

# *THE GOOD NEWSLETTER*

*January 2017*



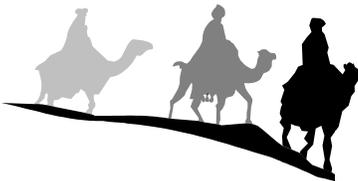
ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL  
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

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**“God’s Love in Action”**



**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION  
JANUARY 22, 2017  
9:00 A.M. WORSHIP/COMM  
10:00 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING**  
Simple meal to follow.  
Childcare provided

### ***Beginning a New Year ... In The Lord!***

New Year's resolutions. We all make them, we've all done them. How is that working for you, the reader? Failing to keep them, discouraged in your attempts, seeking another 'self-help' solution that will keep you on track? If so, you're like the common, normal, average person. It is the Lord who places within our spirit, a hunger for true change and inner transformation—never forget that. The deepest, most abiding change is from 'the inside out' when God works without what He's already begun working within. The key, is making room for God to start dealing with our thinking and believing—what we believe about him or ourselves. It entails a desire and a commitment to cooperate with God and His grace—I know ... been there, done that, still doing that!

I have now lost 75 pounds this past year ... it's been a process, a journey, and I've made some very profound lifestyle changes that make my life, ministry, and thinking so much better and healthier—I am still a work in progress. It really feels good to feel good! It's a little expensive lately (purchasing clothes that fit), but it's worth it. I've paid a price (lifestyle changes, investing in a program that helped me reach some milestone goals, changing my thinking and choices with God's help), but I have no regrets.

That's my experience this past year and it has an application in spiritual matters which I will get to shortly (be patient, keep reading). For me, it was either make some changes or expect a shortened lifespan. It was a truth my physician told me: "Bill, either drop the weight, or die early! You're close to being a diabetic, your blood pressure is off the charts and your cholesterol is so high ... I am ready to put you on 3-4 medications. You're a walking time bomb!" I pleaded with my doctor, "Give me six months ... then, I will come see you," and so the journey began (my doctor was stunned by my changes six months later. He even gave me a hug!). I believe God awakened me at 1:00 AM one morning to not only speak to me about health changes but guide me to a program that could help me do it. I am seeing the fruit of that encounter over the past 12 months.

It's interesting to me when people ask me, "How did you do it?" They want specifics, to have me lay it out for them, step-by-step. I suspect that behind some of those well-meaning questions, are deeper ones: "Could I do it? Is there a 'short-cut?' How fast can I do it? How much will it cost me? Can I pay the price? How easy (hard) will it be and is it realistic for me?" Fair questions. No easy answers. Self-inventory being taken as the people ask me about my journey (I can see it in their eyes!). I know. I did the same thing and when I stayed with the questions, reality hit — "I need to change some things ... my thinking, my lifestyle, my choices—after all, I have a wife and daughter who love me and need me. I serve a Savior who has other, future plans for my life that have not even begun to mature yet. How much do I want all or any of that?" I faced myself, looked in a mirror, asked God to help me make the changes and carve out a discipline and daily 'game plan' to get there. The rest is history (and still a work in progress). I like where I'm headed and would not trade it for anything. Not going back there again!

The most profound, lasting, eternal changes are spiritual ones! When those become real in our spiritual experience, everything else gets better—health, relationships, thinking, believing, energy, passion, you name it. When it comes to a 2017 New Year's resolution, I have a suggestion—do spiritual ones first, the rest you desire will follow. If we just start with prayer and/or more Bible reading, that would be a profound start ... and powerful! Most think, "I don't have or cannot carve out that kind of time." Start with two to three minutes each day (even one minute, done consistently, will have huge results). Start with 'baby steps. God understands! He will take and use whatever you offer Him! He can multiply the smallest bits of time we give him. Over time, your hunger for either of these will increase—you will want to spend more time with the Lord and pretty soon, you're on your way and your inner transformation will take off (outward ones too!).

