

St. John Lutheran Church
January 2026
MESSENGER



A New Years Reflection on Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

For many, a new year brings hope of new beginnings; a hope that this year will be better than the last. The new year can be a jumping off point; a chance to try something new or go down a different path. The new year can motivate a person to make a much-needed change in their lives.

While this is all well and good, we all know that new year’s resolutions rarely (if ever) are kept throughout the entire year; they are seldom made into sustainable lifestyle changes that stick with us for an extended period of time. But what if I told you there IS something that is sustainable and lasts your whole life long? Yep, you guessed it; God’s love. God’s love for you is strong today, tomorrow, and every day thereafter; nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God has a plan for you...today, tomorrow, this year, next year...that plan is to give you opportunities to prosper; opportunities to make the next right choice in your life; a choice that is Christ-centered and driven by faith. God sets up the dominos in your life and it’s up to you to topple over the first one; setting off a chain reaction that leads to a future full of hope.

I send all of you my prayers at the start of this new year. May 2026 be a year full of joy and success. May you grow into a closer relationship with God throughout this year. May you break through the various obstacles you face in life, topple over that domino, and follow the plan God has for you. Amen.

Pastor Todd

St. John Lutheran Church

8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

Pastor Todd Burrichter

(641) 228-0235

pastortoddburrichter@gmail.com

Deacon Jackie Schilling

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300 Merrill Street

P.O. Box 575

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641-435-2396

Church Secretary: Lisa Acton

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CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

President:

Vice President: **Zach Huffman**

Council Secretary: **Lisa Acton**

Social Concerns: **Kif Richmann, Lisa Acton**

Building & Grounds: **Jeremy Wolf**

Technology: **Zach Huffman**

Worship & Music:

Incoming Council Members - Jan 19, 2026

Bruce Bruns

Angie Dietz

Tom Franzen

Roger Garbes

Greg Henn

Christopher Kalvig – Youth

Connor Sullivan – Youth

Outgoing Council Members - Jan 19, 2026

Kathy Cerwinske – We Thank You!

Rick Drewelow – We Thank You!

Megan Stille – We Thank You!

ADDITIONAL CHURCH LEADERS

Finance: **Mark Rodruck**

Treasurer: **Jo Henn**

Agape: **Ann Senner**

Jubilee: **Bruce Bruns**

Custodians: **Rod & Beth Wilson**

Organist: **Ann Senner**

Organist: **Hannah Pederson**

November 2025 General Fund Report

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Balance 11/01/2025 | (50,314.86) |
| Receipts | 20,182.19 |
| Expenses | 17,076.45 |
| Transfers | (770.00) |
| Balance 09/30/2025 | (47,979.12) |

December 2025

| Date | Attendance | Giving |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| | Cancel | |
| Dec 7th | Weather | 14,623.00 |
| Dec 14th | 85 | 9,962.84 |
| Dec 21st | 96 | 3,956.00 |
| Dec 24th | 67 | 940.00 |
| Dec 24th | 64 | 229.00 |
| Dec 28th | 51 | 4,568.86 |
| Giving to Date | | \$ 34,279.70 |
| Vanco Simply Giving | | \$ 1,630.00 |
| Dec Giving | | \$ 35,909.70 |

Feeding His Sheep in Nashua

Compass Center; Lunches; **Every Tuesday** Free-Will Offering11:30-12:30 p.m.
Nashua Food Pantry: 115 Woodbridge St.; DowntownEvery Friday; 9-11 a.m. & on Call.
Mobile Food Pantry: January 15th.....(Every 3rd Thursday).....4-5:30 p.m.



The Community Pantry At St. John Lutheran Church Use North Door Entrance At 300 Merrill St; Nashua

Monday.....9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Thursday.....9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Closed Friday
 Saturday.....9 a.m. to Noon
 Other times by Appointment: Call 641-435-2396

Homebound Members

Liz Arends: Accura Healthcare, New Hampton
 Burton and Edna Dietz: Clarksville Assisted Living Ctr.
 Virginia Kraft: Cedar Vale, Nashua
 Phyllis Kunzman: 11th St. Chautauqua, Charles City
 June Marth: West Des Moines, Iowa
 Don Niemeyer: Clarksville Skilled Nursing & Rehab Ctr.
 Mary Lou Phyfe: Clarksville Skilled Nursing & Rehab Ctr.
 Ida Schloemer: Evergreen Arbor, Bartels, Waverly
 Beth Waller: Maquoketa, Iowa
 Verna Wiebke: Linden Place, Bartels, Waverly

Our Sympathy goes out to the family of Shirley Fosse,
 who passed away this week. We are saddened by
 your loss. *St. John Lutheran Church*



January Birthdays

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 2 | Todd Burrichter |
| 3 | Kelli Haut |
| 4 | Catherine Mahlstedt |
| 4 | Rhett Miller |
| 7 | Ann Senner |
| 9 | Verna Wiebke |
| 10 | Elizabeth Kalvig |
| 15 | Edward Mahlstedt |
| 15 | Jeanne Patterson |
| 21 | Wayne Hicok |
| 22 | Christopher Kalvig |
| 22 | Katelyn Wolf |
| 23 | Lola Stiles |
| 23 | Jeremy Wolf |
| 27 | Loralee Patterson |
| 31 | Bruce Bruns |



Give blood.
Help save lives.



Nashua Community Blood Drive
St. John's Lutheran Church



Scan to schedule an appointment

Fellowship Hall
300 Merrill
Nashua, IA 50658

1/28/2026
12:30 PM to 5:00 PM

New Year Resolution?

Will you make a resolution about starting something new in 2026? If you can donate blood, you can keep your idea by donating Wednesday, January 28th at St John Lutheran Fellowship Hall. There is a change in time for this winter season. Make as appointment for any time from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. You could make life better for people in this community and others. We can't wait to see you.

Myrna

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Sponsored by the VFW For an appointment, call Myrna at: (641) 435-4804 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and search Sponsor Code: NashuaIA

| Worship Servants JANUARY | January 4th | January 11th | January 18th | January 25th |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2nd Sun Christmas | Baptism of Our Lord | 2nd Sun Epiphany | 3rd Sun Epiphany |
| | Traditional Comm | Jubilee Comm | Traditional | Jubilee |
| Head Usher | Jeremy Wolf | Kathy Cerwinske | Kathy Cerwinske | Jeremy Wolf |
| Lector | Myrna Ross | Judy Rottinghaus | Nancy Poppe | Linda Becker |
| Sound | Kaden Hannemann | Jeff Trost | Kif Richmann | Troy Stille |
| Video | Kami Hannemann | Katelyn Wolf | Carter Hennick | Conner Sullivan |
| Greeter/ Offering | Kristi Hannemann | Judy, Dan Rottinghaus | Bruce ,Lori Bruns | Bruce, Linda Becker |
| Communion | Zelda, Dennis Demro | Mark, Trent Rodruck | N/A | N/A |

As the calendar turns and we step into a brand-new year, many of us feel that familiar tug to make resolutions. We promise ourselves that *this* will be the year we finally get organized, eat better, pray more, worry less, or keep the house clean. And while these resolutions are made with good intentions, most of us know the quiet truth: by February—sometimes even by the second week of January—they’ve slipped quietly out of sight.

It doesn’t mean we didn’t mean well. It doesn’t mean we’re failures. More often, it simply means we’re human. We tend to set goals that assume we can change overnight, or that life will suddenly become smooth and predictable. But life rarely works that way.

We also sometimes enter the new year with a deeper expectation: *This will be the year when everything finally gets better*. We imagine a year without hardship, without illness, without conflict, without grief. But Scripture gently reminds us that faithfulness does not guarantee a trouble-free life.

Jesus says plainly, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Trouble is not a sign that we’ve failed. It’s simply part of being alive. And the hope we carry into the new year isn’t that we will avoid struggle, but that Christ walks with us through every moment of it.

James also cautions us against assuming we know what the year will bring: “You do not even know what tomorrow will bring... Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that’” (James 4:14–15). These verses aren’t meant to discourage us—they’re meant to free us. We don’t have to control the year ahead. We don’t have to predict it. We don’t have to perfect it. We simply have to live it with God.

So maybe this year, instead of resolutions that hinge on our own willpower or expectations that life will magically smooth out, we can try something different.

Maybe this year can be about:

- **Living in the moment**, trusting that God is present in the ordinary, the chaotic, and the quiet.
- **Growing in faith**, not by giant leaps but by small, steady steps—one prayer, one act of kindness, one moment of gratitude at a time.
- **Deepening our connection with God**, not through perfection but through presence.
- **Strengthening our relationships**, choosing forgiveness, compassion, and curiosity over assumptions and frustration.
- **Seeing each day as a gift**, not a test we must pass.

Paul reminds us, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). That means the holy work of the new year isn’t found in flawless resolutions—it’s found in the everyday choices to love God and love our neighbor.

And perhaps most comforting of all is Lamentations 3:22–23: “His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.” Not just on January 1st. Every morning. Every sunrise. Every breath.

So as we step into this new year, may we release the pressure to reinvent ourselves and instead embrace the invitation to walk closely with the One who already knows the year ahead. May we trust that God’s mercies will meet us—again and again—with enough grace for each day.

And may we remember that the goal is not to become perfect people, but to become present people: present to God, present to one another, and present to the sacred, surprising moments that make up a life of faith. Happy New Year, dear friends. May it be a year of growth, grace, and holy presence.

Upcoming Events at St. John Lutheran, Nashua

| | | |
|--|--|-----------|
| Thursday, January 1st, 2026..... | HAPPY NEW YEAR | |
|Saturday, January 3rd, 2026 | Men's Breakfast..... 7:00 a.m. | |
| Sun, January 4th..... | St John, Nashua, Traditional with Communion..... 8:30 a.m. | |
| | Noisy Offering!.....Sunday School in the Pews..... | |
|St John Stapleton | 8:30 a.m. | |
|St. Peter, Richfield | 10:30 a.m. | |
|Monday, Jan 5th..... | Cub Scouts | 5:30 p.m. |
|Monday, Jan 5th..... | Dart Ball Practice | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan 7th | Worship and Bible Study Food, Family, Fun..... | 5:00 p.m. |
|Wednesday, Jan 7th | Dart Ball Game | 7:00 p.m. |
| Sun, January 11th..... | St John, Nashua, Jubilee with Communion | 8:30 a.m. |
| | Sunday School after Children's Message | |
|St John Stapleton | 10:30 a.m. | |
| Wednesday, Jan 14th | Worship and Bible Study.....Food, Family, Fun..... | 5:00 p.m. |
|Wednesday, Jan 14th | Dart Ball Game | 7:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan 15th | Book Club..... | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sun, Jan.18th | St John, Nashua, Traditional Service | 8:30 a.m. |
| | Sunday School after Children's Message | |
|St. Peter, Richfield | 10:30 a.m. | |
|Monday, Jan. 19th..... | Council/ New Members /Retreat/Pizza..... | 5:00 p.m. |
|Monday, Jan. 19th..... | Cub Scouts | 5:30 p.m. |
|Monday, Jan. 19th..... | Dart Ball Practice | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan 21st..... | Worship and Bible Study Food, Family, Fun..... | 5:00 p.m. |
|Wednesday, Jan 21st | Dart Ball Game | 7:00 p.m. |
| Sun, Jan 25th..... | St John, Nashua, Jubilee..... | 8:30 a.m. |
| | Sunday School after Children's Message | |
|St John Stapleton | 10:30 a.m. | |
|Monday, Jan. 26th..... | Dart Ball Practice | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan 28th | Worship and Bible Study Food, Family, Fun..... | 5:00 p.m. |
|Wednesday, Jan 28th | Dart Ball Game | 7:00 p.m. |

January

| THU Jan 1 | FRI 2 | SAT 3 |
|--|--|--|
| New Year's Day 10am Lisa Work | Community Pantry Closed 9am Lisa Work | 7am Men's Breakfast |
| 4 Second Sunday of Christmas 8:30am Nashua Trad Communion St 8:30am St John (Stapleton) Worship 10:30am St. Peter (Richfield) Worsh | 5 9am Community Pantry Open 9am Lisa Work 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Dart Ball Practice | 6 9am Community Pantry Open |
| 7 9am Community Pantry Open 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun 7pm Dart Ball Game | 8 9am Community Pantry Open 9am Lisa Work | 9 Community Pantry Closed 9am Lisa Work |
| 10 9am Community Pantry Open | 11 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30am Nashua Jubilee Communion 10:30am St John (Stapleton) | 12 9am Community Pantry Open 9am Lisa Work 6:30pm Dart Ball Practice |
| 13 9am Community Pantry Open | 14 9am Community Pantry Open 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun 7pm Dart Ball Game | 15 Mobile Food Pantry of Chickasaw Co. 9am Community Pantry Open 9am Lisa Work 9:30am Book Club |
| 16 Community Pantry Closed 9am Lisa Work | 17 9am Community Pantry Open | 18 2nd Sunday of Epiphany 8:30am Nashua Trad Service 10:30am St. Peter (Richfield) |
| 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 9am Community Pantry Open 9am Lisa Work 5pm Council/New Members/Retreat 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Dart Ball Practice | 20 9am Community Pantry Open | 21 9am Community Pantry Open 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun 7pm Dart Ball Game |
| 22 9am Community Pantry Open 9am Lisa Work | 23 Community Pantry Closed 9am Lisa Work | 24 9am Community Pantry Open |
| 25 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 8:30am Nashua Jubilee Service 10:30am St John (Stapleton) | 26 9am Community Pantry Open 9am Lisa Work 6:30pm Dart Ball Practice | 27 9am Community Pantry Open |
| 28 9am Community Pantry Open 12:30pm Blood Drive Here At St. Joh 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun 7pm Dart Ball Game | 29 9am Community Pantry Open 9am Lisa Work | 30 Community Pantry Closed 9am Lisa Work |
| 31 9am Community Pantry Open | | |

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300 Merrill St.
P.O. Box 575
Nashua, IA 50658

