



ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

December 2018/January 2019

Volume 23 *To sing the Praises of God, to Live the Grace of Jesus, to Share the Gift of the Spirit.* Issue 8

December & January At-A-Glance

Sunshine Circle & Adult Bible Class

Christmas Party
Wednesday, 12/5
at 6:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

Sunday 12/16 - Last day for ordering Poinsettias and Animal Shares!
(see pages 13-14)

Christian Singles

Christmas Celebration
Friday 12/21
at 6:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

Christmas Sunday School Program

Sunday, 12/23
One Service at 10:30am

Christmas Eve Services at 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, and 10:30 pm

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday, 12/30
8:00 am & 10:30 am
Worship Service
(no Sunday School)

A Message from Pastor Kristin

We are now in the season of Advent. A season of hope, waiting, and expectation. It is one of my favorite seasons in the church year. I love the hymns and that each week we add a little something as we get closer to Christmas.

Join us on Sundays to prepare for Christmas. Pick up an advent devotional and take time each day to prepare for the gift of God's love made known to us and to the world in a baby named Jesus.

Invite your family and friends and neighbors to join us as part of their Christmas Celebration.

On Sunday, December 23 we will have one service at 10:30am that will include our Sunday School Christmas Program.

Join us on Christmas Eve at 3,5,7 or 10:30pm to celebrate the gift of love that came down to us and to the whole world at Christmas.

Christmas Lessons and Carols at 8am and 10:30am on Sunday, December 30.

May the love of God be made known in your life and in the life of the world this Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Kristin Dubsky

Sunday, December 23

One Service at 10:30am
Our Christmas Program

Monday, December 24

All services below are with

Candlelight and Holy

Communion

3:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

10:30 p.m.

Festive Service with the Adult Choir and Handbell Choir

Pre-service music will begin 15 minutes before.



Content ...

Birthdays	21
Calendars.....	18-19
Council Member List.....	9
Finance	23
Prayer List.....	22
Thank You	16-17
Worship Leaders...	21

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S!

Celebrate!

Invite your family, your friends, your neighbors,
and everyone you meet to join us for Christmas Eve!

All services are with Candlelight and Holy Communion.

Christmas Eve

3:00 pm

Carols, Christmas Story,
Sermon & Communion

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm

Festive Service
with Children's
Message and Special Music

Christmas Eve

7:00 pm

Festive Family Service
with Children's Message and
Special Music



Christmas Eve

10:30 p.m.

Festive Service with
the Adult Choir and
Handbell Choir
Pre-service music
will begin at 10:15



THE
12 SYMBOLS
OF CHRISTMAS



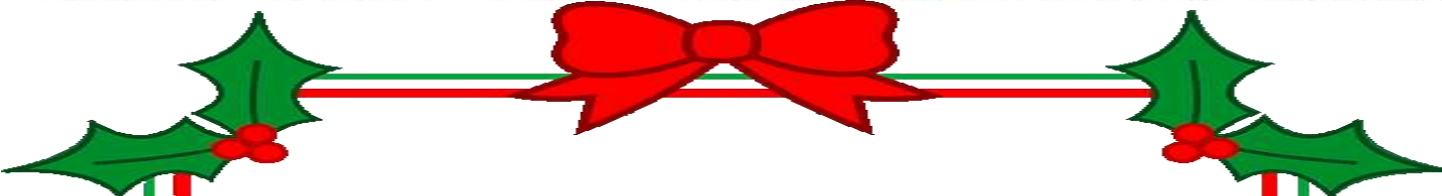
Sunday, December 23 - One Worship Service
at 10:30 am (No 8 am worship) - Our young
people and adults work hard to prepare our
Sunday School Christmas Program each
year. This year join us at 10:30 am on
Sunday, December 23 to enjoy "The 12
Symbols of Christmas" Program which will
be part of our worship service that day.
Rehearsals for the program will take place
on Sundays, December 9 and 16 at 9:15 am.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHURCH



A Christmas celebration for the Christian Singles Group will be held on Friday, December 21, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall beginning with a covered dish dinner. Each person is asked to bring a covered dish, a wrapped gift (\$10) and a friend. All adult Singles are invited to attend for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Members of the Christian Singles Group are invited to Nancy Dean's house to celebrate the beginning of a "New Year" on Friday, January 18, at 6:30 pm.



The Sunshine Circle and Adult Bible Class will have their combined Christmas Party on Wednesday December 5 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. It will be a covered dish dinner with drinks, rolls and dessert provided. The Adult Bible Class will do devotions and program. Sunshine Circle is the hostess. This is open to friends and spouses. Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. For questions call Audrey Byrd at 410-848-1995.



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHURCH

ROLL, TIE & KNOT GROUP

80 PEOPLE ARE WARMER BECAUSE...

We were able to make 80 blankets this year for Lutheran World Relief. We met six times throughout the year and put together 48 Mission Quilts, 32 Fleece Quilts and 1,515 bandages. THANK YOU to everyone who helped on the sew, knot and roll days and to everyone who donated material, thread, batting, mattress covers, and money to help our cause.

Please come and join us anytime this year that you are available. The more hands we have the more quilts we can make. Weather permitting - the next sew day will be Monday, February 11th at 9:00 am till noon. Have a question? Call Gloria Kniss at 717-359-7681.



LOOKING AHEAD

Please pick up your 2019 Giving Envelopes in the Narthex.

Come and join our Christmas bulletin folding party Friday December 21 at 10:00 am.

Remember our Committee Day on Saturday January 5 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

The Soup Kitchen Committee - Our next Soup Kitchen will be on December 14 at 10:30 am. Please remember that the committee serves at The Shepherd's Table which is held at Westminster United Methodist Church. The Shepherd's Table is a cooperative of six churches that serve a free meal every Friday.

If you would help us that morning or would like to make or donate a dessert for this please contact Lisa Gavin 410-857-1499 or Jackie Leister 410-259-5535. Your support is much appreciated as we serve our community.

Make A Difference



Our next service date is January 25.



SPOTLIGHT ON ROLL, TIE & KNOT DAY



THANK YOU to everyone who helped on the sew, knot and roll days and to everyone who donated material, thread, batting, mattress covers, and money to help our cause.



OTHER TIDBITS...

BE A SANTA'S HELPER

For the last 18 years my husband and I have collected money to purchase stuffed animals and donate them to the children at Sinai and Johns Hopkins Pediatric Oncology wards, in hopes of making Christmas brighter for over 500 children.

These adorable stuffed animals will be ready to go to the hospitals this year only with your help. Johns Hopkins expects over 100 children to be in their Pediatric Oncology Unit through Christmas morning. Our goal is to make sure that each and every one of those children receives a stuffed animal on Christmas morning. Sinai does their best to not have children on their ward for Christmas, but instead they put the stuffed animals in **A "HOPE CHEST" TO GIVE TO CHILDREN WHO COME IN FOR PROCEDURES** thru-out the year.

Your generous donation will last a life time. I have had the opportunity to meet some of these children and it makes such an impression on not only the child receiving the gift but on the family whose lives are completely turned upside down by having a sick child.

PLEASE BE A SANTA'S HELPER THIS YEAR. YOUR MONETARY DONATION will allow us to send enough stuffed animals to these hospitals so every child will have a brighter Christmas. Call or e-mail us today with your donation.

Sandi & Matthew West
Camelot West Family Services
410-848-4414/ 443-929-2105
camelotwest@comcast.net



2018 Giving Tree - Bare Necessities

Again this year, The Christian Outreach Committee is collecting new underwear, socks, bras and long underwear for ADULTS. "Bare Necessities" are often the least donated and most needed items for men and women going through difficult times. Please be generous as you are out shopping for Christmas and pick up something for our neighbors in need. All of the items will be give to The Shepherd's Staff for distribution. You can take an ornament off the "Giving Tree" located in the back of the Sanctuary or simply bring your donations and place them in the basket in the Narthex or bins in the "Caring Corner" in the Fellowship Hall. We will collect items through Sunday December 18. Any questions? Talk to Roxanne Malbrough, Linda Sterner, Pam Goodson, Audrey Byrd or Pastor Kristin.



FROM THE SYNOD



Bishop Gohl's Christmas Message 2018

...To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. – John 1:12-14

Christmas is my mother's holiday. Everything about Christmas – the decorating, the baking, the shopping and wrapping, the music and the movies – it feeds my mom's spirit and it give her joy to make Christmas joy for others. Her example and experience have always inspired me to "keep Christmas" in my heart – and not just in December, but throughout my days and life of faith.

As I look back over these last years, I realize that I don't remember too many of the Christmas presents I received; but I always reminded of the presence of God that I have experienced during the Christmas season. Whether it was the joy of preparing and serving a community Christmas brunch each year with my children, or the bitter tears of celebrating "last" Christmases with the people of Our Saviour (Lansdowne) or Emmanuel English (East Baltimore) last year, or feeling the charged excitement of our mission congregations who are celebrating Christmas together for the first time as a community of faith, the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us.

That's the gift of Christmas – God's gift of Godself, in the birth of Jesus; God humbled in our humanity that we might experience God's divinity. We receive power to become children of God, the gift of Christ living in us and through us, for the sake of our neighbor.

At Christmas then, fellow Children of God, we love as God first loves us. We love with our whole selves, and not just those easiest or convenient to love. Like Jesus, may our hearts bear the glad news of Christmas for the poor and the prisoner, the immigrant and the refugee, the sick and the sorrowing. In **prayer and in thoughtfully sharing of ourselves, let us reflect the light of God's love born in us for the sake of this world God so loves.** May our weariness be transformed into advocacy, may our seasonal generosity be sustained throughout the year, may the brittle places in our hearts be broken open by the healing love of Christ.

This Christmas, may it give you joy to "make Christmas" for others, and through the grace and truth of Christ, may you know a bit of Christmas in your heart throughout the year ahead.

