

The foundation of Christian joy is the knowledge that Christ has died and is risen and that every other circumstance in life necessarily takes a back seat to this. The one possessed by Christian joy knows that the victory is already won and can trust this basic fact in the face of any contrary evidence.

It must be admitted that there is a great deal of contrary evidence in this life. There is death, misery, injustices, and tragedies of all kinds. These circumstances, or less dramatic ones, will present themselves to us. "Give up hope," they say, "Can't you see the world the way it really is? How can you possibly be joyful?"

These circumstances attract our attention away from the victory that has already been won by Jesus on our behalf. Instead, we are invited to make our peace with defeat. And it can be tempting, because darkness comes very near to us in this life and the light can seem very far.

And so joy requires hope. To know a deep and abiding joy is to be able to hope for what seems far away or very dim.

We are too weak to do this by ourselves. God knew this and gives us the gifts we need. God gives us the sacraments, baptism and holy communion, so that we can feel the cross traced on our forehead and hold onto something that is near to us and simple enough even if we are befuddled: "This is my body, given for you."

God gives us the gift of the Church, a community of need to people who can encourage each other with their testimonies. Perhaps the victory seems far from you today, but you can rejoice with the one who is rejoicing and be fed by this connection.

## February 2019

Or perhaps you have the opportunity to mourn with the one who is mourning and help them to bear that load. We need each other.

God has prepared good works for us from the foundation of the world so that there will always be meaningful actions for us to take.

To be possessed of Christian joy is to be the giver of hugs, the crier of tears, the speaker of testimonies. To be possessed of Christian joy is to not be alone, but to love and be loved. To be possessed of Christian joy is to sing against the darkness. To be possessed of Christian joy is to be held in the hands of God who has provided all that you will need until the day when all tears will be wiped away and the separations which hurt your heart give way to reunion.

Thank you. And thanks be to God.

Rev. Ben Worley  
Emanuel St. John, Lytton, IA  
(712) 541-4785 (cell phone)



**Okoboji Marriage Retreat** will be held Feb 15-17 at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. Theme for the weekend is "Connection: Staying in touch with God and your spouse in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". Whether you've been married many years or just one year, life happens. Things change. We change. Join us and take time to laugh, remember, and re-vision your marriage together. Enjoy a wonderful weekend with a banquet dinner, breakfast in bed, evening entertainment, and great sessions led by Rev. Ben and Stephanie Mason. Ben and Stephanie lead the marriage ministry at Lutheran Church of Hope, in West Des Moines.

**Emanuel-St John Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2019**

President Michelle Talbott called the meeting to order. Present were Cindy Souder, Rhonda Johnson, Jeff Ellerbrock, Karen Cerra, Ron Haden, Dennis Booth, Pauline Lange and Pastor Ben. Pastor Ben gave devotions. Motion by Jeff Ellerbrock, second by Dennis Booth to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Motion by Dennis Booth, second by Karen Cerra to approve the December minutes. Motion passed. Treasurer's report was given by Rhonda Johnson. Motion by Jeff Ellerbrock, second by Ron Haden to approve the treasurer's report with a balance of \$21,741.95. Motion passed. A written EPIC report was given to the council. The rest of the year will be in Rockwell City.

**Old Business:** None

**President's Report:** A letter was received from Western Iowa Synod. The Synod is in need of more money for the mission and ministry obligations. Council decided to put in the bulletin the information and ask for more donations on the fourth Sunday of January which is normal mission offering.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ben reported that he and Faith will be attending the marriage retreat at Ingham-Okobojo Camp, February 14-17. A camp representative will do the sermon on that Sunday they are gone.

**Worship and Music Committee:** Dennis Booth present. The committee talked about the Lenten services for this year. Ben and Susan Albright will be new members on the committee. They were given information on what the committee does.

**Parish Education:** A written report was read. The committee is planning on doing a town night with funds to go toward camperships.

**Outreach Committee:** Karen Cerra present. The committee has a sign-up sheet for donations of food for the soup dinner following the annual meeting. Colleen Arndt has volunteered to be on the committee.

**Property and Management Committee:** Ron Haden present. Garage door is fixed at parsonage. The furnace is fixed but the fan seems to run most of the time. He is looking at getting estimates on fixing furnace and will try to present at Annual Meeting.

