



# *The St. John's Communicator*

## *November 29, 2019*

### *Roser's Reflection . . .*

Dear Friends,

When I conducted a survey of our members to determine a meeting time for a monthly book club during the winter months, I discovered two important things:

The majority of our members who attend our weekly Bible class are not inclined to join a book club. There is nothing wrong with this as they are two very different activities and it is unreasonable to expect that every member will want to participate in everything we offer. If we are to serve a diverse community we need to offer learning opportunities that speak to a variety of needs and interests.

A number of our members would like to participate in a book club here at St. John's, but their schedules make it very difficult for them to attend a physical meeting at the church.

To that end, Bible class will return to our weekly schedule after Easter (hopefully winter will be over by then) and we will launch an online book club in January. Since the book club will primarily include those who are unable to attend our Bible class, it will be a year-round club rather than one which meets only during the winter months. I am excited to offer this learning opportunity as a way of nurturing the discipleship of more of our members, especially those whom we are not currently serving as fully as I would like.

The book club will occur within a private group on Facebook called "St. John's Online Book Club" [pretty clever, isn't it?] You can reach the site by going to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/955846788127886> and then clicking on the blue button which reads "+ Join Group." You are also encouraged to invite your friends to join us!

During the next several months, we will be exploring the following titles from our publishing house:

Jan/Feb 2020 - Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety by William Weedon

Mar 2020 - 5 Things You Can Do to Have a Faithful Prayer Life by Robert Hiller

Apr/May 2020 - How to Read the Bible with Understanding by Lane Burgland

Jun/Jul 2020 - Hope When Your Heart Breaks: Navigating Grief and Loss, by Michael Newman

Members are invited to join in for reading all of the books or certain ones that catch their interest. Joining the group does not obligate one to read every book that we examine. Additionally, one does not need to comment within the Facebook group discussions in order to be a full participant of the group. While we would love to have everyone's input, reading the book and following the discussions as they unfold will be just as beneficial for those who would rather not comment. In fact, parishioners are often surprised that when we attend a meeting or learning opportunity outside of our congregation that I rarely offer any comments. My preferred learning style is to listen to others and absorb what is being shared. At St. John's, where I have been called to be a teacher of God's Word it is my responsibility to offer my commentary. The point that I want to make is that no one will judge anyone else for the number of their online interactions within our group.

Please consider joining us!

In Christ Jesus,

*Pastor*

**Advent season is here, and  
with it comes special  
Wednesday services.**

**Beginning December 4th,  
please plan to join us for sup-  
per at 5:30 pm, and stay for  
Worship at 6:30 pm.**



### **Christ Our Savior Youth Group Bowling night!**

**The Christ Our Savior Youth Group is inviting  
the youth of other area Lutheran churches to join them for  
an evening of fun and fellowship:**

**Bowling at Viking Lanes in Beloit.**

**Friday, December 6, 2019 at 6 PM – 9 PM**

**Viking Lanes 210 Oak Grove Ave, South Beloit, Illinois 61080**

**If you're interested in joining, please**

**log onto Facebook and let Carissa know your intent!**

**[https://www.facebook.com/events/2657292140983443/?active\\_tab=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/2657292140983443/?active_tab=about)**





## Annual Voters' Meeting

Our annual voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, December 22, beginning at 10:30 am.

*The Tuesday Women's Bible Study will be on break until January 7, 2020*



The new year is nearly upon us. In preparation for that, the 2020 CD Ministry and Altar Flower sign up sheets are in the Narthex. As always, PLEASE PRINT, and be specific about how you would like your sponsorship acknowledged. Thank you.

*"Close the door of hate  
and open the door of  
love all over the  
world."*

*~ By Robert Louis Stevenson*

## Christmas Poinsettia



We invite you to assist us in decorating our chancel for Christmas by sponsoring a poinsettia. If you would like to participate, please complete the form found in the Sunday bulletin. Return your form by placing it in the offering plate with your payment. **The deadline for ordering is THIS Sunday. December 1st.** The plants will be available to take home following Divine Service on Christmas Eve. When filling in your form, it is important that you PRINT so your information is legible. Also, please be specific in your dedication (in honor/celebration/memory of...) Thank you.

### Important Upcoming Dates:

**December 4, 5:30 pm - Advent Supper**

**December 4, 6:30 pm - Advent Service - "Zechariah & Elizabeth"**

**December 8, 10:30 am - Decorating the Church for Christmas**

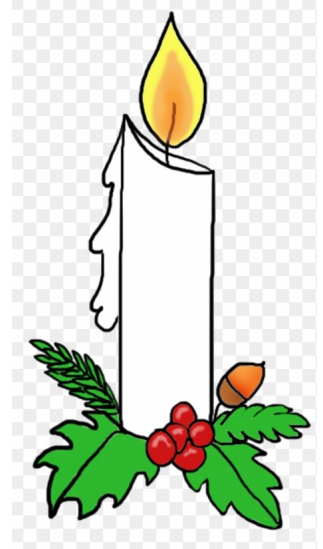
**December 8, 12:30 pm at St. Andrew in Rockton - Youth Group**

**December 11, 5:30 pm - Advent Supper**

**December 11, 6:30 pm - Advent Service - "Joseph"**

**December 15, 9:00 am - Special Service for Church and School**

**December 15, 10:30 am - School Program in the gym**



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### Box Tops Program

**St. John's School is a part of the Box Tops for Education program!**

**If you buy any product with the box top logos,  
you can scan your receipt and earn cash for our school.**

**You can also still turn in box tops to the main office.**

**These funds will go to enhance the educational program for our  
scholars which include starting athletics, augmenting our  
new school library and field trips.**