**Cont. next page...**

A house is built a plank at a time, not in quick sections slapped together in a few hours. A house needs a secure foundation to withstand times and seasons of adversity— same is true in spiritual things. A few key disciplines done daily (with God alongside and in it) will help you build a spiritual house that can withstand anything—and give you eternal life now and in eternity to come! Priceless. Valuable. Fulfilling. Loving. Rewarding. Fun (if you let it be). Gratitude (to God for getting your attention).

I'm Pastor Bill Odermann, and I approve (have proven) this message!

*Pastor Bill Odermann*



**January Birthdays**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Craig Tjaden
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Pat Mehmen
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wallace Schilling
- 8<sup>th</sup> Irene Gabe
- 28<sup>th</sup> Dale Lamprecht
- 28<sup>th</sup> Betty Ball
- 29<sup>th</sup> Eunice Tommingo
- 31<sup>st</sup> Phyllis Bunn



**January Anniversaries**

- January 2, 1964 Leland & Pam Lumley
- January 16, 1947 Bob & Marge Gardner
- January 18, 1951 Bob & Beverly Wolff

**2017 Giving Envelopes are available in the Narthex**

If you are unable to pick up your Giving Envelopes at church, please let the office know and we will get them to you. Also, if you don't currently have Giving Envelopes and would like to have them, let the office know and we will provide you with Giving Envelopes.

**Memorials have been given in memory of:**

*Andrea Rae Bartman DeVore:* Kent & Lorie Hoeft

*Lorraine Ortman Kemp:* Kip & Judy Hauser

**Baptisms:**

*November 27<sup>th</sup> Grace Martha Kendall*

*November 27<sup>th</sup> Cody Lee Van Horn*

*November 27<sup>th</sup> Rylee Jo Van Horn*

**JANUARY FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:**

**CALLER – Donna Gambaiani**

**HELPERS** – Dawn Baldus, Julie Begemann, Ana Blickenderfer, Joyce Boehmer, Karol Carpenter, Ruth Farmer, Marta Fisher, Linda Frascht, Gloria Frerichs, **Donna Gambaiani**, Ina Heitz, Gladys Kellogg, Helga King, Sue McDonald, Shirley Platte, Peg Poppen, LaVonne Reysack, Wendy Ross

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Thanks to our December caller Sandy Hicks.

Of  
Note...

**Save your plastic bags for a special project for Women's Ministry**

After the first of the year there will be a box in the Narthex in which donate your clean plastic shopping bags. We can also use unused thin plastic garbage bags (The ones that are practically useless for garbage because they are so thin, I have a box). Any color is fine, it adds variety.

We are going to have an event in February or March where we will cut them and learn how to crochet or knit them into sleeping mats for the homeless, possibly for Haiti or closer to home. This will be a learning event and perhaps be ongoing. IT TAKES A LOT OF BAGS!

Keep us in mind before discarding. You can learn more by using this link to a video.

<https://vimeo.com/4887139>

**Wednesday Night Supper**

**January 4:** Pork loin, baked potatoes, corn, cottage cheese, Éclair dessert

**January 11:** Sunday chicken, hash brown casserole, basil green beans, lettuce salad, pineapple upside down cake

**January 18:** Scalloped potatoes & ham, pea salad, glazed carrots, bread pudding

**January 25:** Lasagna rollups, green bean casserole, fruit, Oreo dessert

**The office will be closed**

**January 2, 2017**

***Happy New Year!***

**ALTAR GUILD – JANUARY**

Dorothy Parson & Arlene Thomas

**Women's Bible study**

Meets January 10 & 24

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

January 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Knit/crochet group

**Alzheimer's Support Group** will

meet January 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

St. John's Parent Support Group will be meeting on an **as needed basis ONLY**. Anyone who needs to meet should contact Jill Connell at 319-215-8252 or [jillconnell@hotmail.com](mailto:jillconnell@hotmail.com).

