

The Messenger

The monthly publication of

 St. John's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

703 Third Avenue
Sterling, Illinois 61081
www.stjohnsterling.org

February 2012

Come join us for supper on February 18th, the softball team is hosting their 3rd Annual Event



Then on Tuesday, February 21st, dust off your hidden talents and join us again for our Fat Tuesday Dinner and Untalent Talent Show



Thoughts from the Pastor's Study

“Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge! “
 Psalm 62:8

Two matters at hand for consideration this month:

Mission: Why participate in a mission trip? The body of Christ of course begins at home. That is where we meet weekly. However, the body of Christ extends beyond our doors, into the streets and country side and ultimately with all Christians on the face of the earth, as well as in unity with the saints who have gone before us. Mission takes us to our sisters and brothers from all walks of life. Thus there are three main benefits from partnering with others in missions.

Giving of ourselves. In traveling away from home, we find others who are honored and amazed at our presence. They are uplifted in spirit, since hope comes with those who undertake missions work. We travel with the hope of making a difference.

Giving gifts. Missions workers find that precious dollars spent on building materials, food, medical needs and other necessary items bring jobs back to businesses that may have been greatly affected by natural disasters or tragedy.

Giving a new sense of the “family” of humankind. When travelers show up to assist, wherever in the world that might be, we find our humanity in common. We find that different languages, or customs, or cultures still have many components in held in common. As our understanding of others increases, closely held fears decrease. The result is greater harmony in the world between all people

I encourage you to take on the goal of a mission trip! Many are the needs and many are the blessings of doing just that! Be looking for opportunities!

Secondly, I am thinking about inviting persons to worship. Did you know that more than 70% of people join churches because someone they knew invited them? Invitation is not solely the pastors’ job!! It is our shared responsibility as those who have received what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ brings us: forgiveness, salvation and hope!

Who have you invited lately? When you do, here are concrete ways to help others feel welcome:

Wear your name tag- introduce yourself and ask the name of the person you do not know. It does not matter if someone has been a member for a long time. If you don’t know someone, you don’t know someone. Make it a goal to meet someone new each month!

Invite a friend, neighbor or co-worker to church. Did you know that more than 50% of people living in Whiteside County do not have a church? If someone already has a church, we do NOT invite them to St. John’s. Encourage them to be faithful in their own church. Offer to pray for this person and the faith community that they are a part of. Inviting people from other churches is not being the body of Christ!

When you do meet someone new, invite them to coffee with Chris. Sit down with them; ask about interests, family, faith background and passions. Share with them your own story of faith and why St. John’s is important.

Remember that if others are to come to know the joy we share in faith fellowship, they must be invited. Here are the 10 most important words in regard to invitation: “If it is to be, it is up to me!” Make it happen. Find the joy of sharing your faith! You will be so very glad you did!!

The Seminarian's Journal

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Matthew 5:9

Greetings to my Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St John's!

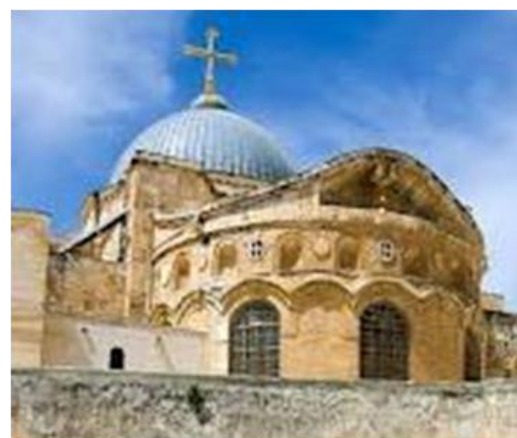
January term (or J-term as it is commonly referred to) at Wartburg Seminary is an academic session between the fall and spring semesters that offers students an opportunity for immersion and learning outside of the traditional classroom. Although there are a few classes and independent studies that take place on campus, many of the classes involve travel. This year Wartburg students traveled to: Iceland; Taize, France, and Geneva, Switzerland; Holy Lands - Israel and Palestine; Guyana; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Chicago, Illinois; Austin, Texas, and the Borderlands; Western North Dakota; Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota; and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

