



PRAIRIE FAITH COMPANION

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January 2025

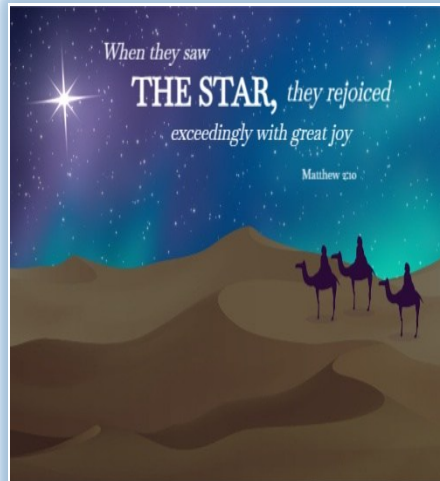
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what's inside?

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The **Magi**, also known as the **Three Wise Men** or **Three Kings**, are regarded as important figures in Christianity and Lutheran theology during Epiphany. Their journey to honor the Christ child signifies the universal significance of Jesus' birth and the spread of the Gospel message to the entire world. The story of the Magi's visit to worship the newborn Jesus is found in the~

Gospel of Matthew Chapter 2, verses 1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Did you know...

Sunday and Special Worship Services for Bethlehem Lutheran Church and St. John Lutheran Church are posted to their respective Facebook Pages and later to the PFSM Website.



Margaret Schmitt (BLC) and Lyle Johnston (SJ) for making our services available online to members of our congregations and others. Your commitment and dedication to our online ministry is very much appreciated!

PRAIRIE FAITH SHARED MINISTRY

ANNUAL MEETINGS

St. John Lutheran Church

January 19, 2025, Following Worship

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

January 26, 2025, Following Worship

Emanuel Lutheran Church

February 2, 2025, 8:30 a.m. Before Worship

The mission of Prairie Faith Shared Ministry is to gather in God's name, share ideas & concerns, and actively shape the future of spiritual growth for our member congregations. Empowered by the Holy Spirit and through ordained and lay leadership, we offer this ministry to serve Christ in our communities.



Prairie Faith Shared Ministry
Pastor Jon Anderson

Church Office Location:
338 N 7th Street
WaKeeney, KS 67672
Phone—(785) 743-2005

Email - blc1@ruraltel.net
www.prairiefaith.com

PFSM Council Members and Phone Numbers

- Katie Dreiling, St. John,.....
- Robert Schonthaler, St. John, President.....
- Richard Jensen, Bethlehem, Treasurer.....
- Margaret Schmitt, Bethlehem.....
- Kathleen Fabrizio, Emanuel, Secretary.....

Pastor Jon & Bethlehem Lutheran Church:

Address: 338 N. 7th St.
WaKeeney, KS 67672

Office Phone: (785) 743-2005

Cell Phone: (Call Church Office)

Pastor E-mail: pjzionem@yahoo.com
Office E-mail: blc1@ruraltel.net

St. John Lutheran Church:

Address: 394 St. John-St. Andrew Road
Ellis, KS 67637

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 171
Ellis, KS 67637

SJ Office Phone: (785) 726-3207
PF Office Phone: (785) 743-2005

Emanuel Lutheran Church:

Address: 27037 Hwy 147
Ogallah, KS 67656
(7 Miles South of Ogallah I-70 Exit 135)

Mailing Address: c/o Kathleen Fabrizio
32086 S Rd.
Ogallah, KS 67656

PF Office Phone: (785)-743-2005

Parish Nurse—Nancy Bollig, BSN, RN

Address: 338 N 7th Street
WaKeeney, KS 67672

Office Phone: (785)743-2005

Cell Phone: (Call Church Office)

E-mail: parishnurse@ruraltel.net



Pastor Jon is available by appointment.
To get in touch with Pastor Jon, please call his cell phone or the church office.

Prairie Faith Council Minutes

The October 8, 2024 meeting of Prairie Faith Shared Ministry Council was held at Bethlehem Church library in WaKeeney.

The following churches and representatives were in attendance: Bethlehem – Richard Jensen, Margaret Schmitt; St. John – Bob Schonthaler; Emanuel –Kathleen Fabrizio. Also in attendance was Pastor Jon Anderson.

Called to order by President Bob.

Devotions were given by Bob.

An agenda, minutes and financial packet was given to all attendees.

Minutes from the August 13th meeting were accepted as presented.

Richard gave the report on the financial packet. He went over the profit and loss reports and also reported that he went over the financials with the Bishop before it was submitted to the Call Committee.

Pastor Jon reported he will be getting an insulin pump and he has to have a smart phone to connect with the apps. It was the consensus of the council to allow the updated phone. There will be a wedding on October 19th at St. John’s. and there will be a full day on October 20th at both St. John’s and Bethlehem. Bible Study has begun at Bethlehem. The combined Reformation Service will be held at Bethlehem on October 27th.

Nancy submitted a written report for the Parish Nurse to the council.

Communications: There was a booklet on updated bylaws, policies and procedures, Bob will look it over.

Old Business: The Call Committee met with the Bishop and it was very informative. The Site Profile will be updated with the Bishop’s recommendations and submitted.

New Business: None

Next meeting will be December 10th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at St. John’s and Katie will have devotions.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Kathleen Fabrizio, Secretary



Bethlehem

Sunday Worship—9:00 a.m.
 Mid-Week School, Wed @ 6:00 p.m.
 (during public school year)
 Office: 785-743-2005
 (Please leave a message)

Volunteers for January

January 5— Pastor Jon Anderson
 Organist/Pianist—Chris Trogstad
 Lector—Laurita Burbach
 Head Usher— Richard Jensen
 Acolyte—Tatum Cook

January 12— Pastor Jon Anderson
 Organist/Pianist—Laura Anderson
 Lector—Bev Armbruster
 Head Usher—Sarah Gibbs
 Acolyte—Gage Garrett

January 19— Pastor Shelly Klingensmith
 Organist/Pianist—Cindy Level
 Lector—Myrna Mai
 Head Usher—Laurita Burbach
 Acolyte—Dalton Conness

January 26—Pastor Jon Anderson
BETHLEHEM ANNUAL MEETING
 Organist/Pianist— Mary Cunningham
 Lector— Kathy Dietz
 Head Usher—Ruth Shiltz
 Acolyte—Raylan Conness

Safe and Secure Online Giving is Now Available



Check it out by using the QR
 Code to link directly to the
 Webpage OR by going to
<https://prairiefaith.com/mission/giving>
 and look for

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

*If you are interested in any of the volunteer opportunities
 or programs, please call the church office or contact any of
 Bethlehem's Council Members.*

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship — 9:00 a.m.
 (every 1st & 3rd Sundays)

January 5— Pastor Emer. Randy Gibbs
January 19—Pastor Jon Anderson

*Emanuel Annual Meeting ~
 Sunday, February 2 at 8:30 a.m.
 Prior to worship*

St. John Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship—11:00 a.m.
 (Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays)
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. as listed below
 (during public school year)

Volunteers for January

January 5—Pastor Jon Anderson
 Greeter—Bill Dietz
 Lector—Sarah Windholz
 Communion—Dennis Keller & Darrell Keller
 Organist—Katie Dreiling
 Sound—Lyle Johnston

January 12—Pastor Jon Anderson
 Greeter —Rodger Fischer
 Lector—Josh Keller
 Organist—Katie Dreiling
 Sound—Lyle Johnston

January 19—Pastor Jon Anderson
ST. JOHN ANNUAL MEETING
 Greeter—Darrell Armbruster
 Lector—Sue Schonhaler
 Communion—Bob & Vonda Ackerman
 Organist—Katie Dreiling
 Sound—Lyle Johnston

January 26—Pastor Jon Anderson
 Greeter—Bee McElroy
 Lector—Dennis Keller
 Organist—Katie Dreiling
 Sound—Lyle Johnston

Safe and Secure Online Giving is Now Available



Check it out by using the QR Code
 to link directly to the Webpage
 OR by going to
<https://prairiefaith.com/mission/giving>
 and look for **St. John Lutheran Church**

Midweek at Bethlehem

You are invited to come, join your friends in fellowship and learn more about Jesus and God's Word. You do not have to be Lutheran to attend. Meal begins at 6:00p, followed by Worship/Music and classes at 6:45p. Class dismisses at 7:30p. Classes include Pre-K thru 8th grade. During Lent, class will dismiss early for Lenten Services. Midweek will be held at the regular time on early-dismissal days from school. For more information about our Midweek program, please contact the BLC Church Office at 785-743-2005.



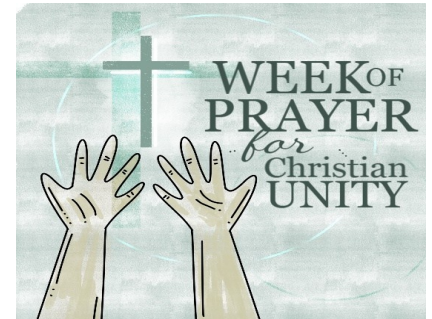
BETHLEHEM MIDWEEK MEALS

Jan. 8— Pancakes, sausage, bananas, milk or juice

Jan. 15—Ham, macaroni and cheese, apple slices, cookies, milk or juice

Jan. 22—No Midweek at BLC. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ~ Meets at WaKeeney CTK Catholic Parish Center at 6:00 p.m. A Family Soup Supper will be furnished. Midweek Staff, Participants, Parents and Families are invited and encouraged to attend.

Jan. 29—Chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, brownies, milk or juice



Wednesday, January 22

Meets at WaKeeney CTK Catholic Parish Center at 6:00 p.m.

A Family Soup Supper will be furnished.

Join your friends from other congregations for fellowship and a delicious meal!

Midweek Staff, Participants, Parents and Families are invited and encouraged to attend!

No Midweek at BLC Wed. Jan. 22



Sunday School at St. John

Sunday School at St. John meets at 10:00 a.m. on January 12th and 26th.

Please join us as we celebrate another great year of Fellowship, Worship and Learning! If you would like more information about Sunday School, please call a St. John Sunday School representative or the Prairie Faith office at 785-743-2005 and we will put you in touch with a St.

John Sunday School representative.
Looking forward to seeing you there!





Deuteronomy 11:11-12-“But the land that you are crossing over to occupy is a land of hills and valleys, watered by rain from the sky, a land that the LORD your God looks after. The eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.”

“All my life’s a circle, sunrise and sundown, the moon rolls through the nighttime, ‘till the daybreak comes around, all my life’s a circle, but I can’t tell you why, the seasons spinning round again, the years keep rolling by”.-Harry Chapin

I’ve long been a fan of the music of the late Harry Chapin, particularly his song “The Circle”. I heard it for the first time at a pastor’s gathering during my internship year, and I’ve loved it ever since. Chapin recognized that each year, there are so many things that don’t change-the four seasons come and go, the moon goes through its phases, the sun rises and sets. Yet Chapin confesses that he doesn’t know why this happens, year after year. Science can tell us how this happens, and give us a technical explanation as to why, but they’ve never yet answered the big question-Why does this universe, with its annual cycle of the seasons, exist? Why is there something and not nothing? Why is this universe so perfectly tuned to support human life? Some ancient cultures believed that the universe was the fallout from a battle between many different gods. Some see the universe as the result of a random series of collisions between different forces. But Christians and Jews believe that the universe is the result of a deliberate act of creation by God. We are here because God wants us here, and the universe is designed for us and for all creatures. Some believe that God indeed designed the universe, and then walked away and left us to our own devices, but Christians and Jews believe, as the scripture from Deuteronomy points out, that God is always watching us and remains active in our universe. Creation is an ongoing process that has continued through the centuries. When the time was right, God came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ, taking on human flesh, living the life that we live, showing forth the love and mercy of God in His life, and making it possible for all to have eternal life with God by His death and resurrection. Jesus has promised that while for now life is indeed a circle, with the days and months and seasons repeated year after year, that the circle will not continue forever, but one day He will return, completing a new creation in which we all know that we are surrounded by the presence of Christ. Each New Year brings us closer to that day.

And in each New Year until then, we are comforted by the presence of God, who is with us and watching over us. May you all have the happiest of New Years, and may God’s peace be with you, throughout 2025 and always.

~ Pastor Jon



Every year, Christians around the world are invited to celebrate a Week of Prayer for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on scripture together, to participate in jointly-organized ecumenical services, and to share fellowship.

January 18th thru 25th, in the Northern Hemisphere, is the annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The guiding biblical text for the Week of Prayer is (John 11:17-27), with the theme for the week, “Do you believe this?” (v. 26) and takes its cue from the dialogue between Jesus and Martha when Jesus visited the home of Martha and Mary in Bethany following the death of their brother Lazarus. Churches of all faiths are called together to form a vibrant and prayerful witness for Christian Unity by heeding Jesus’ prayer “that they all may be one.”

2025 marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 A.D.

Bethlehem

- 3 Dustin Armbruster
- 4 Dalton Conness
- 4 Bentley Conness
- 8 Mason Yingling
- 11 Alexx Armbruster
- 12 Charlotte Wanker
- 12 Raylan Conness
- 16 Dave Hendricks
- 16 Terence Koehn
- 16 Zaddok Albers
- 17 Bill Level
- 18 Darin Dice
- 18 Richard Mohr
- 19 Myrna Mai
- 20 Toni Armbruster
- 20 Traci Turley
- 20 Sara Nations
- 25 Christine Zanghi
- 25 Harold Halbleib
- 25 Ryan Townley
- 26 Woodrow Warren
- 28 Jessica Sherfick
- 31 Shelby Hacker

St. John

- 1 Terry Fisher
- 3 Hayley Keller
- 9 Cole Windholz
- 10 Kourtney Talkington
- 11 Kymber Talkington
- 16 Danny Desaire
- 17 Karen Sauer
- 17 Madison Funk
- 25 Lyle Fischer
- 26 Jerry Lucas
- 29 Debra Massier

Emanuel

- 5 Emma Hilker

Wedding Anniversaries

- 13 Chris & Katie Dreiling - St. John
- 21 Jon & Laura Anderson–Bethlehem





January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3	4
5 Epiphany of Our Lord 9:00a BLC Worship/Communion 9:00a Em Worship/Communion 11:00a SJ Worship/Communion	6 2:00p BLC Women's Bible Study in BLC Library 4:00p Yoga @ Library	7 6:30p PFSM Bible Study @ BLC	8 6:00p BLC Midweek 7:30p BLC Council Mtg. In BLC Library	9	10	11
12 Baptism of Our Lord 9:00a BLC Worship/Communion 10:00a SJ Sunday School 11:00a SJ Worship	13 4:00p Yoga @ Library 7:00p SJ Council Mtg	14 6:30p PFSM Bible Study @ BLC	15 6:00p BLC Midweek	16 1:00p BLC WaKeeney LTC Communion	17	18
<div style="border: 2px solid blue; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Bethlehem Meals on Wheels Delivery ~ Jan. 13 through Jan. 17 </div>						
19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00a Em Worship/Communion 9:00a BLC Worship/Communion 11:00a SJ Worship/Communion SJ Annual Meeting Following Worship	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 4:00p Yoga @ Library	21 6:30p PFSM Bible Study @ BLC	22 6:00p Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ~ Meets At WaKeeney CTK Catholic Church Parish Center. A Family Soup Supper will be Furnished. Join your friends from other congregations in fellowship and a delicious meal! Midweek Staff, Participants, Parents/Families are invited and encouraged to attend! <i>No Midweek at BLC this Week</i>	23 PFSM February Newsletter Deadline 	24	25
26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00a BLC Worship/Communion BLC Annual Meeting Following Worship 10:00a SJ Sunday School 11:00p SJ Worship	27 11:00a BLC ~ WaKeeney LTC Worship 4:00p Yoga @ Library	28 6:30p PFSM Bible Study @ BLC	29 6:00p BLC Midweek	30 1:00p BLC WaKeeney Sr. Apartment Communion	31	

Prairie Faith Shared Ministry
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WaKeeney, KS 67672
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Email: blc1@ruraltel.net



AS WE BID FAREWELL TO THIS YEAR
AND WELCOME THE NEW YEAR,
LET'S JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER
FOR OUR BELOVED CHILDREN AND
THEIR FAMILIES. MAY THE COMING YEAR
BRING ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, HEALTH
AND JOY TO EACH ONE OF THEM.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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*May all your people from all the ends
of Earth be gathered into one in you.*

Bethlehem Lutheran Emanuel Lutheran
WaKeeney, KS Rural Ogallah, KS

St.. John's Lutheran Church
North of Ellis, KS

*Prairie Faith Companion
The monthly newsletter for members and friends of
Prairie Faith Shared Ministry*