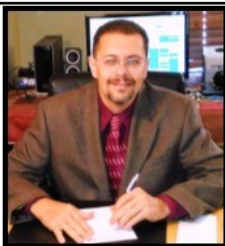


St. John's Messenger

Sharing the good news of forgiveness and eternal life
through Jesus Christ.



2018



From the Pastor's Study

Dear Friends,

As I write this, it is only a few days until Thanksgiving. Following a day of feasting and Hallmark Channel Christmas specials, Americans will hit the stores in search of deals on electronics and special "Black Friday" bargains. The rest of the month will be filled with parties, gift shopping, card writing, and photo shoots. I have already heard people lamenting that they hate the thought of Christmas coming - with long lines, looming bills which will come due in January, and so many chores and events that leave little time for oneself. While it can be said that we choose to be so busy, to spend so much money, and to say "yes" to too many things - that doesn't make December any less overwhelming.

There are many other people who dread the coming of Christmas without any choice in the matter - those who grieve. Just off the top of my head I can think of at least a dozen families for whom this will be a difficult Christmas. For some, this will be the first Christmas since a loved-one died. For others, the heartache which never leaves them is accentuated by the holidays. I wish that there was something that I could say or do which would ease their pain and bring them some happiness this Christmas - but, as you know, the words and deeds of men are no match for the aching caused by death.

I would, however, like to expose the idols of the American Christmas experience which make Christmas so painful for those who grieve. Many people who dread Christmas because of all they need to do and buy, do so because they have bought into the lie that it is their responsibility to recreate each year the magic that they once felt at Christmas. There is a gnawing feeling that somehow we need to create the "perfect" Christmas experience in which our December 24/25 rivals the beauty and tranquility of a Currier and Ives print. For those who grieve, the pain they feel is brought into sharper focus by the absence of family members who once made the holiday so special. Because our culture has made Christmas about family togetherness and shared-joy, those whose loved-ones are gone or separated from them by distance or broken relationships are left feeling incomplete and pitiable. Perhaps the worst offender is the message that we somehow have to "get into the Christmas spirit" if we are to have a meaningful Christmas. Those who aren't feeling it (whatever this elusive Christmas spirit feeling is) are made to feel inadequate or cold-hearted. The whole thing just feels like a red and green tinsel-wrapped guilt trip.

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When Christmas is about us it is going to be broken, incomplete, and disappointing. Our lives and Christmas experiences will never measure up to the fictional magic of a Hallmark classic. When we see the Christmas idols for what they are and experience the Holy Spirit drawing our attention to the birth of the Savior, something magical happens - suddenly, it is not all about us. It's about Jesus and what his birth means for us and the whole world. For those of you who grieve, please hear the message that the baby born in Bethlehem died in your love-one's place and answered for their sins, and because of what he has done on their behalf (and yours), they who trusted in him now stand before the throne of God in Heaven. I pray that you will not always feel the way that you do now. In the midst of your sorrows, may you know the comfort of Jesus' love for you and the strength that he gives you to cope with this terrible pain. May Christmas become a time in which you feel God's love for you in Jesus, even in these circumstances.



In Christ Jesus,

Pastor

November 2018 Expenses

Church Mutual Ins.	\$ 924.12
Charter Internet	\$ 38.99
Great America	\$ 81.74
TDS Phone Service	\$ 106.16
Beloit Utilities	\$ 120.35
Alliant Energy	\$1,131.65
Father & Son Cleaners	\$ 800.00
S. Wis. District	\$ 984.00
Badgerland Disposal	\$ 60.00
Concordia Publishing	\$ 10.64
Concordia Plan Svc.	\$2623.00
Beloit Daily News	\$ 44.00
CD	\$ 96.00
DiMax Office	\$ 40.80
Menards (10-2018)	\$ 68.33
Aaron Lock & Safe	\$ 190.45
School Outreach	\$ 794.98
Men's Fellowship	\$ 30.00
Communion Wine	\$ 51.92





Special For Our Youth

Additionally, Pastor Roser will be taking a group of youth from St. John's to the **LCMS National Youth Gathering in 2019**. St. John's will most likely be registering with some other congregations in the

Stateline area. While the cost of registration is \$365.00, plus transportation, lodging, and meals, families will only be asked to pay a \$25.00 registration fee per youth member attending. All other monies will come from fundraising. The event will be held from July 11 - 15, 2019. It is open to students entering 9th grade (or age 14) in the 2019-2020 school year through age 19. **The FAQs are located at <https://lcmsgathering.com/faq/>**

Holiday Sweets Fundraiser

This year the youth will be baking for you for the holidays to raise money for the National Youth Gathering. We will have an order form available in the Narthex through Sunday December 9th. All orders and money are due by December 9th, so we can have the baked goods ready for pick up on the 16th and 23rd of December.