With my love and prayers for you and yours,

The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl Jr., Bishop
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

COUNCIL NOTES

2019 Committee Chairs

2019 Council Members

Cemetery	Ken Seitz	Dennis Kniss 717-359-7681 dennisrkniss@gmail.com	Sharon Minor 443-789-3019 ssisminor@hotmail.com
Christian Education & Youth.....	Genny Resch	Steve Findeisen 410-848-6069 stevefindeisen@verizon.net	Carol Nevin 410-804-8828 ctnevin@outlook.com
Evangelism	Audrey Byrd	Carl Rebert 443-253-1573 cjrebert@comcast.net	Matthew West 410-848-4414 camelotwest@comcast.net
Fellowship.....	Karen Siegman	Lori Bucacink 410-857-5339 lisj@comcast.net	Mick Zechman 443-398-4299 mzechman@westgov.com
Stewardship.....	Carl Rebert	Melanie Martindale 443-789-4593 mmartindale23@gmail.com	Pastor Kristin Dubsy 410-299-4853 pastor@stjohnswestminster.org
Property.....	Open		
Worship & Music.....	Dennis Kniss		
Christian Outreach.....	Roxanne Malbrough		
Finance.....	Janet Gross John Bucacink		

Notes from the Council

The Agenda for the special November Congregational meeting was reviewed.

It was agreed that we will be doing flower Poinsettias and Animal Shares for ELCA World Hunger for Christmas.

Pastoral Acts:

Funeral – David Eugene Frebertshauser
October 18

Lorraine “Nain” M. Kopp
November 27

Baptisms - Kinsley Raelynn Franck
November 4
Gabriella Adelle Miller
November 4
Rylee Debra Peregoy
November 25

CONGRATULATIONS



Audrey Byrd: Carroll Hospice Volunteer of the Year

Audrey Byrd was named Carroll Hospice's Volunteer of the Year at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in June. She has been volunteering with the organization since fall 2009 and has logged more than 2,000 volunteer hours.

"Audrey is a true advocate for our hospice patients," says volunteer coordinator Kim Benson. "She visits patients who have very limited, if any, visitors, and she is a caring, comforting presence for those near the end of their journey. Her warm hugs and supportive voice help many who are trying to wrap their mind around navigating this critical time. Audrey is a priceless asset to our team."

Byrd shared her thoughts on her volunteer work:

Why did you decide to volunteer at Carroll Hospice?

As a nurse, I loved being with patients and, working in a nursing home, many passed away there. I feel if I can make someone's last days a little more comfortable in any way that is what God wants me to do and that is the goal of hospice.

Pictured above: Carroll Hospice Volunteer of the Year Audrey Byrd (center) with Regina Bodnar, executive director (left), and Kim Benson, volunteer coordinator (right)

What are your volunteering duties at hospice?

I volunteer a lot at the Dove House and do various duties, but the patient is always the priority. I also see patients in a few facilities [and] make bereavement phone calls each week to families whose loved ones have passed on.

What do you enjoy the most about volunteering?

Definitely the patient contact. It is an honor to be with someone as they go through this time.

What would you tell someone who is considering becoming a volunteer at Carroll Hospice?

Carroll Hospice is a great place to volunteer. The staff is so kind and caring, and you get much more out of it than you give. There are various ways volunteers are needed, so if a person feels they cannot do patient contact, there are many other ways to serve.

Learn more about volunteering with Carroll Hospice at CarrollHospice.org/volunteer-opportunities

INTRODUCING... SARON!



SARON

Thank you to all members of St. John's who have supported the Sunshine Circle Adopt-A-Child Bikiltu over approximately the last 6 years. Through your monetary donations and prayers she has turned 16 and has graduated from high school and will be attending college. We have adopted a new girl also from Ethiopia. She is 7 years old and this is what we know about our new girl. She is in first grade, her school progress is good, she enjoys studying science, her main chore is carrying water and she enjoys playing volleyball. Her mother and father are farmers and she is an only child. We ask for your continue support and prayers as we help this young girl on her life's journey. We do make a difference. God Bless members of the Sunshine Circle!

MEN OF THE CONGREGATION

All men of the church are cordially invited to attend and participate in all of the activities of the Men of the Congregation.

News from the Men of the Congregation

December 8: The regularly scheduled breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday, December 8, 8:00 am, at the Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren.

The Men of the Congregation generally meet on the second Saturday of each month unless otherwise announced. Further information about the group can be obtained by contacting Dennis Kniss or John Bucacink.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Church & Village:
Partners in Ministry

Advent Family Gathering

Sunday, December 2 1- 4 pm

Bring your family and friends and start a new tradition!

Enjoy the warmth of our woodstoves and campfires, create some holiday crafts for your home, make a beautiful wreath with greens from the property, and fellowship over a delicious meal in Agape Hall.

Sunday, December 2, 1-4 p.m.

\$7/adult – \$3/youth ages 3-11 – children under 3 are free

Please RSVP by November 30:

mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org 800.238.9974

Note: Please bring your own wire and wire wreath frames.

Register Now for Winter Lifelong Learning Opportunities!