I chose travel to the Holy Lands as my J-term cross cultural immersion experience. Our group of 15 included a host professor from Wartburg, 11 Wartburg students, a spouse of a student, a youth and family minister, and a pastor. We spent 15 days in Palestine and Israel, visiting the biblical and historical sites in and around Bethlehem, Caesarea, Galilee, and Jerusalem. Our pilgrimage followed the footsteps of Egeria, a nun who journeyed to the Holy land at the end of the 4th century. She was devoutly Christian and was very curious about the places and people of the land. She carefully documented her travels with descriptions of the biblical sites and the way in which worship was conducted at that time and in those places. As part of our pilgrimage experience, we each lead worship at 13 different biblical sites and the Via Dolorosa ("Way of Sorrow"- in Jerusalem). We read scripture, prayed, and sang together in beautiful churches and basilicas, caves, monasteries, and in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. We had communion on the shore of the Sea of Galilee in the rain! Not only was it a powerful experience to walk in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ, but it was also in sensing God's presence as we encountered groups of Christian pilgrims from all over the world – singing, praying, and worshipping together in these Holy places.

We also visited with concern for the life of Christian communities in the Middle East and to listen to the voices that cry for peace among the people of Palestine and Israel. Unfortunately oppression and injustice is a way of life for the people of Palestine. Throughout our travels our group had many opportunities to meet with those working for peace and justice - to hear their stories and to actually see the situation. The Lutheran Church together with many other Christian organizations and peace-making groups are working for peace and justice in this land and their witness needs to be heard by the rest of the world. ***Blessed are the peacemakers.....***

See you in church on February 5, with *more* about my travels to the Holy Land!

God's Peace and Love, Barb





Faith Formation Ministries

with Karen Wolfe

February Fun !

Food, Faithful, Friendship, Floating, Fat, Funny, Frogs, Fellowship, Forever, Freezing, Feeding...

Lookout! this month is loaded with activities for everyone. Please mark your calendar and join in. We will be starting with our “ SouperBowl of Caring” on **Sunday Feb. 5th** . All youth may wear their favorite team jersey as we collect spare change for our local food pantry. We will be collecting after first service and before second.

During Sunday School time this month we will be learning about Moses. **Sunday Feb 19th** is “Friendship Sunday”, bring a friend to Sunday school and church. We will be going roller skating at White Pines from 2-4pm.

“ Fat Tuesday” Celebration is on Feb 21st. From 5:30-8pm. This fundraiser is for our HS youth going to New Orleans. We will have some great food, games, raffle of the “ King” Cake. Cost is \$5 person/ \$20 per family. Also our “ UnTalented-Talent Show” come and sing a song, juggle, play the piano, maybe you can do all three at once!

Learning about the Bible is a lifelong action. Take a family time-out, turn off the tv, put the video games away and your phones. Read together, share highs – lows of your day, pray.

2012
ELCA Youth Gathering

July 18-22, 2012
New Orleans, Louisiana

Ephesians 2:14-20

WITH THE SAINTS

CITIZENS

www.elca.org/gathering

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

from Music Minister Janel Stahr

Several events are happening in February so be sure to clear your calendar and make way for some time with your church family!

On Sunday morning, February 5, Barb Otten will be here to preach at both services and speak between services about her recent trip to Israel. Also, during the 8:15 service, the Adult Choir, accompanied by bluegrass musicians Paul Pack and Terry Irwin, will perform an exciting medley from "O Brother, Where Art Thou." Songs include "I'll Fly Away," "Keep On the Sunny Side," "Down to the River to Pray" and "In the Highways."

On Saturday, February 11, we welcome Christian comedian Greg Strange, who will perform at 4 p.m. This is a family-friendly show that will include funny songs and sing-a-longs. The show is FREE, and a free-will donation will be collected for Greg. A soup supper will follow the show in the basement at St. John's. Bring a friend!

On Sunday, February 12, members of our church family who are completing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University will be recognized during the service.

On Sunday, February 19, during both services, the Adult Bell Choir, along with Abbi McFalls, will perform "Twinkle, and the Bethlehem Star" during both services. The short play will lead us through the Epiphany story from the point of view of the star.

On Tuesday, February 21, join us in the basement for our second Fat Tuesday celebration, a fundraiser for our youth going to New Orleans for the 2012 Youth Gathering. During the celebration, we will host our UNTalent Show for all ages. Come share your talents, one and all!

And finally, on Sunday, February 26, we will join the Women of the ELCA in recognizing the Bold Women in our congregation.

Janel Stahr, Music Minister

Sister to Sister: Guided by the Word

SISTER to SISTER Bible Study: You need to come as you are, with what you know at the moment. God doesn't ask for us to be scholar's and THEN join a Bible study. Please join us as we study the book of Mark. Bring a friend and your favorite mug. Saturday February 11, 8:30-10am. contact Karen Wolfe for more info (240-818-1103)

St. John's Lutheran Church	Congregation Council Meeting		Date: 1/17/2012 Time: 7:00 PM
<p><i>Our Mission:</i> <i>Members of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church</i> <i>are CALLED into God's world,</i> <i>CLAIMED by God and His people,</i> <i>and SENT to share our faith.</i></p>			
Attendees			
Shawn Wolfe	Lois Anderson-Rowzee	Gayle Kellogg	Doug Zientara
Nancy Breed	Gloria Heuck	Tom Leesman	Pastor Mark Oehlert
Denise Norman	Amy Huffman-Grevengoed	Ken Smith	
Agenda Items			
Call To Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President, Shawn Wolfe.		
Devotions	Devotions were led by Shawn Wolfe.		
Agenda	The agenda was approved as printed.		
Report of the Pastor	<p>Nearly 300 door hangars were distributed throughout the neighborhood the weekend before Christmas to advertise our Christmas services and invite comments from the community for opportunities to partner with St. John's.</p> <p>The Barn Service at the farm of Howard and Kay Janssen was a huge success. Praise to God for the blessing of a successful back surgery for Rod Oehlert, Pastor's brother. Continued with home and hospital visits.</p>		
Report of the Secretary			
Approval of Minutes	Lois Anderson-Rowzee moved to accept the December 13, 2011 minutes of Council, as printed. The motion was seconded by Doug Zientara. Motion carried.		
Communications	<p>Thank you notes were shared:</p> <p>Sauk Valley Foodbank (3) for our donations of \$96, \$423.87 and \$2000, respectively; LOMC for our donation of \$125 to the Annual Fund; Firehouse of God Ministries for our donation of \$2000; Good Neighbor for our donation of \$500; Our Savior's Lutheran Church-Rocky Boy (2) for our donations of four boxes of mittens, hats and scarves, and \$5, respectively; Tegeler's Amish Furniture for our business during the past year; Trinity United Methodist Church/Outreach Social Concerns Committee for our gifts of money and food during 2011; LSSI for our gift of \$817; Wartburg Seminary for our gifts of \$2500 to the account of Barb Otten and \$2000 to the Annual Fund; Kiwanis Club for our contribution of \$9 to the Coats for Kids program.</p>		
Report of the Treasurer	We ended the fiscal year \$7300 over budget. The first of the endowment monies are beginning to arrive, so we are currently back in the "black".		
Report of Ministry Teams			
Finance	<p>This ministry team met January 10, to review the year-end financial statements and the financial report prepared for the Annual Report. Cammie Breed and Jon Byar have graciously agreed to perform the internal audit of the Church in 2012; Art Frey be contacted to see if he is also willing to assist with this project. The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to discussion of Thrivent Choice dollars received by the Church. After considerable discussion, it was decided to maintain the Thrivent funds in a designated account. The recommendation will be made to Council to distribute the funds on a quarterly basis as follows: 25% to local benevolence, 20% to youth programs within the Church, 20% to senior programs within the Church, 30% to Church committees, and 5% to the Contingency fund. A motion was made by Ken Smith to approve the recommendations of the Finance Team for distribution of the Thrivent Choice monies. The motion was seconded by Tom Leesman. Motion carried.</p>		

