

CHURCH CONNECTIONS

Messages for God's People

Morgan United Methodist | St. John's Lutheran | St. Luke's Lutheran
on the web at luthadist.webstarts.com and facebook.com/stjohnmorgan

Worship Times

Worship times for December and January will be:

8:15 St. Luke's

9:30 St. John's

11:00 MUMC

Please note: Each church council has chosen to not have worship on Christmas Eve morning. There is **no worship scheduled** for Sunday Morning December 24.

Christmas Eve Worship services will be held at St. Luke's at 4:30 PM, St. John's at 6:00 PM and MUMC at 7:30 PM on December 24.

Dates for Communion

St. John's and St. Luke's will celebrate the Eucharist on December 3 and 17. MUMC will gather for Communion on December 3. Each church will have communion at their Christmas Eve Worship.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation class will meet once in December on Wednesday the 13th. All classes are in the St. John's basement beginning at 6:30 PM

Sunday School at St. Luke's

Sunday School at St. Luke's for December will be held on the 3rd and 17th from 10:00 to 10:45.

Colors on the Altar

Happy New Year! December 3 marks a new year in the Church calendar. The church year begins with the season of preparation for the coming of the Messiah called Advent. Blue festoons the altar representing hope for the coming of Christ.

The paraments become white as Christ comes to us on Christmas bringing his presence into our midst. The season of Christmas lasts 12 days until Epiphany on January 6.

Christmas Can at MUMC

The Christmas Can at the Morgan United Methodist Church will be out for one more Sunday, December 3. Every gift given will be used to help local area families in need. The Foundation will match money given. Your gifts are appreciated!

Devos at the Depot

Join us at the Franklin Depot for something a little different, a little Bible reflection, a few songs, some tacos and a beer if you would like. It's an opportunity to get together and talk about God in the real world.

We will be at the Franklin Depot Tuesday night, November 21, at 6:30 or so. Come when you can, leave when you have to, but Join us!

Bible Studies

We will have Bible Study at Gil-Mor Haven beginning at 1:45 the following Thursdays in December: 14th and 21st. All are welcome to come!

Men's Bible Study will not meet in the month of December.

Council Meetings

St. Luke's council is scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 12, at 7:00 PM.

Shingles for the Sanctuary at St. John's

We are cloning in on our goal of \$10,000 for the shingles on the sanctuary roof. Help us meet that goal with your donation. When you give, please indicate that your donation is for the roof.

Ushers for November

Morgan United Methodist Church:

Larry and Denise Kirschstein

Prayer Concerns

Please keep these members of our parish and community in your prayers: Marlys Carpenter, Kathy Potter, Sandy Stokesbury, Sue Ziegenhagen, Curt Carpenter, Glenn Eckart, Sandy Seehausen, Burdell Symens, Julie Wendinger, JoAnn Kotval, Dee Johnson, Makenna Van Kuelen, Glen Seifert, Jeri Forbrook, Sandy Schroeder Long, Pam Shefland and Dorothy Nielsen, Brent Sandmann, Butch Zempel, Raynette Hansen, Todd Sherman, Landen Grejtek, Alice Wood, Irene Landgraff, and Jan Rodvik.

Parish Birthdays & Anniversaries

Please wish these people a happy birthday and anniversary as they celebrate another year of living and loving in God's world.

MUMC:

Cub Hoffman 1; Brook Christensen 7; Kristina Janke 10, Brian Ziegenhagen 10; JoAnn Kotval 12; Christopher Malecek 12; Rick Dallenbach 16; John Dallenbach 17; Taylor Rose 17; Jeannie Christensen 22; Becky Sell 22 and Nicholas Malecek 24

Anniversaries

Rick and Melissa Dallenbach 7

St. John's:

Ardis Schiller 1; Tayte Hultquist 7; Parker Kerkhoff 13; Christine Schumacher 19; Randy Lemcke 20; Mary Jeppesen 26; Brennan Schafer 27; Austin Christensen 28 Lilah Kettner 28; Keith Christensen 30; Doug Hillger 30; Dave Simonsen 31; Isobel Schumacher 31

St. Luke's:

Linda Nissen 4; Bob Landgraff 5; Paula Mogard 10; Jackson Meyer 13; Connor Castle 13; Aiyana Anderson 14; Mitchell Tonak 25; Natasha Okins 25; Steven Sherman 27; Tiffany Mullen 31

From the Pastor's Desk

It continues to be unseasonably warm around here as I sit down to contemplate this article and the season that is coming. I am finding it hard to get into the mood of Christmas when I only need a sweatshirt or light jacket to go outside. It doesn't seem time to put up lights and red and green decorations everywhere when it is still green outside in some places.

