Firmly Rooted in God's Word

Lifeline

ST. JOHN EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

December 2018

Congratulations to our new confirmand, Owen Thomas!

Photographed by Curt Yess

Thank you to all at St. John for your continued support of the mission to **Pine Ridge**. Please bring all donations by Sunday, Dec. 2nd as we will begin to inventory and pack on Dec. 3rd. If you would like to still donate, canned food items and sugar and flour can always be used. (we can put the basket together). We will be leaving December 6th. As with every trip, we continue to need your prayers for all those that we meet as well as safe travels. --Sue Erdman

St John Mission Statement

St. John is a Christian family of disciples alive in a Scripture -based, Spirit-led mission of ministry, worship and play. Disciples at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church are expected to pray often, worship regularly, learn from the Scriptures, participate in the serving groups if physically able, offer their time and talent as the spirit calls them, and regularly contribute monetarily to support the mission and ministry of the church.

Photograph by Curt Yess

Revised Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 6:00 am- 12:30 pm
Friday 6:00 am- 4:30 pm

Call-507-833-1703

Email-stjohn@hickorytech.net

www.stjohnwaseca.org

Follow/Like us on Facebook-

stjohnlutheranchurchelca

Have you checked out Pastor John's current weeks sermon? http://stjohnwaseca.wordpress.com/

You can also find it on our website!

Diane Caspers, MS, LP Licensed Psychologist

Individual, Couple, Family and Child Therapy

Diane provides individual, couple and family therapy for children, adolescents and adults. Diane is available for counseling on Thursdays in Waseca at St. John Lutheran Church. To schedule an appointment, call the Mankato office at 507.625.7660

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

PRAYER MINISTERS

Prayer teams will be available in the narthex for prayer during all Sunday Communion services. **While communion is being served** you are invited to go to the narthex and a member will be there to hear your request and to pray with you. Please make use of this opportunity to pray.

Bring your loose change and make some noise for world hunger. **Noisy Offering** is Sunday, Dec. 2

Men in Mission will serve a Pancake Breakfast with maple rope sausages, fruit, toppings, & beverages following Worship on Sunday, Dec. 2.

PASTORAL ACTS

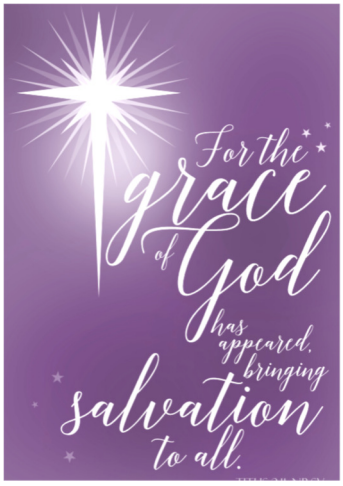
Baptisms– 11/11 Colt Sleen

11/25 Oliver Schlueter

Christmas Dinner

The Waseca Ministerial Association is again hosting its Christmas Dinner. The menu consists of Ham, au gratin potatoes, vegetable, salad, roll and dessert. St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Waseca and Trinity Lutheran Church of Waseca are hosting the dinner this year and all senior citizens and others who may be alone are cordially invited to attend. It will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church 314 4th Ave. NE, in Waseca at 12:00 noon on Christmas Day, December 25. Rides, delivery and take-out are available upon request. We will accept a freewill offering. Please RSVP by calling the Senior Center 835-4552, or St Paul Lutheran 835-2647 before Friday, December 21. ***Merry Christmas to All!***

Altar Flowers If you would like to adorn our altar with fresh flowers in honor of or in remembrance of a loved one or special occasion, please call Debbie Bartelt at 461-4874 or the church office at 833-1703 at least a week ahead of time. Two vases are $40 paid to WELCA. This may be brought to the church office or put in the offering plate. Individuals whom belong to the church may have this donation listed on their financial statements. If you request a color and/or flower preference please contact Waseca Floral at 835-3790 for the amount. A written announcement can be put in the weekly bulletin specifying they are "*in honor of*" or "*in memory of*."



"For the Grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all…" (Titus 2:11)

Christmas is coming

I remember those words as a child, and the excitement and anticipate those words brought to me. Making sure my Christmas wish list was complete, I waited for Christmas to open the gifts that I was sure would be mine, in abundance, under the tree.