Register now for the following Lifelong Learning opportunities. Courses are open to all older adults in the community. Come join us!

Chair Yoga – Fridays, January 4 to March 1 – 1pm-2pm or 2pm-3pm or Tuesdays, January 8 to February 26 – 2pm-3pm. Cost is \$45 per adult.

Drawing and Painting Studio Class – Peter Edie from Carroll Community College instructs. Tuesdays, January 15 to March 5 from 1pm-3:30pm. Cost is \$57 per adult.

Bone Builders Club: Are You Feeding Your Bones? – Barb Walsh from Carroll Hospital leads this osteoporosis/bone health presentation on Tuesday, January 29 at 1:30pm. No cost.

Please register for all courses in advance at registration@clvillage.org or 443-605-1070. Early registration is recommended.

“God’s Global Barnyard”



Matthew 25:35

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”



This Christmas Season, you can choose to purchase poinsettias to help adorn the church and/or you can purchase animal shares that will help purchase animals from “God’s Global Barnyard” a “good gift” program of the ELCA World Hunger program for families around the world (check out elca.org/goodgifts for more information).

Due: Sunday, December 16, 2018

Cost per share: \$11.00

Make check payable to: St. John’s Lutheran Church (please write “Animal Shares” in the memo portion of the check)



Envelopes and pens will be available on the table in the Narthex.

Place orders, along with your payment (cash or check) in an envelope marked “Animals” and put in the offering plate or in the Office Manager’s mailbox.

Total animal shares: _____ x \$11.00 = _____

Your name: _____

Phone number: _____

(you will be contacted if there are questions about the information listed below)

IMPORTANT: The information you fill in **below** is what will appear in the special *Animal Shares Bulletin* on Christmas Eve. **Please PRINT clearly.** “Sections” 1 and 2 *must* be filled out!

1) My animal share(s) is(are) given:

_____ in memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

_____ to the glory of God.

2) By: _____



We are continuing the tradition of decorating the sanctuary with beautiful red poinsettias for Christmas Eve. We invite you to remember or honor a loved one by ordering a poinsettia!



Deadline for ordering: Sunday, December 16, 2018
Cost per plant: \$11.00
Make check payable to: St. John's Lutheran Church (please write "Poinsettias" in memo portion of check)

Envelopes and pens will be available on the table in the Narthex.
Place orders, along with your payment (cash or check) in an envelope marked "Poinsettias" and put in the offering plate or the Office Manager's mailbox.

Total poinsettias plants: _____ x \$11.00 = _____

Your name: _____

Phone number: _____

(you will be contacted if there are questions about the information listed below)

IMPORTANT: The information you fill in **below** is what will appear in the special *Poinsettia Bulletin* on Christmas Eve. **Please PRINT clearly.** "Sections" 1 and 2 *must* be filled out!

1) My poinsettia(s) is(are) are given:

_____ in memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

_____ to the glory of God.

2) By: _____

Feel free to retrieve your purchased poinsettia(s) after Christmas Eve service. All poinsettias left may be given to a shut-in. Call the office at 410-848-6402 with questions.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Evangelism Committee Update

The Evangelism Committee met in August to redefine and reorganize our committee. Since we have met we prepared and delivered goody bags to our shut-ins. We are now sending cards to our shut-ins monthly thanks to committee volunteers. This is to let them know that they are in our thoughts and prayers and that we miss them.

We continue to send visitor cards to those who sign the Visitor's **Book**. **We are also in the process of making a Visitor's Center** in the church Narthex where people can go to get up-to-date information on church activities and sign the book.

We continue to collect used eye glasses. Please put them in the labeled bin in the Caring Center in Fellowship Hall.

We will try to continue our senior profiles. If you are 75 or older or know a member that is please contact Audrey Byrd.

Our next project will be the Super Bowl Sub Sale on February 2nd. Expect a call in January. The directory is in the process of being updated to make calls more accurate. If we miss calling someone please call Audrey Byrd to order. Half of the proceeds go to the Jacob Armacost Fund and half to support our Youth group on their work projects. As you can see our Evangelism Committee is going strong. If you would be willing to serve on our committee, please contact Audrey Byrd at 410-8481995.

The Evangelism Committee continues to collect used eyeglasses. Please put them in the bin in the Caring Corner.



NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church, It is wonderful to have you join over 1100 other congregations in supporting our synod's ministry needs. We received your gift of \$825.80 for the Local FIF in September along with the \$2,000 for Puerto Rico. With these gifts and the gifts of others and by God's grace it will be multiplied and increased to do great things for God and neighbor. Your bishop and church are blessed.

Because of your generosity
The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA



Thanks to everyone who helped to make the **blood drive** a success. 22 units were obtained which can help 66 people. Audrey Byrd will no longer be heading up this event. Anyone who would like to supervise, please contact her. Thanks for your support over the many years and please support blood drives in the area. **HELP GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE.**

Dear St. John's, The Board of Education of Carroll County acknowledges that on October 22, 2018, it received a donation from St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the below described property, \$1000.00 to benefit students of need (Maverick Charity Fund). On behalf of the Board of Education of Carroll County, I want to thank you for your generous contribution to Carroll County Public Schools.