The Angel Tree Committee would like to thank all who purchased gifts, donated money, and/or gave their time for the 2016 Angel Tree. The families were greatly appreciative for the generosity and caring of our congregation. It would be wonderful if all of you could see the joy shown by the families. Our church served 7 families, including 16 children, sent Bibles to 7 incarcerated parents, Bibles to each family, and provided food vouchers for 2 local families. Thank you to Sue Baron for providing Nativity sets for each family, as well as, crayons and activity books for each child. Every year God blesses us with just the right amount of families, children, and donations.

**The St. John book club** will meet **January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

They will be reviewing the book *The Husband's Secret* by Liane Moriarty. Imagine your husband wrote you a letter, to be opened after his death. Imagine, too, that the letter contains his deepest, darkest secret – something with the potential to destroy not only the life you have built together, but the lives of others as well. And then imagine that you stumble across that letter while your husband is still very much alive...



"God's  
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in Action"



*Winter is in full swing and while the days ARE getting longer – the weather sometimes doesn’t cooperate with us. If school is cancelled or dismissed early on a Wednesday (due to weather) we will NOT hold the After-School Program or Confirmation classes or have ANY of our Wednesday night activities.  
Blessings, Laurie*

### **Youth News**

Twice in December, the youth of St. John tried to sponsor a Soup Dinner after the Christmas Program. We were very disappointed to postpone and then cancel this dinner due to uncooperative weather. Be watching for upcoming events.

### **Confirmation**

Our third Session of classes under the new format is starting this month and the thirty-five students in our Confirmation program are taking either The Lord’s Prayer, Journey Through Genesis, or Heaven and Hell.

### **Sunday School News**

December brought nasty weekend weather and the Christmas Program for our Sunday Schoolers who are 3 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade had to be postponed and then canceled due to dangerous weather conditions.

Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> after a break for the holidays. We are learning about New Testament Bible stories this semester.

There will be NO Sunday School on January 22<sup>nd</sup> as there is only one worship service that day at 9am.

Attention: **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents!** The 1st Communion **parent/student/pastor class** will be January 29<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

A representative from EWALU will be giving the K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students a fun presentation on January 29, 2017.

### **Family Board**

Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, was the Family Advent Event in the Parish Hall. This was an opportunity for parents and children to make an Advent wheel, a poster about Advent and some additional crafts together. We had about 25 kids and their parent(s) attend. What fun!

### **After School Program**

We have 22 kids enrolled in our After-School Program, which is each Wednesday from 3:35-5pm. We have a snack and do a craft project and watch a short video each week. The After-School Program could use some donations of Styrofoam bowls for snacks, washable markers, pencil sharpeners for our colored pencils and some more snacks. The kids especially like muffins (mixes are fine), pudding cups, applesauce cups, pretzels, cheese balls/puffs and apple juice. Thank you!

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### **JANUARY 2017**

**Bulletin Stuffer:** Alyvia Vance

**Acolytes:** Kayla Kellogg, Madisyn Millermon, Josiah Hervert,  
Cameron Kakac, Rosie Baldus, Cory Marth

**Worship Assistants:** Joslyn Cotton, Cassie DeBower, Brooke Vance, Jacie Wink,  
Lauren Connell, Joey Heidebrink

**Wednesday night supper:** Brooke Vance, Cassie DeBower, Makenna Schmiedel

*Dates & times when the youth are serving are posted on the bulletin board  
outside the Business Manager’s office.*



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Happy New Year from all your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! We are so excited to welcome back our wonderful friends and families for the second semester of our preschool program. As we look forward to our new semester we would like to remind everyone that there are a few openings remaining in our program. Please contact the preschool if you have any questions.

The month of December was a great one, full of anticipation and excitement towards the birth of our Savior! We started the month with the introduction of the letters "Bb" and "Ii". The last week before break, was even more exciting! We introduced our very special Baby Jesus doll, who slept in His very own manger. The children loved rocking him and singing to him. It was awe-inspiring to witness the love they showed to that special baby and it was a constant reminder to the adults of what the Christmas season is *truly* all about. We worked to emphasize the special Christmas story with projects that highlighted that precious baby boy. We hope that your Christmases brought you the same joy and satisfaction.

Please remember that we are still selling Kwik Star/Kwik Trip gift cards! The 5% profit goes directly into the preschool's account. If you are interested in ordering any gift cards, we do have some on hand, but can order more at any time! Please stop by or call the preschool at 228-7274.

As we end another year at SJCP, we thank you for your continued support that not only sustains our preschool but also helps our preschool grow and flourish. Not to mention all the preschoolers within it!

We start the New Year feeling blessed by the job God has given us. We work with great friends and we are supported by a board full of dedicated moms and a congregation that has given so generously in so many ways to our ministry. We hope that the New Year is full of just as many blessings for your family.

With His Love,  
Whittney Franke

#### Little Snowman

I'm a little snowman round and fat,  
Here are my mittens,  
Here is my hat.  
Add a little scarf and a carrot nose.  
You stand so tall when the cold wind blows.



# January 2017 Birthdays!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hunter Menken Craig Tjaden Barbara Tommingo	Bruce Hovden Patrick Lumley Patricia Mehmen Diane Tommingo Jacie Wink	Elizabeth Gassman Teresa Knecht Cassandra Schiesher Wallace Schilling		Ashley Ferch Ryan Hallett Richard Olesen		Lawrence Hibbs
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Irene Gabe Grace Marth		Carol Meader Evan Schmidke	Mark Parsons Ann Voelker Gerry Waddell	Lee Hoeft Helga King	Mike Hammond Larry Milleson	Kay Tjaden
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sydney Ross	Jennifer Seckar	Dean Toebe	Gary DeBower Jared Tieskotter Sheryl Veen	Marianne Fisher	Josiah Hervert Joshua Keyes Sherman Loudermilk Connor West	Kathy Hoeft Steve Shankland
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Brayden Caffery Mychal Schweizer	Doris Hibbs	Sharon Bledsoe Terry Meyer	Sharon Streich	Dianne Harrold John Selvig Ryan Venz	Emryn Hagarty	Scott Aspholm Betty Ball Larry Fuls Emma Heidebrink Cameron Kakac Dale Lamprecht Dale Miller
29	30	31				
Dale Bond Eunice Tommingo Jaclyn Van Horn		Randy Brunner Phyllis Bunn Benjamin Hammond Nancy Nelson Abigail Platte Cathie Sveum Olive Tracey				

# January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00 a.m. Worship	<i>Office Closed</i> <i>Happy New Year</i>	8:30 a.m. CC Mom's group 5:00 p.m. Women's Ministry	<b>Wednesday Night Schedule</b> 7:30 p.m. Dartball at Nashua			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Deacons 9:00 a.m. Stewardship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 9:15 a.m. Youth board 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:20 a.m. Parish Ed	1:00 p.m. Card making at St. John 6:00 p.m. Finance 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Building & Grounds	1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support group	<b>Wednesday Night Schedule</b> 7:30 p.m. Dartball at Pleasant Valley			
15 Communion	16	17	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:20 a.m. Family board		8:30 a.m. CC Mom's group 4:00 p.m. Alzheimer's support group 6:30 p.m. Preschool board	<b>Wednesday Night Schedule</b>	9:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl meeting		
22 Annual Meeting	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation with a lunch to follow	6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Book Club	8:30 a.m. CC Mom's group 1:30 p.m. Assemble newsletters	<b>Wednesday Night Schedule</b>			
29	30	31	1-Feb	2	3	4
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship		6:00 p.m. Fitness class	<b>Wednesday Night Schedule</b>	1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support group		

## Wednesday night Schedule:

3:30 p.m. After School  
5:00 p.m. Supper

5:30 p.m. Wind Ensemble  
5:30 p.m. Carol Choir

6:00 p.m. Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir