



FORERUNNER

Volume 0648
Issue 273
January 2019

ASK THE PASTOR

SERVING BEYOND ST. JOHN

Last month I wrote about a servant/mission trip for adults. This month I have answers to a series of related questions...

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Q: Where are we going?

A: We will be staying at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation near Box Elder, Montana. About a half hour from Havre and an hour and a half from Great Falls.

Q: I want to know more about the Reservation...

A: Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation provides a home for about 4,500 members of the Chippewa-Cree tribe. One story has it that the name "Rocky Boy" was derived from the name of a leader of a band of Chippewa Indians. It actually meant "Stone Child," but it was not translated correctly from Chippewa into English, and the name "Rocky Boy" evolved. The reservation is near the Canadian border, in northcentral Montana. It is graced by the Bear Paw Mountains, which provide dramatic contrast to the flat bottomland of the area.



Q: What are the dates?

A: August 15th through the 21st

Q: How much will the trip cost?

A: Cost per person is \$360; this covers food, lodging, and program costs. (There is also a fee for airport transportation and optional programming.) Figuring out transportation cost will be the tricky part.)

Q: How are we getting there?

A: There are no major airports nearby, so flights are going to be expensive... pricing flights in the middle of December, it would cost \$450 round trip. Who knows about next year, but I think that gives us an estimate.

Q: What about driving?

A: According to Google Maps, it's a 24 hour drive. I thought about looking into charting a bus, but I'm not sure how many people would want to sit on a bus for 24 hours (myself included).

Q: Where will we be staying?

A: The church has lodging on site, but it seems rustic. I'm thinking it will be similar to a lodge at a church camp. We are asked to bring our own bedding.

Q: Are there other lodging options?

A: There is space for tents and we can sleep in tee-pees if we request in advance. They also have a few RV hookups, so if someone wanted to make the drive there would be a place to park your camper.



Continued from page 1...

Q: What type of work will we be doing?

A: According to Pastor Linda, "We always have a few on-site projects we are working on along with things we work out with tribal entities - could be painting, carpentry, doing some work in our little Thrift Store or community garden. With every group, we make a set of bunk-beds that gets delivered to a family on the reservation. Once we deliver it and set it up, it is usable that evening." Also, they will tailor the work to the skills of the group, so there will be work for everyone.

Q: I think I might like to go, what do I do?

A: Stop by the church, send an email, call or talk to me after worship. I will be glad to answer any questions you have. We will be scheduling a meeting after the holidays for those who are interested in talking details.

I hope that you will prayerfully consider joining us on this trip and/or joining our other serving opportunities during our Year of Service.

If you would like to submit a question for "Ask the Pastor", Biblical, theological, church related, anything you have been dying to ask a pastor, you can hand me a note, ask me after church, send an e-mail, or sneak into the church after dark and anonymously slide a sealed envelope under my office door. If I answer your question in print, I will not include your name unless you explicitly ask me to.

Lord as this new year dawns,
welcome.

Welcome into our world
and into our lives.

Sow light in our hearts.
Let it germinate and grow
and bring forth fruit.

Birth in us something new.
Let your peace take root.

Nurture it,
encourage it to flourish.

Let your love blossom
with the fragrance
of patience and compassion.

Let it strengthen
forgiveness and understanding.

Let your life emerge
in us, through us, around us,
bringing newness to all it touches.

Christine Sine <http://godspace-msa.com>



**Genoa Area
Community
Food Pantry**

****Needs for January**

Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Dry Pasta, Egg Noodles

****Needs for February**

Canned Soups

Please no food expired items.

The Forerunner

is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
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419-972-4003

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@stjohnwilliston.org

Fall/Winter Worship

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday School 8:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

**Deadline for the
February 2019 newsletter is
Monday, January 21st**

**Please send articles and/or
information to
office@stjohnwilliston.org.**



**"Creating and nurturing life changing
relationships based on the love of God
in Jesus Christ, so that we may grow
in faith, serve God and
serve our neighbor."**

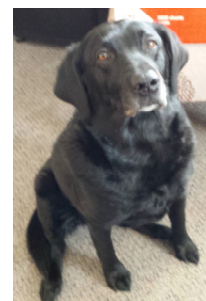


**LisaAnne Gregg
Office**

Administrator

9am—3pm

Mon. thru Fri.



*Bella
Fredericksen*

*The Greeter of
St. John*

A New Year filled with Gratitude!

Thank You...

The family of Stephen Harmeyer would like to thank the St. John family for the prayers, phone calls, cards and memorials in Steve's name. Thank you to Pastor O'Brien for his visits and prayers. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness during this difficult time in our lives.

***God Bless You All,
The Harmeyer Family***

A Big Christmas Thank You!

The Christmas Tree lighting was a huge success! We were able to pack up 13 boxes of different sizes to give to the Ottawa County Holiday Bureau. When the boxes were picked up, we received a big hug from the OCHB Chairperson of Allen Township. We pass this big hug onto all of you who brought in items. The Evangelism Committee would like to thank all who helped in any way to make this night a success. From the tree decorators to the cookies bakers and of course all who attended...a big thank you! We plan to make this a yearly event and hopefully it will grow each year. We also thank Thrivent Financial for their gift of \$250.00 which was used toward the meal. Thank you all so much!

