

St. John Lutheran  
Church

902 Montague  
Dunlap, IA 51529

# St. John News—

## December 2018

*Pastor: Carla J. Johnsen*  
*Church Phone: 712-643-5495*

*Secretary: Linda Hicks*  
*Parsonage Phone: 712-643-5575*  
*Worship Hour: 10:30 AM, Sundays*  
*Blast Hour: 6:00 PM, Wednesday*

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The season of Advent is a little hard to get a handle on. I don't think it's just me; I think it's a feeling pretty common among us who are used to operating with the liturgical seasons. The season suggests restraint, but it is not really a season of repentance, the way it was once thought of. It is a season of waiting. We are waiting for the celebration of the birth of the Savior, a birth which we realize took place a couple of millennia ago. We are reminded that we with all creation are waiting for the final consummation of God's rule. And while we work at understanding the reasons for practicing restraint, the culture around us revs up with festivities, busyness and over-the-top consumption. One way to gain a deeper understanding of Advent may be in recognizing how these somewhat ambiguous and conflicting themes connect to situations in our lives and in the world. What do we see that is incomplete? What do we see that is still broken, awaiting repair? What do we see that is awaiting redemption? Where are the rough places that need to be made smooth? In the middle of what seems to be a cultural expectation that people should be feeling excited and happy, we know that is often not the case. There are many for whom this time of year underscores feelings of loneliness, grieving for lost loved ones, dealing with illness or disability, dealing with stress, anguish or other voids in a person's life. In Advent we take notice of these complexities and difficulties. We recognize that faith must contend with doubt; fulfillment is accompanied by yearnings; joy is tempered with sadness. Despite this and in the midst of it, we turn to the gifts that God has given us as days are growing shorter and winter's cold sets in. They are named by our Advent candles: hope, love, joy and peace. We hold onto these as we await the breaking through of a greater joy. God be with all of you as we observe Advent and look forward to another Christmas.

Pastor Steve Pera

## Hanging of the Greens Service

Thank you to Becky Berens for agreeing to organize and lead our hanging of the greens service this year. Hanging of the Greens is the worship service where we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas while reading the Christmas Story, Singing our favorite Christmas Hymns and listening to meaning behind each of our Christmas Decorations. This service helps prepare our hearts for the entire Advent and Christmas Season

Everyone is encouraged to come at 6:00 PM for a meal of potluck finger foods, followed by the 7:00 PM worship service. Please bring friends to add to the joy of the evening! See you there!!!



## Thank You!

Thank you to the worship and music committee for the fall worship display that reminded us that each day God provides for our needs.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make soup for the Dunlap's thanksgiving service. Thank you to our Sunday School students and Confirmation students and to the community choir for the music and story they shared. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Dunlap Ministerial Emergency Fund and the Dunlap Food Pantry. The money and gifts will be put to good use serving the community!

Thank you...to the many volunteers who led Confirmation and All Saints Sunday, cared for grieving families through funeral lunches, operated the clothes closet, added special touches to weddings,, and made trivia night extra fun! Thank you church family for being you!!!

## BLAST and Confirmation Classes

Will enjoy their Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 19th. As always, it is never too late to begin coming to BLAST, if you know of students Preschool-6th grade who would enjoy coming to spend the night with friends growing in faith, please invite them to come. BLAST and Confirmation will be on Christmas vacation on Wednesday, Dec. 26th.

## Advent Devotions...

Have you ever wanted to make family devotions part of your families daily routine. Have you ever wanted quick and easy devotions that you could do with your child before bed and maybe use to help them talk about the day and learn how to pray??? Advent starts on Sunday, Dec. 2. Luther Seminary provides a wonderful free Advent devotional every year. It can be downloaded and printed off for free or you can sign up to have the daily advent devotion sent to your email box each day. To get this great devotion, go to the following web site:

<https://www.luthersem.edu/advent/>



## Christmas Worship Schedule

Please join us on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of our Savior, who was born in a manger and whose coming fills each day with the promise of new life! Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

### December 24th

**2 PM**—Care Center Christmas Eve Worship with Pastor Jim turner?

**5 PM**—Bethesda Lutheran Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**10 PM**—St. John Lutheran Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

## Lots of Fun at Trivia Night!

St. John members teamed up to support our Youth and enjoy a fun night out together at Trivia night. Thank you to youth group parents and friends for putting on this great event.