Baked Goods and Prices

- Tiger Butter \$8.00
- Christmas Hugs \$8.00
- Dark Choco. Nutmeg Cookies \$10.00
- Surprise Sugar Cookies \$11.00
- Pecan Balls \$12.00
- Peanut Butter Kiss Cookies \$12.00





Another Craft Boutique and EXPO has come and gone. Our gym was transformed into a market place with bustling shoppers and many booths where hopeful crafters exhibited their wares. A luncheon featuring pulled pork sandwiches was offered and our fa-

mous cinnamon rolls were served all day. Many people mentioned the wonderful smells as soon as they opened the door. Other features were a raffle, a bake sale, and a white elephant sale. October proved to be a busy month starting with the "EXPO" on the 13th, and a Scoopie Night on the 16th. We had one more thing on our list. On Oct. 17th the LWML Zone 20 Fall Rally was held at Christ Lutheran Church in Clinton. Eight women from St. John's attended. The ingathering was personal items to benefit the Clinton Food Pantry whose clients had need of these items. A very interesting Bible Study from John:4 was given by Rev. Dennis Roser based on the woman at the well. The Speaker was Rev. Michael Schempf, a Missionary to the Ugandan Lutheran Seminary. He and his wife Karen will be traveling to Uganda and transitioning to living and serving there. A short business meeting followed and then we were treated to a delicious luncheon provided by the ladies of Christ Lutheran Church. We presented a check for \$500 to the Deaf Ministry. After that, everyone was ready to go home and call it a day!

Our Sewing Guild recently received a letter from Melanie W. Gibbons, the Quilt and Kit Ministry Manager for Lutheran World Relief. We have often wished we could know where our quilt and baby kits go after we mail them. She wrote the following:

"I'm excited to be able to share some details about where some of your items traveled in the last year. You may already have spotted in your online Tracker record that your Baby Care Kits went to Iraq. Your donations departed our warehouse on March 10, 2018."

We are very happy to get this news of kits that we mailed last year. We have just mailed 20 Baby Care kits and 14 quilts this October and look forward to hearing where they went.

All about LWML Mites

*Mite Boxes are use to collect money for missions.

*Twenty-five percent of the mite offering is sent to LWML for mission grants and the remaining seventy-five percent is used for your district's mission grants.

*Mite money is used to further God's kingdom through the mission grants selected by delegates at district and national conventions.

*Place your Mite Box wherever you can feed it, dressing table, office desk, laundry room, care, kitchen counter etc. You might want to give a Mite Box to family members and friends.

*Return your filled Mite Box to your LWML society.

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for giving me all that I have. Bless these mites that I give back to You so that they can be used to spread the Good News of Jesus' love here and throughout the world. Amen

December Birthdays

12-4 Dan Rogers

12-10 Debbie Niman

Presley Theisen

12-11 Andrew Bartz

12-15 Alex Nohr

12-25 Hunter Grinke



Wedding Anniversaries

12-16 Wally & Kathy Prins

12-18 Roger & Marcia Stenberg

**Annual Voters' Meeting will be held on
Sunday, December 2, at 10:30 am.**



Dr. Martin Luther questioned at the Diet of Worms

New Date for Everyone His Witness Workshop

Jonah Burakowski will be the facilitator for the Saturday, December 1, 2018, Everyone His Witness Workshop at Messiah Lutheran Church, 1531 Townline, Beloit, WI 53511.

General Schedule:

8:00 AM – Registration/Coffee/Fellowship

8:30 AM – Begin Workshop

11:30 AM – Lunch (approximate)

12:15 PM – Resume Workshop

4:00 PM – Complete Workshop (approximate – may complete earlier) Jonah will provide additional workbooks for \$11.00 per participant above the initial kit you buy for your church. He will collect the money that morning.

