

# The Richland Word

JANUARY  
2023

## Leadership at St. John for 2023

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### Council President:

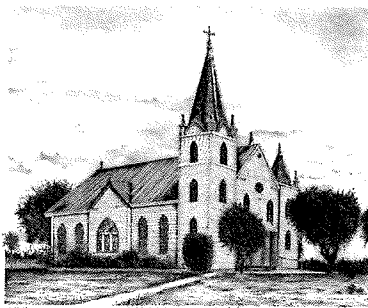
John Mark Thane  
Financial Secretary:  
Mark Muehlbrad

Louise Dunklin  
Hank Horak  
Debra Rutledge  
Jeff Haller  
Andrew Hamann  
Rodney Gebert  
Tammy Kelley  
William Kirchner

### Sunday School Superintendent:

David Schuchmann

- LEADERSHIP**
- ✓ Inspire People
  - ✓ Empower People
  - ✓ Shared Vision
  - ✓ Lead Change



## Three Days of Prayer

There are times the Holy Spirit takes what some people have been ignoring or only engaging in by rote, breathes fresh life into it, and uses it to pull us into the current of God's plans for our lives. An illustration of this is the ancient prayer and practice of the Lord's Prayer.

This year, we are going to take that ancient prayer and practice of the Church and put it to use in LCMC's Three Days of Prayer. As we pray together as individuals, congregations, and as one international association, we believe the Lord is going to use what we pray in this ancient prayer to pull us into the current of the plans and purposes He has for us.

This year, the Three Days of Prayer will be on January 3-5.



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## Welcome Rev. Keith Weise

Rev. Weise will be installed as St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church's Minister.

He and his family are coming from Minnesota even though he was born and raised in Texas. He is glad to be leaving the snow behind. We look forward to seeing everyone at this special worship service.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

There will be a lunch provided following worship!



## Time to Connect with Jesus and One Another

It is that time of year again! As we ring in 2023 full of hope and anticipation, many will make New Year's resolutions, resolving to improve one's life by committing to new healthy habits. While diet and exercise are the most common and talked about, resolve this time of year is often ambitious and can touch many other aspects of life, including spiritual things. Each year, Christians make fresh commitments to bible study, prayer, worship, volunteerism, generosity, sharing faith, etc.

Now I ask you to consider an invitation. Unlike a lot of New Year's resolutions, this invitation doesn't demand significant life adjustment, but rather one small to medium-size step: schedule a time away to spend with Jesus and others. Jesus himself modeled this pattern with his disciples, perhaps most famously in the story of his Transfiguration when he went up the mountain with Peter, James, and John. So that's it: take a retreat away for unhurried time to connect with God and your brothers and sisters in Christ to simply be present with your Lord and one another. Simple, right?

Each February we plan a Winter Retreat in beautiful Concan, Texas on the Frio River. Thanks to gracious hosts, our retreat is very affordable. You can learn all about and register for this year's retreat at [www.lcmc.org/retreat](http://www.lcmc.org/retreat). It is a gift to all who attend and participate in it. When I describe our retreat to those who have never been, I often find myself saying that amazing things happen when we simply take the time to get away with God and one another. While it is true that we have retreat programs led by some fabulous guest leaders, the real leader is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Mike Bradley, LCMC Coordinator

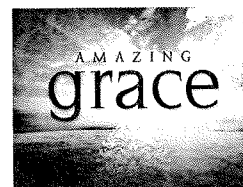
## The Past, the Present, the Future

How briskly the hours and days speed by. What a tragedy that most of us spend fifty nine minutes of every hour living in the past. We waste so much time nursing regrets over lost jobs or soured relationships; we harbor shame for things poorly done. But dwelling on what cannot be changed will only steal our precious joy today.

To face a titanic hour with cool calm is grace. To speak words of wisdom when the boat is sinking is grace. And to swim in deep waters of adversity rather than drown in despair is grace. When things go slow, go bad, go sour or go away, its is time to unwrap the life preserver of God's love and stay afloat on the boundless ocean of his grace.

But don't wait for catastrophe before you unwrap grace, embrace it today. Remember friend, the past is gone. The future is unknown This minute you are alive, this minute! Right here, right now!

Barbara Johnson



## Women's Guild News

Our first meeting in January will be on the 8th following worship in the back of the church. It will be brief. We need to decide where to send our Candlelight worship offering. All women are encouraged to voice their opinion and bring their ideas.



## 2023 Directory

This is your last chance to turn in your new mailing address, new phone numbers or even new email addresses to the church office please.

We will be putting out a new Church Directory after the new year and we want to make sure your information is correct.



We pray for Trevor Ethun!

Trevor is serving in the Army as a Medic, his unit is now in Afganistan. Trevor is Mike Gebert's grandson.

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## Church Records

Committees, leaders, groups, remember to turn in your year-end records for the Records Committee.

## Christmas Cards

Please check the tables in the Parish Hall to see if you have any cards there and take them home. We would appreciate it very much.

## 2023 Calendars

There are still many calendars in the church and in the office if you need one. Give one to a friend or neighbor.



## Choir

Handbell and Vocal Choirs will resume practice on Jan. 11th at the usual times. We would welcome any new people who wish to make people smile at the sound of music. The vocal choir will be singing on Jan. 8th at Pastor Weise's Installation.

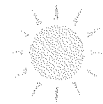
## Children's Pageant

The Children's Pageant went very well. The children worked hard to make it . wonderful for the people. It was enjoyed by all. There were smiles all around.



## At Sunset

When the sun sinks low on the western world in a blaze of blue and gold, and the trees stand dark against the sky as the shades of night unfold, then I give my day to the Lord again, all that it was is my gift, and then rest assured that His will be done and my heart with joy shall lift.



## Volunteer Opportunities at St. John

Donating flowers to put on the church altar.

Helping to pay for the printing of the bulletins and newsletters.

Being apart of the Music Committee (they choose the songs for Sunday worship).

Interested in giving the Children's sermon on Sunday mornings?

Interested in being the Song leader during worship, reading Scriptures or assisting with Holy Communion ?

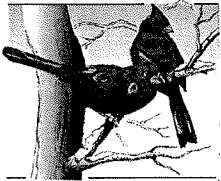
Wow, what an opportunity!



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JANUARY



A  
New  
Year  
Begins

# LCMC

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church is associated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). For more information about LCMC, visit their website at [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net)

## Altar Flowers

There is a new chart in the back of the church on the bulletin board for signing up to donate flowers for the church altar.

You can put cut flowers in vases (we have vases here) or you can donate two potted plants and then take them home if you wish.

They can be donated in memory or in honor of someone special, just write that information on the chart please. Contact Mary Martinka if you have any questions!



## Thank You

Thank you to all those who have done cleaning in the Parish Hall after the flea issue. Thank you to all those who have helped make the Parsonage look wonderful and ready for a family.

Thank you to those who did some decorating in the Parish Hall and in the Sanctuary for Christmas. The people of St. John know how to work together and to get the job done.

Thank you to the women who handled the Candlelight service. It was enjoyed by all.

Members here work for the love of Jesus Christ and St. John as we love this church.



## Let Us Pray

Gracious Father, in Your steadfast love You have put off the day of Jesus' return until the perfect time. Keep Your people watchful, vigilant and awake with Your gift of faith until that day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