The Evangelism Committee

Thank you for helping your neighbors!

On behalf of the LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion, I would like to thank my St. John Family for your generous donation to the Pantry from your Thanksgiving Offering this year. We are a self sustaining pantry and we could not do it without the generosity of our wonderful church neighbors. Every month, we provide food, hygiene products and snacks to 25-40 families in need from all over Ottawa County. With your help, we will continue to be a blessing to those in need. Thank you so much!

***In HIS Service,
LisaAnne Gregg***



Thank You!

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, and cards during my recovery from knee surgery. God Bless You.

Allen Harder

To the St. John Blanket Ladies:

Thank you for helping families like Melissa and her two daughters with your donation of a variety of quilts. Last year they were homeless. Today, Melissa and her family is in safe permanent housing because of generous supporters like you. Your contribution helps individuals and families like them get home!

***Tammy Holder-Executive Director
Leading Families Home- Toledo, Ohio***



***Thank you to the wonderful "Elves" who prepared the
last Forerunner for mailing.***

***Linda Schlievert, Terry Gast, Madelayne Saionzkowski,
Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock.***

*Winter Weather
Notice!*



*If Ottawa County is under a **Level 3** Snow Emergency, we will **not** have worship or any other church related activities until the emergency has been cancelled.

*If Ottawa County is under a **Level 2 or Level 1** Snow Emergency, we will still hold worship and activities for those who can travel safely. Please consider your safety and the safety of others on the road when you decide to venture out into the weather. We love you and your wellbeing is our number one concern.

Please be careful out there this winter season! 3



In Memory of Mary Lowe

Carol Tank
Mary Schimming
Karl and Roberta Orians
Carol Tank & Marlene Brinkman

In Memory of Carol Weddle

Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer
Cliff & Renee Lemke
Lowell & Diane Hartman

In Memory of Richard Witt on his Birthday

Alice Witt

In Memory of Gerald Blausey

Janice Sheahan
Elaine Gruetter
Linda Schlievert
Lowell and Diane Hartman

In Memory of Steve Harmeyer

Mary Schimming
Karl and Roberta Orians

In Memory of Judy Schimming

Donald and Jan Lajti
Don and Vicki Vellequette
Bob and Diane Kapp
Jane and Richard Phillips, Christa Havel and Erica Celso
Wayne and Michaelina Schimming
JoElaine Schimming & family
Tom & Joan Truman
Mary Schimming
Mary Harmeyer
Beth Johnson
Al & Traci Brown
Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer
Dennis & Rosemarie Dickinson
Margaret Berger
Dan and Pam Berger
Elaine Gruetter
The Allison Fishwick Group
Doug and Karen Lick
Linda Schlievert
Ruth Petersen
Lowell and Diane Hartman

For Stephen Ministry in memory of Karen, Randy, Jeff, Jennifer and Wendy Johnson.

Avis Johnson

*If a name has inadvertently been left off the list, please let the office know.



Judy Ann Schimming, 75, of Curtice, Ohio passed away on December 16, 2018 at St. Charles Mercy Hospital in Oregon, Ohio. Having bravely dealt with Multiple Sclerosis for over 25 years, she succumbed after contracting a severe infection.

She is survived by her husband Ronald, her sisters Christine and Susan, her children William, Wendy and Matthew (Lacy) and her dear grandchildren, Payton, Parker and Cooper. She was preceded in death by her parents.

In accordance with Judy's wishes services will remain private. Those wishing an expression of sympathy in Judy's memory are asked to consider the Allen Clay Joint Fire District Station 1 or St. John Lutheran Church, Williston.



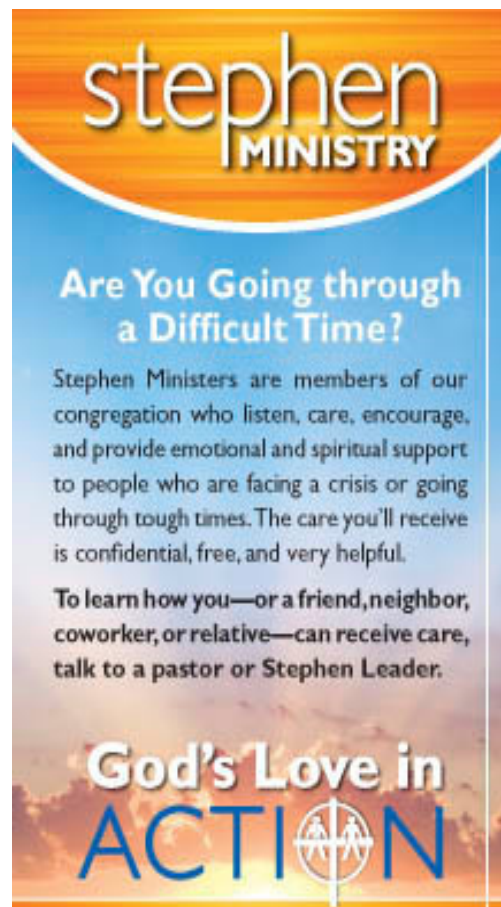
St. John Prayer Chain is there for you....