There are probably other forces at work in me not being in the mood for the coming season. I find it hard to look at the news these days. There are enough wars happening to make your head spin. There are people seeking to grab power in various ways and places. Our nation's government seems to be grinding to a halt with no one willing to talk to anyone with differing views. The lack of care for others that we see in the general society is worrying and seems only to get worse. That may be enough, or maybe too many reasons for my lack of readiness for this season that is upon us. When we look at the world looking for things that are broken, we are going to find them without having to look too hard. They have always been there, easy to see and hard to ignore. We as human beings have and will continue to act selfishly and not care too much who it may get hurt in the process. A friend of mine said a while ago, "People will continue to people." We have, and always will be sinners looking out for number one.

I have many conversations about the state of the world and where we are headed. I most of the time end up trying to explain that the world around us is just different, it is not better or worse.

So, what is different for me this year? Why am I not ready? Why does the world look so bleak? I think I just need time to prepare.

I have been aware that the Christmas season is approaching with all of the joy and hope that it can bring. But as it has approached I have also been aware that I am not ready to receive it just yet. I need to prepare. This year I am thankful for Advent.

Advent is always a little weird in the Church, it seems out of step with the stores and commercials that bombard us now. In Advent we hear from John the Baptist to "prepare the way of the Lord." We are called to repentance, and asked to wait expectantly. Advent calls us to see the world and all of the chaos in it and recognize our part in that chaos and turn from it so that when the good news comes we will be open to see and hear it.

Without this preparation it is likely that we would miss the coming of God into our lives. After all, God does not come as we think God should come. It is not in grandiose ways that God comes but simple, unexpected, almost insignificant ways.

At the end of Advent God will come, as a baby! Who would have noticed that without being prepared? Yet, as God comes, little and insignificant, there is hope and life breathed into this world that has been and continues to be full of chaos and selfishness that spills out into the news everyday.

This Advent as I preach preparing for Christ's coming I pray I too will turn and prepare for the baby that is bringing God's light and life to me, to you and to this desperate world.

God's Peace, Pr. Lowell

Online Giving Available at All Three Churches

We now have accounts set up so that everyone can give their offering online if they would like to. Each church has an account set up with an organization called Tithe.ly. This company helps to make sure that your giving is secure and recordable. There is a small fee for this service, 30 cents for each transaction and 1% for checking account withdrawals and 2.3% for credit cards. You can choose to pay these costs or have them taken out of the amount given, it is your choice.

In order to give to your congregation either click on the name to the right or scan the QR code next to it with your phone. Either will take you directly to the giving page for your church. The first time you do this you will need to set up an account with Tithe.ly (this way we will be able to include your giving in your giving statements). The next time you return, Tithe.ly will have your info and giving will be super simple.

My family has used Tithe.ly to give to other organizations and have found it simple and fast to use.

Try giving online today!

[St. John's Lutheran](#)

SCAN ME



[St. Luke's Lutheran](#)

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[Morgan United Methodist](#)

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December

2023

Morgan United Methodist St. John's Lutheran & St. Luke's Lutheran

on the web at luthadist.webstarts.com and [facebook.com/stjohnmorgan](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnmorgan)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
					Pastor's Sabbath	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship 8:15 St. Luke's 9:30 St. John's 10:00 St. Luke's SS 11:00 MUMC	Pr. Lowell out of town	Pr. Lowell out of town	Pr. Lowell out of town	Pr. Lowell out of town	Pastor's Sabbath	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship 8:15 St. Luke's 9:30 St. John's 11:00 MUMC		7:00 St. Luke's Council Meeting	6:30 Confirmation Class at St. John's	1:45 Bible Study at Gil-Haven	Pastor's Sabbath	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship 8:15 St. Luke's 9:30 St. John's 10:00 St. Luke's SS 11:00 MUMC	Newsletter items due	6:30 Devos at the Depot at Franklin Depot		1:45 Bible Study at Gil-Haven	Pastor's Sabbath	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve No Worship in AM 4:30 St. Luke's 6:00 St. John's 7:30 MUMC	Christmas Day					
31						
Worship 8:15 St. Luke's 9:30 St. John's 11:00 MUMC						

Return Service Requested

prlowellk@gmail.com

507-227-9247

Pr. Lowell Krogstad

Morgan, MN 56266

403 Carleton Ave.

MORGAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN OF MORGAN
ST. LUKE LUTHERAN OF FRANKLIN



December