As an adult, I understand that the waiting during Christmas is about something completely different. It's about God's promised Son, come to earth, to save us from sin.

We love babies. And one of the things we love about babies is the anticipation. Will this wee one in the crib grow up to be a senator, or a scientist, or a baseball player, or something else? We love the baby Jesus. There he lies in the manger, "the little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes." No claim, no demands on us. But when that babe of Bethlehem grew up, Jesus found his voice.

We get Christmas cards with the baby Jesus on them and words like, "Joy and Peace." Imagine a Christmas card with the words from the adult Jesus. "Follow me! Merry Christmas!" "No one can serve two masters…you cannot serve God and wealth! Merry Christmas!" "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock! Merry Christmas!"

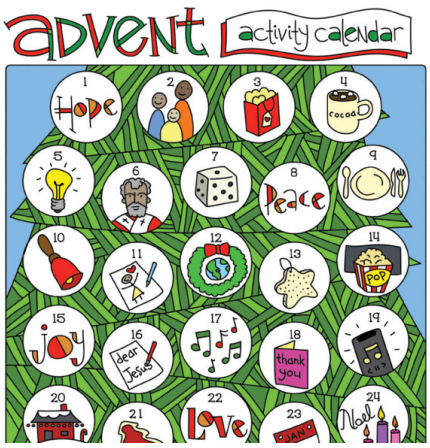
What we anticipate, and wait for, this season is the coming of Jesus into our lives. As Fred Craddock, seminary professor and author, once said, "expectation becomes assignment." In Jesus, God's will for the world is revealed, God's will "puts on flesh" for all of us to see. God is with us.

And, if God is with us, in the birth of Jesus, what does that mean for us?

I invite you into this season of Advent and Christmas as we explore the meaning of Jesus' coming into the world and into our lives. We will have Wednesday nights at 7:00pm, and Sunday mornings at 9:00am. In addition, there is an opportunity to take it even deeper in a time called "Preparing the Way" – a time for all ages, from 10:15am – 11:15am each Sunday in Trinity Hall.

May this Christmas season bring you the joy of God's gift of Jesus!

Peace -*Pastor John Omans*



Preparing the Way

A Three week Illustrated Advent Journey for families

Join others in St John's Trinity Hall on Sundays in December as we meet as "Table Families" (easy adoption available!) and reflect on Advent, share stories, and color and make ornaments all while enjoying coffee and donuts! Schedule is as follows:

December 2nd - Pancake Breakfast in basement starting right after worship, about 10:15am. Additional Instructions will be provided during breakfast. We're looking forward to seeing many generations grow in faith together! Questions? contact the church office.

Anyone that wants to be included on our current Homebound Communion list please call the church office at **833-1703.**

Communion for the Homebound

OUR HOMEBOUND FRIENDS

If you are a shut-in member and would like the bulletin and/or announcements mailed or emailed to you, please call the church office at

www.stjohnwaseca.org

Pastor John's Sermon, weekly church announcements, calendar, photos, Lifeline newsletter, Council minutes, SCRIP order form, electronic giving and much more can be found on our website.

Ministerial Soup Luncheon
Wednesday, Dec 21 19 noon
at Christian Assembly
900 14th Ave SE

Enjoy a warm bowl of soup, fellowship with friends, and a devotion from area pastor just for the cost of a donation.

Sponsored by the Greater Waseca Ministerial Association.

SMART
Southern Minnesota Area Rural Transit

Complimentary bus tokens are available for St. John members riding the bus to church. Call the church office at 833-1703. You must call DISPATCH 1-855-762-7821 before 3pm Saturday to schedule your pickup and drop-off.

Currently Available in the Narthex and Trinity Hall

NEW Advent Devotions

Large print and regular size copies of :

"Portals of Prayer", "Christ in our Home", and "The Upper Room" quarterly devotion books.

Council meeting monthly minutes

Extra Copies of our Lifeline Monthly Newsletter

Monthly Prayer Ventures from ELCA

"Pockets" learning about God for children

"Gather" women's magazine for faith and action

"The Lutheran Prayer Book"-a collection of prayers and inspirations for every Lutheran.

Hospitalized or ILL?

Pastor John would like to visit you if you have any mental or physical health issues. Therefore if you or a loved one is sick, or if you are in the hospital for a planned surgery or any other reason do contact us. Call the church at 833-1703.