Old Business	
Policy Manual	Two of the three remaining policies needed to complete the policy manual review and revision were discussed. Lois Anderson-Rowzee moved to approve "Performance Standards" and "Organizational Accounts" as presented. The motion was seconded by Gayle Kellogg. Motion carried. Because the "Organizational Accounts" policy is a new document, it will be published in its entirety in the <i>Messenger</i> . The Personnel Committee is still working on the "Youth Safety" document and related permission forms. When this policy is approved by Council, bound copies of the entire manual will be available in the Library and the East Room for all interested parties to use as a reference.
Graphic Enhancement of Worship	The limited contract with Janel Stahr/Stahr Design approved at the November 15, 2011, meeting of Council expires on January 31. This service is not a budgeted item for 2012. After discussion and agreement that the graphics are being well received, a motion was made by Doug Zientara to extend the trial period of the contract for an additional month. The motion was seconded by Gayle Kellogg. Motion carried,
New Business	
CRE	The Northern Illinois Congregational Resourcing Event will be held at Kishwaukee College, Malta, IL, on Saturday, March 10, 2012. This is an event that is extremely well attended by congregations in the synod and has something of interest for all members. Council members are encouraged to take advantage of this offering. Forms for the event are available in the office or on the NISynod website.
Council Retreat	The 2012 retreat for Council members will be held at LOMC on Saturday, March 24, 2012. Because it is often difficult for new Council members to attend on short notice, the event was scheduled slightly later this year. We use this time together to eat, participate in team building exercises, eat, brainstorm, eat and do some visioning for the congregation. A highlight of last year's event was celebrating the sacrament of Holy
Annual Congregational Meeting	The 2012 annual meeting of the congregation will be held Sunday, January 22, 2012, immediately following the 9:00 am worship service. Members of Council will be needed for various tasks during the meeting.
New Member	Mark and Kristy Morris will complete their new member instruction with Pastor Mark. A motion was made by Lois Anderson-Rowzee to accept Mark, Kristy, and their children, Carter and Maggie, into membership at St. John's. The motion was seconded by Nancy Breed. Motion carried.
<u>Blueprint for Change</u>	Discussion of Chapter 10 entitled, "I don't have any gifts", was lead by Pastor Mark. Items of discussion included: Historically, speaking in tongues was thought to be the one spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts constitute the power that moves a congregation. These gifts come from our Lord and are to be used in the service of our Lord. Pastor Neal Boese has identified 20 spiritual gifts that include administration, apostle, craftsmanship/artistry, discernment, evangelism, exhortation, faith, giving, hospitality, intercession, knowledge, leadership, mercy, music/vocal, music/instrumental, pastoral serving, service, teaching, wisdom, and writing. When one is baptized, the Holy Spirit enters the person and gives power that manifests itself in the form of a spiritual gift. Gifts are not given for one's own personal use; they are given to enable the congregation to reach out and make disciples. We all have gifts; the key to growing a congregation is understanding the power of our individual gifts and seeking ways to use them in our ministries. This concludes our discussion of this text.
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm. The group joined hands and prayed The Lord's Prayer together.
Next meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 7:00 pm	
2012 Council Retreat: March 24, 2012, LOMC, Marander Lodge	

In compliance with our Congregational Constitution and Policies the following new policy is published in full for review. Copies of all current policies are available for review in a folder maintained in the Church Office and Library.