Advent Midweek Services



Advent suppers and services begin this Wednesday, December 5th. Supper is served at 5:30 pm, with Advent service following at 6:30 pm. Please join us for these special fellowship times and Worship services as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Holy Socks!!

The "Holy Socks Puppet Ministry" at St. John's is off to a very good start.

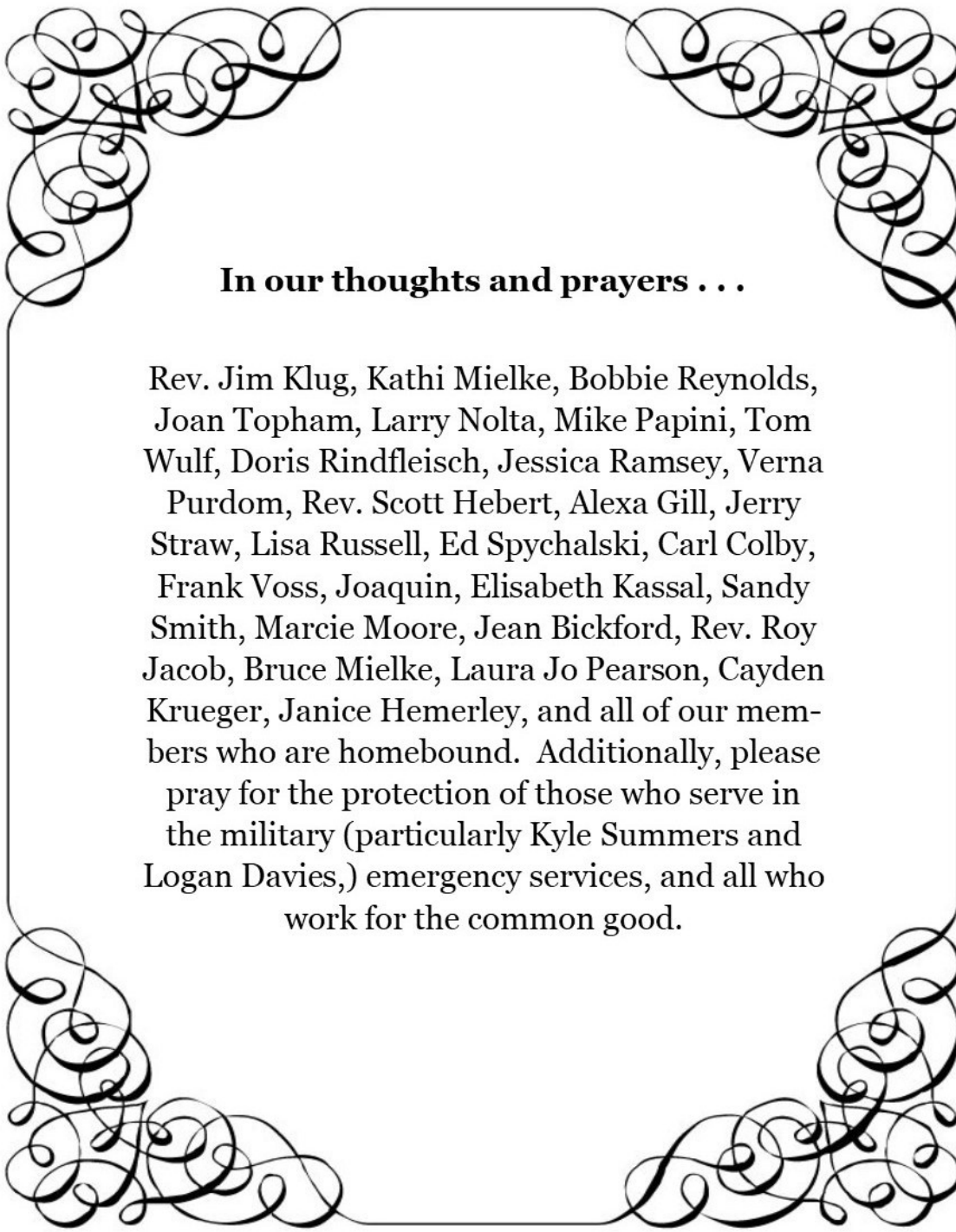
We've even uploaded our first video to YouTube.

In the coming months, we will be offering periodic presentations during Divine Service.