Sincerely,
Steven A. Lockard, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Pastor Dubsy, Thank you so much to you and your congregation for your generous \$2,000.00 contribution to Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County. With your support we were able to dedicate our most recent home on October 19th. We welcomed a single mother and her 6 year old son to their new home where they can continue to build strength, stability and self-reliance. In the coming months, we will be starting our next build and look forward to working with you to build-up Carroll County and empower another family. Thank you for your support and for all you do in the community!

Sincerely,
Bryan Lyburn
Executive Director



Dear St. John's, I would like to personally thank you for your donation to Bishop's appeal on behalf of Puerto Rico. Together we will be able to make a difference in our neighbor's lives. They have begun rebuilding the infrastructure so now we can begin helping them rebuild their homes, schools and communities so they can get on with living their lives.

Gracias

Muchas Gracias,
Sande Koons

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Dear Friends, Human Services Programs of Carroll County (HSP) would like to thank you for your gift of \$940.00 on October 7, 2018. For 30 years, HSP has given HOPE, inspired CHANGE and provided OPPORTUNITY to those we serve here in Carroll County. Donations from supporters like you will make an impact on the lives of the clients we serve each year through our 18 different programs. Your generosity and commitment involvement to the **advancement of HSP's mission is sincerely appreciated.** Thank you again for your financial support of our organization. We take great pride in our mission and with your help we will continue to mobilize the community in the fight against poverty to make a difference in the **lives of Carroll County's at-risk and low income families and individuals.**

Sincerely,
Scott Yard
Interim Executive Director



Dear Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for the incredible donations totaling \$2,500.00. to The Shepherd's Staff. We greatly appreciate your generosity, thoughtfulness and continued support! With more and more individuals and families seeking financial assistance for everyday essentials, contributions such as yours are greatly appreciated. As you can imagine, with the current economic situation, our programs are being challenged with an increasing number of daily requests. We very much appreciate your generosity, thoughtfulness and support of our efforts to help Carroll County families in need. Now that fall is here and the weather is changing The Shepherd Staff will be serving many individuals and families. We have many different projects and services available including our Blessings Closet and Call for Coats.

Blessings,
Brenda Meadows
Executive Director

Dear St. John's, The Board of Education of Carroll County acknowledges that on October 31, 2018, it received a donation from St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the below described property, \$1000.00 to Westminster High School students in need. On behalf of the Board of Education of Carroll County, I want to thank you for your generous contribution to Carroll County Public Schools.



Sincerely,
Steven A. Lockard, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
						1 All Day Scrapbooking				
2 Advent 1 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship Altar Flowers: Joan Phillips & Jean Seitz	3 6:30 pm 4-H	4 6:15 pm Handbell rehearsal	5 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Christmas Party	6 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	7	8 8:00 am Men's Breakfast & Meeting at Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren				
9 Advent 2 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship Altar Flowers: Audrey Byrd	10	11 6:15 pm Handbell rehearsal	12 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	13	14 10:30 am Soup Kitchen	15				
16 Advent 3 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship Poinsettia & Animal Orders Due Altar Flowers: Stanley Parks	17 7:00 pm Coin Club	18 6:15 pm Handbell rehearsal	19 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	20	21 10:00 am Christmas bulletin folding party 6:30 pm Christmas Singles Christmas Celebration	22				
23 Advent 4 10:30 am One Service Christmas Program 2:00 - 7:00 pm Moklak Family Dinner-Fellowship Hall Altar Flowers: Roxanne Malbrough	24 Christmas Eve Services 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 10:30 pm 	25 Christmas Let Us Rejoice! 	OFFICE CLOSED FROM DEC 25 - UNTIL JAN 2				26	27	28	29
30 Christmas Lessons & Carols 8:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship Altar Flowers: Joan Phillips	31									

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year!!	2 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	3	4	5 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Committee Day
		6 Epiphany 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship Altar Flowers:	7 6:30 pm 4-H	8 6:15 pm Handbell rehearsal 7:30 pm Church Council Mtg	9 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Sunshine Circle 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	10
13 Baptism of Our Lord 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship Altar Flowers:	14	15 6:15 pm Handbell rehearsal	16 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	17	18 6:30 pm Christian Singles at Nancy Dean's	19 All Day Scrapbooking
20 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship Altar Flowers:	21	22 6:15 pm Handbell rehearsal	23 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	24	25	26
27 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship Altar Flowers:	28 7:00 pm Coin Club	29 6:15 pm Handbell rehearsal	30 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	31		

