

FORERUNNER



Happy New Year

Inside this issue:

Ask the Pastor-continued	2
Directory Update/Food Pantry Help	
Grateful Hearts/ Winter Weather	3
Memorials and Sympathy/Flowers	4
WELCA Circle News/Staff Report	5
Weekly Events/New HS Bible Study	6
Faith Practices/New for 2020	7
Stephen Ministry Information	8
Readings for January 2020	9
Stewardship Page	10
St. John's Kid's Page	11
ELCA-From the Bishop	12
NWOS-From Bishop Beaudoin	13
Luther Home of Mercy News	14
Council Highlights	15
2020 Council and Boards Nominees	16
Financial News	17
January celebrations	18
January Worship Helpers	19
February Worship Helpers	20
January Calendar	21

Ask the Pastor

The Finance Committee asked if I knew of any organizations or projects we could support with our end of year surplus. The following is more of a question for you than an answer...

When St. John has an end of year budget surplus (contributions have exceeded church expenses) the Church Council decides how to spend that money. This year (2019) it appears we will have a budget surplus. The exact amount, of course, will not be known until the end of the end of December. Last year (2018) income over expense monies went to the roof project. This year the Finance Committee recommends a portion of the overage to go to outreach. The Church Council would like the congregation's help in identifying good outreach/benevolent ministries that would be helped by St. John's contribution.



We will collect suggestions through the middle of January, and then comprise a list for congregation members to rank their priorities. Based on the actual amount of the surplus, the number of suggestions, the congregation's ranking, etc., the Church Council will determine the disbursement of the available funds. It is our hope that by seeking your suggestions, we will get a wider variety of project ideas and we will be able to support organizations that are important to the members of St. John. If you would like to make a recommendation or suggestion, please include...

- 1) the name of the organization
 - 2) the type of ministry they do, what the money will be spent on, etc.
 - 3) the dollar amount you are recommending, if known (for example, we once made a donation for outdoor seating at Luther Home of Mercy. We knew how much each bench would cost.)
 - 4) your name and contact information if we need to get additional information about your suggestion.
- (Please keep mind we are looking to support established ministries outside St. John Lutheran Church rather than individuals. While we certainly want to try to help individuals, that's not the type of suggestion we're are seeking for this project.)

One organization that I will be adding to the list...

Last year we served at Salem Lutheran Church at their "Just Pancakes" ministry. We took a donation from the Good Samaritan fund and they were so overjoyed; kept talking about all they could do, how many people they could feed with that money.

Therefore, my suggestion is...

Salem Lutheran Church, Toledo (Just Pancakes)

Every Saturday morning, the church serves a free, all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast to the people in community. From their website: Their pancake breakfast "is about developing

Continued from Page One

relationships with people living in our neighborhood, valuing each person regardless of background or perceived status, volunteers meeting and about having conversation with people from the community, and offering carryout breakfasts to neighbors." The money we donate will be spent to buy supplies for making pancakes.

There is no specific dollar amount for this project. Any donation would be appreciated.

I will be collecting suggestions through the middle of January and compiling a list for the February newsletter. You can send your suggestions to me through e-mail (pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org), written, or by filling out one of the forms outside my office door.

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.

Update
your
Information



**For the New Year, we will be updating
our church data base and our church directory.**

**Please take a moment to assure your information is correct
by checking out the notebook located in the Narthex.**

**Locate your name and update any address, phone numbers
and email addresses. If there is any missing information or
persons not listed, please make a note of the correction at the
bottom of the page. Thank you!!**



Genoa Area Community Food Pantry

****Needs for January**

Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Dry Pasta, Egg Noodles

****Needs for February**

Canned Soups

We would like to thank everyone for the
food and monetary
donations and the helping hands when it is
our turn for the food pantry.

In 2020 we will be responsible for the pantry in
January, June & November.

If you are able to help **January 18th** please contact
Becky Tank 419-262-1828 or Cindy Hartman 419- 304-0071.

Thank you for your continued support.
Becky Tank & Cindy Hartman

The Forerunner

is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
Williston, Ohio
21140 W. Toledo Street
Corner of Main and Toledo St.

Telephone: 419-836-5514

e-mail:

office@stjohnwilliston.org

www.stjohnwilliston.org

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

Home Telephone:

419-972-4003

pastorobrien

@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 20th
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."**

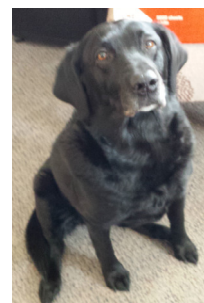


**LisaAnne Gregg
Office**

Administrator

9am—3pm

Mon. thru Fri.



**Bella
Fredericksen**

**The Greeter of
St. John**

A New Year of Gratitude

Thank You...

A big thank you to Ben Sommers, Sr, Ben Sommers, Jr, Anna Sommers, David Nissen, Abbie Nissen, Gary Johnson and Aiden Johnson for helping to put up the outdoor Nativity Scene!

John Mazur

Thank You...

A big thank you to Pastor O'Brien for his visits and prayer while I was at the hospital and at home. Also for all the prayers, cards, and visits from my church family and friends. It all helps me to feel better during my illness.