"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Matthew 21:22

When there is illness, a special need, or a time of thanksgiving in your family, or among friends or neighbors, you may wish to ask for the prayers of your sisters and brothers at St. John. If such a need arises, call Pastor O'Brien (419-972-4003, cell ph 419-378-1112) or the church office (419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain.

Please keep your message to the minimum to avoid any errors in passing it on. Thank you!



The 2019 Altar and Chancel Flower chart is posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for the weekend you would like to order Altar or Chancel flowers. Fill out the blue slip and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the office with your payment.

Altar flowers are \$25.00
Chancel flowers are \$20.00

Please submit your order/blue slip as soon as possible **before** the order date as orders are placed several days in advance.

Flowers will not be ordered without a blue slip.

We are using Hirzel Bros. Florists again this year. They do such a nice job and are very customer friendly. Please pass the word if you know someone looking for flowers!

Circle and Board Meetings January 2018

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.
Bible Study: Beverly Harder
Hostess: Carol Vargo and Alice Witt

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.
Bible Study: Ann Mann

DORCAS CIRCLE: Thursday, January 3, 1:30 p.m.
Bible Study: Group study

WELCA Board Meeting Monday, Jan. 14, 7:00 p.m.

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN

Please note that all the women of St. John are listed in a circle. You may get a call at some time to help with a project of the Women of St. John, such as baking a cake for a luncheon. We warmly invite you to attend the circle of your choice. Circle presidents will let us know of any changes needed.



The "Blanket Ladies" will be gathering to make quilts on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am.

Bed sheets (Queen size) are needed for quilt backings
Donations may be left in the box outside the church office.

Come join us! The coffee is on and you only need to know how to tie a knot!



2018 Annual Report Staff Support Committee

The Staff Support Committee is appointed annually by the Congregation Council. This committee currently consists of Alan Brown, Diane Gerkenmeyer and Dave Neuman. This group works as the liaison between the Congregation of St. John and our Staff members. As we reflect on the past year(s), the Staff Support Committee wishes to give grateful thanks and acknowledgement to all of our staff --

Special thanks to **Pastor O'Brien** for his continued Christian Leadership. Many thanks to him for his inspiring weekly messages, his visitations, comforting the ill and bereaved, leading our youth, his countless meetings and his immeasurable services to both our members and to others in need. Through Pastor's guidance the people of God at St. John/Williston continue to love each other and to serve together in doing God's work. We share God's ministry together and many opportunities for ministry continue to be opened to us. The congregation looks forward to the future in growing our congregation. The people of St. John are very fortunate to have the leadership of Pastor O'Brien.

Our **Office Administrator, LisaAnne Gregg**, keeps our office running in an efficient and organized manner. LisaAnne continues in her extra efforts to oversee the huge array of administrative activities/duties in an effective and timely manner. LisaAnne's expertise allows our congregation to function at a very smooth pace.

Thanks to **Beckie** for leading the Sunday morning music, playing the organ and directing the choir(s).

Thanks to **Tami** for her musical talents and for providing leadership and guidance for our Saturday Evening worship.

Many thanks to **Paul** for his continued hard work, pride and dedication, in maintaining our building and grounds. As our in-house custodian, Paul attends to custodial duties on a day-to-day basis in order to ensure that our church building is maintained in a healthy and safe environment. He is responsible for performing custodial duties, minor maintenance and other miscellaneous duties. He is also responsible for snow removal from sidewalks and entrances.

Thanks to **Richard Crosskill** (member of St. John), who does our lawn mowing and keeps our grounds looking beautiful.

We have contracted with **A&B Clean Team** for weekly (Friday) cleaning of the entire building.

Many thanks also to our very energetic, supportive **volunteers** who continually work together with the power of the Holy Spirit. Countless good things continue to happen here at St. John. We are God's people – chosen to do God's work. We are blessed to be God's messengers of love in our little corner of the world – Williston.

Should anyone in the congregation has any concerns, suggestions or comments regarding the church, the Pastor or any of our staff, please contact any one of the Staff Support members. This committee is open to hear any observations or remarks that you may have to help make St. John/Williston a more enjoyable, pleasant, enlightening and informative place of Christian Worship. We encourage your feedback.

God's Blessings,
The Staff Support Committee

News around St. John!



New HIGH SCHOOL Bible Study!

Join us for this new gathering
with lots of friends, food and
fellowship!

Our next meeting will be January 8th at 6PM.

Invite a friend! For more
information, contact

Stefanie Neuman

stefaniehneuman@gmail.com

Did you know....

*There is an adult bible study class that meets
Mondays at 10:00 am?*

*This study is lead by Pastor O'Brien and concentrates
on the lectionary lessons for the upcoming week.*

No experience needed and all are welcome!

Bring your bible!