DECEMBER 2018 WORSHIP LEADERS CALENDAR

DATE	SERVICE	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	USHERS/OFFERING	COUNTING TEAM
12/02	8:00am	Paul LeDuc	Paul LeDuc		Bonnie Wilson	****	Sarah LeDuc Paul LeDuc Dave Bollinger
	10:30am	John Bucacink	Spencer Goodson	Olivia Leister	Pam Goodson Spencer Goodson	The Findeisen Family Gloria Kniss	
12/09	8:00am	Carl Rebert	Carl Rebert		Della Dell	****	Jean Seitz Ken Seitz Joan Phillips
	10:30am	Andy Kleinschmidt	Nancy Dean	Grace Kleinschmidt	Joan Phillips Ken & Jean Seitz	David Ogg	
12/16	8:00am	Tracey Sanford	Tracey Sanford		Nancy & Tom Tracey	****	Genny Resch Tracey Sanford Carl Rebert
	10:30am	Doris Zepp	Mia Hoyer	Mary West	Phil & Lois Short	Barbara & Richard Smith	
12/23	8:00am No service	****	****	****	****	****	Donna Yeager Bryan Yeager Teresa McCulloh
	10:30am	Donna Yeager	Teresa McCulloh	Lara Findeisen	Nancy & Bill Squires	The Brian Leister Family	
12/30	8:00am	Tracey Sanford	Tracey Sanford		Pat & Christine Brehm	****	Gloria Kniss Dennis Kniss Darry Gross
	10:30am	Roseann Kleinschmidt	TBD	Spencer Goodson	Gloria & Dennis Kniss	Gary Leister	

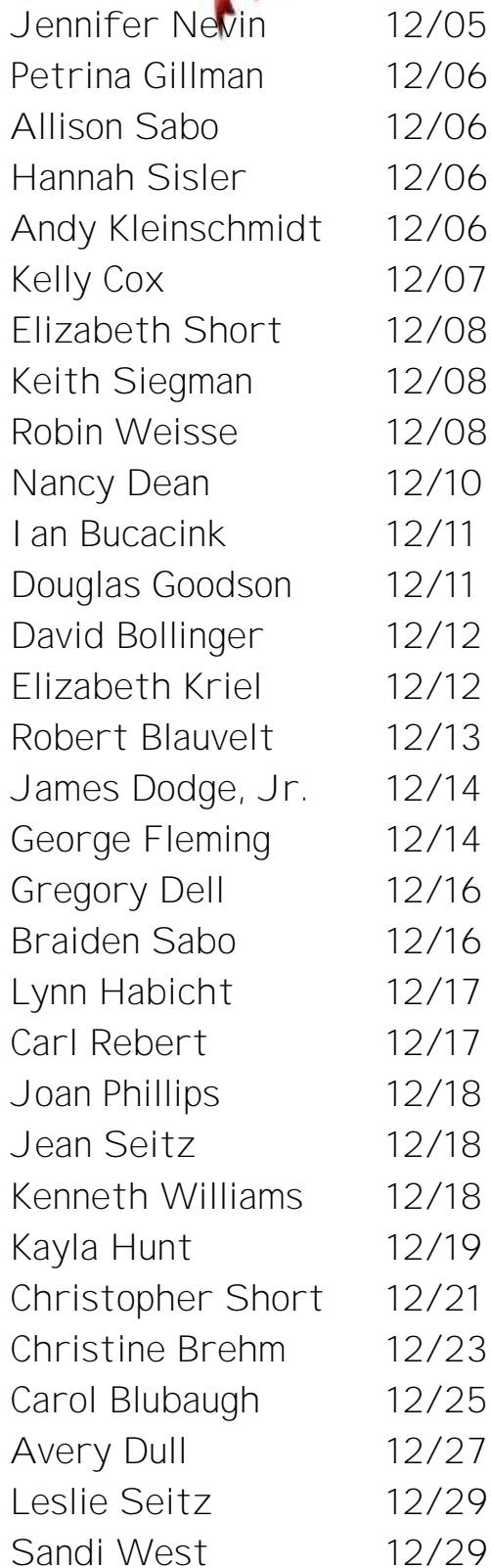
For the month of December, the Altar Guild is Lois Bankert & Dale Miller (8:00 am) and Carol Blubaugh (10:30 am).

JANUARY 2019 WORSHIP LEADERS CALENDAR

DATE	SERVICE	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	USHERS/OFFERING	COUNTING TEAM
01/06	8:00am	Tracey Sanford	Tracey Sanford			****	Maggie Langdon Tracey Sanford Carl Rebert
	10:30am	Carl Rebert	Nancy Dean	Tate Gavin	Wanda Little Melanie Martindale	The Findeisen Family Gloria Kniss	
01/13	8:00am	Ellen Lichtfuss	Ellen Lichtfuss			****	Deb Schaefer Michael Schaefer Dale Miller
	10:30am	Doris Zepp	Spencer Goodson	Christopher Gillman	Nancy & Bill Squires	The Brian Leister Family	
01/20	8:00am	Dennis Kniss	Dennis Kniss			****	Jean Seitz Ken Seitz Joan Phillips
	10:30am	Roseann Kleinschmidt	Lori Bucacink	Mason Dean	Joan Phillips Jean Seitz	David Ogg	
01/27	8:00am	Ellen Lichtfuss	Ellen Lichtfuss	****		****	Donna Yeager Bryan Yeager Teresa McCulloh
	10:30am	Donna Yeager	Teresa McCulloh	Lara Findeisen	The West Family	The Findeisen Family	

For the month of January, the Altar Guild is Lois Bankert & Dale Miller (8:00 am) and Gloria Kniss (10:30 am).

