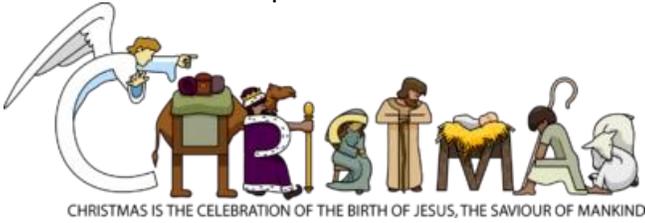


Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA
310 S. Superior St.
Antigo WI 54409
715/623-3102
Address Service Requested



December- 2020

Kindred Parish – Currents

*Calvary Lutheran – Antigo
St. John's Lutheran - Birnamwood*

In case of emergency pastoral care: Vicar Jennifer Sosinski 715-581-7024 (temporary number)

Calvary Lutheran Church
310 S. Superior St.
Antigo, WI 54409
Church Phone 715/623-3102
Adm. Asst.: Lynda Eschmann Cell: 715-216-0342
Home: 715-623-7938 Church: 715-623-3102 (9-12 M-Th)
Custodian: Richard Tews: 715/623-3522 (CLC)

St. John's Lutheran Church
W17680 Church Road
Birnamwood, WI 54414
Church Phone 715-449-2278

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Jennifer Sosinski 's first day as Vicar for The Kindred Parish of St. John's Birnamwood and Calvary Lutheran Antigo	2 5:30 Confirmation Class (CLC)	3 Deadline for Giving Tree Gifts @ CLC All gifts must be here today.	4 Morning pick up for Giving Tree Gifts	5
6 8:30 Worship at St. John's Lutheran 10:30 Worship at Calvary Lutheran	7 9 AM Quilting (CLC)	8	9 5:30 Confirmation Class (CLC)	10	11	12 10 – 12 Grief Support in Fellowship Hall (CLC)
13 8:30 Worship at St. John's Lutheran 10:30 Worship at Calvary Lutheran	14 9 AM Quilting (CLC)	15 6:00 Friendship Circle Fellowship Hall (CLC)	16 5:30 Confirmation Class (CLC)	17	18	19
20 8:30 Worship at St. John's Lutheran 10:30 Worship at Calvary Lutheran	21 9 AM Quilting (CLC)	22	23 No Confirmation Class (CLC)	24  4:PM Service at St. John's 7PM Service at Calvary	25 	26
27 8:30 Worship at St. John's Lutheran 10:30 Worship at Calvary Lutheran	28 9 AM Quilting (CLC)	29	30 (Pending) Confirmation Class (CLC)	31		

Please note time change for Sunday Service beginning Dec. 6, 2020:

St. John's Worship will begin at 8:30 a.m. – Calvary will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service will be held at 4:00 p.m. at St. John's and 7:00 p.m. at Calvary

The Littlest Christmas Tree

© Amy Peterson Published, 2009

The littlest Christmas tree lived in a meadow of green among a family of tall evergreens. He learned how to whisper the evergreen song with the slightest of wind that came gently along.

He watched as the birds made a home out of twigs and couldn't wait till he, too, was big. For all of the trees offered a home, the maple, the pine, and the oak, who's so strong. "I hate being little," the little tree said, "I can't even turn colors like the maple turns red. I can't help the animals like the mighty old oak. He shelters them all in his wide mighty cloak."

The older tree said, "Why, little tree, you don't know? The story of a mighty king from the land with no snow?" Little tree questioned, "A land with no snow?" "Yes!" said old tree, "A very old story, from so long ago. A star appeared, giving great light over a manger on long winter's night. A baby was born, a king of all kings, and with him comes love over all things." "He lived in a country all covered in sand, and laid down his life to save all of man."

Little tree thought of the gift given by him, then the big tree said with the happiest grin, "We're not just trees, but a reminder of that day. There's a much bigger part of a role that we play!"

"For on Christmas Eve, my life I'll lay down, in exchange for a happier, loving ground. And as I stand dying, they'll adorn me in trim. This all will be done in memory of him."

"Among a warm fire, with family and friends, in the sweet songs of Christmas, I'll find my great end. Then ever so gently, He'll come down to see and take me to heaven, Jesus and me."

"So you see, little tree, we are not like the oak who shelters all things beneath his great cloak. Nor are we like the maple in fall, whose colors leave many standing in awe."

