St. John's Messenger

Our Monthly Newsletter

St. John's Lutheran Church of Beloit is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Sharing the good news of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ. | **January 2017**

From the Pastor's Study

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Dear Friends,

Dawn and I want to thank everyone for your generosity to us at Christmas. We are very grateful for the wonderful cards, thoughtful presents, generous monetary gifts, gift certificates, gift cards, and delicious treats. We cherish your thoughtfulness and kindness.

At the beginning of a new year, it is common for us to take stock of our lives and consider areas in which we hope to improve and grow. This very often means changes in diet and exercise, becoming more organized, and various other self-improvement projects. It is important for Christians to give some thought to their spiritual lives as well. I want to invite you to consider your prayer life and how God may grow and enrich your time with Him this year.

I love that our congregation provides the LCMS' devotional *Portals of Prayer* for every one of our members. In fact, last year we doubled the number of large-print copies in order to make this resource accessible to more people. This resource is not only a daily devotional, but also a prayerbook. Many people are unsure of how to pray or how to use their prayer time, in addition to offering a few requests and the Lord's Prayer. This devotional provides an order for family devotions and a myriad of helpful prayers for our usage. While there are innumerable tools and resources available to us, a Christian armed with a copy of the Bible (you don't need a particular version) and *Portals of Prayer* has everything they need for life-giving encounters with God. I would like to draw your attention to the following parts of the devotional – which are present in every quarter's issue.

<u>In the Front</u>: Order for Family Worship, Martin Luther's morning and evening prayers, and prayers for usage at meals.

<u>In the Middle</u>: A nice devotion for each day. Each devotion includes two suggested readings from the Bible

– one of which is from the Psalms, a traditional part of daily prayer going all the way back to the ancient Church. The author then provides a brief reading which reflects on the passages read in a way that helps the reader see how the passage applies to their daily life. Each devotion concludes with a short prayer informed by the readings.

In the Back: Suggested prayers for morning and evening of each day of the week, suggested prayers to be offered at Noon and Midnight (regardless of one's work schedule they will most likely be awake at one of the 12's), prayers for the holy days of the particular season, and suggested prayers for things that we encounter in the normal course of our daily lives (sickness, suffering, grieving, thanksgiving, for peace, a birthday prayer, etc.).

One of the common themes of my teaching is that Christian discipleship is not as complex as we sometimes make it seem. I am convinced that every Christian would like to grow in their walk with God, but many people are in need of some tips for how to begin. While there are a variety of duties that are my responsibility, the chief purpose for which you have called me is to care for your souls. If I may provide you with any assistance in growing in your life of prayer or Scripture reading, please speak with me or drop me an email. There are many things which I like to do, but helping people connect with Jesus is one of the things which I most love to do.

May God bless you in the coming year!

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor

Birthdays

1-1 Marissa Vander Kooi
Ruth Kannengeiser

1-5 Jeff Vander Kooi
Linda Spychalski

1-11 Kathy Gruber
Russell Ultsch
Tyler Thompson

1-12 Aubriella Hyde

1-14 Velma Nolta

1-15 Jerry Straw

1-19 Jeanine Thompson

1-21 Kathy Carter

1-24 Marie Hefty

Anniversaries

1-29 Ray & Shirley Mathewson

Treasurer's Report

December 2016 Expenses

SWD Lutheran	$828.00	Father & Son	$772.80
Advanced	$99.96	Church Mutual	$1,298.66
Big Radio	$400.00	Concordia Publishing	$219.64
Stemper Altar Supplies	$162.65	Altar Wine	$51.88
Stamps	$206.00	TDS	$90.18
Great America Financial	$266.09	Charter Communications	$38.99
Beloit Utilities	$117.62	Alliant Energy	$1,560.57
Concordia Plan Services	$2,501.84	Fellowship	$18.56
Piano Tuning	$121.00	Quill	$360.85

Women's Guild News

RULES FROM GOD

1. Wake Up !!

   Decide to have a good day

   "This is the day that the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalms 118:24)

2. Dress Up !!

   The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

   "Man looks at outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart." (I Samuel 16:7)

3. Shut Up!!

   Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so we need to listen twice as much as we talk.

   "He who guards his lips guards his soul." (Proverbs 13:3)

4. Stand Up!!...

   For what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything..

   "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Gal 6:9)

5. Look Up !!...

   To the Lord.

   "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

6. Reach Up !!...

   For something higher.

   "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

7. Lift Up !!...

   Your Prayers.

   "Do not worry about anything; Instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING." (Philippians 4:6)

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Our Christmas Eve worship service was absolutely beautiful. Many thanks to everyone who attended and participated in this special service!

We offer our prayers and best wishes to Katerina Vander Kooi on the birth of her daughter, Presley Lanaya Theisen - as well as to Presley's grandparents Jeff and Monica. Presley was born on December 10 and weighed 8lbs 9oz and is 20 1/2 inches long.

