

The Messenger

JANUARY 2026; Vol. 15, Issue 1

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JAKOBI LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SHAWANO, WI

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

Some words you say in church and in prayers and you have never given them a second thought. In fact, you may not even be sure what they mean. You say them so often that they have lost any original meaning and now they are just filler. More than likely the word 'Amen' is like that.

Amen is typically added to the end of prayers or blessings. It is a Hebrew word that means faith or faithfulness. Amen is one of those unique Hebrew words that has followed the Gospel into every language in which it has been preached. It is not translated, it is just transliterated. Of this word that ends the Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther wrote in the Small Catechism, "This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means 'Yes, yes, it shall be so.'"

Jesus uses this word also. In John's Gospel he uses a double amen. In the ESV translation this is translated as "Truly, truly..." What Jesus is teaching is that what he will say next is a truth that will confront those who do not understand His message or doubt him. It is a way of saying that he is the truth and what he speaks is the truth...whether we think it is or not.

When amen is added to the end of the prayer it is you saying that you are sure that God will hear you and answer you according to His Divine will.

Another way amen is used is at the end of prayers or blessings at church. I speak some words at church by myself and the congregation adds their amen to those words. For example, the Invocation is like this. "In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." The congregation then adds, "Amen." What you are doing is claiming those words as your own and saying they belong to you and all the blessings they bestow are yours. Your amen is like your hand reaching out to God and

receiving all that He has to give. It grabs onto those words that are spoken by me and makes them your own.

There are other times that Amen is the appropriate response at the end of something I say. At the beginning of the sermon, "Grace, mercy, and peace... and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." Amen is the response of the congregation and not my response. Or another example would be at Communion when I say, "The Body of Christ for your forgiveness", you say "Amen." This is your declaration that "Yes, yes, Jesus is for me!" Or at the dismissal, "Now the Body and Blood of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you until life everlasting. Depart in His Peace with your sins forgiven." The response is a hearty and loud "Amen!" You are saying, "Yes, my sins are

forgiven and my faith is strengthened and I have been fed with the medicine of eternal life!"

Martin Chemnitz was a 16th Century Lutheran who helped to write the Book of Concord. He says a similar thing

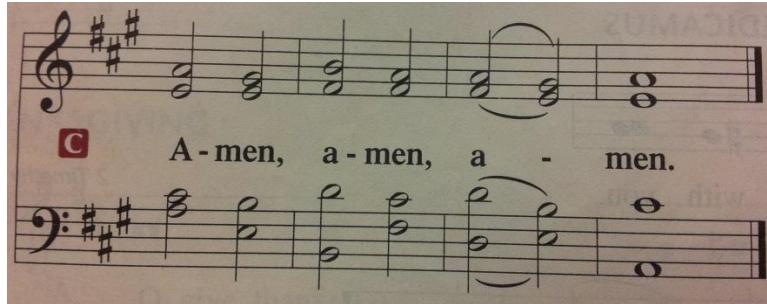
about Amen. "Prayers and invocations are ended with this expression, not only to show that in a general way we approve of the prayer but also that it may be applied to us personally."

Basically, the Amen at church is your opportunity to be an enthusiastic participant in the service and to apply the words that are being said to you and declaring them to be true.

Years ago I stopped saying Amen during the service because it is your response to give. I don't want to take away from you what is properly your word to say. In this way I hope to show you that you are not an inactive observer, but an active listener and receiver of all that God has to give you during the Service.

Praying that your Amens ring out with the angels,

-Pastor Kleinschmidt



ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

WALK THROUGH THE HYMNAL

St. Jakobi will be hosting a Hymnal seminar on **Saturday, January 31, 2026**. We are planning a fun and dynamic, half-day seminar, similar to last year's New Testament Journey seminar. **Register at** www.tinyurl.com/WalkHymnal



Discover the Hymnal Like Never Before

Do you ever wonder what's inside the hymnal beyond the hymns you sing at worship? Join us for a **Walk Through the Hymnal**, a rich and engaging morning that will deepen your understanding of worship and help you look forward to worship in a whole new way.

Together, we'll explore the many treasures tucked within the hymnal. We'll learn about the **lectionary, saints' days, and occasional services** such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals. We'll uncover why the **Small Catechism** is included, where to find the prayers, and how all of these elements support and shape our life of worship.

We'll also take time to **study selected hymns**, discovering their biblical foundations and learning how to read and use hymns devotionally (even if you don't sing). Pastor Kleinschmidt will lead the class, and we are honored to welcome District President Rev. **Timothy Shoup**, who will offer a special presentation on a hymn. Rev. Shoup is the author of [Praise and Honor](#), a collection of devotions and reflections based on hymns.