**God Bless You All,
Helen Jean Rollins**

Dear Friends at St. John,

Thank you for your prayers and support during my recent adventure into the world of medicine. And, by the grace of God, I am going to be okay. Your acts of kindness and thoughtful gifts are so gratefully appreciated. I am truly blessed!

Gertrude Eckerman

Our Community Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Genoa Food Pantry and for the Sack for a Sack donations. You are so fantastic for all that you do for us. We really do appreciate all that you do. God bless everyone and a very happy New Year to you.

Genoa Community Food Pantry

Thank You,

Thank you so very much to everyone for the items we received for the Voices of the Martyrs for "Christians Abroad". Thank you to Joan Truman for bringing their need to our attention and all her work. We were able to send out 18 STUFFED Action Packs ! You have given them a HUGE BLESSING ! Please continue to pray for their safety and growth in faith through Jesus Christ.

Christian Community Life Committee

Christmas Thank You!

The Evangelism Committee would like to thank everyone for helping with our 2nd Christmas Tree Lighting. It was nice to have a planted tree that we can watch grow. Thanks to all who attended, brought gifts for the Holiday Bureau, helped prepare, serve, clean up, play piano and lead singing. The weather was great and it was a very nice evening.

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 LIGHT Pantry from your Thanksgiving Offering this year. We are a self sustaining and growing local 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**

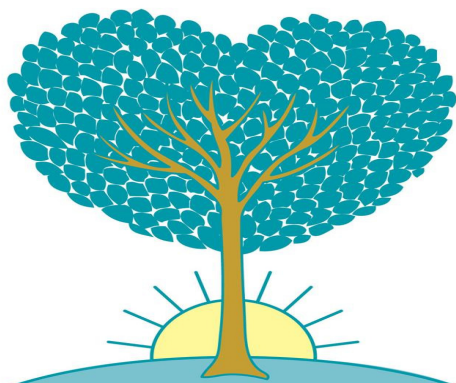
Winter Weather Notice!



*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!



Memorials & Gifts

In Memory of Tim Berger

Ron & Diane Gerkensmeyer
Jay Hellwig Family
Steve and Marcia Morgan
Larry and Nancy Strohscher
Madelayne Saionzkowski
Dennis and Rosemarie Dickinson

In Honor of Ron and Diane Gerkensmeyer's Anniversary

Dennis and Rosemarie Dickinson

In Memory of Bill Hetrick

Marilyn and Edna Sandrock,
Carolyn Lasseter
Mary Schimming
Gene and Amy Bihn
Ron & Diane Gerkensmeyer

In Memory of Harriet Titgemeyer

Gertrude Eckerman
Carol Vargo
Henry and Carrol Krukemyer
Gertrude Henningsen
Marcia Morgan
Carolyn Lasseter
Marilyn Sandrock
Edna Sandrock
Lowell and Diane Hartman

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



Harriet (Barendt) Tegtmeier, 96, died December 9, 2019, after a difficult illness. She was born in North Olmsted on January 9, 1923 to Walter and Charlotte (Johnson) Barendt.

She grew up living in various homes in Cleveland, Ohio. She graduated from West Tech High School and began working as a stenographer.

She was married to Rev. Henry Tegtmeier.

Surviving Harriet are her children, Miriam (Paul) Camper, Joan (Tom) Truman, Paul Tegtmeier and Joel (Tammie) Tegtmeier; 11 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild; brother-in-law, John Schenk; sisters-in-law, Sandy Behlau and Lois Hinricks; and many nieces & nephews.

In lieu of flowers, you might give to St. John Lutheran Church; Williston, Hospice of Northwest Ohio, 30000 E. River Rd., Perrysburg, OH 43551; Christ Lutheran, 481 Snead Drive, Fairfield Glade, TN 38558; or Avalon Center (Battered Women) Scott County Shelter, 196 10th St., Crossville, TN 38558.

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.



stephen
MINISTRY

Are You Going through a Difficult Time?

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. The care you'll receive is confidential, free, and very helpful.

To learn how you—or a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative—can receive care, talk to a pastor or Stephen Leader.

God's Love in
ACTION



Altar Flowers

The 2020 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 2020

Note the new times!

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, January 7, 7:00 p.m.

Bible Study: Beverly Harder

Hostess: Carol Vargo and Alice Witt

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, January 7, 7:00 p.m.

Bible Study: Ann Mann

WELCA Board Meeting Monday, Jan. 13, 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.

Monthly meetings will include a bible study.



The "Blanket Ladies" gather 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!



2019 Annual Report Staff Support Committee

The Staff Support Committee is appointed annually by the Congregation Council. This committee currently consists of Alan Brown, Diane Gerkensmeyer 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 choirs and bells.

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

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!

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:

January 14th 7:30 at Home

January 21st 7:30 at Home

January 28th 7:30 at Home

February 4th 7:30 at Millbury St. Paul

When it's chilly outside ...



Blood Shortage Emergency!

**St. John Williston is hosting a Blood Drive on
Sunday, January 5 from
Noon to 5 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 **ROMANS**



"This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian's while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul. It is impossible to read or to meditate on this letter too much or too well." (Martin Luther's Preface to the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans)

The apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Christians in Rome, probably while in the city of Corinth on his third missionary journey, around the year 57 A.D. (Acts 20:2-3). The church in Rome was comprised of Gentile believers who converted from idol worship and devoted Jews who believed Jesus was their promised Messiah. They were a diverse group of people. Problems arose when the Jews urged the Gentiles to undergo the rite of circumcision.

Paul felt obligated to write, settling this argument and then fully explaining the grace of God.

The main theme of Romans can be summed up in chapter 1, verses 16-17...

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

We will continue with our 'one chapter per week' reading plan as follows:

for the week starting...

January 6 – Romans 1
January 13 – Romans 2
January 20 – Romans 3
January 27 – Romans 4
February 3 – Romans 5
February 10 – Romans 6
February 17 – Romans 7
February 24 – Romans 8

March 2 – Romans 9
March 9 – Romans 10
March 16 – Romans 11
March 23 – Romans 12
March 30 – Romans 13
April 6 – Romans 14
April 13 – Romans 15
April 20 – Romans 16

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.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

a Stephen Minister could help...

There are times when every
one of us experiences difficulties
in life...



...God never intended us
to go through those
experiences alone.

OVERWHELMED?

in need of peace?

Searching?

**UNSURE
WHAT
TO DO?**

lonely?

Hurting?

STRUGGLING?

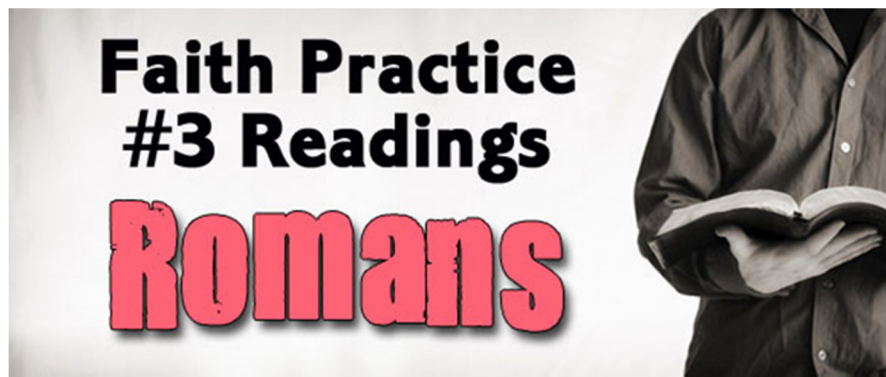
 *Lost your joy?*

**Stephen Ministers are members
of St. John Lutheran Church** who have
received 50 hours of caregiver training and
are ready to meet with you ~ privately and
confidentially ~ on a weekly basis to listen,
care, encourage, support, and remind you
of Christ's caring presence in your life.

FEELING BLUE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

**DON'T HURT ALONE...
LET STEPHEN MINISTRY HELP**

Call Pastor Shawn at 419-378-1112
Or the church office at 419-836-5514.
We can help. You are not alone.



Week of January 6

Romans 1

Christ is prophesied in the scriptures; he is of the seed of David yet also the Son of God. Paul desires to come to Rome. The gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. The just (those declared righteous) shall live by faith.

Week of January 13

Romans 2

Those who judge others are themselves condemned. God is impartial, judging those who have heard the law, and those who have not. Gentiles may by nature act according to the law, being a law unto themselves. Jews boast of the law, but the law condemns them. Circumcision of the heart, in the Spirit, is more important than circumcision in the flesh.

Week of January 20

Romans 3

The Jews have advantages – the oracles of God were committed to them. The fact that some Jews did not believe does not mean that God's faithfulness has no effect. Human unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God – does this mean we can be sinful, so good may come? Certainly not! The death of Jesus satisfies the righteous judgment of God. A person is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. this mean the law is irrelevant?

Week of January 27

Romans 4

Abraham was not justified by works, but declared righteous through faith. Works involves earning merit, whereas grace is a freely received gift. Paul quotes Psalm 32, about sins covered, and not imputed. Abraham was counted righteous before he was circumcised; he was not counted righteous because he was circumcised.

Week of February 3

Romans 5

We access grace through faith. Christ died for the ungodly; we are saved through him, and reconciled to God. God's grace through Christ is greater than Adam's offence. By one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. The law makes sin abound, but God's grace abounds still more.

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.



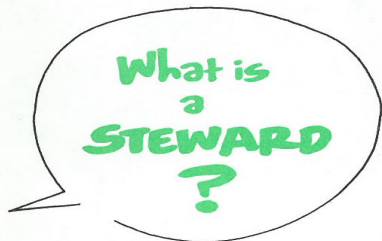
Start the new year with one less worry!
Online giving is now available at St. John.

Simply visit our web site at www.stjohnwillistion.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.*

Thank you for being a blessing to St. John!



