



Building the family of God by spreading
the Word of God to all people.

January 2024

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Address:

9193 Cleveland Avenue

P.O. Box 67

Baroda, MI 49101

Phone: 269-422-1449

Website: stjohnsbaroda.com

E-mail: stjohnsbaroda@hotmail.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
9AM-1PM

**Sunday Schedule:
Worship 10AM**

Pastor – Rev. Kenneth Babcock

Council President – Bruce Nitz

Administrative Assistant– Amy Semenak

Accountant – Bonnie Hodge

Webmaster – Alan Anderson



Find us on **Facebook!**

Page: **St. John's Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Baroda**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Grapevine



Welcome 2024 - Happy New Year!

*Approach the New Year with resolve to find the
opportunities hidden in each new day*



**Baptism of Our Lord
January 7th**



**FREE Adult, Child and Infant CPR Class
Friday, January 12th, 2024 at 6PM or
Saturday, January 13th, 2024 at 10AM**



Need a Ride? Transportation is available for all our worship services and events throughout the week. If you would prefer not driving yourself, especially amid weather conditions and darkness, we still want you to come and join us at St. John's! Transportation is available on an individual basis. So please call the church office 269-422-1449 for details or to schedule a ride.

Our Homebound Members:

Elaine Lochner
Woodland Terrace
8850 Red Arrow Hwy
Apt. 29
Bridgman, MI 49106

Jean Jasper
10370 Gast Road
Bridgman, MI 49106

Fran Konya
Royalton Manor
288 Peace Blvd
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Marguerite Mohn
Woodlawn Terrace of Niles
#102
13 Longmeadow Village Drive
Niles, MI 49120

Barb Kinnison
8445 Hollywood Road
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Eldon Nitz
345 W. Lemon Creek Road
Baroda, MI 49101

Memorial Funds

Memorial funds may be designated to:

Altar/Worship Enhancement Fund
General Memorial Fund
Audio/Visual Improvements Fund
Building Improvements Fund



Our Church Leaders:

Rev. Elizabeth Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA

Rev. Craig Satterlee
Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA

Our Companion Synods:

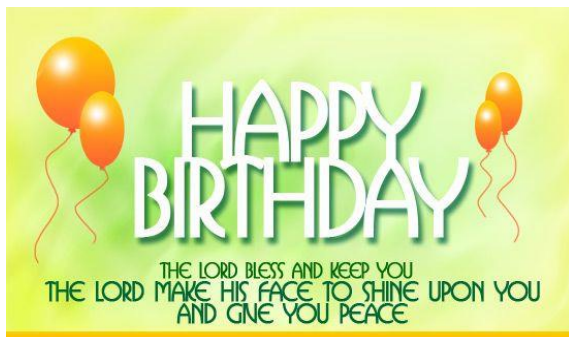
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Church Office will be closed Monday,
January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.



January Celebrations

- 3 Betty Maier
- 4 Paul Kasten
- 17 Waylon Brindley
- 17 Cindy Klug
- 19 Karen Hinckley
- 25 Ken Nitz
- 27 Jane Krueger
- 30 Char Cook



If a birthday, anniversary and/or baptism is listed incorrectly, please call the church office so that we can correct our records.



1/27 Sid Mohn and Michael Tapia 28 Years

- 1 Char Cook
- 1 Linda Frantz
- 1 Eldon Nitz
- 2 Jonah Nitz
- 6 Greg Boos
- 17 Kristi Fleisher
- 18 Allison Brindley
- 18 Tyler Stout



If you need emergency pastoral care, for situations such as hospital admissions or a death in the family, you may contact:

Pastor Ken Babcock 231-719-7741

Pastor's Message

Dear Parish Family:

Happy and Blessed New Year 2024!

First and foremost, Sue and I are so thankful for the much-appreciated wishes and gifts from the Christmas Season. We are truly blessed to have shared this past year with you. God's presence was truly evident in the life of St. John's.

It is difficult to believe that we have been together for another year, while we feel like we have been here forever! I know time flies, but I didn't know it would accelerate at the speed of an intercontinental ballistic missile!

And what a joyous 17 months it has been, and we are looking forward to resolutions, dreams, hopes and plans for another year. The new year inspires us to keep the resolutions that we have made and bring to fruition the plans and visions they hold, both as individuals and as church members.

As individuals we strive to live more fully in the image created by God. As church members we strive to look, act, and believe that "God so loved the world," and because of that love we become even more welcoming, more healing, and more forgiving, not just "nice" folks, but truth seeking, truth-telling, graceful, and loving people reaching beyond ourselves to invite and nurture relationships.

Now is the time to sweep clean the burdens of hurt, anger, and resentments of the days gone by. This is a time of new opportunity, new resolve, and new hope! This is our time!

This is the time to open the God-given gift of today! Now is the time to decide what legacy we as church, as the people of God, will leave for our tomorrows, for our children, and for our community. This is the moment that we are given; let us make the most of what God has blessed us with!

So, this is the month that we celebrate the holiday of the New Year, may we give heartfelt thanks that we are family, and thankful that we are a part of THIS family of God!

May God continue to bless you, keep you, and sustain you as you enjoy His gracious love in this ever-changing, and always renewing New Year!

Blessings, PK and Sue



Sue and I wish to thank you for the thoughtful gifts and well-wishes this Christmas season.

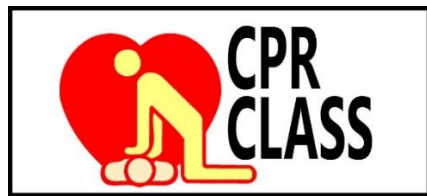
Blessings and peace in the New Year, PK and Sue



Angel Tree News

All angel tree gifts have been received, sorted, tagged, and delivered! The generosity of our congregation is overwhelming! This is the most we have ever collected. Grateful for you all!

A very big THANK YOU to Nancy Kasten and Brittany Hansen for organizing the Angel Tree drive and delivering the packages.



FREE Adult, Child and Infant CPR Class

****Classes are Full****

Friday, January 12th, 2024 at 6PM or

Saturday, January 13th, 2024 at 10AM

Thank you Honor Credit Union for your generous grant.



For many years, Margie Nitz has been decorating our Narthex, Fireplace Room, and bathrooms beautifully. *We thank you so much for your many years of service Margie.* It is now time to hand this “labor of love” off to another volunteer. If you have a knack for design, please contact the church office 422-1449. Thank you.



**Versiti Blood Drive
December 5th Results**

19 successful donors



Thank you to all who purchased poinsettia plants to support Altar Guild. Plants are available for pick-up after church service.

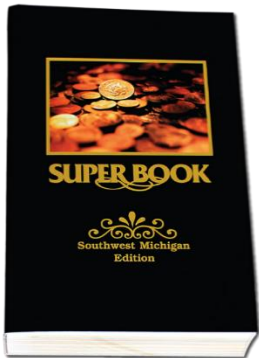
WE CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATE
Allison Semenak



Allison graduated from Concordia University – Wisconsin with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting on December 16th. She was also accepted into CUW's Masters Program in Accounting. Your passion, commitment, and hard work to achieve your goals never fails to amaze. May God continue to bless you as you continue your journey of knowledge and self-discovery. And when obstacles attempt to block your path, remember that on this journey you will never walk alone. Congratulations Allison!!

Many thanks to Dody Hafer for providing the Church Office, Fellowship Hall, and classrooms with 2024 calendars.

It is greatly appreciated! Thank you!



2024 Super Book coupon books will be available end of February/early March 2024. Cost is \$40/book.

\$8 from every sale is returned to St. John's to support the Facilities Improvements Fundraiser!!



Saturday, January 6
Sunday, January 7
Sunday, February 11
Wednesday, February 14
Sunday, March 24
Thursday, March 28
Friday, March 29
Sunday, March 31
Sunday, May 19
Sunday, May 26
Sunday, October 27
Sunday, November 3
Sunday, November 24
Sunday, December 1
Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25

The Epiphany of Our Lord
The Baptism of Our Lord
Transfiguration of Our Lord
Ash Wednesday
Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter
Day of Pentecost
Holy Trinity Sunday
Reformation Sunday
All Saints Sunday
Christ the King
First Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day



VancoPayments.com/eGiving
Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving!

St. John's wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

Online Giving lets you go to **stjohnsbaroda.com** at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

Vanco is trusted by more than 22,000 churches to provide eGiving solutions that allow members and visitors to give how and when they want. Our suite of eGiving tools include online, mobile, text, card reader and kiosk options. Vanco also maintains the highest level of PCI-compliance to ensure the security of donations and payments processed through any of our eGiving tools.