## Annual Reports Needed by January 6th

Can you believe that 2018 is already drawing to a close? As this year ends and a new one begins, it is time to reflect on the year of ministry that we've journeyed through together as a congregation and prepare and plan for the year to come. Our Congregation's Annual Meeting does just that. Each year we put together an annual report to help us with this process. Each committee/group within the congregation is asked to submit a summary of their activities and work for the annual report. It takes a while to compile all of this information, so it would be great if report information could be submitted to the church office by Sunday, January 6th. Reports could also be sent by e-mail to [stjohnlutherandunlap@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnlutherandunlap@yahoo.com). Thanks for all the ways you have contributed to the ministry of our congregation...it will be fun to reflect together on the work. The annual meeting is set for **January 27th. The meeting will follow worship and after we meet we will enjoy at Potluck Dinner On Jan. 27th we will worship at 10:30 AM and a potluck dinner.to follow.**

## Christmas Giving Tree Offering:

Check out the "giving tree" in fellowship hall. It will be filled with ornaments that are filled with gift ideas for families and community members in our area. Look through the ornaments, go shopping for a gift, wrap it and secure the "gift ornament" to the top of the box so we'll know which person the gift is for, then return it to church by Dec. 16th. We will deliver the gifts to the family before Christmas. Your gifts will make Christmas a bit brighter for kids and families who could really use a little extra support and love. If you have questions, please ask Kris Petersen about this project. Thank you Kris, for organizing our giving tree!



## Sign-Up for Camp!

It's time to make plans for Bible Camp! Confirmation students should plan to attend a Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Lakeside Camp, check out the Lutheran Lakeside Camp schedule at <https://www.lutheranlakeside.com> for other camp possibilities.

Grandparents did you know you can take your grandchildren to camp? Families did you know that you can go to camp together as one big family bonding experience? Check out the Lutheran Lakeside Camp website above for more information and to register for these special camps!

Carol Joy Holling Bible Camp also has a summer full of camp opportunities. For more information on this camp look at the camp website at: <http://caroljoyholling.org/>



St John Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting November 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

**ROLL CALL:** Morgan Wadsworth President, Karen Giovannetti Secretary, Jim De Lozier Treasurer, Ashley Schaben Education, Michelle Garside Stewardship, Tom Heistand Evangelism, Ron Holst Property, Pastor Steve Pera and absent Demi Berens Vice President.

**DEVOTIONS:** Ron Holst

**MINUTES:** A motion by Michelle to approve the minutes with corrections and second by Ashley.

**TREASURER REPORT:** A motion by Ashley to approve Treasurer's report and second by Pat.

**PASTOR REPORT:** Pastor Steve Pera

Looking ahead to Advent and Christmas. Confirmation classes doing great. Pastor did a visit to the Care Center and did one visit and communion. The Interim agreement still in the works. Pastor will be gone December 9<sup>th</sup>. Will ask Pastor Paul Fohs or Pastor Jim Berka to do the service. If not a lay minister will do service.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Staff Reviews---- Damon still needs one done.

The community Thanksgiving service held on November 14<sup>th</sup>, we had 104 in attendance. A report will be in the Annual meeting. We need 3 new council members elected in January at the annual meeting. There will be a memo in the upcoming newsletter and bulletin, if a member is interested please contact a council member.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Lay Ministry:** Pat, January schedule is posted.

**Property:** Ron

Education doors, a discussion to check the cost of doing windows in the walls verses windows in the old doors. Ron will report on this at the next meeting. We will go with Justin Kelly to repair roof leaks. Greg Brazel will continue to do snow removal this winter. Ron will winterize the Parsonage.

**Evangelism:** Tom --- no report

**Education:** Ashley, Blast will have a Christmas party December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Stewardship:** Michelle, Trivia night went well.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Kris Petersen will again be in charge of the Christmas Giving Tree.

Pat is going to contact the Methodist Minister to see if he will do the Care Center Christmas Eve Service this year. No joint council meeting this year. The Annual meeting will be January 27<sup>th</sup>, with a pot luck to follow.

Pastor Steve is going to purchase a floor microphone stand. Michelle is going to purchase a rechargeable battery package for the Pastors microphone. Demi will follow up to make sure all third-grade children got their bibles. Karen and Pat will continue to attend the monthly Ministerial meeting December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Next meeting moved to Monday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.

Motion to adjourn by Karen second by Michelle, Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.  
Secretary Karen Giovannetti



Church Council will be in need of three new members for the next two years. Please consider and pray about this opportunity. It might be right for you.