Join the St. John Dartball Team!

Get those pitching arms ready! Join us for fun on Tuesday nights at 7:30 PM as the Western Ottawa County Dartball League continues its season. All are welcome. No experience is needed. All are welcome to come and cheer on our St. John Team, too! See or call Jeff Schimming for more info. 419-356-3552

Upcoming games:

Jan. 8 7:30 PM at Genoa St. John UCC

Jan. 15 -bye

Jan. 22 7:30 PM at Home (vs. Elmore St. Paul)

Jan. 29 7:30 PM at Elliston Trinity UCC

When it's chilly outside ...



Blood Shortage Emergency!

**St. John Williston is hosting a Blood Drive on
Sunday, January 6 from
1 PM to 6 PM**

in the basement.

**Make a resolution to start the new year off
right by giving the gift of life!**

Lunch/dinner will be provided.

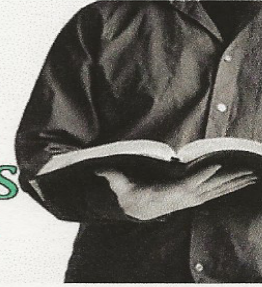
**Make your appointment (encouraged) at
www.redcrossblood.org or call
1-800-733-2767 or see LisaAnne in the office.**

Thank you for giving life!

Faith Practice #3 Readings

PASTORAL LETTERS

1 TIMOTHY, 2 TIMOTHY, AND TITUS



Paul's "Pastoral Letters" (*1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus*) were written to his coworkers in the gospel, Timothy and Titus, to guide them in matters concerning the care of the church. These are likely written to churches Paul founded and these two men have stayed on to minister to. These are called "Pastoral Letters" because of their strong bearing on the life of the church, which is the household of God

We will continue with our "one chapter per week" schedule. I hope you will consider joining with us as we practice our faith! (Questions will be asked the week following the reading; e.g. questions based on 1 Timothy chapter 1, read the week of December 31, will be asked before worship on January 5/6.)

for the week starting...

December 31 – 1 Timothy 1

January 7 – 1 Timothy 2

January 14 – 1 Timothy 3

January 21 – 1 Timothy 4

January 28 – 1 Timothy 5

February 4 – 1 Timothy 6

February 11 – 2 Timothy 1

February 18 – 2 Timothy 2

February 25 – 2 Timothy 3

March 4 – 2 Timothy 4

March 11 – Titus 1

March 18 – Titus 2

March 25 – Titus 3

2019 
in United
Service

A New Year of Faith Practices: #4– Serve at St. John and Beyond!

Each year we focus on one of our Faith Practices. 2019 will be the year for Faith Practice 4: Serve at and beyond St. John. To help us focus on our Year of Service we are looking to have one 'outside the church' service activity each month in 2019. Some events are already scheduled; God's Work, Our Hands, in September for example, but we are still looking for service event ideas to fill in the rest of the 2019 calendar. If you have ideas for ways and places we can serve "beyond St. John", please contact Pastor O'Brien or any member of church council.



LIVING A STEWARDSHIP

Life

It is all about your heart...
Everything we have is a gift from God
that we are to use to help others.

What is
a
STEWARD
?

One definition states that a **STEWARD** is a person who manages the affairs of a household or an estate for the owner.

In the
CHRISTIAN
sense--



--a steward is the
MANAGER of the **AFFAIRS**
of **GOD** on earth.

GOD HAS MADE
EACH OF US A
STEWARD --and has
given us **ABILITIES** and
TALENTS that are unique
for each of us to use in
that work.



A SCRIPTOGRAPHIC BOOKLET by CHANNING L. BETE CO., INC., South Deerfield, MA 01373 U.S.A.
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Great and glorious God, you are the source of all good things and all we have comes from you.

Help us to be ever mindful that we have been made by you and for you, and that our responsibility is to share what you have given us in such abundance.

Help us to put You first in all our decisions.

Help us to distinguish between our wants and our needs.

Inspire us to help build the Kingdom of God by sharing the wealth of gifts you have poured upon us, and give us confidence in your never failing protection.

We ask this in the Spirit and through Christ our Lord.

Amen

I AM THE VINE,
you are the branches.
JOHN 15:5

Online Giving
Easy & Secure **Available Now**

Start the new year with one less worry!
Online giving is now available at St. John.

Simply visit our web site at www.stjohnwilliston.org
and click on the "online giving"
link at the top of the page.

You may give one time or set up reoccurring donations to automatically give from your checking or savings account. (We suggest using your checking or savings account as credit cards are charged an additional transaction fee. There are no fees associated with checking/savings accounts through VANCO, our online processor.)

Not online? See LisaAnne in the office to set up an account or fill out an "Authorization Form" and return it to the office.