Registration, fellowship, and snacks begin at 8:30 a.m. Snacks will be available throughout the morning, free childcare will be provided if needed, and lunch will be served. Please plan to stay and enjoy fellowship together afterward. **Be sure to invite a friend. This is a free event for everyone!** Come ready to learn, be encouraged, and rediscover the hymnal as a powerful resource for worship and daily devotion. We look forward to seeing you there!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Upcoming schedule at Sunday School:

1/4	Great Banquet
1/11	Pharisee and Tax Collector
1/18	Jesus enters Jerusalem
1/25	Jesus teaching in the Temple

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2026

President: Dave Hoffman

Vice President: *Mike Kroenke*

Treasurer: Bobbi Jo Ladwig

Financial Secretary: Joan Stoehr

Recording Secretary: *Patti Samson*

Board of Elders: Mike Daley, Darryl Prodell, Tom Tuma, Mike Waldvogel, *Jeff Buettner, Tim Massey*

Board of Trustees: Kevin Zogleman, Josh Ladwig, Brennan Price, *Paul Uttecht*

Board of Education: Rachelle Price, Elizabeth Schroeder, *Kaitlynn Gueths*

Board of Evangelism: Jennifer Bisterfeldt, Jennifer Utecht, *Marlene Weckwerth*

Italicized names are newly elected

* Indicates 2nd Term

The installation of new church officers will take place on Sunday, January 11th. Thank you to those who finished their terms of service: Mark Buettner, Jayne Mott, Mark Schuster, Jon Wesenberg, Greg Samson, Patti Samson, and Mary Theis

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council will meet on January 19th at 6:30pm. The annual voters meeting will be on January 25th. All boards should be represented at both.

BAPTISM

Baptized into Christ on November 30th was **Everett Russell Thiel**. He is the son of Nick & Desirae Thiel. His baptismal sponsors are Tyler Buerman and Shelby Bistoff.

FUNERAL

John Kriewaldt passed away on December 12th, 2025. His funeral was on December 22nd, 2025. Blessed are those who die in the Lord.

WEDDING

Congratulations to **Jim and Denise Darling** on their marriage on November 7, 2025.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Note that the Men's will be held Saturday Jan 10th at 7:00am. All men of the congregation are invited to attend. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

READINGS AT CHURCH

January 4 th :	1 Kings 3:4-15 1 Ephesians 1:3-14 Luke 2:40-52
January 11 th :	Isaiah 42:1-9 Romans 6:1-11 Luke 3:13-17
January 18 th :	Acts 4:8-13 2 Peter 1:1-15 Mark 8:27-35
January 25 th :	Acts 9:1-22 Galatians 1:11-24 Matthew 19:27-30

GIVING OPTIONS

You can now give online by visiting www.tinyurl.com/DonateStJakobi This easy way to give to church can be done as a one-time gift or recurring. You can give from your checking account or credit card. If you would like you can help offset the expense of offering this service, there is information at that website.



SUNDAY SNACK SIGNUP

If you would like to bring a snack to share on Sunday after church, then you can sign up on the counter by the kitchenette in the Narthex.

ALUMUNIUM CAN RECYCLING

You can turn your aluminum cans in south of the church. Put the cans in closed bags and then place the bags inside the fence. The youth group will receive the proceeds of the recycling. Thank you!

ST. JAKOBI BOOK CLUB

The following is the list of books chosen for the upcoming meetings: January 6 - *Where the Rivers Merge* by Mary Alice Monroe and February 3 - *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters.

PORTALS OF PRAYER

The Church purchases 125 Portals of Prayer and 10 Large Print. They are free for you to take. This little daily devotional book has a Bible reading and Psalm with a devotion that ties to the reading. There are also prayers in the back that are tied to the Church Year and for each day of the week. You can pick up your copy by the Guest Book or on the Bulletin table. Your old Portals of Prayer can be placed in the basket beneath the bulletins and they will be donated to Christians who need devotional material.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sign up to provide flowers for the Altar, you can do so on the bulletin board in the hallway at church. The flowers should be here before church on Saturday evening. You can provide them in memory of someone, in honor of someone or some event, or just because. Thanks for beautifying church in this way!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your offering envelopes for 2026 are in your mailbox in the Narthex. Please be sure to pick them up, and if you use envelopes in the offering plate, be sure to use the correct year's envelopes. Your envelope number may be different than it was for 2024, due to membership changes in the congregation.

LUTHERAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

In order to assist LCMS Lutherans and congregations, a new Credit Union has been started. This credit union is for members of LCMS congregations and offers a full-range of banking products. They offer online and mobile banking with a network of over 5,000 ATMs. This no-cost banking option may be just what you are looking for with the service you desire. You can find out more at www.lutheranfcu.org.



