

## Sunday, December 16, 2018 – 3rd Sunday of Advent



### Thank you!

To everyone who contributed to Pastor Tom's Installation Service. We are blessed that he and Gwen are now permanent members of the St. John's Family!

### Inclement Weather Policy:

When it is necessary to announce delays or closings for worship or church activities due to bad weather, St. John's Lutheran Church will post the revised schedule or cancellation on the TV WXII Channel 12 scroll and website. Also, there will be a radio announcement on WSJS Radio – 600 AM. Members will be alerted as well via email and the phone tree.

### New Members

Will be received at the 10:45 service on Sunday, January 13, 2019.

- If you would like to be received as a member of St. John's please let pastor know.
- If you are going to transfer in, let us know your previous congregation and we will contact them for your transfer.
- If you have never been a member of a Lutheran congregation please sign up for Pastor Tom's "New Member Class" beginning mid-January. (Usually once a week for six or eight weeks.)

### Help A Family for Christmas

We have a family connected with our school who could use some assistance to celebrate Christmas.

A Boy – Quincy – 4 years old

- Likes Trains, Dinosaurs, Trucks
- Pants size 7, shirt size 6, shoes 13 kids

A Girl – Dahlia – 1 year old

- Anything that makes noise, stuffed animals, dolls
- Pants size 24 mos., shirts size 24 mos.

You can shop, wrap, and bring to church or you can donate financially. Write "Christmas Family" on the memo line of your check.

### Envelopes for 2019

If you do not currently have weekly offering envelopes, and would like them for 2019 please email the church office at [churchsecretary@stjohnsws.org](mailto:churchsecretary@stjohnsws.org).

### January Directories

In early January we will be printing our annual directory. Please make sure all your information is up to date. Any changes contact Kerstin at

[churchsecretary@stjohnsws.org](mailto:churchsecretary@stjohnsws.org).

We will also be taking pictures again for the Fellowship Board. Time to be announced.

### Wednesday Night Advent Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Brief (45 minute) services to help prepare us for celebrating Christmas. This year we will be considering three Birth stories that rarely make it into our holiday worship.

December 19: Mary's Song (The Magnificat)

Luke 46-56

Please join us! (No pre-service meals)

### Thank you for your help!

A special thanks to all those who helped put up and decorate the Chrismon trees. Mrs. Shea's students did an excellent job of assembling the trees and getting them ready to have the Chrismons hung. Those were hung by Tina Kottlowski, Jackie Downey, Sue Frake, Sandra Linder, Kay Bowman, and Clare Adamick.

Anyone interested in learning the meaning of the Chrismons or the candles on the Advent Wreath can pick up an information sheet for each on the table at the back of the church.

### Thank you for the blankets!

The Cancer Companion ministry wishes to thank all members who donated blankets, snacks and Bibles to the Cancer Services ministry to the homeless fighting cancer. This will be an on-going ministry during these winter months. Please keep the homeless in your prayers!

### Christmas Services

Christmas Eve – Monday, Dec. 24 – 5:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day – Tuesday, Dec. 25 – 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve – Monday, Dec. 31 – 7:00 p.m.

### **Scrip Orders**

**Scrip Orders are due today.** Want to support the school & get your Christmas shopping done? Don't know someone's size? Gift card orders from Scrip might be the answer. Orders forms are located in the back of the sanctuary & can be given to Rachel Orsborn. Checks should be made out to St. Johns PTO. Deadline is today, 12/16 9pm for delivery Friday 12/21

### **Forsyth Backpack Program**

**We are approximately \$1000.00 short of our goal for the Forsyth Backpack Ministry. This is the third Sunday and we will be taking up a door offering.**

There are many ways to donate to this event. A check can be written to St. John's designated for the Forsyth Backpack Program or money can be put into the Forsyth Backpack Program box that is located in the school foyer. Also on the **third Sundays** of the month until the end of the year, a **free will offering** will be taken after church services for this outreach program. Please check the poster in the social hall for our progress. Any extra monies will be used to sponsor another packing event in the future. Thank you so much for your support for the children in our community!