God has given of us
A GIFT
from His great variety of
SPIRITUAL GIFT

Use them well to serve one another.
1 Peter 4:10





The Wise Men Seek Jesus Word Search

St. John Kid's Page



*Jesus
has
washed
all
my
sins
as
white
as
snow!*

ACROSS

2. The wise men who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born
4. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
6. To come into existence by birth
7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
8. A twinkling point of light in the night sky

DOWN

1. A male ruler of a country
2. A sticky substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
3. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
5. The direction which is opposite to west
6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect

MAGI
GIFTS

BOW
EAST

STAR
BORN

GOLD
MYRRH

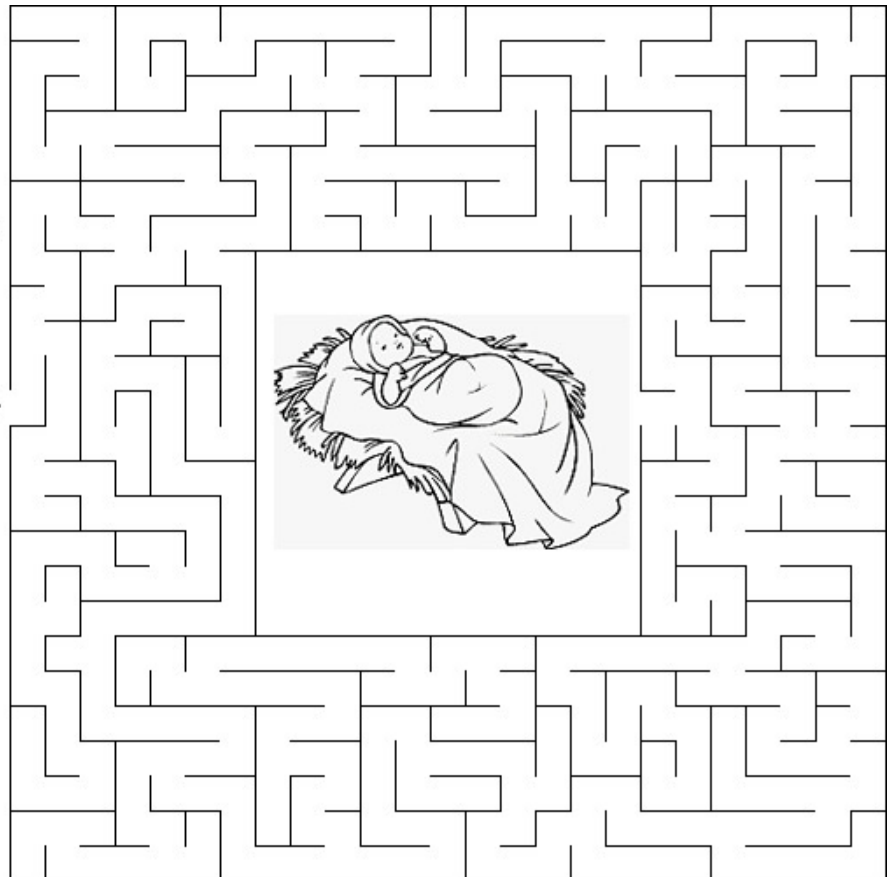
KING
INCENSE

Wise Men Search for Jesus

Can you help
the Wise Men find
the way to the
baby Jesus?



"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."
Matthew 2:2



What's left on the 13th Day of Christmas??

Christmas comes at a descending time. The old year is coming to an end, the new year is not yet here. It is too late to accomplish goals set on the previous New Year's Day, and just enough time to realize that whatever shape or state you are in will be the shape or state in which you end the year. There is a hefty dose of "what-might-have-been."

In the Northern Hemisphere the trees are bare, fields are barren, birds have migrated, animals are hibernating, the days are short and the nights are long. The earth's colors are muted, and when there is snow the world becomes silent. Sometimes during these short days and long nights I find myself thinking about the brevity of life. This conflicts with my tendency to believe that the possibility of self-improvement and renewal is limitless: there is always another day, more time, another chance. I remember watching our first child as she slept in her cradle, thinking about the future before her and, at the same time, the reality that there would be an end. The Ash Wednesday declaration, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," became more pointed and more poignant. The cradle-to-grave progression is our path; the inevitable decline of our strength.

"As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more" (Psalm 103:15).

Maybe this is why the Christmas season can be so fraught. Of course, there is anticipation and celebration, but there is also pressure and stress. Perhaps we are trying to greet the Lord's birth with our best efforts (when I was a girl, Christmas preparations were not complete until the silver was polished, and that job fell to me), but desperation can creep into the urgency to get Christmas right, to hold back the night. "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight" (ELW, 279). This is freight that Christmas can't carry when Christmas depends on us.

But Christmas also comes at an opportune time. God did not come to us that first Christmas when we were at the top of our game or when the world was perfect. Even the circumstances of Jesus' birth were a sharp reminder that all was not well – forced migration to Bethlehem, no room for the young family, born in a stall. Emmanuel – God with us – came to us and comes to us precisely at the time when our need is greatest. Our attempts to bring about perfection actually get in the way of receiving the gift. When we try to fit into an unrealistic ideal of who we ought to be instead of welcoming God into our real self, no matter how messy, then what is left on the 13th day of Christmas? Fatigue, certainly, but also the dull acceptance that life moves from cradle to grave.

