

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 2024

Jehovah Lutheran Church

Traditional liturgy and
hymns of the faith
Gospel-centered preaching
Weekly celebration of
Holy Communion



SUNDAYS

Worship 9:30am

Growing in Faith
Sunday School
Following Divine Service

Living in Faith
Bible Study 11:00am

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



One Lord, one faith, one baptism
Ephesians 4:5

They Rejoiced Exceedingly with Great Joy

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.
Matthew 2:10-11a (ESV).

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Rejoice! Christ has come for you!

In the Gospel reading for the Epiphany of our Lord, we read that when the star led the wisemen to the Christ Child, “They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy!” In other words, the wisemen rejoiced three times over. They rejoicingly rejoiced with great joy! That’s a lot of joy!

And it should be. For the baby the wisemen beheld in the manger is none other than God come in the flesh to embark upon His work of renewing all creation. Just how much the wisemen understood about the identity and mission of the child they came to worship, we’re not really sure. Matthew doesn’t tell us that.

But what Matthew does tell us is that the wisemen were absolutely overjoyed to find Jesus. And this joy of the wisemen contrasts significantly with the bad attitude King Herod has about the birth of baby Jesus. For Herod is stuck in a fearful world of his own making. It is often said that power corrupts, and that absolute power corrupts absolutely. Well, if this were true of anyone, it certainly was true about King Herod.

Herod was absolutely roaring drunk on absolute power. With the help of the Romans, Herod achieved almost godlike status in his own day. He destroyed all enemies and took the throne in a three-way war for control over the land of Judea and Galilee. He survived a Roman Empire-wide civil war by changing sides with the changing of the tide of war. Herod built an army, a navy, docks, roads, aqueducts, bridges, fortresses, and he even left his own stamp on the Temple in Jerusalem through a serious redecorating program.

But it wasn’t enough. Herod was afraid that some rival outside or inside of his household would try to take the throne from him. Moved by this fear, Herod promulgated a purge of his government and his family. Out of the fear of losing his throne and his power, Herod even killed his own wife and children. So bloody were the purges within Herod’s own family that the Roman Emperor Augustus once remarked that he would rather be Herod’s pig than Herod’s son.

Herod’s maniacal fear of losing power forms the background of our Epiphany Gospel. Herod’s love of power and his fear of losing power motivates his hatred of the newborn Jesus. It leads to his plot to murder the Christ Child and to take down many other babies and toddlers with him.

This, brothers and sisters, is the real meaning of sin.

Sin is wanting to be our own god and wanting this power so much that we should shut everyone else out, live in fear and hatred, and even turn that hate against God himself. And left to ourselves, that’s where we’d be—turned in upon ourselves against God for all eternity.

But, God sent forth His fully divine Son to save us from ourselves. Christ, God the Son, is born in Bethlehem to set us free! Christ sets us free from hatred and fear. Christ sets us free from the demented desire to be our own God. Christ sets us free for joy.

The freedom that this child born of Mary brings to us swallows up all hatred. It pushes out all fear. It puts to death the desire to be our own God. It takes us off of the throne of our hearts and puts the newborn Jesus there.

Being encountered by Jesus Christ gives us joy, and it is joy that is exceedingly joyfully great joy!

continued...

As we begin a New Year, come encounter Christ with us at Jehovah Lutheran!

Come meet with Christ in worship!

Come hear and read and study and do His Word with us!

Come receive Christ as He gives Himself to us in His Holy Supper!

Come join us as we reach out to others with the peace, love, and joy of Christ!

Come celebrate the joy of being part of the people of the King born for you!

Come walk with us in 2024 in the joy of Christ Jesus, born for our salvation!

Walking together with you,
Pastor Joshua Miller

PASTORAL AND CONGREGATIONAL GOALS FOR 2024

As we begin a new calendar year, we look back and reflect on God's work among us at Jehovah Lutheran in 2023. In the past year, we have seen an increase in regular worship attendance by our members and friends. We have also seen an increase in attendance in Bible class. Our Sunday school has expanded to include several families from Mekane Yesus Fellowship. In the past year, we began new outreach ventures together with sister congregations, CSP, and the MN South District of the LCMS through the St. Paul Outreach Center. We also saw increased participation in fellowship events both at church and offsite. We have seen an increase in promised offering giving for the coming year.

Within this context of growth in worship, fellowship, outreach, and stewardship over the last year, it is fitting that we look to the future, moved by the Holy Spirit to continue this growth. After prayerful consideration and consultation with the Board of Lay Ministry, I have set forth some goals for our life together as a congregation in 2024. I believe that these goals are modest, faithful to the Gospel, and reflect where we are already headed, walking together as God's people at Jehovah Lutheran.

Pastoral Goals

In 2024, I as your pastor will endeavor to...

- Continue to develop and deepen collaborative work of the SPOC with our Synodical partners in this time and place
- Lead the congregation in a renewed focus on evangelism
- Contact every inactive member in our congregation
- Lead the congregation in increased and faithful stewardship
- Encourage our lay leadership to explore forming a stewardship or endowment committee
- Lead the congregation in honoring our commitment to Concordia Academy as an association congregation by including \$2,500 for this commitment in our annual budget

Congregational Goals

In 2024, I ask each member and friend of Jehovah Lutheran to endeavor to...

- Attend Divine Service regularly
- Engage in studying the Scriptures (through attending Living by Faith (Bible class) and/or Men's or Women's Bible study
- Pray for 5 minutes a day for yourself, your family, your congregation, your pastor, those who attend our outreach, and the world
- Make and follow through on a stewardship promise
- Participate in an outreach event (such as the warm gear drive)
- Participate in a Fellowship Event (Life Together)
- Have dinner with one member or friend of Jehovah who you don't yet know
- Call and invite an inactive member to return to church

continued...

If you have questions about these goals, I invite you to speak with me directly about them. These goals are not intended to be any kind of binding legalism that orders our life together. Our common life of faith is a gift from God to us that comes from our baptism into His Son's death and resurrection. These goals are meant to act more like guideposts, pointing us on our way as we walk together as God's children in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God's blessings to you and your loved ones as you follow Christ in 2024.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Joshua Miller



JANUARY 21 VOTERS' MEETING AND POTLUCK

The next Voters' Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 21**, with a potluck dinner to follow.

Members, please bring a dish to share.

A-J: salad or side dish, K-Q: main dish, and R-Z: dessert.

Beverages will be provided.



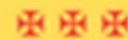
Epiphany at Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Join us in celebrating
the Epiphany of our Lord
with a
festive Divine Service.

The Rev. Scot Missling
(Pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran)
will preside
and the Rev. Dr. Joshua Miller
(Pastor of Jehovah Lutheran)
will preach.

All are welcome!



Circuit Divine Service

January 6 2024

6:30 PM

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

655 Forest Street • St Paul MN • 55106

www.bethlehem-eaststpaul.org

651 • 776 • 4737

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 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.

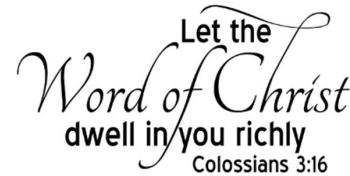
Men's Bible Study

Join us for Bible Study on Wednesday mornings
at 11:00am in the lounge.

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

January 4 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.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

January 7

Genesis 1:1-5

God overcame the chaos of the watery abyss and primordial night, creating an inhabitable world with light and the separation of waters.

Romans 6:1-11

Paul declares that we have been “baptized into Christ’s death . . . our old self crucified with him.”

Thus freed from sin we are now alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Mark 1:4-11

John prepares the way for Jesus, identified as the beloved Son, who will draw people into communion with God through the Holy Spirit.



January 14

1 Samuel 3:1-10

The Lord calls the boy Samuel. He responds obediently and all Israel comes to recognize him as a prophet of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

God gives us our body as a gift, a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit and belonging to Christ.

“Therefore glorify God in your body.”

John 1:43-51

Nathanael responds to the invitation to “Come and see,” testifies to Jesus as King of Israel, and is promised a vision of the Son of Man.

January 21

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

In this quaint and humorous story Jonah responds reluctantly to preach to Nineveh. He learns that God decides on whom He will have mercy.

1 Corinthians 7:29-35

Paul expects the imminent return of the Lord and recommends avoiding new commitments so as to stay free from cares.

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming the good news that God’s kingdom is at hand. The call to “repent and believe” means a reorientation of life.



January 28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses assures the Israelites that, when he passes on, the Lord will raise up successor prophets from among them to speak his words.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Some had conscientious scruples about eating food offered to idols, others did not. Paul’s principle: How our actions impact others should guide our decisions.

Mark 1:21–28

“The kingdom is near,” Jesus had proclaimed. That now becomes evident as he teaches and acts with authority.



SPOC News The St. Paul Outreach Center is pleased to announce that the new renovation on the Youth Room floors and the landings is ready to use for increased after-school or other activities! This, and the asbestos abatement this fall, were fully funded by the \$20,000 grant we received from the LCMS Minnesota South District. We will again get this grant in the 2024 year to further develop the ministry of the St. Paul Outreach Center.

Want to help start
a new part of the programming?

Visit <https://forms.gle/MQzzfsbbxTEAc8kQA>

or use this QR code to let us know which of your interests can be a connection here in the community! We would love to be able to add one-time events on a Saturday or other weeknight options. We also are beginning to integrate more family resources to assist neighbors in need. Check with Katie Miller if you have questions or ideas.



WINTERWEAR GIVEAWAY
Saturday, January 20, 2024
10am-2pm

The next SPOC partner event is a winterwear give-away (hats/gloves/mittens/scarves/socks) on **Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 10am-2pm** at Jehovah Lutheran Church. This is a shared ministry of the St. Paul Circuit LCMS churches and schools. We are seeking donations and volunteers.

Donations can be left at Jehovah Lutheran Church on January Fridays (5, 12, 19) 9:00-11:00 am. Volunteers are needed on January 18, 19 & 20 for set-up and event assistance. Please sign up on the form at this link with donations and times you can help: <https://rb.gy/hq4tc0>

Questions? Contact David Mennicke, St. Paul Outreach Coordinator at spoc@jehovahlutheran.org or 651-636-3271. Thanks for your donations, time, and prayers!



CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The theme for Centennial events is "100 Years of Grace: Walking Together at Jehovah Lutheran."

The first Centennial event on Reformation Sunday was a great success! Our next Centennial Sunday will be

Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2024.

Focus will be on the 1940s-50s.

We look forward to seeing you at future Centennial Sundays on these dates:

Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024.

Focus will be on the 1960s-70s.

Rally Sunday, September 8, 2024.

Focus will be on the 1980s-90s.

Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2024.

Focus will be on the 2000s-20s.



YOUR MITES IN ACTION

2023–2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 4

FORTIFYING FAITH IN THOSE WITH VISION IMPAIRMENT Lutheran Braille Workers | \$100,000

Lutheran Braille Workers freely supply large print and braille materials for blind and visually impaired people around the world. The \$100,000 LWML grant, Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment, will help in developing, formatting, producing, and distributing fifty to one hundred new Scripture-based and theologically related materials to people in need around the world.

To learn more, see the bulletin board in the hallway or visit lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-4.

Orphan Grain Train ✝

Global Human Care Fund – We continue to highlight the work done by Orphan Grain Train. Recently, "New England Branch volunteers were ecstatic to load 5,500 pounds of food for the holidays that included frozen chicken in a donated freezer, potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, cookies and other needed aid for Myra, KY." Check out the bulletin board in the hallway or visit www.ogt.org for lots of details about more current projects, mission, needs, and how you might help as we celebrate this holiday season of Christ's love come into this world. If you would like to support this ministry, you can donate via check (made out to Jehovah with "Global Human Care Fund" as a memo) in the offering.

THE NEW FREEDOM STORE FREEDOM IN CHRIST

**"I will honor Christmas in my heart,
and try to keep it all the year."**

- Charles Dickens

In December, the members of Saint John Lutheran in Woodbury took the one hundred sandwich challenge, except they doubled down and gave two hundred. The whole idea was in fact their own. It has served us well.

The Freedom Store delivered those sandwiches to the foodbank at FreedomWorks. I took a minute to step into their kitchen and snap this photo of their volunteers at work. They will distribute them today.

Thanks to you, The Freedom Store also has doubled down. Last year we gave them 400 meals. This year we gave them 900. Giving gifts gives something very special back to the givers, of course. Everybody on this mailing list knows that special feeling. When the volunteers at the Food Bank give, they feel this joy too.

Maybe this is why Tiny Tim says these very special words at the end of "A Christmas Carol": "God bless us everyone!"

Our next endeavor is coming soon. We wish to support the new Saint Paul Outreach Center that will be giving away winterwear at Jehovah Lutheran on January 20. Feel free to get in touch. And, if you happen to be cleaning out your closets, we will also accept men's tee shirts, jeans, belts, socks, hats, gloves, and shoes.

Jim Seemann, Ph.D.
seemann@csp.edu

CELEBRATE LIFE

Concordia University St. Paul will host the 2024 Life Chapel Service at Graebner Memorial Chapel on January 22, 2024, at 10:30am. Using the Lutherans for Life theme based on Charlotte Elliot's familiar hymn, "Just As I Am," the service will testify to the sanctity of every human life.

After the Life Chapel Service, worshipers are encouraged to travel to the steps outside the Minnesota State Capitol for the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) March For Life from 12-1pm south of the Capitol building. Marches for Life are joyful and hopeful. Come to the party and be an advocate for life!

For further information on the MCCL March for Life or to download the March flyer visit: <https://www.mccl.org/march> or contact Pastor James Kroonblawd, MNS District Life Coordinator, at Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church 651-454-7235.



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Save the date! Lutherans for Life, Lifelines will hold a public information event on January 27, 2024, at 9:00am at Trinity Lutheran Church, Waconia with Rev. Fred Hinz, MN South Public Policy Advocate. For further information, contact Rev. Fred Hinz at fred.hinz@mnsdistrict.org.

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 7: “The Other Wiseman” – Another Magi, making his journey to the Christ child, encounters others and shows kindness along the way.

January 14: “The Priceless Book” – Money and health troubles on the farm lead a father to God’s Word for comfort.

January 21: “Live Option” – A 15-year-old pregnant daughter and her mother disagree on the future of her child.

January 28: “In Search of Dignity” – Two factory workers struggle to find meaning after they are replaced by machines.

JOIN US
FOR OUR TALKATIVE THURSDAY
CALL - IN CHAT



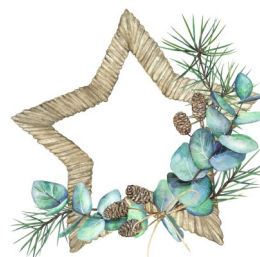
We chat at **11:10am each Thursday**. All you need is your phone. Dial: 978-990-5000. If you are using a land line please dial 1 and then the number. When prompted enter the JELC code:

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*



Happy New Year!



ACTIVITY CALENDAR

January 2024



	<div>1</div> <div></div> <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div><div>4</div><div>LWML Bible Study 1:00pm Open to all ARB Meeting 6:00pm</div></div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Epiphany Divine Service at Bethlehem Lutheran 6:30pm</div>																																										
<div>7</div> <div>9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Church Council Meeting 6:00pm</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Men's Bible Study 11:00am Rooted in Faith 6:30pm</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>																																										
<div>14</div> <div>9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Men's Bible Study 11:00am Rooted in Faith 6:30pm</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am Mission and Ministry Meeting 6:00pm</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Winterwear Giveaway 10am-2pm or until gone</div>																																										
<div>21</div> <div>9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Voters' Meeting and Potluck</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Men's Bible Study 11:00am Rooted in Faith 6:30pm</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am February Jottings Articles due</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>																																										
<div>28</div> <div>9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Men's Bible Study 11:00am Rooted in Faith 6:30pm</div>	<div>FEBRUARY 2024</div> <table><tr><td>SUN</td><td>MON</td><td>TUE</td><td>WED</td><td>THU</td><td>FRI</td><td>SAT</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT					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	29			<div>Behold I am making all things new. Revelation 21:5</div>
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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR HOURS

TUESDAY - THURSDAY

8:30AM - 1:30PM

FRIDAY

8:30AM - 12:30PM

**Email submissions deadline for the February issue of *The Jottings*
IS JANUARY 25TH.**

Please email your articles to office@jehovahlutheran.org

Contact us!

Jehovah Lutheran Church

1566 Thomas Ave.

St. Paul MN 55104

651-644-1421

office@jehovahlutheran.org



*Jehovah Lutheran Church Is a congregation of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*