:30 am | Fireside Room
Trinity Lutheran Church, Waconia



Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford, (MDiv, STM, DMin), is President of the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Farmington, MN. He is the author of *Great Commission, Great Confusion, or Great Confession?* (Wipf & Stock, 2012). He is co-author with Harold Senkbeil of *Pastoral Leadership: for the Care of Souls* (2nd ed Lexham Press, 2021) and their book on

contextual mission, *Culture of the Word*, is forthcoming from Lexham in 2022. He has written numerous articles published in *The Lutheran Witness*, *Logia*, and *Seelsorger*, including his recent monograph *What does this mean? Responding to Social Justice and Critical Race Theory* (2021).

Woodford is a member of the Board of Regents of Concordia University, St. Paul, MN. He has served as an adjunct instructor for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN and the Institute of Lutheran Theology in Brookings, SD. Dr. Woodford is a Fellow in the Collegium of DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel, charged with research, writing, and speaking regarding the care of souls in the contemporary context. He



Lutherans
For Life

frequently presents on matters related to soul care, missiology, marriage, sex and gender issues, as well as critical race theory. He is a husband to Becca and father to their seven children (five girls and two boys).

KEYSTONE COMMUNITY SERVICES



Thank you to all who have given to Keystone in 2022 to support our neighbors.

Throughout this year full of ups and downs, more of our neighbors have been turning to Keystone. Your generosity helps provide the food, stability, and connection they need and rely on. You also make possible the resources for individuals and families to strengthen and improve their quality of life.

Thank you for being a part of this community!

Youth Holiday Gifts

Thank you to everyone who participated in gift giving to Rezek House.
Your generosity was greatly appreciated.



MAIN STREET LIVING
SUNDAYS 9:00–10:00am
WFTC CHANNEL 29/9-2



Main Street Living is an LCMS program that features pastors from the WFTC, channel 29/9-2, viewer area. The first half hour is a reproduction of *This is the Life*. The second half hour is a modified Lutheran worship service, which is produced locally. Program information for January is below. To watch, go to mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities" tab.

- January 1: "The Other Wiseman" features another Magi who, making his own journey to the Christ child, encounters others and shows kindness along the way.
- January 8: "Senior Citizen" features a man struggling with purpose and a place in life after retirement.
- January 15: "The Deadly Pen" features a businessman struggling with the guilt of another man's death.
- January 22: "Live Option" A 15-year-old pregnant daughter and her mother disagree on the future of her child.
- January 29: "Transition" A young boy reacts to the reality of his parents' divorce and the new reality he faces.

THE NEW FREEDOM STORE FREEDOM IN CHRIST

This is what Christmas looks like at the New Freedom Store.



Buck and Reggie (volunteers from FreedomWorks) take delivery of 100 meals donated from Saint John in Woodbury. They reside in a faith based halfway house for former felons but also share with those less fortunate.

Nicole from Radies Health picks up 100 pairs of Hanes socks to distribute to the homeless. We filled up her car with used blankets too, thanks to the efforts of Dick and Joyce Swadean.



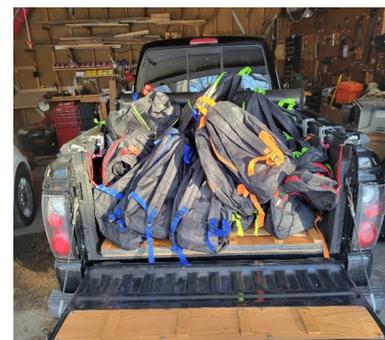
Elaine and Mark (and members Our Savior Lutheran in Excelsior) prepared meals for the homeless.



Thank you



Lunches from Gloria Dei in Minneapolis were delivered to the Listening Place in Saint Paul (a day shelter for the needy). Saint John Lutheran filled my truck with Welcome Kits packed by their confirmation class.



Pastor Martin Cornes and members of Gloria Dei prepare 500 lunches for Laura Phelps (Lutheran Social Services) who delivered them to the homeless.



Thank you

to all who donated Poinsettias!

Poinsettias Given by

In Remembrance or Honor of

Lois Affeldt

Charlie and Marge Avoles

Lloyd Bratland and Nancy Sontag

Janet and Mike Fishback

Dorothy Fox

Patty and Jerry Karschnik

Mark, Sandy, Dave, and Matt Kolar

Brian and Bridget Kruchowski

David Lumpp and Shirley Miske

Jehovah Lutheran Church

Joyce E. Mennicke

Eric Miesen

Alan and Sue Puder

Loved Ones

Becky Herrmann

Stella and George Bratland

Jean and Wally Sontag

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Willard and Donna Karschnik

Dovain and Laraa Otterson

Rachael Slatter

Jerry Kolar

Doris and Ray Manthey

Ilene Lindholm

Mary Hill

Loved Ones

Martha Ryan

Pastor August Mennicke

Adolph Miesen

Wayne Mutterer

Loved Ones



ACTIVITY CALENDAR



January 2023

<p>1</p> <p>9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary</p> <p>Growing in Faith after Service Nursery</p> <p>Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>No Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am</p>  <p>LWML Bible Study 1:00pm Open to all</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary</p> <p>Growing in Faith after Service Nursery</p> <p>Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Lay Ministry Meeting 6:30pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 10:30am</p> <p>Prayer Group 9:00am</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am</p> <p>ARB Meeting 6:30 pm</p> <p>Mission and Ministry Meeting 6:30pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary</p> <p>Growing in Faith after Service Nursery</p> <p>Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Council Meeting 6:30pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 10:30am</p> <p>Prayer Group 9:00am</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Game Night at Pastor Miller's house 7:00pm</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary</p> <p>Growing in Faith after Service Nursery</p> <p>Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 10:30am</p> <p>Prayer Group 9:00am</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am</p> <p>Jottings articles due</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

<p>29</p> <p>9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary</p> <p>Growing in Faith after Service Nursery</p> <p>Voters' Meeting 11:15am</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>
--	-----------	-----------



*Behold
I am making
all things new.*
Revelation 21:5

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				