Live Simply

We focused, in the month of November, on the theme, "Live Simply." Are there ways we can live our lives a little more simply? And, what does it mean to "take hold of the life that really is life" in the words of the Apostle Paul?

And so, we had, "Live Simply, Follow Jesus." And we talked about the possibility of living with less, and being content with what we have, and sharing with those in need.

Next, we had, "Live Simply, Face the Truth," where we talked about the troubles and difficulties that we all face in life. No one is immune from these, but Jesus is with us and we can call on him. Jesus who calmed the storm, can also calm the storm in us. And then Jesus sends us to help others in their difficult times, sharing what he had done in our lives.

Finally, we had, "Live Simply, Act Together," where we discussed working together as the Body of Christ, in ministry and mission. And, where it all begins, with Jesus new command: "Love one another, as I have loved you."

You will see our "Live Simply" banner on display in Trinity Hall for the month of December. Thank you for your involvement in St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, for following Jesus in your daily lives, and for "taking hold of the life that really is life!"

Thanks be to God!

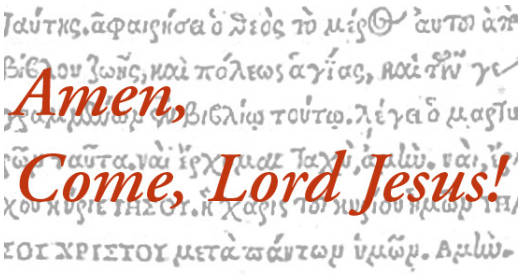
BIBLE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS…and Wednesdays

Sunday Series – Come Lord Jesus (9:00 am)

12/02/18 – Matthew 24:36-44, and, Romans 13:11-14
12/09/18 – Matthew 3:1-12
12/16/18 – Matthew 11:2-11
12/23/18 – Matthew 1:18-25

Wednesday Series – Rethinking Christmas (7:00 pm)

12/05/18 – Luke 1:26-38, 46-53
12/12/18 – Matthew 2:1-12
12/19/18 – John 13:34-35, and 1 John 3:16-18



CHILDREN'S ministries

Sundays December 2, 9, 16, 23 10:15am-11:00am "Preparing the Way"–
An Illustrated Advent Journey for families.

Children are invited to participate in our "Instant Christmas Pageant" on Sunday, December 16 at 9:00 am Worship.

Men in Mission will host Christmas Caroling for the Shut in members at Realife and Lake Shore Inn. Meet at church at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, **December 16**. We will carpool. There will be refreshments at church afterwards at approximately 5:00pm.

Fun for the whole family!

Remember those in the military this Christmas. We need updated military addresses as soon as possible. Many military addresses change frequently and we do not have current ones. Please contact the church office. Drop a note in the offering plate, send it in the mail, email it at stjohn@hickorytech.net, stop in the office or call the church at 833-1703. Military boxes will be sent out in December and we want to remember those who are working away from their families and friends with some festive cheer.

December 3G Schedule:

12/01 9:00 am Help decorate St John

"Preparing the Way" Advent Devotions

Wednesday, 12/05 - 3G @ Grace during Advent Meal
Wednesday, 12/12 - 3G @ Grace during Advent Meal
Wednesday, 12/19 - 3G @ Grace during Advent Meal

M&M Fundraiser continues instructions are on the container (collecting quarters)

Marty Aberle, Youth Director

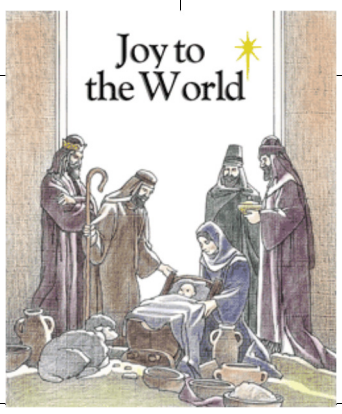
Come Decorate for Christmas

CALLING ALL TEENS, YOUNG ADULTS AND CHILDREN

We need some young people to help make our sanctuary beautiful for the Christmas Season. No prior decorating experience needed. Looking for a service project? Join in the fun! If you are able to climb ladders that is a plus. We will be gathering Saturday December 1 at 9:00 am at the church. SAVE THE DATE! Contact anyone on the worship committee with questions Jan Macklay, or Carol Randall or Lanae Feser.

DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 ***9:00 am Traditional Worship*** *Noisy offerings SCRIP Hanging of the Greens 10:15 am PancakeBreak Preparing the Way Advent 5:30 pm Nominating Comm.*	3 *10:00 am Quilters 10:30 am Video Voice*	4 *7:00 pm Commissions*	5 *3G 5:30 pm at Grace Meal* ***7pm Advent Worship***	6 *6pm WELCA Christmas Potluck and program #1*	7	8
9 ***9:00 am Traditional Worship w/Communion*** *SCRIP 10:15 am Fellowship/ Preparing the Way Advent 5:00 pm Video Voice*	10 *10:30 Video Voice 11:30 am Quilters at Pizza Ranch 1:30pm Mary Bible Study*	11 *5:30 pm Executive Council 6:00 pm Council*	12 *11:30 am Senior Lutherans Christmas Sing along with Jan 3G 5:30 pm at Grace Meal* ***7pm Advent Worship***	13	14	15
16 ***9:00 am Traditional Worship w/Communion*** *10:15 am Fellowship/ Preparing the Way Advent 3:00 pm Christmas Caroling meet at Church 5:00 pm Video Voice*	17 *10:30 am Video Voice*	18 *6:00 pm Ruth Bible Study & potluck at Latham Place*	19 *3G 5:30 pm at Grace Meal* ***7pm Advent Worship***	20 *Joint Communion 11:15 am Lake Shore Inn 1:00 pm Colony Court 5pm I.C.E.*	21	22
23 ***9:00 am Traditional Worship w/ Instant Christmas Pageant*** *10:15 am Fellowship Preparing the Way Advent 5:00 pm Video Voice*	24 ***4pm Family Worship w/ Candlelight 10 pm Worship w/ Communion candlelight***	25 **Christmas Day** ***9am Worship*** *12 noon Christmas Dinner at St. Paul's Lutheran*	26	27	28	29
30 ***9:00 am Contemporary Worship*** *Pulpit Supply 10:15 am Fellowship 5:00 pm Video Voice*	31 *10:30 am Video Voice*					



Senior Lutherans Dinner Christmas Carol Sing Along, featuring Pianist Jan Macklay

Wednesday, December 12 at 11:30am $7.00 Call the church office before noon on Monday, Dec. 10 at 833-1703 to reserve your meal.

If you do any holiday baking we ask you to bring cookies or breads to share for dessert. Also, bring a Christmas memento to reminisce about.

Poinsettia ORDERS

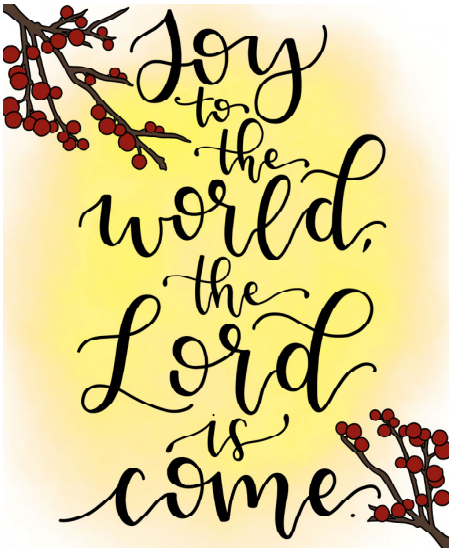
Poinsettia orders are now being taken in the church office please call 833-1703 Or email stjohn@hickorytech.net.

They are available in red, white or pink for $10 each. Please include whom they are in "honor of" or "memory of". Orders need to be placed by Friday, December 14.

VIDEO VOICE OF ST JOHN

Each Sunday morning the worship service at St. John is videotaped and broadcast on local Channel 8 Sundays at 5:00 pm and Mondays at 10:30 am.

Thank you to all of our Volunteers. It's all the little things that add up to a lot. The Church could not function without you!



Worship Services

Traditional Worship December 2, 9
Instant Children's Pageant 16th at 9 am,
Sunday December 23 9:00 am
Monday Christmas Eve 24th 4 p.m.
and 10 p.m.
Tuesday Christmas Day 25th 9 a.m.
Holy Communion
December 9, 16
Christmas Eve Dec. 24 10 p.m.