"The gift that we give is ourselves, limb for limb, the greatest of honor in memory of him."

The little tree bowed his head down and cried and thought of the king who willingly died. For what kind of gift can anyone give than to lay down your life when you wanted to live?

A swelling of pride came over the tree. Can all of this happen. Because of just me? Can I really bring honor? By adorning a home? By reminding mankind that he's never alone?

With this thought, little tree began singing with glee. Happy and proud to be a true Christmas tree.

You can still hear them singing even the smallest in height, singing of Christmas and that one holy night
Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/the-littlest-christmas-tree>



Looking Ahead

As we soon head into a New Year, we also head into a new direction for Calvary Lutheran (CLC) Antigo and St. John's Lutheran (SJL) Birnamwood. After many long meetings, much discussion, and Congregational approval we unite to form the Kindred Parish.

Each church will keep its own identity, own church building, and own church council, but we will share a spiritual leader. In the case of the Kindred Parish, we voted to enter into a Covenant Agreement for a Theological Education for Emerging Ministry (TEEM) Pastorate with Jennifer Sosinski. (Vicar) Jennifer officially begins on December 1, 2020.

The Kindred Parish will have its own council consisting of three members from each church. The current council is: Andy Resch, President (SJL); Julie Kubiacyk (CLC), Vice President; Alan Bahr (CLC), Treasurer; Jan Young (CLC), Secretary; Dennis Knaack (SJL), and Sandy Schmidt (SJL).

The newsletter and the bulletins will be done at Calvary and information for both churches will be included. It is our desire that the two parishes can share in the activities and ministries of both congregations.

If you attend Calvary and your church is St. John's your donation (envelope) will be returned to St. John's and vice-versa. Each church will keep its own accounting.

This is all a work in progress. So please be patient in this new beginning of the Kindred Parish.

According to our Covenant Agreement it is stated: "During the TEEM pastorate, the candidate will function and have the rights and responsibilities of a regularly called pastor in the congregation, and is expected to participate in the life of the church beyond the local congregation."

In addition to proclaiming God's word in preaching and teaching, the priorities of this TEEM pastorate will be:

1. Pastoral care and visitation
2. Youth and Family Ministry
3. Preaching/Worship
4. Stewardship
5. Evangelism/Mission

The congregation will encourage the candidate's ministry in the following ways:

1. Communication
2. Support
3. Understanding
4. Volunteerism/willingness to share our time and talents
5. Administrative Support

The Covenant Agreement was presented and signed on November 12, 2020 by Jennifer and the Kindred Parish Council, approved and signed by Bishop Gerald Mansholt on November 19, 2020.

WELCOME VICAR JENNIFER SOSINSKI!

Message and Inspirational Note from Vicar Jennifer Sosinski

Hello beloved! I would like to introduce myself: My name is Jennifer and I was recently voted in as Vicar of the Kindred Lutheran Parish. God is so good! I live in Wittenberg with my husband Chris and 6 of our 7 children on a dairy farm there.

Over the past 20 years I have been involved in evangelistic ministry with children and youth, nursing homes, prison outreach, Angel Tree, church planting, respite care for adults with disabilities and more. I volunteer at Homme Home for youth in Wittenberg each week assisting the chaplain in leading chapel and giving support to staff that care for the boys each day. I greatly enjoy helping people!

I began sensing a call about 2 years ago. My father in law Jim, encouraged me to go to a seeking retreat in Appleton while I attended Lay school. The sense of call grew stronger. I found out it was possible to complete seminary courses and receive ordination through the TEEM program. Everything began to fall into place. Thanks be to God!

I officially begin Dec.1 with weekly services at St. John's at 8:30 and Calvary at 10:30. As Vicar I am able to serve in all capacities by authority of the Synod. I am enrolled in Wartburg Seminary. My first class will start at the end of January.

Formal office hours will be set by the New Year. In the meantime I want to get to know you, to find out how to best pray for and spiritually support you. Good communication is so important! Please feel free to stop by the office, give me a call or send me a text or an email. I believe with all my heart that as we walk in unity, letting the Word of God and His Spirit guide us we will continue see God do great things!

(1 John 4:9-11) This is how God showed His love among us; He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

In Him,

Jennifer

.....

Romans 12:12 tells us to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer. Joyful, Patient, Faithful. In our spiritual tool box for Christian living these things come in handy! When discouragement overwhelms us, we can be joyful, and this is not dependent on our circumstances. Joy is certainty in the goodness of God. We can let our hearts fill with thankfulness for the blessings God has given, especially the gift of Jesus! God loved us and gave us His Son (1 John 4:10.) December is a perfect time to reflect upon this. Reminders of His birth are everywhere! Do you feel anxious, inconvenienced, and uncertain? Trying times are times for trying the saying goes. Patience is GOD's work within us, a fruit of His Holy Spirit! As the angel told Mary in Luke 1:37 Nothing is impossible for God. (NO thing is impossible with God's help) Remember how patient and kind the Father is to us. Giving others what we have so freely been given is the work of the cross! Faithful in prayer. Martin Luther said, "No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can affect, except those who have learned it by experience. I have been heard and obtained more than I prayed for. God sometimes delays, but He always comes." There is nothing you will ever face alone, God is with you, and He always will be. Prayer quiets our fearful hearts and places them into God's capable hands. (Psalm 55:22) Give your burdens to the Lord, and He WILL sustain you. That is the promise of God. For now, for always, forever, no matter what. Thanks be to God!

*Rejoice in hope
Be patient in affliction
Be faithful in prayer*
Romans 12:12

Calvary Lutheran

Giving Tree - The deadline for returning your Giving Tree gift donations is Dec. 3, please return your gifts as soon as possible.

Salvation Army – The Langlade County Salvation Army will not be holding its usual Bucket Drive this year. Due to COVID – there will be no manned buckets or bell ringers. How Sad! But, we do have a Red Kettle Bucket in the narthex, if you are able to make a donation to help support their efforts please do so. All donations remain in Langlade County. This will take the place of our usual noisy offering for November and December.

Prayer Concerns

Stacy Kautza, Jean Noskowiak, Everly Walrath, Joann Schmidt, Jan Cunningham, Tommy Erlandson, Amy DeBroux, Adeline Forth, David Tessmer, Betty May, Norm Dickman, Julie Langseth, and Dianne Johnston

December - Birthday Wishes:

05 – Jim Wheeler
06 – Gabrielle Richling
07 – Zach Jaje
09 – Scott Eschmann, Karter Fleischman, Eugene Gress
11 – Tina Knight
12 – Linda Buck, Katie LeVeque
17 – Chris Knight, Alexis Wirtz-Abig
18 – Edith Prigge
22 – Bob Lomprey
24 – Nancy Klemp
25 – Zak Olson
26 – Sharon Knight
27 – Tracie Ourada-Richling
29 – Elizabeth Dickman
30 – Hunter Bolson, Wilma Lucia, Lucile VanOoyen

Friendship Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 6:00 p.m. for Bible Study and a little social time. Bring a little treat to share. Social Distancing will be practiced and masks required.

Women's Thursday Bible Study will resume in the spring.

Glen's Sunday Bible Study has been cancelled for Dec.

Thank you notes –

...to Loren Lucia for making a platform for the pulpit area for Vicar Jennifer, for a little added height.
... to Pastor Betty Wyatt and Edd Hill for leading us in worship this past year. What would we have done without you!
...to Dan Young, Julie Kubiacyk, and Dale Waterhouse for the taping of our services. If you would like to help them please contact the church office.

Remember Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Calvary or you are welcome to attend St. John's service at 4:00 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran

Fall Sale: Due to Covid-19, the women will not be having a Fall Sale fundraiser to give at Christmas to AVAIL, Homme Home Youth, Homme Angel Tree, and Hope Life. We are asking for monetary donations so we can continue to give generously. There will be a wrapped Christmas box in the back of church next to the regular offertory plate so you may drop off your donations. Checks can be made out to St. John Women. or checks or money can be mailed to the church. Thanks you in advance for your generous support. AVAIL will also be collecting non-perishable items and cleaning supplies. A basket will be in the back to collect donated items.

Thank you notes: We would like to extend a thank-you to Randy and Sandy Schmidt for the donation of the Christmas tree in memorial of Betty Steidinger and Pam Creydt.

December – Birthday Wishes:

St. John's reports that the only birthday they had for December is Jesus!

Prayer Concerns:

Julie Resch
Joel Thiex
Dolores Burandt
Emily Hamm

Remember Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion will be held at 4:00 p.m. at St. John's, or you are welcome to attend Calvary's service at 7:00 p.m.

*Christmas Blessings to all members of
The Kindred Parish, their families,
and to their communities!*