On Christmas, God has reversed the cradle to grave progression. The angel announced to the shepherds:

"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: for to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Here is the new reality. Here is the truth. Our lives are not a meaningless trudge from cradle to grave, but a joyful journey – true and lasting joy – from grave to cradle. All our brokenness and death meet life and healing and hope in the child in the manger. His cradle defeats the grave. We are loved. We are alive. Now we are free to greet this holy season.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.





Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2019 Year of Scripture Sneak Peek

2019 will be the **Year of Scripture** in the Northwestern Ohio Synod. What follows is a quick outline of Coming Attractions.

The Year of Scripture will have a 3-fold focus:

1. Bible Reading as a daily discipline and habit
2. Bible Reflection to help us become fluent in the language of sacred scripture
3. Bible Study: to lead us to discover the depths of who God is and the breadth of what God does.

Our Year of Scripture Memory Verse is Psalm 119:105 **“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”.**

A Year of Scripture Bible Study will be available on the Synod Website on January 1, 2019. This year’s 6-session study will focus on the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7. Learn how Jesus reads and reflects on Scripture. Hear Jesus’ call that as disciples we are to be hearers and doers of God’s Word. This 6-session Sermon on the Mount Bible study will make a great Lenten Study / Sermon Series

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Because of all this we make a firm agreement in writing, and on that sealed document are inscribed the names of our officials... The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to adhere to the law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, join with their kin, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God’s law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord and his ordinances and his statutes”

(Nehemiah 9:38 & 10:28-29)

After God’s people prayed a powerful prayer of confession (Nehemiah 9), they took a sacred oath (10:29), and signed their names to a document. In this document they promised to fully observe the commandments, ordinances, and statutes of God. They promised to put first things first. They promised to prioritize. They promised to live their lives by the order of sacred importance.

As a follower of Jesus, what would you say your 5 top priorities are? Does the time, energy, and resources you expend in these areas truly reflect their priority?

As a parish of Jesus followers, what would you say your 5 top priorities are? Once again, does the time, energy, and resources you expend in these areas truly reflect their priority?

As we look back on the past year, many of our parishes will be performing financial audits. Looking back over the books to confirm that investments, income, and expenses have been properly scrutinized and satisfactorily attested. Some (including the Northwestern Ohio Synod) will make use of a professional outside auditor to do this important financial work.

I wonder what a priority audit would look like? How did we live out our God given mission and vision? How did we share our agreed upon values? How did we achieve or fail to achieve our annual goals? And if you’re really brave and want to take this to the next level, reach out to an “outside auditing firm”. Ask the folks living in your neighborhood. Ask the village police officer? Ask the middle school principal. Ask the local postmaster? Are we whom we claim to be? And are we becoming whom God longs for us to be?

Toward the end of the *Book of Nehemiah*, God’s people promised to fully observe the commandments, ordinances, and statutes of God. They promised to put first things first. They promised to prioritize. They promised to live their lives by the order of sacred importance. So, how are we doing?

My prayer is that the followers of Jesus in the Northwestern Ohio Synod become a people of purpose, passion, and priority.

Bless you,
Bishop Daniel Beaudoin

Luther Home of Mercy

Happenings at the Home



Christmas Cheer All Around!

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear". Thanks to the 50+ members of the Genoa Middle School 7th grade choir for brightening our day and FILLING our cottages with your beautiful voices.

You made our day merry & bright!

[enrichinglives90](https://www.facebook.com/enrichinglives90)



The Joy of Christmas!



COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Highlights- December 20, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
Secretary Minutes: Minutes were approved

Pastor's Report:

Numbers

- 17 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings
- 4 committee/group meetings
- 3 community/youth/fellowship events
- 3 professional/clergy activities
- 8 classes/Bible studies
- 1 special worship service

Youth

The youth had an Escape Room /Puzzle Room event on the 17th. Thank you to Kimberly Sommers who did an amazing job with the event. The annual lock-in will be on December 29th.

Year of Service

2019 will be the year for Faith Practice 4: Serve at and beyond St. John. To help us focus on our Year of Service we are looking to have one 'outside the church' service activity each month in 2019. Some events are already scheduled; God's Work, Our Hands, in September for example, but we are still looking for service event ideas to fill in the rest of the 2019 calendar. If you have ideas for ways and places we can serve "beyond St. John", please contact Pastor O'Brien. We will also need volunteers to help schedule some of these activities. If there are areas of service you are passionate about, please consider coordinating a day of service.

Rocky Boy

August 15th through the 21st. We will be staying at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation near Box Elder, Montana. About a half hour from Havre and an hour and a half from Great Falls. They will tailor the work to the skills of the group, so there will be work for everyone.

Financial Secretary Report: reported that income is on track and all looks good. Ron agreed and reported that our Christmas ad was unreadable and will be in the paper at no charge. Tim presented the 2019 budget. This budget was reviewed by the council and was approved for presentation at the annual meeting.