If interested please contact a current council member

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 January through October 2017

	Jan - Mar 17	Apr - Jun 17	Jul - Sep 17	Oct 17	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Church - Envelopes	16,888.00	17,671.00	13,829.51	4,461.00	52,849.51
Church - Loose Offering	1,190.67	928.64	515.00	344.36	2,978.67
Church - Noisy Offering	409.97	325.84	290.10	135.18	1,161.09
Memorial Deposit	265.00	0.00	670.00	550.00	1,485.00
Pledges	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>19,153.64</b>	<b>18,925.48</b>	<b>15,304.61</b>	<b>5,490.54</b>	<b>58,874.27</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
Advertising and Promotion	51.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.75
Benevolence - Synod	0.00	2,669.80	2,273.51	0.00	4,943.31
Bulletins	182.68	67.28	67.27	0.00	317.23
Church - Insurance Expense	1,505.79	300.34	1,337.34	517.75	3,661.22
Church - Repairs & Maintenance	570.60	414.90	226.92	55.64	1,268.06
Church - Telephone	352.64	488.07	121.76	119.86	1,082.33
Church - Utilities	1,199.69	1,184.02	1,183.38	394.70	3,961.79
Conferences and Meetings	0.00	127.50	0.00	170.50	298.00
Continuing Education	266.12	547.50	0.00	0.00	813.62
Disability, Life & Retiree Supp	304.26	295.80	295.81	103.04	998.91
Employer & Housing Equity	1,338.92	1,364.48	1,364.48	453.34	4,521.22
Fundraisers	494.97	231.50	614.43	200.00	1,540.90
Materials & Supplies	0.00	57.32	1,130.49	162.45	1,350.26
Mileage Reimbursement	931.47	1,514.05	968.91	273.92	3,688.35
Music & Copyrights	528.51	43.07	0.00	0.00	571.58
Office - Envelopes	235.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	235.24
Office - Supplies & Postage	872.39	602.32	340.01	637.54	2,452.26
Parsonage - Repairs & Maintenance	85.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	85.55
Parsonage - Telephone	183.80	292.93	193.81	82.92	753.46
Parsonage - Utilities	945.78	763.25	979.32	201.98	2,890.33
Payroll - Custodian	922.63	1,146.52	1,215.78	428.35	3,713.28
Payroll - Organist	538.80	831.15	507.92	184.70	2,062.57
Payroll - Pastor	6,297.21	6,331.47	6,331.47	2,110.49	21,070.64
Payroll - Secretary	571.77	1,263.71	0.00	82.11	1,917.59
Payroll - Treasurer	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.00
Payroll Tax Expense	442.45	211.92	432.68	370.24	1,457.29
Professional Fees	175.00	2,175.00	0.00	0.00	2,350.00
Substitute Organist	50.00	100.00	50.00	0.00	200.00
Youth Activities	0.00	260.56	205.26	0.00	465.82
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>19,173.02</b>	<b>23,284.46</b>	<b>19,840.55</b>	<b>6,549.53</b>	<b>68,847.56</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-19.38</b>	<b>-4,358.98</b>	<b>-4,535.94</b>	<b>-1,058.99</b>	<b>-9,973.29</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Other Income</b>					
Bethesda's Contribution	986.37	1,042.93	854.42	0.00	2,883.72
Fundraising Income	1,775.00	230.00	5,837.00	4,370.30	12,212.30
Interest Income	367.59	751.34	143.86	1.55	1,264.34
Reimbursements Received	183.89	215.00	0.00	0.00	398.89
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>3,312.85</b>	<b>2,239.27</b>	<b>6,835.28</b>	<b>4,371.85</b>	<b>16,759.25</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>					
Kitchen Remodel Expense	5,070.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,070.83
Misc Expense - To Be Reimbursed	301.74	214.00	0.00	0.00	515.74
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>5,372.57</b>	<b>214.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,586.57</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-2,059.72</b>	<b>2,025.27</b>	<b>6,835.28</b>	<b>4,371.85</b>	<b>11,172.68</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-2,079.10</b>	<b>-2,333.71</b>	<b>2,299.34</b>	<b>3,312.86</b>	<b>1,199.39</b>