SPIRITUAL OUTREACH

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, January 10th, at 9:00 am in the Jerusalem Room. All members of the congregation are invited to attend. We will be discussing the upcoming Senior Connections Luncheon that will take place in February.

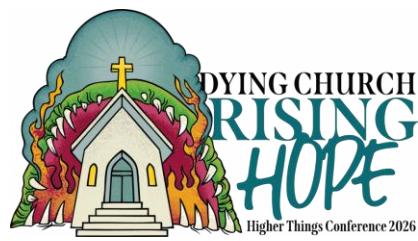
EDUCATION SAVINGS

St. Jakobi received a gift that is to be distributed to the children of the congregation under the age of 18. This gift is meant to encourage parents and family to save for the education expenses of their children. St. Jakobi will give \$100 into a 529 Savings Account to encourage and give a jump start to education savings. Forms to apply are in the Narthex and church office.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Member,  *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* **Let's thrive!**, you may have choice dollars that you can designate to be given to St. Jakobi, or Wolf River Lutheran High School. You can designate by calling 800-847-4836 (Mon-Thur 7:00am—8:00pm, Fri 7:00am—5:00pm, best to call between 5pm—8pm) or go on line to www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to make your designations.

HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCE



We have begun planning for a Youth Group trip to the Higher Things Conference being held at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri next summer, June 23-26, 2026. The theme is *Dying Church, Rising Hope*. This is for all youth who are beginning 8th-12th grades.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML)

Every woman who is a member of the LCMS has the opportunity to take part in the amazing group known as LWML. What does it mean to belong? Each woman has the option to be involved as much as they would like. From putting a coin in a Mite Box to planning a meeting or serving on a committee at zone, district, or national level. You get to chose how much or how little.

But what exactly does LWML do? We get to tell people about Jesus! With our offerings (mites) we get to support ministry and missions that are spreading the gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We have the opportunity to gather at Zone rallies, district events, and national conventions. We get to be part of the decision-making process of our organization. We get to share with each other in God's Word and in fellowship with like-hearted sisters in Christ.

As the LWML, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Our LWML group meets with our Altar Guild the first Monday of each month, September through May at 7pm. Anyone interest in visiting or joining is welcome.

If you would like a Mite Box to contribute to our mission, you can find them in the Narthex at church, along with a large Mite Box where we will collect your contributions.



RIDDLE ME THIS - ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH

What Christmas hymns do these refer to?

1. Sir Lancelot with laryngitis **Silent Night**
2. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ **Noel**
3. The event transpired when a smogless bewitching hour arrived. **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**
4. Exuberance to this orb. **Joy to the World**
5. Far back in a hay bin. **Away in a Manger**
6. Leave and go an elevated broadcast. **Go Tell It on the Mountain**
7. That hamlet south of the holy city. **O Little Town of Bethlehem**
8. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully. **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**
9. Festoon the entryways with colorful decorations. **Deck the Halls**
10. 288 Yuletide hours. **The Twelve Days of Christmas**
11. Do you perceive the same longitudinal pressure which stimulates my auditory sense organs? **Do you hear what I hear?**
12. A joyful song relative to hollow metallic vessels which vibrate and bring forth a ringing sound when struck. **Jingle Bells**

LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO



SACRED MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON... "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is," "Once in Royal David's City," "Silent Night, Holy Night," "Joy to the World." Beginning Christmas Eve, you can listen to sacred music <http://www.lutheranpublicradio.org> for the Christmas season 24/7 at [lutheranpublicradio.org](http://www.lutheranpublicradio.org), Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

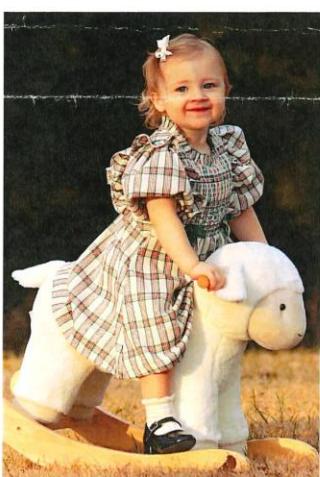
A LETTER FROM OUR SEMINARIAN

We have begun to support Vicar Joseph Moore during his Seminary education in preparation for the Office of the Holy Ministry. He is currently serving as a Vicar in Mitchell, South Dakota. Below is a letter we received from him and his family.



Praise to you O Christ! King who comes to save us!