Organizational Accounts

Policy

It is the policy of St. John's Lutheran Church to safeguard the funds of the church to the best of its ability while satisfying regulations set forth by the Northern Illinois Synod and the IRS. This process will ensure accurate account reporting in the Annual Report of the Congregation.

Procedure

It is in the best interest of the church and its internal organizations to document all income received as offerings and gifts, as well as expenditures, and/or benevolence gifts made through the church office.

Ministry Teams, committees, ministries, and circles will be assigned a dedicated account number through the church office unless the organization already has a budgeted line item in the operating funds of the church.

Other accounts will be established, as needed.

All income and expenditures, including benevolence offerings and gifts, will be tracked through the individual dedicated account for each group.

Funds received for special events and offerings will be given directly to the Office Manager on the next business day, or taken with the Sunday offerings to the overnight deposit at the bank.

When it is necessary to withdraw funds for expenditures, reimbursements, or benevolence gifts, a check will be processed through the church office.

Checks will be processed when a completed and signed check request is received. Appropriate documentation in the form of an invoice or receipt must accompany the check request. The check request must include an address if the check is to be mailed.

When funds are needed in advance of an event or project, a check request may be completed that will allow a check to be made out directly to an individual. The office manager will maintain a record of the transactions related to this check and will amend the record when receipts relating to the purchases are returned to the office. Any funds remaining after making purchases from the issued check will be returned to the account.


When a check is requested for the purpose of making a donation to a ministry, charity, or in support of a specific cause, it will suffice to complete a check request form, indicating the name of the organization receiving the gift, along with a mailing address.

The Treasurer of the Congregation, the Finance Team, and the Office Manager has the authority to request additional documentation to substantiate requests for reimbursement, or payment of services or products. In the event that additional questions exist, The Executive Committee will have the final authority on contested requests.

Unless otherwise stated, organizations that by their nature perform voluntary services for Church functions (funerals, weddings, anniversary celebrations), shall not require a specific amount of money in order to perform these services. All funds received must be given to the Office Manager on the next business day to be deposited with the Sunday offerings.

Organizations that provide special events that by their nature require a fee in order for the event to take place, may request a set price based on the event. The request for funds should provide a breakdown of the purpose for said funds and indicate whether or not funds will be returned in case of cancellation. A copy of this price list shall be provided to the Office Manager of the Church for reference.

Monthly and quarterly reports may be acquired from the office manager at the request of the committee or team chair. Information needed by the organization for the formulation of Annual reports will be distributed automatically. The organization will provide a written report each year based on the information provided by the Church office.

