



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

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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 Cerwinski – 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
Dec 7th	Cancel 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 Phye: 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 an 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: NashuaA

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 Cerwinski	Kathy Cerwinski	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

<p>THU Jan 1</p> <p>New Year's Day ● 10am Lisa Work</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Second Sunday of Christmas ● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9:30am Nashua Trad Communion Service ● 8:30am St John (Stapleton) Worship ● 10:30am St. Peter (Richfield) Worship</p>	<p>5</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work ● 5:30pm Cub Scouts ● 6:30pm Dart Ball Practice</p>	<p>6</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work</p>	<p>7</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 5pm Worship with Bible Study ● 5pm Food, Family, Fun ● 7pm Dart Ball Game</p>
	<p>11</p> <p>Baptism of Our Lord ● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work ● 6:30pm Dart Ball Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work ● 6:30pm Dart Ball Practice</p>	<p>13</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work</p>	<p>14</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 5pm Worship with Bible Study ● 5pm Food, Family, Fun ● 7pm Dart Ball Game</p>
	<p>18</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Epiphany ● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work ● 5pm Council/New Members/Retreat ● 5:30pm Cub Scouts ● 6:30pm Dart Ball Practice</p>	<p>19</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work</p>	<p>20</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work</p>	<p>21</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 5pm Worship with Bible Study ● 5pm Food, Family, Fun ● 7pm Dart Ball Game</p>
	<p>25</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Epiphany ● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work ● 6:30pm Dart Ball Practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work</p>	<p>27</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work</p>	<p>28</p> <p>● 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</p>
			<p>29</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work</p>	<p>30</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work</p>
				<p>31</p> <p>● 9am Community Pantry Open ● 9am Lisa Work</p>

St. John Lutheran Church
300 Merrill St.
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