

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

January 2019



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

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“God’s Love in Action”

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
JANUARY 20, 2019
9:00 A.M. WORSHIP/COMM
10:00 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING**

*Pastor's
Note...*

I remember a Christmas card I once saw. On the front of it was the classic (although biblically inaccurate) Epiphany scene: the baby Jesus in the manger, Mary, Joseph, animals, and three wise men giving Jesus their gifts. In the foreground was a fourth wise man sneaking away with a very distraught look on his face. He was holding a gift-wrapped box and saying to himself, "Gold? Frankincense? Myrrh? Oh, man... all I brought was this Chia Pet!" The inside of the card said, "It's the thought that counts."

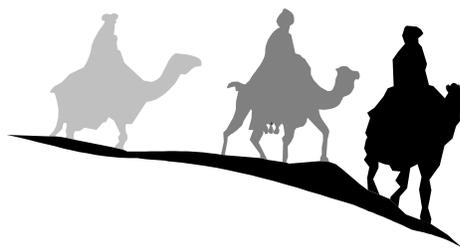
Do you remember Chia Pets? I still see them around once in a while. In the 80's they were the epitome of a useless gift. There's only so much joy and satisfaction a person can get out of a Chia Pet before sensing that there must be more to life than growing hair on a ceramic animal or celebrity. But I have a confession to make. I actually once gave a Chia Pet as a gift. I was young and foolish. I guess I just got caught up in the moment. I gave one to my grandfather for Christmas. Now, you have to understand that my grandfather was an expert gardener. Of all the people I've ever known in my life, he had the greenest thumb. His garden was always immaculate, and he could grow anything. To this talented and experienced gardener, I gave a gift which consisted of spreading paste on a piece of clay and watching it grow. It was like giving a paint-by-number set to Rembrandt. I meant no offense. It was the thought that counted.

The amazing thing is that Grandpa loved his Chia Pet! He thought it was great. He spread the seeds on it, grew the hair, gave it haircuts, and showed it to me whenever I came to visit. Grandpa loved my gift because he loved me. He took something that seemed unimportant and useless and used it to strengthen our relationship.

So often we feel like that fourth wise man sneaking away from Jesus with our Chia Pet. We think that our gifts aren't good enough. We look around at the talents and gifts of others and feel that what we have to offer is unimportant and useless. But it's not. It's the thought that counts. No gift is ever perfect (I mean, really, what's a child gonna do with a brick of gold or a bottle of perfume?!) But because Jesus loves us, he will accept our gifts and use them for good. The important thing isn't so much what we give, but simply that we do.

Grandpa taught me that any gift, even a Chia Pet, can be used to say "I love you." So, instead of belittling your talents and trying to sneak away from Jesus, offer that gift you've been hiding. I guarantee you that Jesus will love it... because he loves you!

Peace,
Pastor Russ



**Sound
&
Video
Project**

Greetings St. John!

I want to take this moment to update everyone on where we stand with the sound and video system upgrade. As of mid-December, donations have begun coming in and we are just now getting commitment cards out to everyone. I'm encouraged by the support we've received already and look forward to getting this project started soon!

Our goal is to have this system installed and operational by Easter 2019, which falls on April 21. In talking with Lifeline Audio, in order to meet equipment ordering lead times and their installation schedule, our commitment campaign will have a short window. It is estimated that in order to meet an April date, we will have to sign contracts for equipment by mid/late January. This is a short window, but it would be phenomenal if we can rally together to pull this off.

As a reminder, pledges of support are just as important as cash donations. Once the combination of the two reach 100% of the cost of the project, we will contract with Lifeline. While only God knows what will come to pass in the future, I implore you to pray for this project and our congregation. We are God's love in action! Any support that you can commit to is greatly appreciated!

Jeremy Heyer, Congregation President
641-330-0479



2019 Sound & Video support

What an exciting time for St. John! Through many months of meetings and deliberation, the Sound & Video Task Force, Church Council, and Congregation have decided to pursue a significant upgrade in our sound and video system for the Sanctuary. With a project cost of \$125,000, we are relying on the generous support of the congregation to secure donations towards and commitments of support (pledges) for this project. With a goal to be operational by Easter on April 21, we are targeting mid-January 2019 to have support established. Your prayerful consideration is very much appreciated!

Pledges of Support (paid at a future date):

Myself and/or my family are committing to support this project by indicating our financial support, which can be fulfilled over two years (2019 & 2020).

Total Support: _____

I/we prefer to pay the balance as follows...

One Time Gift Annually Monthly Weekly

Name: _____

Date: _____

Email or phone: _____

Thank you for your support of this project!

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
JANUARY 20, 2019
9:00 A.M. WORSHIP/COMM
10:00 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING**

Is God Calling You to Be a Stephen Minister? Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide one-to-one, confidential, Christian care to individuals in their church family who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. It's *God's Love in Action* to provide emotional and spiritual care for those in some type of crisis, such as: loss of a loved one, illness, divorce or separation, loneliness, or discouragement. Over the last couple of months, the Church Council has been prayerfully considering if God is calling us to be a Stephen Ministry congregation. We would provide 50 hours of training at St. John and ongoing support. Being a Stephen Minister would be a commitment of 1-2 hours per week. In order to help the Council and Pastor Russ make a decision about this program, if you feel that God might be calling you to be a Stephen Ministry, please let us know. There are sign-up sheets on the glass case in the narthex, on the bulletin board in the hallway, or in the church office. You can also call or email the office. For more info on Stephen Ministry, check out www.stephenministries.org

2019 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.

Radio Broadcast & Altar Flowers Sign-ups

Sign ups for the 2019 Altar Flowers & Radio Broadcast are on the glass case in the Narthex.

Wednesday Night Supper

January 9: Pulled pork sandwich, macaroni & cheese, baked beans, applesauce, doughnuts

January 16: Chicken burritos, lettuce salad, green beans, ice cream

January 23: Lasagna, garlic bread, bean salad, pudding

January 30: Baked chicken, cheesy potatoes, corn, applesauce, angel food cake

Do Day Quilters

Meets January 10 & 24

St. John Lutheran Card Ministry will
meet January 14th at 1:00 p.m.

ALTAR GUILD –JANUARY 2019

Dorothy Parson & Arlene Thomas

The Parkinson's Support group
Will **NOT** meet in January.

The St. John book club will meet **January 21st** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside room and will review the book *The Plain Truth* by Jodi Picoult. A shocking murder shatters the picturesque calm of Pennsylvania's Amish country – and tests the heart and soul of the lawyer who steps in to defend the young woman at the center of the storm.



The office will be closed
January 1st
Happy New Year!

On January 20th there will be
NO Sunday School.

Scripture Readers:

January 6, 2019
8:00 – Larry Michehl
10:15 – Jean Semelhack

January 20
9:00 – Diane Melrose

January 13, 2019
8:00 – Greg Buenger
10:15 – Diane Loudermilk

January 27
8:00 a.m. – John Rima
10:15 a.m. – Dan Lantz



St. John Angel Tree committee would like to thank all of the St. John members who donated to our Angel Tree project this year. Last week our church sent 9 bibles to incarcerated fathers in our area, gave 6 families Hy-Vee food vouchers, and delivered boxes of Christmas gifts to 8 families. You made 15 children and their families very happy this Christmas. Your gifts help keep the families in touch. Thank you for supporting Angel Tree in our church. St. John Angel Tree committee would like to thank all of the St. John members who donated to our Angel Tree project this year. We are also grateful to Sue Baron for giving each family a Nativity scene. Thanks also to St. John Council and the Women's Ministry for their donations to help fund the food vouchers. St. John truly lives up to their "God's Love in Action" motto.

January Birthdays

2 nd	Pat Mehmen	28 th	Dale Lamprecht
3 rd	Wallace Schilling	28 th	Betty Ball
8 th	Irene Gabe	29 th	Eunice Tommingo
14 th	Kay Tjaden	29 th	Dale Bond

Celebrated...

The baptism of...
Brandon Michael Ignacio
Castillo, December 12, 2018
Deven Anthony Ignacio Castillo,
December 12, 2018
Natalie Anne Williams,
December 23, 2018

January Anniversaries

January 2, 1964	Leland & Pam Lumley
January 16, 1947	Bob & Marge Gardner

With sympathy...

The Funerals of

Dale Duane Bunston, Sr., December 18, 2018
Darrell Lee Sherbon, December 22, 2018
Donald Harm Reiher, December 26, 2018
Evelyn Ruth Olson Fitzgerald, December 27, 2018

Memorials were given in memory of...

Darrell Lee Sherbon: *Kathleen Schilling*
Irene Rachel Oeltjenbruns Mehmen: *Ruth Farmer*

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.

JANUARY FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:

CALLER – Joyce Boehmer. Thanks to our December caller **Arlene Thomas.**

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



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

The Youth Board is hosting a breakfast on January 20th in the Parish Hall at 10:00 a.m. during the Annual Meeting. Come support the youth of St. John while enjoying eggs, tortillas, sausage, ham, cheese, pancakes, and cinnamon rolls, too!

Confirmation

Our third Session of classes is starting this month and the 26 students in our Confirmation program are taking either *The Creeds*, *Upside Down*, or *Biblical Parallels of C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

Sunday School News

December brought the Christmas Program for our Sunday Schoolers who are 3 years old through 6th grade. Be sure to check out the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Facebook Page for photos of the Christmas Program to see the product of all their hard work! The Program went so well this year and I am so thankful for all the work the students, teachers, and directors did to make it so great!

Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, January 6th after a break for the holidays. We are learning about New Testament Bible stories this semester.

There will be NO Sunday School on January 20th as there is only one worship service that day at 9am.

Attention: **5th Grade Parents!** The 1st Communion **parent/student/pastor instructional classes** will be February 10th and February 24th at 9:15am. Please put these two dates on your calendar now.

Family Board

Thank you to everyone that donated to our "Christmas, Crafts, and Kids \$0.25 Gift Store"! We had a great turn-out and heard lots of positive comments afterwards. We will be taking donations of **Christmas items** from now until January 15th for next year's sale. (Sorry, but we just don't have the space to take donations all year long. We will take donations again next fall.)

After School Program

We have 24 kids enrolled in our After School Program, which is each Wednesday from 3:30-5pm. 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 washable markers, colored pencils and some more snacks. The kids especially like crackers, chocolate pudding cups, applesauce cups, and apple juice. Thank you!



January 2019

Greeter/Offering Assistant: Madison Lensing

Acolytes: 8:00 a.m. – Kyndra McDonald

10:15 a.m. – Kasey Kakac, Teagan Prigge

Communion Assistants, Crucifer, & Banner Bearers

8:00 a.m. Kaleb Cotton, Kaleb Bilharz

10:15 a.m. Tino Tamayo, Keaton Schmidtke

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



**"God's
Love
in
Action"**

Happy New Year from all of 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.

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 "Ll" and "Kk". The last two weeks 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.

Starting this month, we will open up our 5-day program again. Each day will be a continuation of the weekly themes already set for the MWF week. We will be working on our literacy skills with writing activities and lots of books. We will also introduce sight words and explore our artistic side with frequent art projects. Integrated within each day's lesson will be many opportunities to work on our math skills, artistic expression, and reasoning abilities. This is all in addition to singing, dancing, playing and lots of fun!

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 of 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
Director
St. John Christian Preschool
(641)228-7274





January 2019 Birthdays!!

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