	Annual Congregational Meeting 2012	Date: 1/22/2012 Time: 10:00 AM
<p><i>Our Mission: Members of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church are CALLED into God's world, CLAIMED by God and His people, and SENT to share our faith.</i></p>		
Agenda Items		
Call To Order	The meeting was called to order at 9:55 am by President, Shawn Wolfe. Sixty members were needed for a quorum; 72 members were in attendance.	
Devotions	Devotions were led by Shawn Wolfe as printed in the Annual Report booklet.	
Agenda	Dave Geil moved to accept the agenda as printed. The motion was seconded by Art Frey. Motion carried.	
Report of the Secretary	Dave Geil moved to accept the January 23, 2011, minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, as printed in the Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Gloria Heuck. Motion carried.	
Report of the Treasurer	Tom Breed moved to accept the Report of the Treasurer as printed. The motion was seconded by Art Frey. Motion carried.	
Consideration of Other Written Reports	There were no comments or questions from the floor regarding the printed reports.	
Nominations		
Congregation Council	President Wolfe relinquished the floor to Secretary, Denise Norman. The names of Shawn Wolfe and Ken Smith are included on the ballot for membership to the Congregation Council; Shawn is seeking to fulfill the remaining year from the term of Barb Otten who resigned from Council in June. To satisfy the Constitution, a minimum of two seats must be filled. Ms. Norman spoke to the situation that will arise next year when four seats will be vacated. It has been extremely difficult over the last several years to secure names from the congregation for the Council ballot. It is not expected that the task will be any easier next year. Serving on Council is a privilege and a responsibility as a congregation member. She asked that all members prayerfully consider serving in this way. Ms. Norman asked three times for additional nominations from the floor; no additional names were presented for the ballot. The congregation voted to approve the names of Shawn Wolfe and Ken Smith by acclamation.	
Endowment Fund Committee	The names of Dwight Oltmanns, Mike Doughty and Rhonda Stutzke are included on the ballot for membership to the Endowment Fund Committee. President Wolfe asked three times for additional nominations from the floor; no additional motions were made for names to be included on the ballot. The congregation voted to approve these names by acclamation.	
Synod Assembly	The 2012 Synod Assembly will be held at Augustana College, June 15-16, 2012. St. John's may send four voting members to the Assembly, one of which shall be a youth member. Tom Breed moved to enter the name of Cammie Breed on this ballot; the motion was seconded by Bev Breed. Sloane Wolfe moved to enter the name of Sandy Wolfe on the ballot; the motion was seconded by Barb Smith. Sandy Wolfe moved to enter the name of Sloane Wolfe on the ballot; the motion was seconded by Barb Smith. Tammy Stewart moved to enter the name of Tim Stewart on the ballot; the motion was seconded by Janel Stahr. President Wolfe asked three times for additional nominations from the floor; no additional motions were made for names to be included on the ballot. Motions carried.	
Old Business	There was no pending old business.	
New Business		
2012 Proposed Budget	There were no comments or questions from the floor regarding the proposed budget. Tom Leesman moved to accept the budget as printed. The motion was seconded by Dave Geil. Motion carried.	

Retiring Congregation Council Members	Gloria Heuck and Barb Otten were recognized as retiring Council members. Gloria was active in the Stewardship and Congregational Life Ministry Teams. Barb answered a call last fall to attend Wartburg Seminary. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to Gloria and Barb.
Closing Remarks	Pastor Mark spoke to the need for leadership in the congregation and for members to step forward to assist with the many necessary tasks on Sunday morning—ushering, greeting, altar guild. We all have many blessings which are God's gift to us and it is our responsibility as Christians to share all that we have. Our four past-presidents of Council were in attendance today and would certainly all agree that there are times of great joy amid the occasional times of unpleasantness while serving the church. Our average attendance is down, so we must examine what it is that stops us from inviting folks to share the love of Christ, and continue to pray in thanksgiving for what our faith means to us. Pastor spoke of being very moved by the Youth Service this morning. He asked that we get past our crabbiness over what is wrong with worship, and instead look for the blessings that we received during worship. Worship on Sunday morning will never be perfect, but it will be pretty darn good! We all need to be part of the solution and give thanks to God for all that we have been given.
Adjourn	A motion was made by Dave Geil to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Doug Zientara. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 am.
Closing Prayer	Pastor Mark concluded the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Congregation,

Denise Norman, Secretary

Value Statements

We will accomplish our Mission and Vision with

FAITH

Faith is the foundation of our church

Actions guide our work in the community

Invite all to share in our Family of Faith

Trust in the Lord

Healthy and growing

Church Softball Fund-raiser: What's for supper!!! The Third Annual Chicken Cattiatore Dinner will be Saturday, February 18, 2012, in the Church Fellowship Hall from 4:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. The menu will include homemade chicken cattiatore (chicken breast chunks in an Italian style tomato sauce) over pasta, salad, bread, dessert, and drink. Suggested donation per adult is \$6.50 for tickets purchase on or before February 13th, and \$8.50 for those purchasing tickets after February 13th. Tickets for children under 12 years is \$4.00, and children 3 years and under are free. Money from this fund-raiser will used to pay softball league fees. Tickets will be available in the Church Office, before and after worship, and from any softball team member.

Add To Your Table Prayer



Jesus said, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful." Luke 6:36

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (ELW)



The Congregational Resourcing Event is an excellent annual learning opportunity for the Northern Illinois Synod held at Kishwaukee College in Malta, IL, every March.