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Jennifer Nevin	12/05
Petrina Gillman	12/06
Allison Sabo	12/06
Hannah Sisler	12/06
Andy Kleinschmidt	12/06
Kelly Cox	12/07
Elizabeth Short	12/08
Keith Siegman	12/08
Robin Weisse	12/08
Nancy Dean	12/10
I an Bucacink	12/11
Douglas Goodson	12/11
David Bollinger	12/12
Elizabeth Kriel	12/12
Robert Blauvelt	12/13
James Dodge, Jr.	12/14
George Fleming	12/14
Gregory Dell	12/16
Braiden Sabo	12/16
Lynn Habicht	12/17
Carl Rebert	12/17
Joan Phillips	12/18
Jean Seitz	12/18
Kenneth Williams	12/18
Kayla Hunt	12/19
Christopher Short	12/21
Christine Brehm	12/23
Carol Blubaugh	12/25
Avery Dull	12/27
Leslie Seitz	12/29
Sandi West	12/29

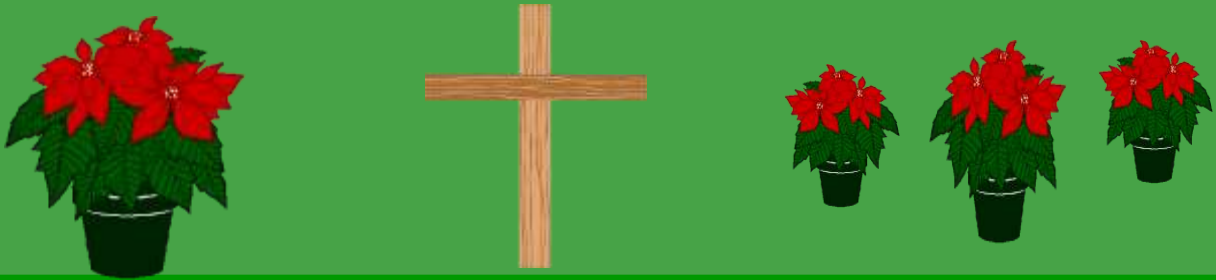
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Nancy Boone	01/01
Debbie Miller	01/01
Sue Shaffer	01/02
Darrin Peregoy	01/02
Elizabeth Knisley	01/03
Ronald Menchey Sr.	01/03
Shelly Brehm	01/04
Megan Resch	01/05
Regina Resch	01/06
Mary Blauvelt	01/09
Marlyn Leister	01/09
Nancy Tracey	01/09
Karen Monroe	01/10
Muriel Sabo	01/12
Lindsay Dodge	01/15
Genny Resch	01/15
Matthew Resch	01/15
Karen Siegman	01/16
William Tasker	01/17
Megan Martindale	01/19
Gloria Kniss	01/21
Naomi Mathias	01/21
Kristin Dubsky	01/23
Jessica Seymer	01/24
Hannah Seitz	01/27
Nicole Yeager	01/27
Donna Armacost	01/28
Barbara Williams	01/29
John Brehm	01/30
Betty Hoff	01/30

ALTAR FLOWERS - UPDATED PROCEDURE

The Altar Flower Chart for 2019 is now available and flowers are \$45.00 again this year. Please fill out the envelopes as completely as possible because these are important! Not only does it indicate the dedication, but equally important is your desire to take them home or if you wish to have them donated. This would eliminate the phone calls and emails to clarify your dedication. Thank you!



PRAYER LIST

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS



MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S: George & Theo Amoss, Jacob Armacost, Dave Basler, Lavena Basler, Lily Blubaugh, John & Betty Boone, Nancy Boone, Charles Brehm, Pat Brehm, Mittie Coppersmith, Beverly Dutterer, The Family of Ron Dutterer, Janet Gross, Donald Heath, The Family of Pat Heath, Jeanne Joiner, Nancy Jones, Betty Knisley, Pat Lipscomb, Yvonne Mathias, Bonnie Null, Claire Null, Stanley Parks, Muriel Sabo, Tracey Sanford, Anna Rae Siegman, Richard Smith, Emily Van Horn, The West Family, Lorrie Wilson, Jean Yeakel, Gloria Yingling and Charles Zincon.

FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S: Karen Aldridge, Helen Armacost, Ed Arnold, Taylor Barnes, Marcia Batista, Family & Friends of Rita Bauhof, The family and friends of Kelsey Berry, Dawn Bitzel, The Bordenski Family, Beth Anne Basler Busch, Amber Blubaugh, The Bogden Family, Ronald Boone, Joann and Lou Bradich, Scott Cronkite, Tammy Crosby, Jerry Day, Demetrius, Ella Edwards, Jackie Farver, Christian Filipov, Morley Frado, Red and Carol Fundanish, Virginia Furry, Debby Gilbert, Marg Goodlin, Ginni Gordon, Family and Friends of Laurel Greeley, The Family of Burnell Grogg, Pat and Jerry Grotfelty, **Andrew ("Will") Hacke**, Natalie Halpin, Elwood Hawes, Sr., Tom Hocktra, Eila Howe, Linda Basler Holland and Ken Holland, Sherry Honeycutt, Lisa and Kevin Jones, Pastor Bob Kidd, The Knepp Family, Lorraine Kopp, Ed Langdon, The Family of Jeannie Leister, Don & Charlotte Ludwig, Nick and Darlene Majorczak, Maria Malbrough, The McGuire Family, Joe McLaughlin, The Family of Nevin Meck, The Mesick Family, Pastor Richard Michael and Eva Michael, Wyatt Miller, Jeanne Mueller, Erin Murphy & Haitian Timoun Foundation, Kay Murphy, The Family of Donald Nelson, Harold Nelson, Pauline Nelson, The family and friends of Ron Orendi, The Family of Ron Resch, Tim Riddle, Hal Roche, Beverly & Jack Rose, Jessica Runnels, Scott Sensency, Zella Sherman, Haylee Shifflett, Ms. Wilda Simpson, David & Debbie Smith, Aileen Stroebel, Margot & Yesica Villanueva, Elizabeth Watson, Bladen Wheatley and Tammy Williams.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Keith Blizzard, Marshall Brown, Barry Durm, Michael & Lucia Gaffney, Katie & Brian Fenstermaker.

This prayer list was updated on November 27, 2018.

THANK OFFERING FUND

Our Thank Offering Fund continues to be a significant resource for our congregation. On behalf of St. John's we are very happy and thankful for the congregation's response and offerings to this date. We all hope this fund can help our church mission go forward without many of the financial problems and needs that confront other congregations. Remember the creation of this fund is being used in the future to help balance a yearly budget or for other missions of the church that the Finance Committee and Church Council approve.

Below are several ways that a member can make a donation to the fund. This will be an ongoing fund to which a member can contribute at any time writing their request through church envelopes, E-giving or any of the other options suggested.

Ways that you can contribute to the ongoing spirit of Christ in our church! Donation Cash or Check; Appreciated Securities; Real Estate; Bequests (Wills & Trusts); Life Insurance; Qualified Retirement Plans.



Electronic Giving is Easy!

As a way to automate your weekly or one-time offerings, Electronic Giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Electronic Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your **checking or savings account to the church's bank account. This can be done in one of two ways:** 1) Fill out an Authorization Form (found outside the church office) and send it to the church office, or 2) Go to the church website (www.stjohnswestminster.org) and click the green **"Online Giving"** button at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

THRIVENT MEMBERS:
UPDATE ON ACTION
TEAMS AND DIRECT
CHOICE DOLLARS



Congratulations! Eligible Thrivent members utilized \$5,250 last year for church related activities and mission projects. There were 21 action team projects in all! Thank you for taking the time to apply and utilize Action Team money. If you did not apply for your Action Team money, the money was put back into **Thrivent's account.**

January 1 began a new year for Action Team funds! Hopefully, this year we can use even more of the allotted Thrivent Action Team Money for projects. If you are a Thrivent Insurance holder, you may be eligible for Action Team Money. I have a list of projects that you can pick from if you are not sure of where to put your Action Team Money. Talk with me or call me if you need ideas and are willing to use the Action Team Money (\$250.00). I can assist you in the paper work and ideas for the money.

Also, anyone eligible for Direct Dollars from Thrivent must allocate this money before March 29. If you are not sure how to proceed with this, please contact me, also.

Gloria and Dennis Kniss, Congregational Advocate for Thrivent
717-359-7681 or 443-605-4963
Email: dennisrkniss@gmail.com

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

827 Leister's Church Road Westminster, MD 21157 ~ 410-848-6402 ~ www.stjohnswestminster.org
St. John's Epistle is published each month by St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Westminster, Maryland.

St. John's is a congregation of the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Articles for the February newsletter should be submitted no later than January 10, 2019! *Please send the articles to Deb, the Office Manager, at office@stjohnswestminster.org or place them in her mailbox.*

Thank you!

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

827 Leister's Church Road, Westminster, MD 21157 • 410-848-6402 • www.stjohnswestminster.org

Pastor: The Rev. Kristin Dubsy • pastor@stjohnswestminster.org - 410-299-4853

Office Manager: Deb Priester • office@stjohnswestminster.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday, 10:00-4:00



Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship Service

9:15 a.m. Education Hour

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Worship Service

Please contact the church office....

... if you move to a new address or your telephone number or email address changes.

... if you or a member of your family is admitted to the hospital so the pastor may schedule a hospital visit.

... when a member of your family leaves home for college.

... when your committee or group plans a meeting or an activity—the date needs to be cleared and the church calendar noted.

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage PAID
Permit No. 469
Westminster, MD

Return Service Requested
Time Value Material

827 Leister's Church Rd.
Westminster, MD 21157

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church