## Service Schedule for December 2017

### December 2nd Communion Service

**Greeter:** Karen Giovannetti and Joyce Klein

**Ushers:** Tom Heistand and Russ Klein

**Lay Assistant:** Karen Giovannetti

**Acolyte:** Jacob Berens and Evan TenEyck

### December 9th Worship Service

**Greeter:** Morgan Wadsworth and Pat Hein

**Ushers:** Kyle Wadsworth and John Hein

**Reader:** Morgan Wadsworth

**Acolyte:** Ava TenEyck and Talia Burkhart

### December 16th Communion Service

**Greeter:** Marilyn Berens and Kris Petersen

**Ushers:** Jake Schaben and Jay Petersen

**Lay Assistant:** Kris Petersen

**Acolyte:** Zayden Reffitt and Landon Bendgen

### December 23rd Worship Service

**Greeter:** Maci Miller and Helen Miller

**Ushers:** Leonard Miller and Ron Holst

**Reader:** Helen Miller

**Acolyte:** Reese Miller and Kirstin Pafford

### December 24th 10pm Christmas Eve

**Greeter:** Michelle Garside and Michelle Miller

**Ushers:** Scott Garside and Eli Garside

**Lay Assistant:** Michelle Miller

**Scripture Readers:**

**Acolyte:** Ian Garside and Owen Garside

### December 30th Worship Service

**Greeter:** Helen Miller and Kris Petersen

**Ushers:** Leonard Miller and Jay Peterson

**Reader:** Helen Miller

**Acolyte:** Reagan Berens and Grace harris

## December Birthdays

Ian Garside	Dec. 03
Nick Gambs	Dec. 05
Justin Heiman	Dec. 07
Gordon Foss	Dec. 08
Mick Olmstead	Dec. 09
Barb Foss	Dec. 13
Diane Jacobs	Dec. 16
Hagen Heistand	Dec. 17
Mason Boysen	Dec. 18
Helen Miller	Dec. 18
Greg Schultz	Dec. 18
John Hein	Dec. 24
Jeanyce Hansen	Dec. 26
Ken Hicks	Dec. 28



## Church Council Monthly Jobs...

**Thank you to everyone for serving on church council. Council members have signed up to serve in the following ways. Thanks for completing these important tasks.**

December Service Schedule:

Snacks and Devotions: Pat Hein

Offering Counters: Ashely Schaben and Tom Heistand

January Service Schedule:

Snacks and Devotions: Tom Heistand

Offering Counters: Michelle Garside and Tom Heistand

### Altar Care Committee:

**Chairmen:** Jayna Malone & Carol Holst

### **Altar Colors:**

Dec. 2, 9 & 23—Blue

Dec. 24 & 30 —White

**Communion Dates:** Dec. 2, 16 & 24

**Responsibilities:** changing the paraments, making communion bread, setting up communion, and arranging for fellowship hour.

The Lay Ministry Coordinator arranges the schedule a month in advance. Scripture readers will be receiving a copy of the readings in the mail soon. Please mark your calendars and plan to serve. If you are unable to serve that day, please consider finding a replacement and letting the church office know who will be taking your place by the Monday before (712)-643-5495. Thank you for your leadership, it is greatly appreciated!!!

Sincerely, Pat Hein, Lay Ministry Coordinator

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world,  
we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

- ✝ You reveal your goodness through the majesty of what you have created. Bring favorable weather to places affected by storms, protect plants and animals from devastation, and guide us in our use of all natural resources.
- ✝ You desire justice in the world. Grant to courts wise and discerning judges, attorneys, and public defenders, and guide the rulers of nations to bring about peace. Watch over Joe KohneKamp (Becky Berens' nephew) as he serves our country far away from home.
- ✝ You are our beginning and end. Soothe the afflicted, comfort the distressed, console the bereaved, and heal the sick especially Jane (Susie Schultz's sister), Joyce De Lozier, Brian Vilsinskas (Vic and Jayna Malone's friends), Amanda McMartin (Kevin and Tammie Vander Kolk's niece), Joel Berka, Jeff Bolton, Rachel Cook (Jake Schaben's Cousin), Audrey Gorham, and Tate Manahl (Morgan and Kyles nephew). Give all who provide care a measure of your compassion and peace.
- ✝ We give thanks for the saints of this congregation—past, present, and yet to come. Enlighten our hearts, so that we may minister in and beyond this place to the praise of your glory.
- ✝ You call us to serve our neighbors. Nourish us with word and sacrament so that we serve as your hands and feet in the world. Protect those who are traveling, and bless those who are unable to attend worship today.

### In Our Long-Term Prayers:

Each week we lift up each other in prayer. Sometimes the need for prayer continues for extended periods of time. As a church family, we care about those long-term needs. Please continue to keep these individuals and families in your prayers as they deal with long term illnesses and life changes. Also, please keep Linda updated so she can let the congregation know when extra prayers are needed.

- ✝ Clark Melby
- ✝ Davie Vander Kolk
- ✝ Grant Gorham
- ✝ Mike Bissen
- ✝ Lana Hoffschneider (Morgan Wadsworth's friend)
- ✝ Stacy Foust and Pat DeLong (Morgan Wadsworth's friends)
- ✝ David Glenn
- ✝ Roy Tairks (Michelle Garside's Uncle)
- ✝ Arlene Eisermann (Ron Holst's Sister)
- ✝ Cheryl Rath (Tom Heistand's sister)
- ✝ Kim Kirk (Leonard Bolton's niece)



# St. John Happenings

# December 2018

St. John Phone # - 712-643-5495

Bethesda Phone # - 712-886-5241

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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<b>2</b> 9:30AM Care Center Worship 10:30 AM Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Blast	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM Ministerial meeting at St. John	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:30AM Care Center Worship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 Fellowship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Blast	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10:00 AM Pass It On Clothes Closet
<b>16</b> 10:30 AM Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship	<b>17</b> 6:00 PM Church council Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Blast Christmas party	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 Fellowship	<b>24</b> 5:00 PM Bethesda Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship  10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 Fellowship	<b>31</b>					