



2415 Silas Creek Parkway  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
[www.stjohnsws.com](http://www.stjohnsws.com)

8:30 a.m. – The Well  
(Contemporary Service)  
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School/Adult Bible Class  
10:45 a.m. – Traditional Service

## Sunday, December 13, 2015 The Third Sunday in Advent

### FROM THE PASTOR

**REJOICING ALWAYS!** The first word in the Epistle for today is "Rejoice." In this season, all the hectic preparations that society and our own families might expect can stress us out and make rejoicing seem very difficult if not impossible. Nevertheless, St. Paul reminds us that our joy come from our Lord Jesus who came and now is in our midst. The prophet Zechariah also promises that God "will rejoice over you with gladness." Our heavenly Father does that when He calls us His sons and daughters washed in the waters of Baptism. Every time we gather for worship our Lord is in our midst. It is God's love and mercy for each of us that gives us even more reason to rejoice and celebrate. Today, we echo Paul's words: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!" God fill you with His joy!

Pastor Schoolcraft

### ONE SERVICE ONLY – December 27- 10:45 a.m.

Because our instrumentalists in the Well will be out of town, it has been determined that the best way to maximize our worship following Christmas Day will be with a single service at 10:45 a.m. Service will be traditional with Holy Communion. Sunday School and Bible Class will begin the morning at 9:45 a.m. Your understanding in this situation is greatly appreciated.

**Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Reg & Carol Koontz.

**Nursery** is available in the Preschool Room 106 during the 10:45am Worship Service for children ages 3 and under.

### Member Photos - Who's Who?

We are looking for someone to take pictures of our new members for our congregation photo display. These could be taken with a camera/phone and printed in our church office or in a store. It will help all of our members get to know each other better. If you like to take pictures call Nancy Golden 336-712-8076.

**Helping Hands Needed:** While our sanctuary undergoes renovations in the month of January, your help is needed in setting up the Fellowship Hall for worship on Saturday afternoons, and in resetting it for school use on Sundays after late worship. We'll meet at 3:00 pm on Saturdays for the set-up, and expect to take no more than an hour. Cafeteria set-up on Sundays should also take an hour or less. Many hands make light work, so please let Bruce Sawicki or Mark Meier know if you are able to help on one or more weekends

**Church Secretary** will be out of the office starting December 14-18 and return to the office December 21, 2015. Thank you.

### Advent Midweek Worship- Wednesday 7pm "The Power of Christ Prevails"

The Church Year begins in Advent by preparing for Christ's first coming at Christmas. We ask the Lord to prepare our hearts to make ready the way for the Lord. In our midweek meditations, we will consider the power of hope, the power of peace, and the power of love. Claim the blessings God's Holy Spirit offers you and prepare for celebration of our Savior's Birth. Our Advent Services each Wednesday will use the Holden Evening Prayer as our order of worship.

Dec. 16 "The Power of Love in Christ"

Plan to join us for Supper at 5:30-6:30pm served by the Elders. Our menu will be: Lasagna, Salad & Bread. Desserts provided by members. Plan to join us for Fellowship and Worship.

### Get involved in a Bible Study!

Bible Study and Sunday School happens every Sunday from 9:45-10:30. Jump in, and **grow** in community and in the Word!

- In the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Schoolcraft
- The "Truth Seekers Bible Class" in Room 101. This week, we will discuss what Jesus says about Heaven.

### Adult Information Class Begins January 4.

If you are interested in learning more about what Lutheran's believe, or desire to become a member here at St. John's, or would just like to review some of the chief teachings of the Christian Faith, then you might consider signing up for this class. Theme of the Class is "I have Good News for YOU!" We will meet Mondays in January at 6:30 p.m. Please sign up in the church entry, the Fellowship Hall Bulletin Board or call or email the church office. Any questions please consult with the Pastor.

**Senior Women's Bible Class** meets every Tuesday at 10am in the Room 101. We are starting a new study called "**Coffee with the Savior.**" The purpose of this study is to help you see Jesus as your best friend. You also will learn about Moses, his life relationship to God in responding to the gifts of God. The bag lunch and game day will continue every 4th Tuesday of each month after Bible class. Any questions, please contact Dot Cleary at 336-767-4116.

**Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study** All women are welcome to join us for fellowship and fun! We meet every Thursday in **Room 101** during the school year. We are studying Priscilla Shirer's "**Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted.**" Please contact Kerstin Walker at 336-414-7667 for any questions.

## **SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES**

Thurs, Dec 24 – 6pm Christmas Eve Family Worship  
Thurs, Dec 24 – 8pm Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Worship w/Holy Communion

Fri, Dec 25 – 10:30am Christmas Day Worship  
w/Holy Communion

Sun, Dec 27– 10:45am One Service Only  
w/Holy Communion/  
9:45am Bible Class &  
Sunday School

Thurs, Dec 31 – 7pm New Year's Eve Worship  
w/Holy Communion

## **Sanctuary Beautification Renovation Update**

Thank you to all of you who have pledged or donated money towards the Sanctuary Beautification Renovation Project. We received enough funds to replace the sanctuary roof and repair some of the school roof. The replacement of the new roof will hopefully begin around the first part of December. We also received enough funds to begin Phase I in the sanctuary, and those renovations will begin on Monday, January 4. GOD IS GOOD!!

On January 3, immediately following the late service, we will need many volunteers to prep the sanctuary for the work to begin on Monday (for example, remove the carpet in the altar area, cover the pews with plastic, cover the piano, move the altar table and other fixtures, remove the screen, remove the communion rails, etc). Lunch will be provided. Please let Pam Rosenberger or Kris Gartley know if you are able to help.

During the renovation process, the sanctuary will be "out of commission" for several weeks. Pastor Schoolcraft and the Elders have discussed the alternate worship plan. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall for Sunday Morning Well and Traditional Services. Bible Class will also meet in the Fellowship Hall. The Elders will be coordinating the set up for Sunday on Saturdays 1/9 and following to prepare for our worship. There will be some inconvenience but it will be well worth it. Your patience will be most appreciated during this disruptive (but exciting) time. If you have not had an opportunity to make a donation, it is not too late. We still need to collect an additional \$ 20,000 in order to complete Phase I and begin Phase II.

## **Amending The New Constitution and By Laws-Deadline**

Copies of the New Constitution and Bylaws are available in the office, or online. If you believe there is need for an amendment to some statement in either document, you are asked to submit the proposed wording in writing to the Constitution Committee no later than December 31, 2015. It is important to note we will consider all changes in writing by 12/31 but if it means a material change to how the structure would work it will require 15 members to sign it. The Constitution Committee will assimilate those changes and publish them two weeks prior to a special voter's meeting on January 31, 2016. Each individual amendment will be presented and voted on by the members present at the meeting and will be added to the document(s) if approved by a ¾ majority.

**Contribution Envelopes for 2016** Please pick up your 2016 contribution envelopes in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact Don Adamick. Thanks

## **Last minute donations 2015**

If you have any last minute contributions for 2015, please make sure any check is dated no later than December 31, 2015 and put in the offering plate no later than the January 3, 2016 service. Thanks.

## **Stock Donations**

Many of you generously donate stock to St. John's every year, usually at the end of the year. If you are planning on doing so and want it credited on your taxes this year, please make sure the transaction is completed by the end of December. We will need to know the designated fund, i.e., General or FCV or other, date of contribution, name of stock and number of shares, sale date and final amount contributed to St. John's. This information is needed for IRS filings. Contact Don Adamick if you have any questions. Thanks.



## **Bible on a Stick**

Last year St. John's supported the "bible on a stick" program managed by Faith Comes by Hearing. We donated over \$1000 to this cause, which allowed the organization to send a

bible stick to one soldier for each \$25 donated. The Elders are suggesting that we support this program again this year. What we collect will be sent to Faith by Hearing and they will send out the sticks to military chaplains, who will then share them with soldiers. We cannot choose the soldier. Each stick has the New Testament and a number of Psalms on it. In addition, for each Bible Stick sent to a soldier, he or she will receive a card for a free MP3 Audio Bible for spouses and children. The entire military family can be blessed in this way.

