
Church Office: 563-242-5588
Pastor Daniel Pool: 593-2502, cell
e-mail: dpool@stjohn-clinton-ia.org
Web Site: www.stjohn-clinton-ia.org

Board Meetings

Board of Elders

The Board of Elders will meet on Monday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees will meet on Mon., January 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Stewardship

The Board of Stewardship is not meeting in January

Board of Education

The Board of Education will meet on Sun., Jan. 18 at 11:30 a.m.
(Note: Date and Time Change)

Board of Evangelism

The Bd. of Evangelism will meet on Tues., Jan. 20 at 6:00 p.m.

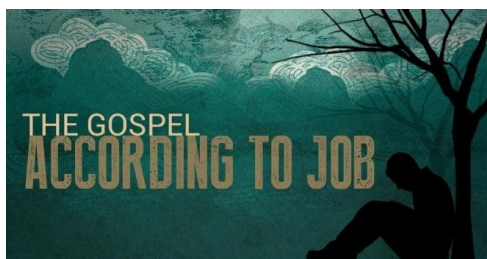
Voters' Assembly

The Voters' Assembly will meet on Sunday, Jan. 25 at 9:00 a.m.
(Note: Date and Time Change)

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on
Thursday, January 1st for New Year's Day
There is no preschool on those on Thursday, January 1st or
Friday, January 2nd.





Pastor Pool's Sunday Bible Study **The Gospel According to Job**

In January, our Sunday class is just getting started with a new study

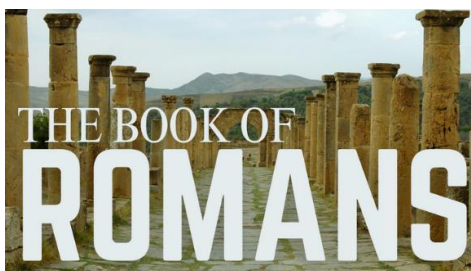
of the book of Job. The Christian life is a struggle. But the struggle is worthwhile. This book is full of surprising answers to some of our most difficult questions about suffering, evil, and redemption. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Everyone is welcome. Bring your Bible.

January 4: When Satan Attacks, Part 2: Job 2

January 11: Job Laments: Job 3

January 18: Eliphaz Answers: Job 4

January 25: Voters' Assembly



Tuesday Bible Study with Pastor **The Book of Romans**

Our Tuesday Bible Study is just getting started with Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Now is a great

time to join us! There is no cost. Bring your Bible and your questions. We normally meet on the first and third Tuesdays. We have two class options at 9:30am or 7:00pm.

January 6: Dishonorable Passions: Romans 1:26-32

January 20: No Partiality: Romans 2:1-11

Offering Envelopes

January 11 is the last Sunday that the 2026 offering envelopes will be available in the fellowship hall. After that Sunday the offering envelopes will be placed in your bulletin slot in the Narthex. If you did not receive envelopes but would like to, please call the church office, 242-5588.



Celebrating the Saints: Epiphany

I hope you have grabbed a copy of our new devotional, *Celebrating the Saints*. You can find a few copies still in the fellowship hall. You can also order on Amazon or cph.org. If you didn't start with us with the new church year, you

can start with the new calendar year.

The book contains devotions for each of the holy days on our church calendar, including feasts, festivals, and commemorations. This covers about a third of the calendar. You will want to use another devotional like *Portals of Prayer* or Bo Giertz's *To Live With Christ* to supplement on non-festival days.

We are getting to know our history this year, especially the lives of the saints who have come before us. They offer us an example in their sound confession of faith and their steadfast loyalty to Christ. And we are grounding ourselves in the life of Christ as it comes to us in the church year. We give our attention to the lectionary readings, seasons, and rhythms the church has left for us over the millennia.

In January, we enter the season of Epiphany. The Feast of Epiphany is always January 6 following the 12 Days of Christmas. We will celebrate on Sunday, January 4. You will find a devotion for the Day of Epiphany (pgs. 14-15) and the Season of Epiphany (pg. 249) in our devotional. Both are worth your time.

The Word *Epiphany* means *manifestation* or *enlightenment*. And in the midst of the dark days of winter, we remember Jesus Christ as the Light of the World. He reveals His glory to all with eyes to see. We typically think of Epiphany as the arrival of the Magi—the Wisemen—to Bethlehem to worship the Christ Child. The Word of God Incarnate comes to these pagan Gentiles. They are among the first to follow the light of the miraculous star reinforced by God's Word from the Old Testament Prophets. They welcome and worship Jesus Christ as Immanuel, God with Us.

I like the way the Prophet Isaiah says it in Isaiah 60, "For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the

peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

I hope you will read with us this year. Be disciplined and follow along. You will certainly learn a thing or two about the Church Fathers, Martyrs, Apostles, and Prophets. You will also find yourself enriched by their wonderful example. The church has a long and valuable history. Let's get to know our roots.

"Thus says the LORD: 'Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.'" - Jeremiah 6:16

Blessed Epiphany,
Pastor

St. John Blood Drive

St. John
Fellowship Hall

Friday,
January 2, 2026
12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Sign up at:
redcrossblood.org

Questions: Call
563-242-5588, or
cdell@stjohn-clinton-ia.org



Blood donations drop during the holidays, but the need for blood is always urgent. Please schedule your appointment today. Thank you for helping to save lives!

*Everyone who donates will receive a NEW long-sleeve t-shirt
from The American Red Cross*

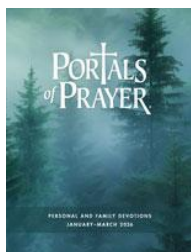
Membership Directory

The 2026 Church Membership Directory will be available this month. Please look for it in the fellowship hall, or upstairs on the guest book stand, and help yourself. If we run out, please talk to Camil in the office and she will be happy to print one for you.



Mary Martha

The Mary Martha group will not meet in January or February. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m. for a soup supper. All ladies are invited to join us.

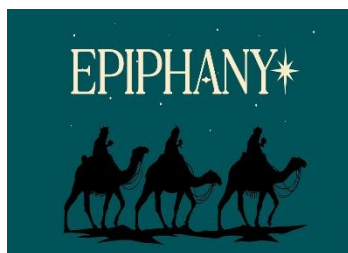


Portals of Prayer

The January – March 2026 edition of Portals of Prayer is now on the guestbook stand, table, & Piano upstairs and downstairs on the table in the fellowship hall. Please help yourself.

The Epiphany Of Our Lord

Who: St. John Congregation
What: Evening Prayer Service
The Epiphany of Our Lord
When: Tuesday, January 6, 2026
7:00 p.m.
Where: Trinity Lutheran Church
656 – 5th Ave. S. Clinton, IA



Bible Reading Plan

The new edition of our Three-Year Bible Reading Plan is available in the Fellowship Hall. We are in the third year of this plan that takes us through the Old Testament once, the New Testament twice, and the Psalms twice a year. The plan begins January 1. Read God's Word with us!

Happy Epiphany

Preschool starts the new year on January 5th. We will learn all about the wise men who followed the star to find the new King and worship Him. This is a great way to start back after our Christmas break. As the children tell all about the gifts they received, we can discuss the gifts of the Magi as well as the greatest gift from God—our savior, Jesus. We will continue to learn about the life of Jesus as he is presented at the temple, when he visits the temple as a young boy, and his baptism. The weather will determine our outside time, but we will be prepared to bundle up each day and play outside. The children are not tired of the snow yet so we will be hoping for at least one really wet one so we can build snowmen. We will also sled, hunt for animal tracks, make snow angels and of course, eat as much as we can! Indoors we will explore ramps and pathways as we try to figure out how to make balls and marbles of various sizes move the direction and speed that we want. We will hope to inspire creativity with a fresh supply of art materials. We will continue to read great stories, sing and move our bodies to music, investigate, and play pretend. We will continue learning through play each and every day as we follow the interests of the children. Throughout it all, we continue to be thankful for the opportunity to minister to the children and families of our school. Blessings to you all, Cindy and Gina



Raise Right Fundraiser

Our next Raise Right order is due January 4. Cards will be available in your box in the Narthex on January 11. Through the Raise Right program in 2025, we were able to raise **\$1,122.36** for our preschool. Thank you to those who continue to purchase gift cards through Raise Right. If you've never bought gift cards from Raise Right before, why not give it a try in 2026? When you buy gift cards at face value to use on everyday purchases such as restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, etc. our St. John Preschool receives a percentage of each gift card sale. Thank you for supporting our school!

Higher Things

We are attending the Higher Things youth conference June 30-July 3 in St. Louis.

Registration is \$150. Please let pastor know if your confirmed young person is

interested in attending. Registration is due Sunday, January 11. See the display in the fellowship hall!



Sunday School Mission Project

The current Mission Project for our Sunday school offerings is the **Clinton Humane Society**. All Sunday school offerings, now through the end of February, will go toward helping to provide needed supplies for the animals who currently reside at the shelter. Please remind your child to collect change, do chores, or bring in money from their piggy bank, each week so that they may bring an offering for Sunday school.



Sunday Voters' Assembly

The congregation is invited to a special Sunday Morning Voters' Assembly on Sunday, January 25 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come and find out what is going on with our Boards. Review our financial statements for 2025. Pastor will give a devotion and his state of the parish report. Children's Sunday School Classes will still meet.



Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 2 from 5 – 8 p.m. is St. John Lutheran Church night at Pizza Ranch and the Mary Martha group will be serving as waitresses. During that time frame, 10% of all sales, plus ALL tips, will be donated to St. John. Please make plans to enjoy dinner out with your family that night and let the church ladies take care of you.



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

CONGRATULATIONS!



Happy Birthday to:

Donna Dell, who will be 84 on Jan. 4
Steven VanVuren, who will be 81 on Jan. 5
Carol Hill, who will be 89 on Jan. 7
Marge Mason, who will be 82 on Jan. 7
Shirley Gray who will be 91 on Jan. 15
Sharon Craig, who will be 85 on Jan. 26
Marilyn Stuedemann, who will be 90 on Jan. 26
Nancy Von Thun, who will be 82 on Jan. 28



Happy Anniversary to:

There are no anniversaries to list this month.

We list birthdays 80 and above and anniversaries for year one and every five years thereafter unless we receive a request not to do so.

Holy Communion at Home

If you are at home and would like a visit from Pastor, please call the office to set up an appointment. He is glad to come and bring you God's Word and the Sacrament. Pastor also does a monthly service at the Alverno on the second Sunday of each month at 1:30. Visitors are generally welcome.



THOSE WHO SERVE IN JANUARY

Early

Elders: Bill Ross
Dave Reynolds

Ushers: Calvin Lange
Brent Pladna
Rick Christiansen

Late

Elders: Troy Bialas
David Becker

Ushers: Jay Mueller
Eli Mueller
Kevin M.

Recording

4 Darlene Paysen
11 Darlene Paysen
18 Darlene Paysen
25 Darlene Paysen

Acolyte Schedule

4-Early Elder
4-Late Benjamin L.
11-Early Elder
11-Late Elder
18-Early Elder
18-Late Aryanna H.
25-Early Elder
25-Late Lainey S.

Crucifer Schedule

4-Early Riley Reynolds
4-Late Donivan Sirna

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE: JAN. 20

If you would like to put any information in the newsletter, contact Camil Dell, and get her the information by January 20.