Around 600 congregational leaders and members of NIS congregations gather for worship with a message from Bishop Wollersheim, a keynote address, lunch, and a chance to choose from dozens of workshops on various topics.

This year's keynote speaker will be Pastor Jeff Marian, lead Pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Burnsville, MN. Pr. Marian's topic will be "SeedsGrowFruit - From God's Story to Our Story." Pr. Marian will also lead two workshops.

Registration deadline is March 1st. For more information please go to <http://www.nisynod.org/cre/>

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Breakfast

Monday through Friday
9 - 11am

In conjunction with FISH food pantry at Sterling First United Methodist Church
(Broadway Methodist) on the corner of 5th St. & 9th Ave.

Rocky Boy Reservation sent thank you notes for the donations of 4 boxes of hats, scarves and gloves as well as a direct cash donation.

Trinity Food Pantry sent a thank you as the recipient of the 4th quarter special offering. It is notable that they served 286 people in November and were even busier in December. Our donations reach much farther than we can really believe.

Sauk Valley Food Bank sent thank you notes for our donation and reported that for the year, the 6 associated area pantries served over 63,000 people, a significant increase over the 54,000 people served in 2010.

LOMC thanked us for our donation to their annual fund.

Firehouse of God Ministries thanked us for our donations and reported that they have housed 33 men and 1 family in their Rescue Missions this year and served a total of 6,238 meals through November 2011.

Good Neighbor Emergency Center thanked us for our donation. Did you know that St. John's contributes over 23% of their total income and more than double that of any other congregation?

LSSI sent a thank you note for our donation. It's important to recognize that over 60% of their clients have an annual income of under \$10,000.

Wartburg Seminary sent a thank you for our contributions to their Annual Fund as well as directed funds supporting Barb Otten.

Kiwanis Club of Sterling sent a thank you note for a contribution to their Coats for Kids program.

Church Women United World Day of Prayer, Friday March 2, 2012. Macedonia Baptist Church, 9:00am Coffee with program to follow.

I wanted to extend a big thank you to each of you who helped prepare for and take down after the Christmas Eve Barn Service. Your help, helped to make this year's service the biggest and best one so far. We had almost double the number of people that we had last year. It was also very helpful to have good weather. Nine and a half years ago I had 2 pig valves put into my heart. I not only thank you for your help but I thank the Lord for my 9 ½ years to be strong enough and healthy enough to continue doing a job that I love (farming) and have the Christmas Eve Barn Service.

Thanks Be to God, Howard F. Janssen.

Sincere thanks to my wonderful St. John's family who remembered me with prayers, cards, or visits. I miss all of you and I look forward to again joining you in worship. Our Savior's blessings to all of you. Ruth Cornils

The Wednesday evening Grief Support Group, which has met at St. John's is merging with the Grief Support Group offered at CGH. Beginning January 24th the group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 6:30 – 8 pm. The group will meet in Classroom 1 at CGH. For more information please call 815-288-3673.



Jubilee



The following people will be celebrating birthdays/anniversaries during the month..
Happy Birthday/Anniversary and God's blessings as you celebrate your special day

* = Members Celebrating 50+ Year Anniversaries & 80+ Year Birthdays

February

1st

2nd
Trevor Sisson
Charles Baither
Adam Burge
Leanne Miller
Michael & Druann Bushman

3rd

Shirley Bollman

4th

Emma Cooperrider
Andrew Miller
Jean Rohr

5th

Adin Taylor Jr.
Robert Collins
Deb Weflen

6th

Blake Dettman
Michael Kuba
Janna Klocke
Rod Kleckler
John Hall*

7th

Ryan Gonzales
Daniel Drew

8th

Alan McFalls

9th

Amber Smith
Lisa Judd
Brenda Turner
Marianne Hartshorn

10th

Marilyn Deets
Roberts Stevens*

11th

Austin Kelper
Michael Westbo
Dennis Blevins
Smaida Bollman
Beatrice Oakley*

12th

Courtney Gillette
Tom Amesquita
Kennard Green

13th

14th

Tim Walter

15th

Amanda Armstrong
Michael Barton
Jamie Schmitt
Timothy Granzow

16th

Timmy Hurd
Chris Gierhart
Marsha Francis
Robert Marsh*
Mark & Nancy Oehlert

17th

Amanda McCormick

18th

19th

Mike Doughty

20th

Melinda Stretz
Cynthia Bragg
Rita Augsburg
Sandy Wolfe
Don Babel*

21st

22nd
Alicia LeFevre
Blake LeFevre
Kelsey Marsh
Constance Sciacero
Diana Hosler
Constance Gemeny
Dwight Megli

23rd

Marilyn Wolf*

24th

R.J. Dorathy
Elizabeth Teets*

25th

26th
Ken Smith
Kim Sciacero
Teri Moses
DuWayne Dietz*

27th

Faith Davis

28th

Kelley Breneman
Geni Clark
Patricia Loos
Don Shontz

29th

Carolyn Bollman



Parish Register

Change of Address:

None

Deaths:

Sheryl Pendgraft 1/6

Kenje Ogata 1/18

Baptisms:

Daniel Lennon Reaver 1/1

Weddings:

None

Members Received:

The Morris Family 1/17

Members Removed/Transferred:

Janelle, Aubree & Kyle Schmitt 1/18

Upcoming Staff Birthdays:

None

Church Staff

Pastor.....Rev. Mark Oehlert
 On Call/Visitation Pastor.....Rev. Leo Patterson
 Director of Faith Formation Ministries.....Karen Wolfe
 Sunday School Superintendent.....Teresa Gierhart
 Missionary to Tanzania.....Randall & Carol Stubbs
 Minister of Music/Handbell Director.....Janel Stahr
 Choirmaster.....Julie McCord
 Office Manager.....Nina Peters
 Newsletter.....Shawn Wolfe
 System Administrator/Technology.....Eric Hernandez
 Custodians.....Alex Ramirez
Diana Wolf

Congregational Officers:

President.....Shawn Wolfe
 Vice President..... Amy Grevengoed
 Secretary.....Denis Norman
 Treasurer.....Nancy Breed



Adam's Rib February 9, 6:30p

Topic: Barb Smith

Hostess: Pat Henson

Edith Eykamp Circle No February Meeting

Morning Circle February 16, 9:00am

Hostess: Marcia Keime, Ginny Schmitt

Topic: Bev Breed

WELCA Bible Study January 5, 10:00am

Ministry Teams:

Christian Education: Karen Wolfe, Tammy Doughty, Gayle Kellogg

Finance: Nancy Breed, Oris DePuy, Druann Bushman, Mike Doughty, Carl Nelson

Endowment: Rhonda Stutzke, Mike Doughty, Larry Cooper, Lois Rowzee, Dwight Oltmanns

Memorial: Vera McCormick, Carl Nelson, Amy Grevengoed, Carla Haubrich, Brian Luebke

Property: Ken Smith, Carl Nelson, Doug Zientara, Mike Miller, Art Frey

Social Ministry: Sandy Wolfe, Barb Smith, Druann Bushman, Vera McCormick, Joyce Preston

Stewardship: Gloria Heuck, Denise Norman, Tom Lessman

Parish Nurse/Wellness: Vera McCormick

Personnel: Shawn Wolfe, Lois Rowzee, Doug Zientara, Denise Norman,

Worship Arts Pastor Mark, Janel Stahr, Shawn Wolfe, Carla Haubrich

Congregational Life: Gloria Hueck

Evangelism: Vacant

Projection & Video: Charlene, Aislinn, Kellen & Devin O'Connell, Anita Carl, Dan Eads

Sound: Virgle Onnen, Gary Martin, Anita Carl, Dan Eads, Nathan Stahr.