Each bible stick has been designed in conjunction with the military such that they are not too obtrusive. They are black, run on an included AAA battery, have ear buds and are easy to operate. Should you wish to look at one, there will be one at the church secretary's desk or see Don Adamick.

Should you wish to support the program, you may write a check to St. John's and clearly identify in the Memo part of the check that the donation is for the Bible Stick program, or put cash in an envelope and write for Bible Stick program on it and put either in the collection plate. In addition, we will have a donation basket in the narthex after Sunday services for the month of December should you want to donate by cash or check. Even though it requires \$25 for each bible stick there is no implication that one has to contribute that much; our donations will be pooled and sent to Faith Comes by Hearing, as we did last year.

To find out more about Faith Comes by Hearing check this web site:

<http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/military/military-outreach>

Any Questions, contact Don Adamick.



**Our Hispanic Ministry** continues to grow! If you feel lead at all to serve in this "Hands & Feet" ministry to our neighbors **please prayerfully consider joining us this**

**Wednesday!** We will offer a light meal from 5:30pm to 6:00pm and then help the children with their homework. Come one Wednesday a month or as often as you like! **You do not need to speak Spanish to participate!!**

**Thank you!!** Have you noticed the chancel area is now brighter? If your answer is yes, then you are correct! A big THANK YOU to Tim Nelson and Tim Gartley for replacing the old bulbs with new LED lights.

**Worship for Shut-Ins** is a 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service produced new every week by Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. Each service includes music, scripture readings prayers, and a Lutheran pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. Each program is closed captioned for the hearing impaired. TV Sunday is at 11:30am TCT network WLXI 43 or online. <http://www.worshipforshutins.org/>

**Requesting Ushers/Usherettes** needed for the 10:45am service. Please contact Arden Lackey at 336-723-3270. Thank you.

**Amazon.smile.com Program**

The holidays are approaching and many of us will be busy shopping for gifts. If you shop through Amazon at smile.amazon.com, St. John's Lutheran Church will receive a portion of these sales. All or your Amazon benefits including Amazon Prime can be used by ordering through <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-0629328>. The proceeds from these sales will help fund some of the projects for the school. Thank you!

**Altar Guild for December:** Gayle Barcio, Stephanie Black, Anita Hoisington & Tina Kottowski

**Ushers for December:** Bob Hoisington, Holly Richardson, Butch Roberts & John Williams

**Crisis Control Items Needed for December**

Canola Oil (24 ounces)  
(Place in basket in back of Sanctuary.)

**Lock-ups for December**

Bob Hoisington, Nathan Kottowski, Glenn Rullman & Carl Schlotzhauer

**Participation last week, December 6, 2015**

8:30 a.m. "The Well": 56  
10:45 a.m. Traditional: 86

**Participation Midweek, December 9, 2015**

7:00 p.m. Advent Service: 61



**Falcon Newsletter**

Are you receiving the school's Falcon Newsletter? This is a bimonthly newsletter and if you would like to receive a copy, please contact the church office to be sure we have your correct email.

**Christmas Scrip is coming soon!**

Are you planning to start your Christmas shopping soon? Are you interested in helping raise money for St. John's PTO? Well you can do both with our offline Scrip orders! The Scrip program allows you to buy gift cards to the stores that you plan to shop at, while giving a percentage back to PTO and it's all at no additional cost to you! For example, if you buy a gift card to Walmart, you pay \$25, get a gift card with \$25 on it, and PTO earns a percentage. Order forms can be found in the back of the church, in the school lobby, or see Melissa Edmiston or Stephanie Guelzow for more information. Order deadline is today, Dec 13 (delivery on Dec 20). Contact Melissa Edmiston at [melissa.edmiston@stjohnsws.org](mailto:melissa.edmiston@stjohnsws.org) for more information.

**St. John's School Christmas program**

The preschool children will present their Christmas program on Wednesday December 16 for chapel service at 8:30am and on Thursday evening December 17 at 7pm for families and friends. We love to have you join us as we proclaim the joyous news of Jesus' birth!



**Happy Birthday to:**

- 12/13 Zach Andrews
- 12/19 Glen Peting III
- 12/19 Gregg Vogelsmeier
- 12/19 Barbara Roggenkamp

**Happy Anniversary to:**

- 12/19 Tim & Laura Nelson (28 yrs)



- Sun 12/13
  - 8:30 a.m. Well Service
  - 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
  - 9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class/  
Children's Sunday School
  - 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
  - 10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship w/Communion
  - 4:00 p.m. Well Rehearsal
- Mon 12/14
- Tue 12/15
  - 10:00 a.m. Senior Women's Bible Class in Rm 101
  - 7:00 p.m. Elders' Meeting
- Wed 12/16
  - 8:30 a.m. School Chapel (Pre-K  
Christmas program)
  - 12:00 p.m. Bulletin & Announcement Deadline
  - 5:30 p.m. Mid Week Advent Supper
  - 6:00 p.m. Hispanic Tutoring in FLC
  - 6:00 p.m. Jr Confirmation in Room 101
  - 7:00 p.m. Advent Worship Service
  - 8:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
- Thurs 12/17
  - 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study in Rm 101
  - 7:00 p.m. Pre-K Christmas program
- Fri 12/18 Pastor's day off/Early School Dismissal
- Sat 12/19
- Sun 12/20
  - 8:30 a.m. Well Service w/Communion
  - 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
  - 9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class/  
Children's Sunday School
  - 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
  - 10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
  - 4:00 p.m. Well Rehearsal



## **St. John's Prayer Needs**

We pray for St. John's congregation and school

Pastor Schoolcraft & Deb

Principal Mark Edmiston

Director of Admissions Tom Baldwin

Our called workers and staff

Transitional Task Force

Board of Servant Leaders

Board of Elders

Hispanic Tutoring

Our District President, John Denninger, for guidance as he prepares a call list of pastors for St. John's.

Our Call Committee: Steve Golden, Don Henderson, Jenelle Lanham, Alice Mierisch, Bruce Sawicki, Sarah Strahm, Bill Thorpe & St. John's as we prepare to call a Pastor.

We pray for those working to further the Gospel around the world and alleviate hurt in the world:

The Shirk family

We remember those who are homebound:

Harry Armstrong

Doris Mueller

Lorraine Buelow

Nancy Roberts

Frances Chambers

Barbara Roggenkamp

Chris Johnston

Millie Tetzlaff

Jim Livengood

Irene Whitener

Marty Loper

Dorothy Zick

We remember family and friends who are no longer with us, and we ask for your comfort. We pray especially for:

The family of Paul Hergesheimer  
(friend of Tom Loke)

We pray for those who are fighting cancer:

Aaron Arder

Bob Hoisington

Becky Baker

Glenda Lackey

Bambi Braun

Bill Lonnecker

Joel Christiansen

David Penno

George Hill

Greg Winn

For those recovering from surgery or dealing with health issues:

Kay Bowman

Margaret Haaland

Paul Coverston

Libby Martin

Brandon George

Mingus Family

For those serving in our armed forces; for continued safety and extra comfort if serving away from home:

Loren Jacobi

Brad Rullman

Branden Lackey

Jon Tessmann

Andrew Nelson

Kevin Wilson

## For Those in Persecution

There is great evil in Syria right now! Our Christian brothers and sisters are facing unspeakable tragedies - kidnappings, rapes, beheadings, much suffering. Yet God is at work. Before the war, not many people attended church. Now thousands of families attend the evangelical churches. The churches distribute hundreds of thousands of Bibles to people, mostly to Muslims. There is a big revival taking place. God is working in a mighty way in Syria! Pray for those who are choosing to stay in Syria through these difficult times, that God would strengthen them in their resolve to battle extreme terrorists.

See the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for more details.

## **A Great Place to Grow in Christ**

As a part of our outreach ministry, we have a Preschool/Pre-K program and Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. All programs/grades have full-time care available.

**Rev. Roger P. Schoolcraft,  
Intentional Interim Pastor**

725-1651 x406 (office)

336-655-5710 (cell)

**Mark Edmiston, Principal  
Tom Baldwin, Director of Admissions and  
Community Relations  
Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for  
Contemporary Worship  
Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for  
Traditional Worship**