Evangelism: The committee felt that the Christmas Tree Lighting went well. We figured that 75 to 80 people were present. We received the \$250.00 from Thrivent and also had expenses of \$222.50. We had a donation of the outdoor 50-foot lead cord. Of these expenses most are for items that will be used in years to come, lights, timer and straps. We

would like to find an outdoor star or see if someone could make us one. We would also like the council to consider planting a tree for next year so we could watch it grow. Property will investigate placement and tree in the Spring. This year the tree cost was \$64.50, given to us at Michael Lowe's cost. The money from Thrivent was used mostly for the food and paper products. Thirteen boxes were collected for the Holiday Burrow. The committee divided up the shut-ins and other members with health concerns and will be delivering the poinsettias on December 26th.

Parish Education: The Children's program went very well. Thank you to all who make this a success. Donations to SnowPile was \$165.50. There will be no Sunday School on December 23 or December 30. Classes will resume January 6. See you then! Happy New Year!

Stewardship Committee: Shirley will pass on information to next year's committee about a group that could use our help with donations. The meet once a month and sew bags together for personal items that they give to shelters. Shirley thanked everyone for allowing her to serve in the job of Stewardship for the past two years.

Worship Life: No new report
Worship Life is still a member short. The committee will be complete in 2019.

Property: Reported that the rubber roof was most approved at the two roof meetings. The council reviewed all options. The motion was made to replace the current roof with a rubber roof with a maximum cost of \$130,000. Company will be determined by bid with replacement in 2019. Motion was seconded and approved. Financial figures will be presented at the annual meeting.

Old business: Rick presented the 2019 nominees for Church Officers and Board Members. The list was reviewed and approved. Rick will have the list placed in the January Forerunner.

Next Committee Night is scheduled for Thursday January 10, 2019 at 7:00pm. All newly elected and past member should attend.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectively submitted, Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary



2019 Nominees for Church Officers and Board Members

Church Officers	Outgoing	New Nominee	Still Serving till Jan 2020
President	Janice Sheahan	Rick Buhrow	
Vice-President	Rick Buhrow	Diana Pfaff	
Secretary			Marcia Morgan
Financial Secretary	Jennifer Nelson	Dave Nuemann	
Treasurer	Ron Gerkenmeyer	Kent Deventhal	
Board Members	Outgoing	New Nominee	Still Serving till Jan 2020
Finance		Tim Titgemeyer (1 year term)	
Community Christian Life		Carolyn Lasseter Marilyn Sandrock	Cheryl Berger Kris Lee
Evangelism	Jane Phillips Rob Orians	Madelayne Saionzkowski Mark Witt	Margaret Berger Beverly Harder
Parish Education	Rachel Nissen	Melissa Lammers Kim Sommers	Michaela Goldstein Carol Jensen
Stewardship	Shirley Berger	Rosemarie Dickinson Linda Schlievert	Carol Beamer Mike Mann
Property	Jack Mathews	Jerry Goldstein John Mazur	Craig Blausey Dan Petersen
Worship Life		Tracy Brown (1 year term) Joel Mann Deanna Neuman	Amy Schloegl
Nominating Committee	Diane Dickinson Tracy Donnelly Lowell Hartman Jonathan Milbrodt	Heather Cashen Tom Cashen Ron Gerkenmeyer Jill Kao	
Luther Home of Mercy Representatives		Gene Bihn and Amy Bihn	
Lutheran Homes Society Representatives		Karolyn Jansen and Owen Jansen	



The 2018 Annual Report and Budget for 2019 will be available for inspection on Sunday, January 13th following worship.

The Finance Committee will be available to answer any Budget questions.

Committees and Boards are asked to turn in their report to the office by January 6th.

The St. John Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 20th following worship. Please plan to attend this important meeting of our congregation.



**St. John Lutheran Church
Statement of Income and Expense
As of November 30, 2018**

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
		Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
Income: *	280,000	22,883	19,523	85%	249,021	251,349	101%	253,665	-1%
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings									
* online giving IS Included.									
Expenses:									
Benevolence	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%	33,791	33,791	100%		
Board/Ministries	14,100	1,175	1,833	158%	12,925	10,872	83%		
Staff Salaries	98,999	8,084	7,410	92%	88,916	84,355	95%		
Staff Benefits	53,807	4,483	4,167	93%	49,317	46,307	94%		
Operating Expenses	74,100	4,359	4,500	103%	68,879	62,611	91%		
Expense Totals	277,006	21,059	20,868	99%	253,828	237,736	94%		
Income less Expenses	2,994	1,824	(1,345)		(4,807)	13,613			

2018 Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development	8,692
Activity Center Savings	274,391
Memorials	68,616
Music Fund	4,999
Endowment Fund	113,290
Roof Fund	53,819
Scholarship Tank	5,968
Scholarship Younker	4,000
Scholarship Johnson	34,637
Scholarship Parks	35,181
Other	34,709
Savings	30,623
Total	668,905

(Other includes Youth, Good Samaritan, Scholarship, etc.)