We meet every Sunday after worship. Children and youth of all ages are invited to join us.

If you would like more information, please let Pastor Roser know.



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In our thoughts and prayers . . .

Rev. Jim Klug, Kathi Mielke, Bobbie Reynolds, Joan Topham, Larry Nolta, Mike Papini, Tom Wulf, Doris Rindfleisch, Jessica Ramsey, Verna Purdom, Rev. Scott Hebert, Alexa Gill, Jerry Straw, Lisa Russell, Ed Spychalski, Carl Colby, Frank Voss, Joaquin, Elisabeth Kassal, Sandy Smith, Marcie Moore, Jean Bickford, Rev. Roy Jacob, Bruce Mielke, Laura Jo Pearson, Cayden Krueger, Janice Hemerley, and all of our members who are homebound. Additionally, please pray for the protection of those who serve in the military (particularly Kyle Summers and Logan Davies,) emergency services, and all who work for the common good.

Our Homebound Members

Beverly Bingham, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.

Sandy Buresh, Fair Oaks Health Care Center

Dan Burrows, Alden Meadow Park

Ivan Drake, Home

Connie Fast, Home

Donna Hall, Willowick in Janesville

Joanne Hildebrandt, Azura Memory Care

John Marquardt, Home

Shirley Mathewson, Beloit Sr. Living

Ione Reetz, Home

Christine Ruckert, Premier Skilled Nursing

Anna Rumery, Willowick in Clinton

Ed Spsychalski, Home

Betty Steuck, Riverside Terrace

Elinor Swain, Alden Meadow Park

Marilyn Treder, Pioneer Court

Oscar & Mildred Wedel, Home

Audrey Weiss, Riverside Terrace Apts.

“And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick,
and the Lord will raise him up.”

(James 5:15 ESV)



The new men's ministry, called Men's Bible Fellowship, has begun. This program, which will be held on the first Monday evening of every month from 6 to 8 pm, will consist of sharing a meal and studying the Bible together. Our young men who are attending high school are encouraged to join us. There is no cost to participate, but a free-will offering will be received to help defray the costs of the meal. Pastor Roser and Dawn will take care of providing the meal so that participants can simply come and be fed in body, mind, and spirit.

***“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”***
(Matthew 4:4 ESV)



DartBall

There is a full schedule of dartball games, opponents, and locations posted on the bulletin board in the office.



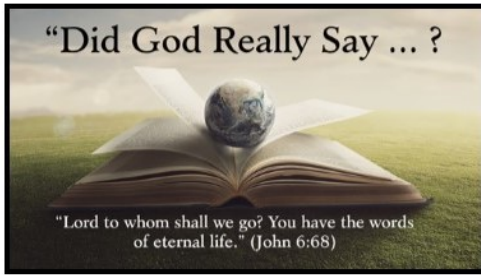
† We will be having a **Community Christmas Party for Families** on **Saturday, December 15**, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the gym. This will be an outreach for the school but also an activity for our congregation's children and their families.

† Similarly, we will be having a **Winter Carnival for Families** on **Saturday, January 12**, from 2 to 4 in the gym.

Put the dates on your family calendars, and invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us as we put the Gospel into action.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. “

(Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV)



2019 Lutherans for Life of Wisconsin Essay Contest

For students in Grades 6 through 12, any Lutheran student or student in a Lutheran school is eligible. Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the 2019 Conference theme:

“Did God Really Say...? and Conference Bible

verse: “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68). Not incorporating the conference verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.

Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words.

Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words.

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word via email to LFLofWIEssay@gmail.com by March 15, 2019. There will be a \$150 prize for each of the two categories for the LFL of Wisconsin Essay Contest. The two winners will advance to the national contest.

Full rules are available in the church office window.

Dude, there's a **baby** in the salad...



**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!



facebook®

Did you know if you miss a regular Sunday Worship Service, you can watch it in its entirety on YouTube!

Just use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdB2bPj-7Stg>

If you would like see links to Pastor Roser's blog, uplifting posts, occasional humorous posts, and reminders of upcoming events, check out the St. John's Facebook page. The posts are public, so you don't even have to be a Facebook member to see what's happening.