Hello friends in Christ, I cannot believe I have already been serving as a vicar for five months. As we begin this new Church Year with Advent, I wanted to update you on what I have been doing during my vicarage these last couple of months. Vicarage truly has been a great experience. Here at Zion I have had the privilege to preach every other week, lead a midweek Bible study on 1 Kings, and walk the congregation through the Nicene Creed on Sunday mornings. On top of this, there have been many opportunities to witness other pastoral acts. I have observed five funerals and have been regularly visiting our more than thirty shut-ins.



My family has been really enjoying Mitchell. The pace and size of the town have been great for us. We recently enjoyed the first big snowstorm of the year, receiving around five or six inches. We've also had family visit from both sides, and we had the opportunity to go out west and see Mount Rushmore.

My wife, Maggie, is doing great. She had a scary moment in September when she suffered her first kidney stone, but she has been doing well since then.

Our daughter, Evangeline, is learning new words every day and loves to dance and sing. She has made many new friends here in Mitchell.

I would again like to thank you for both your financial support and your prayers during my time at the Seminary. Through your support, the Lord is raising up the next generation of pastors. It is because of your generosity that I am able to have this vicarage experience. So again, thank you.

In Christ,
Vicar Moore



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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 - Arvin Bahr
4 - Lyle Feivor
4 - Marjorie McGahan
4 - Tony Szucs
5 - Rachel Bedroske
5 - Riley Tuma
6 - Tony Bisterfeldt
6 - Gracie Jo Buntrock
6 - Zachary Fischer
6 - Khloe Giese
6 - Colton Peters
6 - Michael Walby
7 - Debbie Fisher
7 - Stephanie Hoffman
8 - Lori (Steve) Buettner
8 - Doug Gast
9 - William Grab
9 - Jackson Sperberg
9 - Kaci Wendorff
9 - Derek Wesenberg
10 - Deb Mielke
11 - Andy Schmidt
11 - Heidi Teetzen
12 - Wrenley Buntrock
12 - Viola Verstoppen
15 - Adam Kleinschmidt
16 - Mikayla Carroll
16 - Lewis Popelka
16 - Jayden West
17 - Emma Ladwig
17 - Isaiah McDowell
18 - Jason Schmidt
18 - Layla Sperberg
19 - Brooke Breitrick
19 - Laine Waldvogel
21 - Laine Gast
21 - Gage Skalitzky
22 - Shawn Stueck
23 - Lucille Thiel
24 - Jamie Popp
26 - Khloe Wendorff
27 - Crew Carroll
27 - Marsha Opperman
27 - Benjamin Sperberg
29 - Kaslyn Buntrock
30 - Donna Ward
31 - Aubrey Allen
31 - Miranda Hoyer
31 - Kaitlin Phillips-Grassl

A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. Look with favor on name as he/she celebrates his/her birthday. Grant that he/she may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Strengthen his/her trust in Your goodness and bless him/her with Your abiding love all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

05, 1985 - Douglas & Lisa Evenson
17, 2014 - Nathanial & Angela Gueths
28, 2006 - Chad & Lori Wendorff
29, 1984 - Carl & Martha Gebert



AN ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE PRAYER

O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank You for another year of married life together for name and name. Open their hearts always to receive more of Your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Contact the Church Office if you find anything in need of correction to the Birthdays and Anniversaries.

JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Elders: Sat: Mike Waldvogel Sun: Darryl Prodell Mike Daley Special: Tom Tuma	Altar Guild: Elizabeth McDowell Brenda Gast Corrina Tuma Lorine Raddant			1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Ayva Plaster
4 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Brysen Halvorson	5 6:15 Choir	6 <i>Epiphany</i> 1:00 Book Club	7 4:00 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	8 1:00 Bible Study 7:00 Elders	9	10 7:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Spiritual Outreach 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Lincoln Ejnik
11 9:00 Service (HC) <i>Installation of Church Officers/Boards</i> 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Adam Kleinschmidt	12 6:15 Choir	13	14 4:00 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	15 1:00 Bible Study	16	17 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Brielle Reinke
18 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Jase Bisterfeldt	19 6:15 Choir 6:30 Council	20	21 6:30 Bible Study	22 1:00 Bible Study	23	24 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Lexi Brady
25 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Sunday School Annual Voters Meeting Acolyte: Reegan Clark	26 6:15 Choir	27	28 4:00 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	29 1:00 Bible Study	30	31 9:0 Walk Through the Hymnal 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Raelyn Krueger

Listen to WTCH 960 AM for weather cancellations or check www.stjakobi.org or www.facebook.com/lcmsjakobi

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“We Preach Christ Crucified”



Church Services:
Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am

Bible Study:
Wednesday at 6:30pm, Thursday at 1:00pm, and Sunday at 10:30am.

Sunday School:
Sunday at 10:30am