Hanging of the Greens December 2, 9:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship
Ushers: Janet Wichmann, Lanae Feser
Merril and Mary Schultz
Reader: Janet Wichmann, Sam Macklay
Acolyte: Erika Bowers
Church Council: Merril Schultz
Videographer: Gyles Randall
Fellowship: Men in Mission

Mid Week Advent Worship December 5, 7:00 p.m.
Ushers: Confirmation Students
Reader:
Acolyte: Hannah Fordham
Church Council: Kari Priebe

Second Sunday in Advent December 9, 9:00 am
Traditional Worship with Communion
Ushers: Rodney and Lori Born
Christy Jo Born, Myra Battenfeld
Prepare Communion:
Don and Linda Wesseling, Danielle Timmerman
Acolyte: Payton Garza
Prayer Ministers: Dewey and Kathy Zabel
Reader: Rodney Born
Church Council:
Videographer: Gyles Randall
Fellowship:

Mid Week Advent Worship Dec 12, 7:00 p.m.
Ushers: Confirmation Students
Reader:
Acolyte: Peyton Haack
Church Council:

Third Sunday in Advent December 16, 9:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship with Communion
and Instant Children's Pageant
Ushers: Larry Huber, Travis Huber
Tyler Huber, Terry Huber
Communion: Vickie Hill
Acolyte: Jersey Castle
Reader: LuAnne Huber
Acolyte: Payten Haack
Church Council: Michael Schlueter
Videographer: Dennis Sommers
Fellowship:

Mid Week Advent Worship December 19, 7:00 p.m.
Ushers: Confirmation Students
Reader: Lanae Feser
Acolyte: Jenessa Baumgarten
Church Council: Dianne Bathke

Fourth Sunday in Advent December 23, 9:00 am
Traditional Worship
Ushers: David and Gwen Oraskovich
Dennis and Marcia Bartz
Acolyte: Dominic Grunzke
Reader: Marcia Bartz
Church Council: Kari Priebe
Videographer: Merril Schultz
Fellowship:

Christmas Eve Worship December 24, 4:00 p.m.
Ushers: Dennis Sommers, Mark Sommers,
Julie Pederson, Polly Dill
Reader:
Acolyte: Susie Kuhns
Church Council: Michael Schlueter

Christmas Eve Worship December 24, 10:00 p.m.
Ushers: Mary Meyman, Sue Michaels,
Darwin and Julie Spies
Communion: Jackie Krause
Reader:
Acolyte: Erika Bowers
Church Council: Cindy Coy

Christmas Day Dec 25, 9:00 am Traditional Worship
Ushers: Sam Macklay
Reader: Sam Macklay
Acolyte: Hannah Fordham
Church Council:

Traditional Worship Service Pastor Buendorf
December 30, 9:00 a.m.
Ushers: Joe McCarthy, Wallace Priebe
Jon and Vicky O'Neil
Reader: Sam Macklay
Acolyte: Payton Garza
Church Council:
Videographer: Marcia and Dennis Bartz
Fellowship:

Welca Bible Study

Mary Bible Study
Monday, December 10 1:30 pm
in Trinity Hall Leader– Jean Miller

Ruth Bible Study
Tuesday, December 18 6:00 pm
Leader– Jean M.
Latham Place
First Floor Conference Room

Thank Offerings

Thank you for your Thankofferings. To date, $386.98 has been given in gratitude for God's blessings and in support to Women of the ELCA Ministries. Along with collecting your offerings there was a space for sharing what the people of St. John are thankful for, and you said, "in thanks for church & family, God watching over me, good health, mentoring women, Women's Ministries, St. John ELCA, and all of God's Blessings." There is still opportunity to participate, if you wish, by giving your Thankofferings designated to WELCA through the month of December. This Advent Season, may God be born in many hearts, and many places all around us.

Marie Tesch, WELCA Treasurer

Women of the ELCA
Thursday, Dec. 6
6:00 p.m.

Christmas Potluck

All women are welcome
Prayer partners are encouraged to bring items for Personal Care Kits.

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The NEW 2019 WELCA booklets are available in the library.

QUILTERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

will be held on December 10th at Pizza Ranch beginning at 11:30am

Anyone who volunteers in any part of the Quilters work is welcome to attend. Whether you help us from home or gather with us to work at church, we would love to have you join us. Each person pays for her own lunch. We will take a break for the rest of December. We will resume quilting again January 7. Come and celebrate with us for a very successful year. We are very thankful and blessed by the support shown our quilting group.

First-Fruit Giving

October 2018

Monthly

Income	$ 19,484
Expense —	19,829
Diff	(345)

Year to Date

Income	$ 197,863
Expense —	208,379
Diff	(10,516)

NOISY OFFERINGS

$153.96 in coins were collected on Nov. 4 for World hunger.

Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow.

VANCO SERVICES

Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis. Your consistent support is vital to our church. *Get started today!*

There is information on our church website, or ask for an authorization form in the church office.

SCRIP

Find a present they'll love while earning money for our youth.

•Think ahead for holiday gift giving. If you don't feel like stomping through crowded stores—give a gift card! There are a dozen different shops to redeem Scrip at.

Scrip can be purchased before or after worship on Sundays December 2, 9, 16 or at the church office during the week. We are all a family at St John and we can ALL help the youth. Every scrip purchase you make will help the youth of St John and 3rd Gear. *We need volunteers to help sell SCRIP to keep this program going,* *please contact: Kari Priebe 507-521-4723 or Pam Grunzke 612-910-7230, if you are willing to help. Or, a sign up sheet can be found in Trinity Hall.*

We now have CASH WISE Scrip available for purchase.

Our Veterans in no particular order:

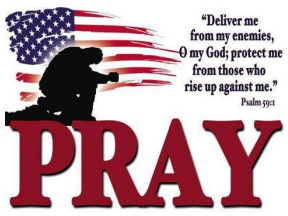
(a request was made to include this again as more names were added)

***Reserves*- Steve Miller**

Chad Chum, Bill Erdman, Keith Vollbrecht, Marvin Kormann, Wayne Johnson, Gerald Reitfort, Harold Zabel, LaVoy Bauman, Orlin Bauman, David Southwick,Rodney Southwick, Stan Schmidt, Robert Sleen, Richard Holtz, Marv Dumdei, Becky Broughten, Harlen Beyer, Kim Elias, Ken Hamilton, Howard Lundquist, David Schlaak, Keith Vollbrecht, Donald Wesseling

(if you know of someone who should be included on this list, please contact the church office by email or phone)

ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE



Jacob Kuhns, Dana Elias, Jacob Lemmen, Trevor Morris, Matt Wantoch, Darren Peterson, Savanna Grunzke, Madyson Murphy, and Nathan Lonneman.

Please let us know of others to add.

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
401 3rd Avenue NE
Waseca MN 56093
Email: stjohn@hickorytech.net
Website: www.stjohnwaseca.org
Phone: 507-833-1703

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization US
Postage Paid Permit No.35
Waseca, MN 56093

Council Members and Staff

Council President
Kevin Dickie, 507-835-4151

Council Vice-President

Council Secretary
Cindy Coy, 507-837-9115

Congregational Life

Education Committee
Michael Schlueter 507-304-3530

Worship and Music
Dianne Bathke 507-835-3653

Social Ministry and Outreach
Kari Priebe 507-521-4723

Council Members At Large
Merril Schultz 507-461-7240
Gary Conrath 507-521-2663

Building and Grounds
Bill Erdman 507-461-1359

Financial Secretary
Al Tonn, 507-234-5737

E-mail : stjohn@hickorytech.net

Facebook: **StJohnLutheranChurchELCA**

Website: www.stjohnwaseca.org

Pastor John Omans
Church office 507-833-1703 **cell** 507-201-1103
home 507-833-1525
E-mail faith.worker@hotmail.com

3rd Gear Youth Director
Marty Aberle, 507-461-3552
Email: 3rdgearwaseca@gmail.com
website www.3rdgearwaseca.org

Senior Choir Director
Deb Wantoch-Yess 507-835-3498

Assistant Choir Director
Jan Macklay, 507-835-8706

Organists
Jan Macklay, 507-835-8706
Al Tonn, 507-234-5737

Bell Choir Director
Mary Schultz 507-521-4731

Custodian
Cindy Fordham, contact church office 507-833-1703

Office Manager
Carrie Lonneman, 507-833-1703
stjohn@hickorytech.net