**Stewardship and Finance Committee:** Jeff Ellerbrock went over the proposal for the 2019 budget to be given at the Annual Meeting. Motion by Dennis Booth, second by Ron Haden to approve the 2019 Budget for approval at the Annual Meeting to be held on January 27, 2019. Motion passed.

**WELCA:** No report.

**New Business:** The council discussed the EPIC payroll clerk position. Motion by Karen Cerra, second by Jeff Ellerbrock. to have EPIC payroll come through the general fund of the Emanuel-St John's Lutheran Church payroll system and St Paul Lutheran and Presbyterian Church will reimburse their share to us starting January 2019.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.



**Men's Retreat - "A Safe Place to Share"  
February 15-16, 2019**

The Western Iowa Synod Lutheran Men in Mission will be hosting their annual retreat at Lutheran Lakeside Camp in Spirit Lake. Registration cost will be \$50. This includes room and meals during the retreat. The theme is "**A Safe Place to Share**". The retreat will begin Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> with registration at 6:30 p.m. and will conclude Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. with a Worship Service with Holy Communion.

Man Talk and Faith Talk cards will be used. The Men in Mission Board Members will be sharing about their personal and spiritual relationships. Kel Anderson will present about his trip to the Holy Land. Mark Juhl will report about MIM RAGBRAI experiences and Barb Brennan will share about Mission Interpreters. Come and enjoy fellowship, food and a time to grow in your faith!

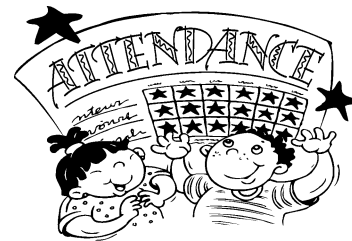
## February Birthdays

Feb. 1 Donald Bailey, Darcy Picard  
 Feb. 3 Chad Kruckenberg, Cory Waller  
 Feb. 5 Sawyer Riley  
 Feb. 6 Kelly Heimdal  
 Feb. 7 Noah Althiser, **Hazel Hayes**  
 Feb. 10 Blake Segebarth  
 Feb. 11 Randi Garcia  
 Feb. 13 Dani Andersen  
 Feb. 14 Abe Clark, Joane Hinrichs,  
 Connor Scharn, Natalie Scharn  
 Feb. 16 Carla Hutchens  
 Feb. 18 Jacob Schultz  
 Feb. 20 **Elvira Peters**, Debra Peterson  
 Feb. 21 Brad Diersen, Jeff Henkelman  
 Feb. 22 Jonathan Ellerbrock,  
 Feb. 23 Leland Loux, Adrian Newman,  
 Ann Newman, Brittany Peter  
 Feb. 25 Virginia Hillmer, Elijah Wheelock  
 Feb. 27 Lilly Adams, Rhemy Adams  
 Feb. 28 Angela Ellerbrock



Feb. 24, 1990 Lynn & Marlene Ramsey  
 Feb. 25, 1962 **Don & Dorothy Wilson**  
 Feb. 28, 2011 Michael & Shelly Baumhover

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



**Sunday School perfect attendance** for the month of December 2018:

- ☆ **Nursery-Pre-Kindergarten-** Adelaide Worley, Elin Albright, Myla Albright, Lily Bartels & Johnny Worley Lily Bartels;
- ☆ **Kindergarten & Grade 1-** Chase Hejtmanek, Sawyer Riley, Wesley Twyman, Lille Greene, Abby Lankford & Abby Worley;
- ☆ **Grades 2 & 3-** Natalie Scharn, Danika Meyer, Cooper Nattress & Benjamin Worley
- ☆ **Grades 4 & 5-** Jossa Hauptert, Kelsie Hejtmanek, Kellen Meyer, Owen Scharn, Derek Greene & Charlie Nattress;
- ☆ **Grade 6-**Onna Hauptert & Jewel Talbott;
- ☆ **Confirmation Class** (Grades 7 & 8) Brock Nattress, Olivia Toms, Connor Scharn & Madison Schultz;
- ☆ **Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12-** Laura Greene, Taylor Greene and Kortney Riley.

Class winner for the month of December with the best attendance was Nursery & Pre-Kindergarten taught by Alison Greene, Kari Musselman, Sally Musselman and Sam Musselman.



### Being with God

Begin the day with God.  
 Kneel down to Him in prayer.  
 Lift up thine heart to His abode.  
 And seek His love to share.

Go through the day with God.  
 Whatever thy work may be.  
 Wherever thou art, at home, abroad,  
 He still is near to thee.

