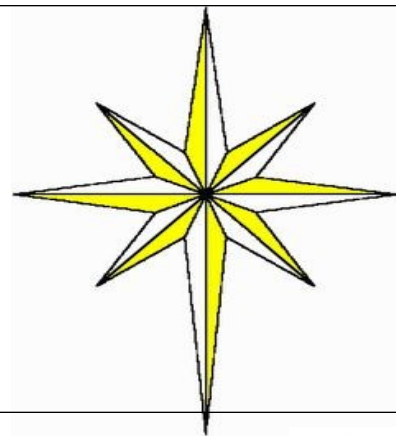


December 17, 2017

St. John's



The Parish Post



Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. With that in mind we will conduct a single Sunday morning worship at 10AM on December 24th. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Gatherings will happen as they have over the past couple of years at **4 PM, 7 PM, and 11 PM.**

Please invite your family and friends to join you in meeting the Christ-child!



Come One, Come All! St. John's Congregational Advent Luncheon

Our Fellowship Luncheon is **THIS Sunday, December 17th**, following the 10 AM service.

Everyone is invited to join in Christmas caroling immediately after the Advent Luncheon on December 17. Please put it on your "spreading Christmas spirit" calendar.

Choir News

There will be no choir rehearsal on December 28 and the choirs will have December 31 off. The first choir rehearsal of 2018 will be Thursday, January 4 with the choir singing on January 7th. After the first of the year (2018), the choirs will be singing and ringing at the 9:00 AM traditional service.

Christmas Dinner

The Dufford Terrace Board would like to invite the residents of Dufford Terrace and the members of St. John's to a catered Christmas dinner on **December 19th at 6:00 PM.** Following dinner, games of bingo will be played for chances to win prizes totaling \$500.00. This event is absolutely FREE for all ages! To reserve your seat please contact Tim Durst at 866-2867 or tim@dursttrucking.com.

Congregational Meeting

It's just a few weeks until 2018 begins and that also means a busy new year begins at St. John's. The annual Congregational Meeting, including a potluck dinner, will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018 immediately following the 11AM Worship Service.

Please email your Annual Reports to the Church office by Tuesday, January 8, 2018, so the Annual Report Book can be made available prior to the Meeting.

2018 Offering Envelopes

Your 2018 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick-up on tables in the Narthex, near the glass cases by the Assembly Room. Thanks to Carolyn and Elaine Sturtevant and their Great group of volunteers for making ready the Envelopes!

2017 Giving Statements

We will be sending the 2017 Giving Statements to your home shortly. To ensure the Church Office has your current address and other vital information, please complete a Welcome Sheet, included in Sunday's bulletin, in the near future. We appreciate your help.



Please join us as we prepare our worship space for the coming Christ-child! Plan to stay after 10 AM Sunday worship on the noted date to help get the sanctuary ready for Advent:

Sunday Morning	What people will see that Sunday	What will happen after worship
December 17	Chrismons	Set up nativity near the Playground
December 24	Nativity (minus baby Jesus and the Magi)	

PRAYING FOR THOSE WE LOVE AND CARE ABOUT AND OUR LEADERS...

Ronald Sommers	Lynn Schrimper	Erika Rapela	Matthew Goodwin—deployed	Carrie Fiske
Nancy Varner	Donald Donahue	California Fire victims & families	Family and friend of Patricia Wisinski	Angie Suprynowicz
Bud Bresee	Don Carlson	Leah (cancer)	Peter Barthelmes	Baby DJ (preemie)
Ed Heubel	Our U.S. Veterans	Barbara Huff	John Tyler- deployed	Norm Christie
Bishop Ralph	Doris Seachrist	Thelma Amon	Doris Baranello	Sandy Richards
Elaine Sturtevant	Rev. John Mann	Bishop Elizabeth	Kellie Blatt	Edie McLanahan
Claude Sturtevant	Judy Sweeney	Michelle Belden	Dave Roberts	Cindy Weber

If you'd like to send a card to Rev. John Mann, feel free to send it in care of Hope Lutheran Church, 1975 S. Old Highway 94, St. Charles, MO, 63303.

Fifth Sunday

December 31st is the Last Fifth Sunday of 2017! Fifth Sundays happen only a few times each year and on these Fifth Sundays, the cash placed in the offering plates of ELCA congregations goes to ELCA's World Hunger fund. This fund assists people throughout the world to raise crops and livestock, to have access to clean water, and to receive education. You may designate donations to World Hunger on any day of the week, but each Fifth Sunday gives you a special opportunity to improve the lives of others.

The Tree in the Narthex

St. John's places a green tree in the Narthex to serve a very worthy cause: for **Hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for our neighbors!** You may make or buy warm accessories to help children or adults stay comfy in Erie's cold weather! Project Dignity will distribute your donations among clients who live in our community.



Have you Heard?

The traditional three colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty

Christmas wasn't declared an official holiday in the United States until June 26, 1870.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK — December 18 thru December 24

Monday, December 18 ~ Ephesians 6:10-17

Tuesday, December 19 ~ Acts 3:17—4:4

Wednesday, December 20 ~ Mark 9:9-13

Thursday, December 21 ~ Hebrews 1:1-4

Friday, December 22 ~ Hebrews 1:5-14

Saturday, December 23 ~ John 7:40-52

Sunday, December 24 ~ 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27 and Luke 1:26-38



† ST JOHN'S VISION STATEMENT †

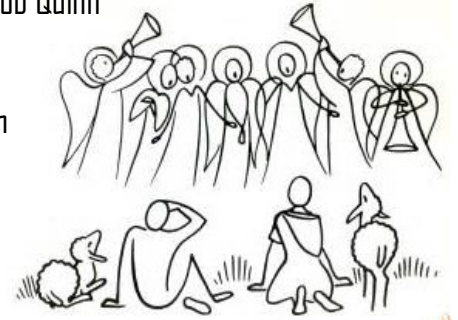
Loved by God, alive in Christ Jesus, and guided by the Holy Spirit, St. John's unconditionally serves God's people and shares Christian love.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, December 24, 2017

December 24, 2017

10 AM Worship

Acolyte	Vanessa Drzal
Worship Leader	Nancy Durst
Greeters	The Harper Family
Ushers	Susan Packard, Lynn McGrath, Bob Quinn, and Bill Watson
Communion Assistants	Lynn McGrath, Sue Carlson, Greg Kay, and Bob Quinn
Altar	Marge Altsman and Linda Radomski
Counters	Janet Heubel, Nancy Durst, and Jenny Green
Flowers	Sue Carlson



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S December 17, 2017 thru December 24, 2017

SUNDAY	12/17/2017	8:00 AM	Worship with Communion — Sanctuary
		10:00 AM	Worship with Communion — Sanctuary
		11:30 AM	St. John's Congregational Advent Luncheon—Parish Center/Gym
		1:00 PM	Christmas Caroling at Dufford Terrace and The Village At Luther
		6:00 PM	Youth Group—Gym/Parish Center
TUESDAY	12/19/2017	6:00 PM	Dufford Dinner—Gym/Parish Center
WEDNESDAY	12/20/2017	10:30 AM	Bible Study ~ Assembly Room
THURSDAY	12/21/2017		Carol on Vacation — Office Closed
		6:15 PM	Bell Choir Practice—Sanctuary
		7:15 PM	Chancel Choir Practice—Sanctuary
SATURDAY	12/23/2017	5:30 PM	Worship with Communion — Sanctuary
SUNDAY	12/24/2017	10:00 AM	Worship with Communion — Sanctuary
		4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Gathering—Sanctuary
		7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Gathering—Sanctuary
		11:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Gathering—Sanctuary

"MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN"

I can see the countless Christmas trees around the world below
With tiny lights like heaven's stars reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular; please wipe away the tears
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear
But the sound of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their faces bring,
For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me; I see the pain inside your heart
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.

So be happy for me, dear one, you know I hold you dear
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I sent you a special gift from my heavenly home above
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.

After all love is a gift, more precious than pure gold
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.
Please love and keep each other as my Father said to do,
For I can't count the blessings of love He has for each of you.

So have a Merry Christmas, all of you whom I hold dear,
Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