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



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 New Year's Plan

I tried to think of a clever new phrase—
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,
A motto to live by this coming New Year,

And then I heard His still small voice
Saying, "Consider this simple, daily choice:
With each new dawn and close of day

"Don't look back, caught in regret
Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;
Don't stare forward [anchored by fear](#),

"I am all you need. Everything. I Am.
You are held secure by my strong hand.
Give me this one thing—your all in all;

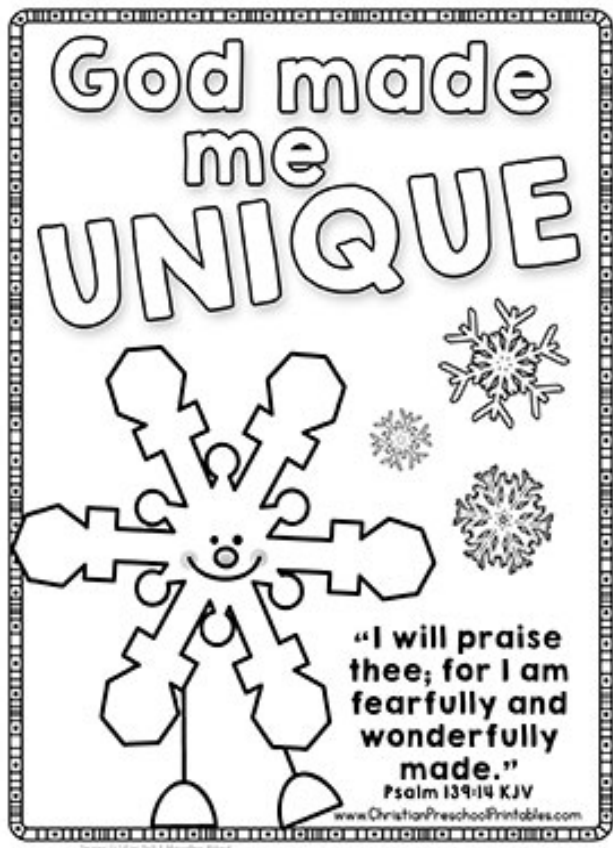
So, at last, I'm ready; I see the way.
It's to daily follow, trust, and obey.
I enter the New Year armed with a plan,

--[Mary Fairchild](#)

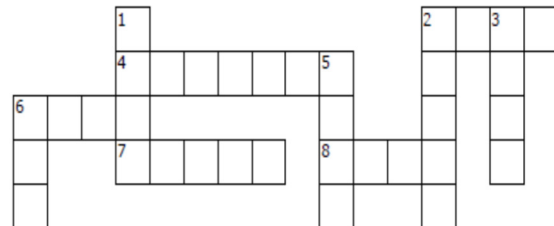
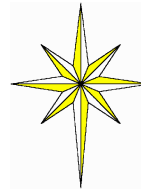
CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

The Connection

St. John Kid's Page



The Wise Men Seek Jesus Word Search



ACROSS

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

DOWN

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

MAGI
GIFTS

BOW
EAST

STAR
BORN

GOLD
MYRRH

KING
INCENSE





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

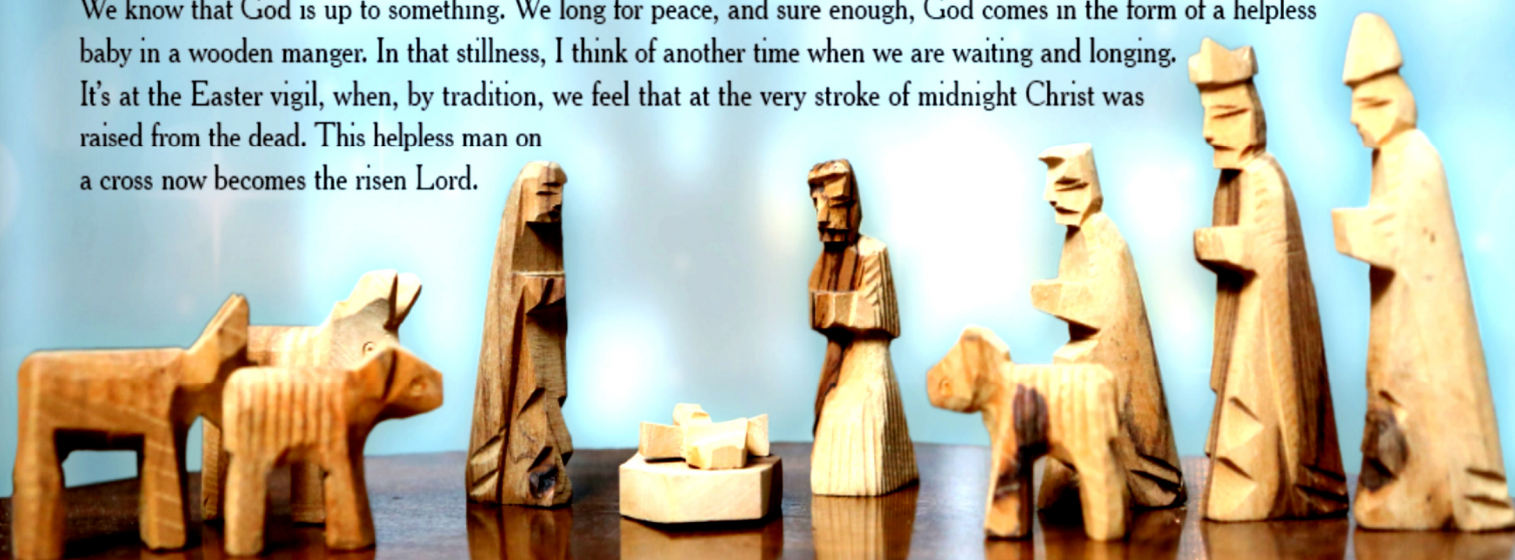
God's work. Our hands.

From the Bishop A Christmas Message

On Christmas Eve there always comes a time when everything is finally still. After all the preparations and Christmas pageants, after all of the rushing, it's wonderful just to settle into that stillness and have a chance to think about the *miracle of Advent and Christmas*.

For me that came after the 11 o'clock candlelight service and after going home. With my husband and children in bed, I could think and settle into that stillness and marvel at the miracle that had happened.

We know that God is up to something. We long for peace, and sure enough, God comes in the form of a helpless baby in a wooden manger. In that stillness, I think of another time when we are waiting and longing. It's at the Easter vigil, when, by tradition, we feel that at the very stroke of midnight Christ was raised from the dead. This helpless man on a cross now becomes the risen Lord.



I hope and pray, dear church, that in this season of Advent and Christmas you will find time for stillness, find time to sense the expectation and the longing, but also to celebrate the *miracle of God's love* that has come to us in the form of a tiny baby who grows to be a human being who gives his life for us, that we might have life.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop



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

To learn more about the Presiding Bishop, read about current events in the ELCA, discover the ELCA Blog, participate in conversation, use several ELCA resources or to learn more about our faith...visit www.elca.org.

What's distinctly Lutheran about our witness to the gospel? ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton talks about what it means to be a Lutheran in the 2018 Synod Assembly video.

Visit the video at <http://bit.ly/WeAreLutheran>





Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Friends in Christ,

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed,
 knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood
 you have known the sacred writings that are able to
 instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **2 Timothy 3:14–4:5**

In 2 Timothy, St. Paul reminds Timothy to continue to lead by drawing from the strength of Sacred Scripture. It appears that Timothy has been drawing from the well of God's Word since his childhood. Reading and reflecting on Scripture is a lifelong discipline, and my hope is that you continue to dwell in God's Word long after 2019 the Year of Scripture ends. In fact, why not begin to develop a Bible reading and reflecting plan to be ready for your next adventure in the Sacred Scriptures. I am working on a plan to slowly read through the New Testament in 2020.

The Discipleship Journal features a 5x5 New Testament Reading Plan that builds in times of reading and times for reflecting. 5 minutes a day for 5 days a week will lead you through the entire New Testament. Check it out below.

5x5

Discipleship Journal's

Bible Reading Plan

Through the New Testament in 5 days a week, 5 minutes a day

5 minutes a day | If you're not currently reading the Bible, start with 5 minutes a day. This reading plan will take you through all 260 chapters of the New Testament, one chapter per day. The gospels are read throughout the year to keep the story of Jesus fresh all year.

5 days a week | Determine a time and location to spend 5 minutes a day for 5 days a week. It is best to have a consistent time and a quiet place where you can regularly meet with the Lord.

5 ways to dig deeper | We must pause in our reading to dig into the Bible. Below are 5 different ways to dig deeper each day. These exercises will encourage meditation. We recommend trying a single idea for a week to find what works best for you. Remember to keep a pen and paper ready to capture God's insights.

- 1. Underline or highlight** key words or phrases in the Bible passage. Use a pen or highlighter to mark new discoveries from the text. Periodically review your markings to see what God is teaching you.
- 2. Put it into your own words.** Read the passage or verse slowly, then rewrite each phrase or sentence using your own words.
- 3. Ask and answer some questions.** Questions unlock new discoveries and meanings. Ask questions about the passage using these words: who, what, why, when, where, or how. Jot down some thoughts on how you would answer these questions.
- 4. Capture the big idea.** God's Word communicates big ideas. Periodically ask, *What's the big idea in this sentence, paragraph, or chapter?*
- 5. Personalize the meaning.** When God speaks to us through the Scriptures, we must respond. A helpful habit is personalizing the Bible through application. Ask: *How could my life be different today as I respond to what I'm reading?*

Discipleship Journal

January

DATE	✓	CHAPTER
1		Mark
2		1
3		2
4		3
5		4
6		5
7		Reflection
8		6
9		7
10		8
11		9
12		10
13		Reflection
14		11
15		12
16		13
17		14
18		15
19		Reflection
20		16
21		Acts
22		1
23		2
24		3
25		4
26		5
27		6
28		7
29		8
30		9
31		10

February

DATE	✓	CHAPTER
1		11
2		12
3		13
4		14
5		15
6		16
7		17
8		18
9		19
10		Reflection
11		20
12		21
13		22
14		23
15		24
16		25
17		26
18		27

(February, continued)

19		28
20		29
21		30
22		1
23		2
24		3
25		4
26		5
27		6
28		7

March

DATE	✓	CHAPTER
1		8
2		9
3		10
4		11
5		12
6		13
7		14
8		15
9		16
10		17
11		18
12		19
13		20
14		21
15		22
16		23
17		24
18		25
19		26
20		27
21		28
22		29
23		30
24		31

April

DATE	✓	CHAPTER
1		Reflection
2		3
3		4
4		5
5		6
6		7
7		8
8		9
9		10
10		11
11		12
12		13
13		14
14		15
15		16
16		17
17		18
18		19
19		20
20		21
21		22
22		23
23		24
24		25
25		26
26		27
27		28
28		29
29		30
30		31

May

DATE	✓	CHAPTER
1		1
2		2
3		3
4		4
5		5
6		6
7		7
8		8
9		9
10		10
11		11
12		12
13		13
14		14
15		15
16		16
17		17
18		18
19		19

Luther Home of Mercy

Happenings at the Home



Christmas Cheer All Around!

Years ago, we had a client who bought and wrapped all of her own presents because there was no one in her life to remember her at Christmas. Since then, we have been joined by hundreds of volunteers from all over north-west Ohio and southeast Michigan who provide over 1,000 gifts annually to make sure that no one is forgotten. THANK YOU to our many friends who “adopt” residents for the holidays. The items you donate will be cherished throughout the year .

[#enrichinglives90](#)

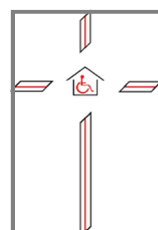


Top: Friends from St. John Rocky Ridge, Arlyn and Candy Bench brought selected items from our needs list just in time for Christmas Joy!

Bottom: Our friends from neighboring congregations made the trek to Williston from southeast Michigan !

How many Christmas carolers can we fit in a cottage? 50 (wow)! We were so happy to welcome Genoa Middle School 7th grade choir to our main campus this morning to share their vocal talent and spread Christmas cheer!

Thank you for your visit! [#enrichinglives](#)



Luther Home of Mercy

We are a Ministry Enriching Lives and Individual Abilities



Council Meeting Highlights- December 18, 2019

Devotions were Psalm 80 from The Bread of Life, led by Pastor O'Brien

Pastor's Report:

18 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings, 5 committee/group meetings
3 community/youth/fellowship events, 4 professional/clergy activities, 4 classes/Bible studies

1 special worship service, 1 baptism and 1 wedding

Baptism: presided at the baptism of Collette Kapp (daughter of Todd and Melissa Kapp) on November 3

Funeral: presided at the funeral of Timothy Berger on November 15.

Youth: Youth group met for Taco Bar and "burn Down the House on November 23. Next event is the lock-in on December 28/29. We need adult volunteers for the late-night shifts. If you are a night owl, please consider hanging out in the church.

Year of Service – December: Thank you to Ann Mann for organizing all of our bell ringers for our December Year of Service event at Miller's Market for the Salvation Army Ottawa County,

Year of Inviting

2020 is Year of Inviting – We will focus on Faith Practice #5, Invite others into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. If you have any ideas about how we can lift up this faith practice, please let me know.

Christian Community Life reported that the pantry earned \$2121.50 from the Bauman car raffle. The winner of the car was Jeanine Van Der Laar from Helena, Ohio.

We are in charge of three pantries for 2020. The dates are January 18, June 20 and November 21. We will need workers for January 18. If there is snow and it is LEVEL 3 it will be cancelled and rescheduled for January 25.

Watch the news channels .

There was a really good turn out for the Advent Tea. We had some left-over cookies, cupcakes and punch that can be used for the Harriet Tegtemeyer's funeral. Change to have the Annual meeting dinner downstairs, much easier for us to serve. We talked about the food option.

Evangelism: We received good comments on Christmas Tree Lighting. We will place an article in the Forerunner

thanking all who helped with the Tree Lighting., We also placed an ad for the Christmas Services, dates and times, in the Suburban Press.

Parish Education: reported the Sunday School Christmas Program "A Christmas to Believe in" went very well. We would like to thank Tammy Mazur and Beckie Goldstein for their Leadership. \$184.00 was collected that will be given to the Salvation Army Ottawa County. Christian Community Life was thanked for the Advent Tea and the variety of the food selection.

Board of Stewardship Report: reported that the committee is working on part 2 of the Opioid Seminar. No firm date has been set, planning on/or around March. More to follow.

Worship Life: Worship assistance needed for all services on Christmas Eve (4:00pm, 7:00pm, and 11:00pm) Longest night/Service of hope will be on Saturday, December 21 at 5:00pm.

Property: Nativity Set was put up outside. Thank you to all the helpers! New lights will be placed in the basement. The west side women's bathroom is being worked on to provide some heat. Council member reported a light going out in the Scout room and the curtain rod in the Social Hall needs repaired.

NEW BUSINESS:

Income over expenses surplus. The Finance Committee recommends a portion of the overage to go to outreach. Council would like the congregation/s help in identifying good outreach/benevolent ministries that would be helped by St John's contribution. More information will be in the Forerunner.

Budget were presented and discussed. Motion to present at the Congregational Meeting on January 19th. Seconded. Approved.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Committee January 9, 2020 at 7:00pm

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 15 at 7:00 pm.

Annual Congregational Meeting January 19th.

Respectively submitted,
Marcia Morgan,
Council Secretary



2020 Nominees for Church Officers and Board Members

Church Officers	Outgoing	New Nominee	Still Serving till Jan 2021
President			Rick Buhrow
Vice-President			Diana Pfaff (VP-Jan 2021; P-Jan 2023)
Secretary	Marcia Morgan	Marcia Morgan-Yes	
Financial Secretary			Dave Neuman (1st term)
Treasurer			Kent Deventhal (1st term)

Board Members	Outgoing	New Nominee	Still Serving till Jan 2021
Finance	Tim Titgemeyer	Fred Lammers	
Community Christian	Cheryl Berger	Cheryl Berger- Yes	Carolyn Lasseter (2nd term)
	Kris Lee	Kris Lee - Yes	Marilyn Sandrock (2nd term)
Evangelism	Margaret Berger	Melissa Hays	Madelayne Saionzkowski (1st term)
	Beverly Harder	Fran Cranfield	Mark Witt (1st term)
Parish Education	Michaela Goldstein	Michaela Goldstein- Yes	Melissa Lammers (2nd term)
	Carol Jensen	Carol Jensen- Yes	Kim Sommers (1st term)
Stewardship	Carol Beamer	Carol Beamer- Yes	Rosemarie Dickinson (1st term)
	Mike Mann	Mike Mann- Yes	Linda Schlievert (2nd term)
Property	Craig Blausey	Gary Johnson	Jerry Goldstein (1st term)
	Dan Petersen	Wayne Bauman	John Mazur (2nd term)
Worship Life	Tracy Brown	Traci Brown- Yes	Joel Mann (2nd term)
	Amy Schloegl	Audrey Milbrodt	Deanna Neuman (2nd term)

Nominating Committee	Heather Cashen	Lenore Harmeyer	
	Tom Cashen	Jean Fowler	
	Ron Gerkenmeyer	Brenda Lowe	
	Jill Kao	Dan Berger	

Luther Home of Mercy Representatives	Gene Bihn and Amy Bihn- Yes
Genacross Lutheran Homes Representatives	Karolyn Jansen and Owen Jansen- Yes
NW Ohio Synod Representatives	Gene Bihn and Janice Sheahan- Yes



The 2019 Annual Report and Budget for 2020 will be available for inspection on Sunday, January 12th 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 5th.

The St. John Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 19th following worship. Please plan to attend this important meeting of our congregation.

OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH



St. John Lutheran Church Statement of Income and Expense As of November 30, 2019

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
		Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
Income: *	283,000	22,092	24,856	113%	252,184	250,094	99%	249,344	0%
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings * online giving IS included.									
Expenses:									
Benevolence	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%	33,792	33,792	100%		
Board/Ministries	14,400	1,133	1,018	90%	13,427	12,069	90%		
Staff Salaries	96,800	7,958	7,921	100%	87,907	86,041	98%		
Staff Benefits	56,170	4,681	4,064	87%	51,489	47,458	92%		
Operating Expenses	73,130	4,502	3,865	86%	67,825	63,222	93%		
Expense Totals	278,500	21,232	19,826	93%	254,440	242,582	95%		
Income less Expenses	4,500	860	5,030		(2,256)	7,512			

2019 Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development	6,096
Activity Center Savings	282,475
Memorials	59,840
Music Fund	2,008
Endowment Fund	113,260
Scholarships	83,014
Youth	21,804
Other	18,647
Savings	31,319
Total	618,463



2020 Offering Envelopes will be available after December 9th and will be in the Narthex.

You may have a new number for the new year so please do not use your 2019 envelopes after December 31st.

If you have any questions about your envelopes or cannot find them, please call the office and we can help you!

Thank you for your support of the ministries at St. John!



SUNDAY
9:00 Worship

Acolytes

5 Megan Hoeft
12 Lindsay Cashen
19 Lucas Titgemeyer
26 Jacob Titgemeyer

Lectors

5 Melissa Lammers
12 Margaret Berger
19 Deanna Neuman
26 Mike Mann

Ushers

5 Tim Titgemeyer Family
12 Dave Neuman, Heather Cashen, Jeff Schimming
19 Dan & Evan Kessler, Bob Kapp
26 Bob Bench Family

Communion Servers

5 Carolyn Jansen, Margaret Berger, Bob Kapp
12 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
19 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
26 Roland Sandrock, Ann & Mike Mann

Communion Set-up

5 Heather Cashen
12 Diana Pfaff
19 Nancy Brittan
26 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

5 Debbie Wehner
12 Melissa Lammers
19 Linda Schlievert
26 Jennifer Delventhal

Sound/Projector Techs

5 Paul Beamer
12 Andy Kessler
19 Joel Mann
26 Tim Titgemeyer

Children's Moments

5 Bells
12 Stef Neuman
19 Puppets
26 Caira Goldstein

SATURDAY
5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

4 Shane O'Brien
11 Seidona Brossia
18 Aiden Johnson
25 Ben Sommers

Lectors

4 Gene Bihn
11 Shirley Berger
18 Nancy Strohscher
25 Doris Titgemeyer

Ushers

4 John and Helen Meyer
Jim and Dilly Schimming
11 Allen Harder, Madelayne Saionzkowski,
Tom Truman, Gene Bihn
18 The David Lee Family
25 Gene & Amy Bihn, Carol Vargo, Alice Witt

Communion Servers

4 Carol Vargo, Gene Bihn, Ruth Petersen
11 Doris Titgemeyer, JoElaine Schimming, Allen Harder
18 Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher, Al Brown
25 Wayne Bauman, JoElaine Schimming, Amy Schloegl

Communion Set-up

4 Joan Truman
11 Dilly Schimming
18 Carol Vargo
25 Ruth Petersen

Door Greeters

4 Jennifer Delventhal
11 Kris Lee
18 Dean Lowe
25 Arline Sabin

Sound/Projector Techs

4 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
11 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
18 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
25 Phil and JJ Milbrodt





SATURDAY
5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 1 David Nissen
- 8 Kennedy Donnelly
- 15 Olivia Martin
- 22 Ben Sommers
- 29 Seidona Brossia

Lectors

- 1 Beverly Harder
- 8 Shirley Berger
- 15 Tracy Orians
- 22 Amy Schloegl
- 29 Nancy Strohscher

Ushers

- 1 John & Helen Meyer, Jim & Dilly Schimming
- 8 Madelayne Saionzkowski, Gene Bihn
Carol Vargo, Alice Witt
- 15 Jack Mathews, Zack Buhrow,
AJ Rubeis, Tom Truman
- 22 Gene & Amy Bihn, Marty & Owen Schloegl
- 29 David Lee Family

Communion Servers

- 1 Al Brown, Nancy Strohscher, Wayne Bauman
- 8 Doris Titgemeyer, Gene Bihn, Al Brown
- 15 Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher, JoElaine Schimming
- 22 Gene Bihn, Amy Schloegl, Al Brown
- 29 Wayne Bauman, JoElaine Schimming, Carol Vargo

Communion Set-up

- 1 Dilly Schimming
- 8 Brenda Keeley
- 15 Traci Brown
- 22 Carol Vargo
- 29 Joan Truman

Door Greeters

- 1 Jack Mathews
- 8 Joni Hillman
- 15 Arline Sabin
- 22 Dean Lowe
- 29 Kris Lee

Sound/Projector Techs

- 1 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 8 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
- 15 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 22 Traci Brown Amy Bihn
- 29 Phil and JJ Milbrodt

SUNDAY
9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 2 Megan Hoeft
- 9 Lindsay Cashen
- 16 Lucas Titgemeyer
- 23 Jacob Titgemeyer

Lectors

- 2 Tim Titgemeyer
- 9 Heather Cashen
- 16 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 23 Diana Pfaff

Ushers

- 2 The Titgemeyer Family
- 9 Dave Neuman, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
- 16 Dan & Evan Kessler, Bob Kapp
- 23 Jeff Schimming, Bob Bench, Jennifer Delventhal

Communion Servers

- 2 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
- 9 Heather Cashen, Mike and Ann Mann
- 16 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 23 Rol Sandrock, Karolyn Jansen, Margaret Berger

Communion Set-up

- 2 Pam LaRue
- 9 Diana Pfaff
- 16 Melissa Lammers
- 23 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

- 2 Melissa Lammers
- 9 Marcia Morgan
- 16 Linda Schlievert
- 23 Karen Jeffers

Sound/Projector Techs

- 2 Andrew Kessler
- 9 Joel Mann
- 16 Tim Titgemeyer
- 23 Paul Beamer

Children's Moments

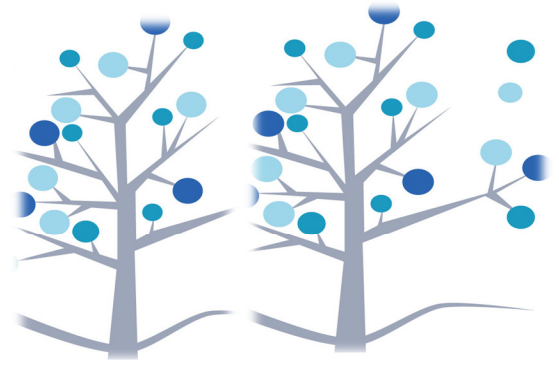
- 2 Bells
- 9 Stef Neuman
- 16 Puppets
- 23 Caira Goldstein

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

WORSHIP
ASSISTANTS
NEEDED!



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Scout meeting	30 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study	31 11:30 AM Ladies Community Bible Study	1 	2	3	4 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
5  Committee Reports due to office 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Blood Drive 6:00 PM Scout meeting	6 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study	7 10:00 AM Blankets 11:30 AM Ladies Community Bible Study 7:00 PM Esther & Rebekah Circles	8 6:30 PM Wildflower HOA Meeting- Social Hall	9 7:00 PM Committee Night	10	11 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
12  8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 11:00 AM Annual Report Review 6:00 PM Scout meeting	13 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study 6:30 PM Scout Committee Meeting 7:00 PM WELCA Board Meeting	14 10:00 AM Blankets 11:30 AM Ladies Community Bible Study 7:30 PM Dartball at HOME	15	16  7:00 PM Council Meeting	17	18  9:00 AM - 1:00 PM St. John at Genoa Food Pantry 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
19  8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 11:00 AM Annual Congregational Meeting 6:00 PM Scout meeting	20  9:00 AM Forerunner article deadline 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study	21 10:00 AM Blankets 11:30 AM Ladies Community Bible Study 7:30 PM Dartball at HOME	22	23 10:00 AM Forerunner Mail Group	24	25 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
26  8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Scout meeting	27 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study	28 10:00 AM Blankets 11:30 AM Ladies Community Bible Study 7:30 PM Dartball at HOME	29	30	31	1 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship