

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.

Dec. 2016



From the Pastor's Study

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Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas!

With the weather being so favorable throughout November, it feels somewhat strange to be exchanging Christmas greetings to one another, but it is certainly that time of year! Last evening, we enjoyed the first of our Wednesday evening Advent suppers and services. Each Wednesday in Advent, we gather in the fellowship hall at 5:30 pm for a common meal provided by one of the organizations of the congregation and then move upstairs to the sanctuary for a 30-minute prayer service at 6:30. This year, our themes are drawn from the four biblical panels of our recently-restored stained glass windows.

Our Christmas worship services are the following:

Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24, at 6:30 pm

Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25, at 9:00 am

These services will be different from one another in both content and style. Saturday evening will feature our traditional candlelight service of the nativity and Sunday morning will be a special Divine Service for Christmas morning. I hope that you will attend both, as each one develops a different aspect of the meaning of our Lord's birth and what it means for us.

Christmas is one of our three festivals of the Church Year—the other two being Easter and Pentecost. All other special occasions are observed as "lesser festivals." We mark our festivals with the inclusion of special flowers in the chancel, in addition to altar flowers. With the exception of weddings and funerals, this happens at no other time. On Christmas we decorate the chancel with poinsettias, at Easter we have lilies and other Spring annuals, and on Pentecost we adorn this sacred space with geraniums. These special flowers

are used to highlight the celebratory nature of our festivals. It is for this reason that we only fill the chancel with flowers on those occasions, because if everything is festive than nothing is actually festive.

These special observances are not meant to take anything away from our weekly placement of altar flowers in the chancel. These flowers signify the love of our heavenly Father who has filled His Creation with beauty and wonder. They are a reminder of the newness of life which is always springing up even in a world encumbered by death. They provide a lovely way for us to honor and remember those who are near and dear to us. Worshipers are invited to provide for our altar flowers. There is a signup sheet for them in the narthex on the back bulletin board. You may feel welcome to bring in your own flowers for placement at the altar or to submit \$25.00 to the church for their purchase through Emanuel, The Florist. If you are providing the flowers from your garden or a vendor of your choosing, please bring them to the office by Friday at noon for placement in the refrigerator or early on Sunday morning prior to worship.

May God bless you this Advent season and in the coming days of Christmas!

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor



Birthdays

12-1 Peter Fast
12-4 Dan Rogers
12-11 Andrew Bartz
12-15 Alexander Nohr
12-16 Debbie Niman
12-25 Hunter Griinke

Anniversaries

12-16 Wally & Kathy Prins

12-18 Roger & Marcia Stenberg



Treasurer's Report

November 2016 Expenses

Church Mutual	\$1,298.66	Advanced Disposal	\$99.96
Father & Son Cleaning	\$772.80	TDS	\$89.16
Beloit Utilities	\$98.30	Alliant Energy	\$710.14
Charter	\$38.99	Great Amer Financial	\$266.09
SWD of the LCMS	\$870.00	Big Radio	\$320.00
Concordia Plan Services	\$2,423.85	TTSG	\$46.45
CPH	\$115.78	Jay's Big Roll	\$114.50
Together in Mission	\$750.00		

Women's Guild News



A big thank you to all the ladies in our Women's Guild, and the men and women of St. John's who worked in any way at our Craft/Boutique/EXPO on Saturday, November 5th. There were signs and posters advertising the EXPO all over town which drew in a lot of people. We had a great day and the crafters and vendors were all very satisfied.

The gym at St. John's was transformed into a busy, bustling sea of booths, vendors and customers. Tables were set up for lunch that was available consisting of pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, soda and coffee. Other things going on included a bake sale, a white elephant sale and a raffle offering a wide assortment of items. Pastor Roser was a big help as always and even manned a booth for a vender who had to leave. He had several people ask him if he had made all of the fancy crocheted doilies!

The big draw was the cinnamon rolls and the ladies in the kitchen could hardly keep up with the demand especially as many people said they could smell them when they arrived in the parking lot. The cinnamon rolls were available as carry outs or to enjoy on the spot with a cup of coffee.

All were tired but happy at the 3:00 pm closing time and the EXPO was declared a success. It is too early to think about next year but a couple of potential vendors asked to let them know when our next event will be so they can be included. For now though, there were sighs of relief and the good feeling of a job well done.

BE HONEST!

Dishonesty, even in the smallest matter may severely damage a believer's credibility. You never know how closely you are being watched.

A businessman was invited to speak to a men's church group. His topic was honesty in the workplace and he spoke very strongly and unwaveringly on the topic.

The next morning, he boarded a city bus for the ride to work. He handed a dollar bill to the driver and received some change, which he counted as he proceeded down the aisle.

Before he reached his seat, he realized he had been given a dime too much. His first thought was that the transit company would never miss it. However, deep inside he knew he should return the money. So he went back to the driver, "You gave me too much change, sir."

To his amazement, the driver replied, "I know, a dime too much. I gave it to you on purpose. Then I watched you in my mirror as you counted your change. You see, I heard you speak yesterday, and if you had kept the dime, I would have written you off and everything that you said."

We may be the only Bible some people ever read!

http://go.netatlantic.com/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=thedailyencourager



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, Riverside Terrace

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



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, Kateri Bartz, Cory Bartz, 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.

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6PM Youth Choir	2	3 6AM to 6PM Prayer Vigil 7PM Christmas Concert
4 10:30 AM Decorating the Church	5 1PM Women's Bible Study 6PM Catechism	6 9:30 Women's Bible Study	7 5:30 PM Advent Supper 6:30 PM Worship	8 6PM Youth Choir	9	10
11 10:30 AM Annual Voters' Meeting	12 1PM Women's Bible Study	13 6PM Board of Trustees	14 2PM Board of Elders 5:30 PM Advent Supper 6:30 PM Worship	15 6PM Youth Choir	16	17
18 10:30 AM Christmas Party for all ages	19 1PM Women's Bible Study 6PM Catechism 10 AM Finance Board Meeting	20 9:30 Women's Bible Study 5 PM Personnel Planning Comm	21 5:30 PM Advent Supper 6:30 PM Worship	22 6PM Youth Choir	23	24 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service
25 9:00 AM Christmas Day Service	26 1PM Women's Bible Study	27 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6PM Parish Council Meeting	28	29	30	31



**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

If you would like to learn more about our congregation, please email our pastor:
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Visit us on the web:

www.stjohnsbeloit.com

Facebook:

<http://tinyurl.com/z7xexdy>



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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