If you have questions, please contact the Board of Finance, Tim Titgemeyer, Ron Gerkenmeyer or Jennifer Nelson



SUNDAY
9:00 Worship

Acolytes

6 Evan Kessler
13 Ben Myers
20 Megan Haeft
27 Peyton Donnelly

Lectors

6 Melissa Lammers
13 Diana Pfaff
20 Deanna Neuman
27 Roland Sandrock

Ushers

6 Tim Titgemeyer Family
13 Dave Neuman, Dan Nelson, Jeff Schimming
20 Dan & Andy Kessler, Bob Kapp
27 Bob Bench Family

Communion Servers

6 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
13 Karolyn Jansen, Tim Titgemeyer, Bob Kapp
20 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
27 Roland Sandrock, Ann & Mike Mann

Communion Set-up

6 Heather Cashen
13 Diana Pfaff
20 Deanna Neuman
27 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

6 Debbie Wehner
13 Melissa Lammers
20 Linda Schlievert
27 Jennifer Delventhal

Sound/Projector Techs

6 Alex Lammers
13 Andy Kessler
20 Joel Mann
27 Andy Titgemeyer

Children's Moments

6 Caria Goldstein
13 Stef Neuman
20 Bells
27 Alex Lammers

*Thank you for
serving the Lord!
If you cannot
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assignment, please
make
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a replacement then
let the office know
as soon as
possible.*

SATURDAY
5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

5 Anna Sommers
12 Aidan O'Brien
19 Seidona Brossia
26 Shane O'Brien

Lectors

5 Doris Titgemeyer
12 Shirley Berger
19 Nancy Strohscher
26 Gene Bihn

Ushers

5 AJ Rubies, Zach Buhrow
Jim and Dilly Schimming
12 Allen Harder, Madelayne Saionzkowski,
Tom Truman, Gene Bihn
19 Ken and Pat Sievert, John and Helen Meyer
26 Gene & Amy Bihn, Carol Vargo, Alice Witt

Communion Servers

5 Carol Vargo, Gene Bihn, Al Brown
12 Doris Titgemeyer, JoElaine Schimming, Allen Harder
19 Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher, Al Brown
26 Wayne Bauman, JoElaine Schimming, Amy Schloegl

Communion Set-up

5 Traci Brown
12 Dilly Schimming
19 Carol Vargo
26 Ruth Petersen

Door Greeters

5 Jack Mathews
12 JoElaine Schimming
19 Dean Lowe
26 Kris Lee

Sound/Projector Techs

5 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
12 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
19 **Traci Brown / Amy Bihn**
26 Phil and JJ Milbrodt



***BOLD letters indicate
a change**



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 2 Riley Brossia
- 9 Payton Donnelly
- 16 Anna Sommers
- 23 Aidan O'Brien

Lectors

- 2 Nancy Strohscher
- 9 Shirley Berger
- 16 Tracy Orians
- 23 Amy Schloegl

Ushers

- 2 Tom Truman, Jack Mathews
AJ Rubies and Zack Buhrow
- 9 Allen Harder, Madelayne Saionzkowski,
Carol Vargo, Alice Witt
- 16 John & Helen Meyer, Ken and Pat Sievert
- 23 Gene & Amy Bihn, Marty & Owen Schloegl

Communion Servers

- 2 Al Brown, Nancy Strohscher, Allen Harder
- 9 Doris Titgemeyer, Gene Bihn, Wayne Bauman
- 16 Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher, Allen Harder
- 23 Wayne Bauman, JoElaine Schimming, Amy Schloegl

Communion Set-up

- 2 Joan Truman
- 9 Brenda Keeley
- 16 Traci Brown
- 23 Carol Vargo

Door Greeters

- 2 JoElaine Schimming
- 9 Joni Hillman
- 16 Carol Vargo
- 23 Jack Mathews

Sound/Projector Techs

- 2 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
- 9 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 16 Traci Brown Amy Bihn
- 23 Phil and JJ Milbrodt

SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 3 Jake Titgemeyer
- 10 Evan Kessler
- 17 Ben Myers
- 24 Megan Hoeft

Lectors

- 3 Tim Titgemeyer
- 10 Heather Cashen
- 17 Mike Mann
- 24 Marcia Morgan

Ushers

- 3 The Titgemeyer Family
- 10 Dave Neuman, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
- 17 Dan & Andy Kessler, Bob Kapp
- 24 Jeff Schimming, Dan Nelson, Jennifer Delventhal

Communion Servers

- 3 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
- 10 Heather Cashen, Mike and Ann Mann
- 17 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 24 Roland Sandrock, Karolyn Jansen, Heather Cashen

Communion Set-up

- 3 Pam LaRue
- 10 Diana Pfaff
- 17 Melissa Lammers
- 24 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

- 3 Melissa Lammers
- 10 Marcia Morgan
- 17 Linda Schlievert
- 24 Nancy Brittan

Sound/Projector Techs

- 3 Andy Kessler
- 10 Joel Mann
- 17 Alex Lammers
- 24 Andy Titgemeyer

Children's Moments

- 3 Caira Goldstein
- 10 Stef Neuman
- 17 Puppets
- 24 Alex Lammers

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WORSHIP
ASSISTANTS
NEEDED!