On Monday, December 26, Owen Thomas was baptized here at St. John's. He is the son of Brian and Kristine Thomas, and the grandson of Jack and Kathy Fiedler.

On Sunday, January 8, we will install all of our board members and council officers for 2017. We are grateful for everyone's service to our Lord and His Church!

On Sunday, January 15, we will receive Peter Nattinger, Adriana Gonzalez, and Sofia Nattinger into membership with us! They have recently completed the adult catechism course with Pastor.

Our Sunday School program resumes on Sunday, January 15th. We have classes for all ages — preschool through adults!

St. John's is on the Radio

Sunday Mornings

@ 10:00 am

WBEL—1380 AM

http://thebigam1380.com

A Note from Pastor Regarding Hospital Visitation

One of the consequences of the laws passed to protect hospital patients' rights to privacy is that the hospitals are not always able to let congregations know when their members are hospitalized. While hospital chaplains and volunteers will sometimes give parish pastors a call, this is infrequent and not a reliable means of learning this information. Consequently, I invite you to give me a call if you are going to be hospitalized or if you discover that one of our members has been hospitalized (I always protect my sources). It is my pleasure to visit our members when they are in the hospital - to share God's Word, prayer, and the Lord's Supper with them. Additionally, if you are going to have surgery - whether it is inpatient or outpatient - please let me know as I would love to come to the hospital and pray with you prior to your procedure. Over the years, I have needed to leave my house at 3:30-4:00 am a number of times in order to carry out this service and it was my good pleasure to do so - and so please do not worry that your surgery is too early for me to meet with you at the hospital on the morning of your procedure. I typically arrive 20 to 30 minutes after the time when the patient is instructed to report to the surgical unit, and this allows me an opportunity to share Scripture and pray with the person at a time when they are simply waiting for nurses and anesthesiologists to look in on them. God hears our prayers and His Word comforts us, and so it is very important to me to offer these gifts of God at such times. Please feel encouraged to call me on my cell phone (day or night) if I may be of service to you. May our good Lord bless you in every time of need.

Eleanor Backhaus, Home
Ivan Drake, Home
Peter Fast, Pioneer Court
Marie Hefty, Premier Skilled Nursing
Lois MacGowan, Premier Skilled Nursing
Ray Mathewson, Beloit Senior Living
Nadine Polzin, Home
Josephine Rhode, Alden Meadow Park
Anna Rumery, Willowick Assisted Living
Marilyn Treder, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.
Audrey Weiss, Riverside Terrace
Dan Burrows, Alden Meadow Park
Connie Fast, Home
Donna Hall, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.
Joanne Hildebrandt, Azura Memory Care
John Marquardt, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.
Joyce Nelson, Home
Ione Reetz, Home
Christine Ruckert, Premier Skilled Nursing
Marcella Savage, Home
Russell Ultsch, Premier Rehabilitation
Kay Wells, Cedar Crest Apartments

Prayers for the sick or those in need of physical or spiritual healing: Keith Stowers, Marcella Savage, Kim Wolter, Rev. Roy Jacob, Frank C., Russell Ultsch, Donna Hall, Bruce Mielke, Joyce Nelson, Joanne Skede, Laura Jo Pearson, Marilyn Straw, Ruth Kannengeiser, Marjean Rath, Nicole Cox, Cayden Krueger, John Matthews, Marlene Nolta, James Swain, Nadine Polzin, Janice Hemerley, Joanie Genz, Hope Ann Block, Terry Scribner, and all of our members who are homebound. Additionally, please pray for the protection of all of those who serve in the military.

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship	2 1PM Women's Bible Study	3 9:30 Women's Bible Study	4	5 1 PM LWML Women's Guild Meeting 6PM Youth Choir	6	7 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
8 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Christmas Cleanup	9 1PM Women's Bible Study 6PM Catechism	10 6PM Board of Trustees	11 9AM Sewing 7PM Board of Membership & Evangelism	12 6PM Youth Choir	13	14 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
15 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	16 1PM Women's Bible Study 10 AM Finance Board Meeting 6PM Board of Elders	17 9:30 Women's Bible Study 5 PM Personnel Planning Comm	18	19 6PM Youth Choir	20	21 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
22 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	23 1PM Women's Bible Study 6PM Catechism	24 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6PM Parish Council Meeting	25 9AM Sewing	26 10 AM Woman's Guild Board Meeting 6PM Youth Choir	27	28 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
29 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	30 1PM Women's Bible Study	31 9:30 Women's Bible Study				

We gather for worship every Sunday morning at 9 am, and everyone is welcome!

You have a savior who is Christ the Lord, and we invite you to join us in receiving the gifts which God delights in giving you through His Son.

God loves all people. His Son died in the place of everyone and answered for all of our sins - including yours. Everyone who trusts in his death for the forgiveness of their sins will receive the free gift of eternal life with God. We would love to have the opportunity to tell you more about this good news.

Where everyone is invited and Jesus is Lord!

Contact Us

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE