

St. John's Messenger

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

January 2020



From the Pastor's Study

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:

1. 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.
2. 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. I am excited that we already have 18 members signed up for the group! Of course, there is plenty of space available.

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!

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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,

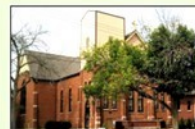
Pastor



Annual Voters' Meeting

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

**Copies of the St. John's Lutheran Church
Annual Report are available for your review prior
to the Congregation Voters' Meeting.
Please take one per family, and bring it with you to
the meeting on Sunday January 19, 2020.
Thank you.**



St. John's Lutheran Church
Iglesia Luterana San Juan
2019 Annual Report
We will be doing this report at the Annual Meeting
Voters' Meeting
December 22, 2019

The new year is 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.

*Mark your calendars! St. John's will be hosting two youth events:
Sunday, January 12th and Sunday, January 26th,
beginning at 12:30 pm. Be watching for details!*



*The Tuesday Women's Bible Study will begin again
January 21st at 9:30 a.m.*

January Birthdays

1 Marissa Vander Kooi
Ruth Kannengeiser

5 Bev Bingham
Jeff Vander Kooi
Linda Spychalski

10 Ed Spychalski

11 Kathy Gruber
Tyler Thompson

12 Aubriella Hyde
Peter Nattinger

14 Velma Nolte

15 Jerry Straw

19 Jeanine Thompson
Roseanne Hemerley

21 Kathy Carter

27 Andrew Culver



Wedding Anniversaries

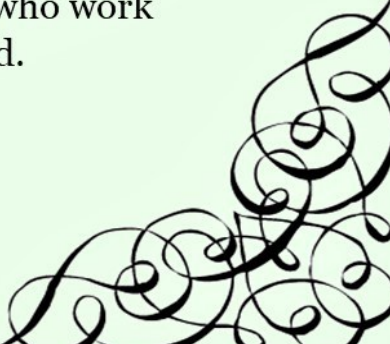

5 Roger and Joyce Nelson

11 Tom and Linda Gage



In our thoughts and prayers . . .

The family and friends of Ivan Drake, the family and friends of Jeremiah young, the family and friends of Rev. Roy Jacob, Brie Vinny, Marilyn Treder, Ruth Peterson, Karen Nohr, Roger Willing, Brad Carter, Beverly Bottoms, John Kannegeiser, Lester Nyborg, Paula Devlin, Keith Stowers, John Spencer, Ed Spychalski, Jon Turner, Bobbie Reynolds, Mike Papini, Tom Wulf, Doris Rindfleisch, Verna Purdom, Carl Colby, Joaquin, Sandy Smith, Marcie Moore, Laura Jo Pearson, Cayden Krueger, Janice Hemerley, and all of our members who are homebound, 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.

Dan Burrows, Alden Meadow Park , Clinton

Carol Gusk, Home

Donna Hall, Willowick, Clinton

Janice Hemerley, Autumn Lake, Beloit

John Kannengeiser, Home

John Marquardt, Home

Shirley Mathewson, Beloit Sr. Living

Vallie Nolta, Fair Oaks Rehab.& Health Care

Katherine Petitt, Green Knolls at Beloit

Ione Reetz, Home

Christine Ruckert, Autumn Lake, Beloit

Ed Spychalski, Home

Elinor Swain, Alden Meadow Park

Marilyn Treder, Suites at Beloit

Oscar & Mildred Wedel, Home

Roger Willing, Alden Meadow Park, Clinton

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

(James 5:15 ESV)

Women's Guild *News* Respectfully submitted by Betty Pearson



The Women's Guild Christmas Luncheon was held at the Road Dawg restaurant with thirteen members attending, plus six guests. We began with a prayer by Pastor Roser. After the luncheon we packed up the cookies we had baked to be delivered to shut-ins. There was

no business meeting. It was a time for fun, food and fellowship!

Our Sewing Guild received an unexpected gift of sewing items early in December. Jan Reseburg contacted Pastor Roser that her mother Barbara had died recently and she had some items to donate. She asked if someone could drop by her mother's apartment at Beloit Senior Living to see what we may like to have for our sewing room. She had a high-end sewing machine plus a cabinet, fabrics and many other items for sewing that would be available to our group. We were invited to take whatever items we could use. We are thankful for these gifts from Jan and also give thanks to those who picked up and delivered these items to St. John's sewing room. Among them were Judy Niedermeyer, Harold, Dan and Randy Bauling, Bill and Betty Pearson.

Designed as a Gift

In the Word

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and we are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ... (Romans 3: 23-24)

Of the Word

Walking with My Lord

No matter how well we know someone finding the perfect gift can be a real challenge. Will we give something needed or look for a one-of-kind gift guaranteed to bring delight? Sometimes the perfect gift is just too expensive. Make a gift card is the best choice.

Out of love, God sent Jesus, His one and only Son, to give us the gift of forgiveness. He is the perfect size. He easily fits into any heart and can be taken everywhere. He is the perfect gift for any age – from conception through the day we are called home. In fact, He is the only gift that comes with a heavenly guarantee. His lifetime guarantee promises a life with Him for all eternity, and it costs absolutely nothing. However, there was a price, and it was high. It was paid by Christ Himself when He died to take away all of our sins. Lovingly, He sends to us His Holy Spirit to provide the faith to believe in Him. Jesus!

Truly the Perfect Gift!

Gracious God, I thank You for the gift of salvation given to me through Your Son Jesus. What a comfort it is to know how much I am loved! In His perfect name. Amen

Mustard Seed: Everyday Celebrations. Authors: Elaine Bickel and Jan Struck www.lwml.org

Notice: The Sewing Guild is in need of used sheets of any size to use for quilt making. Please bring your donations to the sewing room in the church basement.