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. – 1 John 3:18 (NIV)



Do you need help getting meals or know someone who does?
Contact Beloit Meals on Wheels

Beloit Meals on Wheels delivers nutritious meals directly to our client's homes. We serve clients age 60 and older, who are home bound and not driving, and live in the Beloit area. Depending on the need, home-delivered meals can be on a short- or long-term basis. Menus are developed by a registered dietician to ensure meals meet 1/3 of the Recommended Daily Allowance for seniors and our food is prepared by Best Events Catering. In addition to home-delivered healthy meals, our clients receive a daily visit from our friendly volunteers. Signing up is easy! For more information, contact us at 608-362-3683 or visit us online at www.beloitmealsonwheels.org

Staff and Contact Information

Rev. Dennis Roser, Pastor

dennismroser@gmail.com cell: (608) 713-2050

Mrs. Berta Eddy, Director of Communications

officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com

Mr. Bill Cunningham, Director of Music

Mr. Jeff Vander Kooi, Facility Maintenance

Mrs. Monica Vander Kooi, Church Treasurer

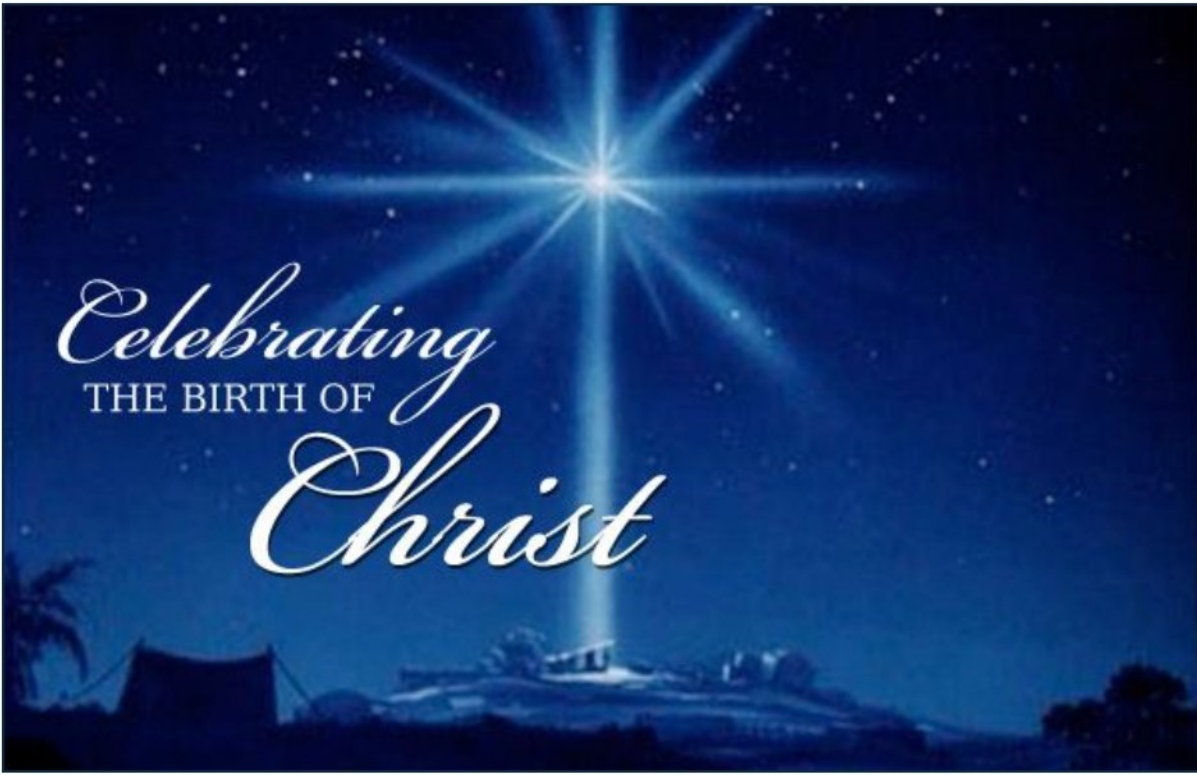
Mr. David Koebernick, Sound Technician

www.stjohnsbeloit.com

www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranbeloit/

www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdB2bPj-7Stg





Celebrating
THE BIRTH OF
Christ



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
IGLESIA LUTERANA SAN JUAN

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

1000 Bluff St.,
Beloit, WI 53511