### **Fruit of the Spirit notecards on sale now!**

Get your St. John's Lutheran Banner notecards. These cards are based on the banners hanging in the church. Each card features a graphic of a "Fruit of the Spirit" banner on the front. There are 9 cards and 9 envelopes in each box. They are blank inside for note writing. Each card has a description of the design on the back.

Cards are only \$10 and they make great gifts. Please see Kerstin in the church office or during bible study to purchase a box. All proceeds go to St. John's Lutheran Church and School.

### **Sunday Morning Adult Class 9:45 a.m.**

Join us this Sunday and next Sunday as we study the Christmas Stories in Matthew.

### **Dear St. John's Family**

We can all commiserate with the financial pressures of the holiday. Rising credit balances, travel expenses, and gifts.

Please remember that December and End-of-Year giving make up a substantial and necessary part of meeting our annual expenses. Can you cut back on a gift or two and make that a gift to the Christ Child here at St. John's?

Maybe some of us have some "catching" up to do as over the 11 months thus far we've "fallen behind" in our pledge or tithes. (That's me!) If so, please give a little extra this month.

God has incredibly blessed our church and school these last two years! Our budget is still very tight but the extremely poor cash situation two years ago has really improved. Thank you, Lord.

Additionally these blessings from God has allowed us to replace 6 HVAC units including the sanctuary just from

our cash flow. (No borrowing, No cutting into savings, No cutting other needs)!

Rejoice in God's blessing His work here! And be a part of it to finish 2018 – to His glory

### **LWML KayWos Cloth Sale**

KayWos Cloth Sale! "Cleans anything from stoves, windows, cars, stainless, and removes bugs, grease, fingerprints and dust" Never use a window cleaner again The cost of the cloth is \$5. This is sponsored by the LWML. See display in the Fellowship Hall or call Dot Cleary #336-767-4116 for an order.

### **Small Group Sunday Bible Class**

The Small Group Bible Class will begin a study of John's epistles this Sunday. You are invited to join us as we explore who this apostle was, why he wrote what he did, and what it means for us today.

### **Tuesday Senior Women's Bible Study**

All Women are invited to the Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Bible Study meeting in the Library (off the cafeteria) for coffee and study, led by Dot Cleary.

We began a new study "**Putting on a Gentle & Quiet Spirit**" by Elizabeth Georg. As we study 1 Peter, we will discover how to:

- Let others see God in your life even in difficult times
- Successfully handle life's challenges
- Rest completely in God's strength

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month we will stay for sack lunch and games.

Call Dot Cleary for any questions. #336-767-4116

### **Thursday Evening Bible Study**

We will start back on January 3, 2019. May everyone be blessed by St John's Advent services beginning December 5th!

Please join us. For more information, please contact Bill Thorpe ([wthorpe@triad.rr.com](mailto:wthorpe@triad.rr.com)) or Rich Essbach ([rhcessbach@triad.rr.com](mailto:rhcessbach@triad.rr.com)).

### **Hispanic Ministry Tutoring**

**Wednesday, Dec. 19 is the last one until 2019.**

We will offer a light meal from 5:30 to 6:00 for students & tutors. Tutoring will follow from 6:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. This ministry could not happen without the support of our awesome volunteer tutors!

Please join us in being the "hands and feet" of Jesus to our neighbors! Come one Wednesday a month or as often as you like! You do not need to speak Spanish to participate!! Please contact Kris Gartley, Kathleen Sawicki or Cheryl Wulfert with questions!

### **Adopt-A-Student Program**

There are several children at St. John's who receive need based discounts due to their inability to pay full tuition. These funds do not go to the family or student. The parents/guardians continue to pay what they have

been paying. The funds cover the lost income at St. John's from the discounted tuition. Please prayerfully consider being a part of the new Adopt-A-Student Program! Envelopes are in the back of the church.

**Crisis Control for December:** Sugar, Flour, Baking items – Thank you for your November contributions – 26lbs. of cooking oil was collected.

**Altar Flowers Today** are given to the glory of God by Larry & Martha Musser in honor of Alex & Caroline's 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary.



**Sunday, 12/16**

8:30 a.m. – “The Well” with Holy Communion  
9:30 p.m. – Bible Class & Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship with Holy Communion  
2:00 p.m. – Well Rehearsal

**Monday, 12/17**

10:30 a.m. – Cancer Group Session

**Tuesday, 12/18**

10:00 a.m. – Senior Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. – Elders Prayer & Praise

**Wednesday, 12/19**

8:30 a.m. - Chapel  
**Noon – Bulletin & News Deadline**  
5:30 p.m. – Hispanic Ministry Meal  
6:00 p.m. – Hispanic Ministry Tutoring  
7:00 p.m. – **Advent Service #3**

**Thursday, 12/20**

7:00 p.m. – **Pre-School Christmas Program**

**Friday, 12/21**

½ Day of School – **Christmas break begins**

**Sunday, 12/23**

8:30 a.m. – “The Well” with Holy Communion  
9:30 p.m. – Bible Class & Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship with Holy Communion  
2:00 p.m. – Well Rehearsal

**Prayer Shawl Ministry Opportunities**

St. John's Prayer Shawl Ministry invites ALL members to make OR give OR request a *Prayer Shawl* or *lap-afghan* for a friend, family member, co-worker or acquaintance in need of a tangible reminder that they are loved by God and “wrapped” in prayer for divine healing, comfort, hope and strength. **There is no cost for the shawl.** If you'd like to make a shawl, lap-afghan or tags, or know someone who you'd like to receive one, please contact Ann Carney #336-602-1232 or Katie Goad #336-924-6977

**Ways to support the school:**

**Spirit Night – December 10 – 5:00 p.m. Dairi-O's** 1207 W. Clemmonsville Road

**Shine Time Car Wash** on Hanes Mall Blvd by Hobby Lobby will give the school 20% of each sale when you punch in the fundraising code of **#2929.**

**Link your Harris Teeter VIC card - #2929**

**Link your Lowes Foods card to our school.** You can now link your Lowes Foods card to St John's and the school gets a portion of your purchases of Lowes private label items. You can link up to 3 schools.

<https://rewards.lowesfoods.com/Account/SelectCard?mode=CartToClass> to sign up. Thank you from the PTO!



**Happy Birthday to:**

12/16 Charla Adams  
12/19 Gregg Vogelsmeier  
12/20 Tom Loke  
12/21 Charlie Amos

**Happy Anniversary to:**

12/19 Tim & Laura Nelson (31 years)

**Intercessory Prayer Warriors:**

A group of people led by Rich Essbach meets weekly from 9:30 – 10:00 on Thursday mornings to pray collectively for our St. John's Family. All church members are invited to meet in the Sanctuary during this half hour to pray for our congregation.

**The Telephone Prayer Chain** is another prayer opportunity. Please call Dot Cleary (336-767-4116) or Martha Tegeler (336-774-6772) if you would like to receive or be a part of this service. You may also call with prayer requests.



**St. John's Prayer Needs**

Prayer requests can be emailed to Dale Mierisch at [wb9szl@triad.rr.com](mailto:wb9szl@triad.rr.com).

**We pray for St. John's congregation and school**

*Pastor Thomas Clocker*  
*Principal Mark Edmiston*  
*Director of Admissions Tom Baldwin*

**Our called workers and staff**

*Frances Burmeister*  
*Michael Zeoli*  
*Board of Directors*

*Board of Elders  
Hispanic Tutoring*

Our Board of Directors: Adam Orsborn Chairman; Tim Nelson, Bob Kretschmar, Steve Lorenz, Jeff Goad,

We remember those who are shut in:  
Chris Johnston, Marty Loper, Kay Moose, Marilyn Sagehorn, Millie Tetzlaff