End the day with God  
 Lay down your woes and cares  
 And as you travel the road of life  
 It will guard and keep you there.

From CoDR Flash  
 --Jared Owens



**Mark S. Talbott** 70, passed away Wednesday, January 16, 2019 unexpectedly in Rockwell City. Mark's funeral service was held at Emanuel-St. John Lutheran Church, Lytton, with Pastor Ben Worley officiating Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. He was buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery with Military Graveside Rites by the United States Marine Corp Honor Guard and the Hutchinson-Liechty American Legion Post #546.

Mark is survived by his children, Michelle Talbott, and Jeff (Stacy) Talbott, all of Lytton; granddaughters, SaraJo and Jewel Talbott; his mother Dorothy Talbott of Lake City; sister Sandi Maulsby of Rockwell City; other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife Janet; his father John Talbott; and brother-in-law Noel Maulsby.

Mark Steven Talbott was born February 21, 1948 at Lake City, Iowa. Mark attended Rockwell City High School. In 1967, Mark enlisted in the United States Marine Corp. He served two tours of duty with the 1st Marine Division during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged in 1971, attaining the rank of Corporal. On September 5, 1971 he was united in marriage to Janet Lake at Emanuel – St. John Lutheran Church in Lytton.

Mark worked various jobs in his life including farming, driving truck, Webb Feed, and worked as an instructor for Smithway Trucking, until his retirement. Janet passed away in 2017. Mark was a member of Emanuel – St. John Lutheran Church, and American Legion. He enjoyed family vacations, fishing with friends, the Sac Co. Cattleman's Lunch Gang, being Papa to his granddaughters, helping friends farm and many projects in the barn.



**Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!**

*"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19*

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, families, and adults!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who learn to trade self-harm for self-worth, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### **Helping Kids Thrive**

When Kari, a little girl they knew through church, was in need of a foster home, Stacie and Blake decided to step up.

The couple became licensed as foster and adoptive parents, and Stacie says it's been a rewarding experience ever since. With LSI Foster Care and Adoption in their corner, ready to provide support, guidance, or even just a listening ear, Stacie and Blake lift up children in their community through foster care.

After caring for Kari as foster parents, the opportunity came to adopt her. Now 10, Kari is an amazing big sister. The family has fostered and adopted a son, 3-year-old Silas, and they recently welcomed their biological son, 1-year-old Jett, into the family.

Stacie and Blake continue to foster children in need of a safe and supportive home, and Stacie says they hope to adopt again in the future.

"When you become a foster or adoptive parent, yes, you're helping children. But at the same time, you learn about yourself and you learn more about the world around you," Stacie says. "Foster care is an experience that is indescribable and life-changing."

## **MY WORSHIP AT CoDR**

Twenty years ago was my first step into a jail or prison. To go there for a Christian worship service was quite overwhelming and way out of my comfort zone. At first it was very uncomfortable as I entered the razor-wired prison fence but has now become routine and I barely notice the click of the lock on the prison entrance door.

My husband, Dennis, and I usually attend the Church of the Damascus Road at Rockwell City on Thursday nights, often calling it our date night. After so many years, I can now attend without him and feel at ease with the respectful inmates. I have completed the required computer class, called PREA, and have a volunteer badge so I no longer have to call the CoDR office for a reservation to attend worship. I enter the control room, show my badge, sign in and visit with other outside guests until the CO (Correctional Officer) opens the two gates for all of us to enter together. It is a short walk to a designated room that has been transformed into a "churchy" atmosphere.

The other outsiders and I are warmly welcomed by inmates. We circulate around the room to greet each other until Pr. Stone (presiding minister) calls for our attention to start worship. The service is normally a Lutheran service of liturgy, traditional hymns, prayers, scripture, a sermon, and communion. Inmates of any denomination or unchurch are welcome to attend. I enjoy watching the inmates be bold as they read scripture, share amazing musical talents and openly offer prayers of thanks, praise and concerns. Usually, some inmate thanks God for the outsiders joining in worship which always makes me smile.

There is time before and after the service for me to visit with a few of the guys individually while the others are clearing the room. No matter how my day has been, maybe boring, tiring, crazy busy or just uneventful, I always feel blessed and uplifted by worshipping our Lord and Savior with prisoners. Try it. You might feel the same blessing.

Candace Booth  
Lytton, Iowa