We pray for those who are fighting cancer:  
Joel Christiansen, Val Chumney, (daughter of Dave & Jean Rudolph former members), Mary Deakle, (friend of Sheryl Thorpe), Jeanette Dyson, Laura Ference, (friend of Essbach's), Terry France (Stephanie Andrews' father), Katie Goad, Melody Hawkins, (Nancy Livengood's cousin), Bob Hoisington, Bob Jordan, (Jamie Deal's uncle), Arden Lackey, Glenda Lackey, Bill Lonnecker (friend of the Essbachs), Rebecca Perry, (Stacey Perry-school secretary's, mother-in-law), Tara Phillips (niece of Arden & Glenda Lackey), Gene Rapiet, Deb Schoolcraft, Mike Timms (Rich Essbach's nephew), Arline Urban

For those undergoing/recovering from surgery or dealing with health issues:

Luisa Burgos, Morris Crafton, Danny Collins, (friend of Nicole Shannon), Elizabeth, (Charla Adams' niece), Teddy Deranamie, Brooke Gartley, Chris Gwaltney, (Debbie Baronowski's son), Karl Hastings Sr. (Karl Hastings father), Avery Johnson, Christine Karim, (friend of Rich Essbach), Sandy Lyles (Gwen Clocker's friend), Don Marzke, (Bruce Sawicki's Brother-in-Law) Peter Morlock, (friend of Essbach's), Uncle Steve Morrison & family (Pastor Clocker's son-in-law's uncle), Karl Mount, (Dot Cleary's son-in-law), Butch Roberts, Mary Riggs, (online prayer request from a Tracy Chavis), Jacki Rullman, Ron Semple, (Beth Meier's stepfather), David Sablich, (friend of Rich Essbach), Millie Tetzlaff, Zeld Wilson, (Meg Lorenz's 1 year old friend

For those serving in our armed forces; for continued safety and extra comfort if serving away from home:  
Dallas Darcy, Loren Jacobi, Branden Lackey, Dylan McArthur-Reed, Andrew Nelson, Tegan Owen, Natasha Peting, Allie Petty, Brad Rullman, Jon Tessmann, Kevin Wilson, Steve Young

For those who mourn  
**Glenn Rullman and family**, on the passing of his sister, Jettie Anna Rullman Greenday 86, on December 2, 2018.

**Judy Meisinger and family**, on the passing of her sister-in-law.

**Beth Fordham-Meier and family**, on the passing of her father, John "Jack" Fordham 79, on December 8, 2018.

Persecution Prayer:  
The new Chinese law called "Regulations of Religious Affairs", which took effect in February 2018, has lead to a crackdown on Chinese Christians. Among other things,

the online sale of Bibles was prohibited, some churches have been ordered to remove crosses, and pastors are harassed (with services raided mid-service and the pastors handcuffed in front of their congregations). There is a great need for prayer, as we stand hand in hand with our Chinese Christian family. Yet we also glorify God and take encouragement from the fact that China's greatest efforts to eliminate Christianity over seven decades have had only one significant results - unprecedented growth. There were fewer than 5 million Christians in China before Mao founded the People's Republic of China in 1949, embarking upon a Cultural Revolution that included the severe persecution of Christians nationwide. Today there are more than 128 million Chinese believers, with a projection that in 10 years China will comprise the world's largest Christian population. Praise God!

For more information see the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

**Elder Assignments**

**Member/families**

Bob Burke -----	(A-Bra)
Steve Anderson-----	(Bre-Der)
Rich Essbach -----	(Do-Ga)
Rich Essbach -----	(Ge-Hen)
Larry Bowman-----	(Hes-Kie)
Bill Thorpe-----	(Ko-Lor)
Mark Meier -----	(Lov-O)
Mark Meier -----	(P-R)
Dale Mierisch -----	(S)
Rob Schwabe-----	(T-Z)

**Participation December 9, 2018**

**No Service due to weather**

Advent Service – Dec. 5 - 62  
Installation Service – Dec. 8 - 140  
Advent Service – Dec. 12 - 48

**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.

**Pastor Thomas Clocker, 301-732-9203,  
revclocker@gmail.com  
Mark Edmiston, Principal  
Tom Baldwin, Director of Admissions and  
Community Relations  
Sonia Davidson, Director of Preschool  
Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for  
Contemporary Worship  
Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for  
Traditional Worship**

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday,  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

[ChurchSecretary@stjohns.org](mailto:ChurchSecretary@stjohns.org)