



# St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church is a community of people united to God and to each other by faith in Jesus Christ, called by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the love of God and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Love of witness, proclamation, nurture, service, and outreach at home and abroad will occur through faithful use of the scriptures, the sacraments, and prayer. We are motivated by our gratitude to God for his abundant gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Synod
- Pastor's News
- Financial Report
- Church News
- Calendar
- Church Council Minutes
- Youth and Family

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## SYNOD ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 6 Bold Generosity: Intentional-Inspired-Impactful

As measured by vote, this is the most controversial resolution with 75% in favor and 25% opposed. This resolution, now passed, will allow our synod to offer a capital campaign to our nearly 200 congregations to reach out even further than it already does, outside of any budgeted amounts. Here are the highlights and my observations:

Connect – Technology grants to congregations.

- a. Offer services and expertise to congregations with regard to websites and other technology efforts.

Equip – Walking Together Ministry

- a. Possibly offer another event further north in the synod for churches that have a difficult time getting all the way down to the Chippewa Falls/Eau Claire area.

Learn – Leadership Development for Rostered and Lay Leaders

- a. With a heightened emphasis for synodically authorized ministers serving congregations unable to call ordained pastors, leadership development is critical.

Support – financial Health of Seminary Graduates

- a. Seminary graduates are coming out of school with increasing debt loads and we as the church can help reduce their debt as they enter the work force.

Partner – Malawi

- a. Our companion synod relations are a key component of connecting us with the larger church. Funding here will help travel expenses for both parties.

Share – 10% with the Campaign for the ELCA

- a. This serves as the tithe to the larger church, who began a national capital campaign a few years ago.

The time frame for this capital campaign began on June 1 and will commence at the synod assembly in 2019.

I was fortunate to participate in conversations that helped shape these initiatives as invited by the Bishop's office. I intend to contribute to this initiative and hope that you will also consider doing so. If you have any questions about giving to such an endeavor, I'm happy to help, so just ask. All contributions will be considered tax deductible and if you elect to give through St. John's, it will be recorded on your annual contribution statement. You can also give directly to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin.

Office number: 715-568-5446

Like us on Facebook! St. John's Lutheran Church - Bloomer, WI

St. John's Website: [www.Stjohns-bloomer.org](http://www.Stjohns-bloomer.org)

# Pastor's News

## MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP TO FOCUS ON

### *Tidings of Comfort and Joy!*

As we enter into the great season of anticipation and hope (Advent), let us come together for more opportunities to praise God! The schedule for our midweek Advent series is:

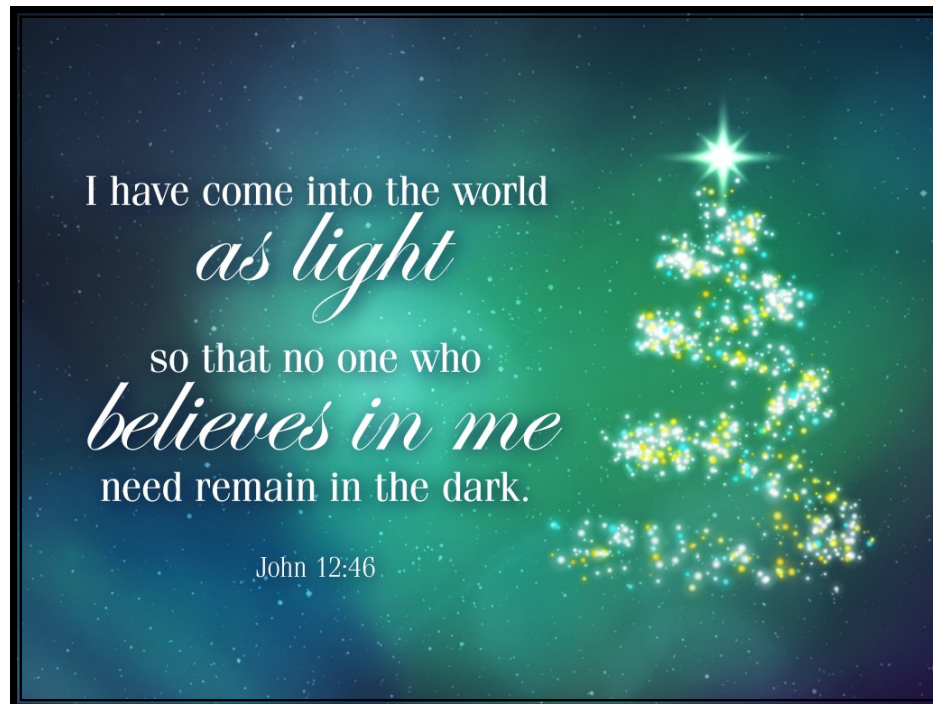
- ◆ November 30 – The Angel Speaks to Zechariah's Fear
- ◆ December 7 – The Angel Speaks to Mary's Doubt
- ◆ December 14 – The Angel Speaks to the Shepherd's Curiosity
- ◆ December 21 – The St. John's Angels Speak their version of the Christmas Pageant!

Holden Evening Prayer will once again be our featured liturgy.

As you can see from the weekly themes, we will look at stories that focus on fear, doubt, and curiosity – all things that we have experienced. Our primary worship resource, *Sundays and Seasons*, puts it this way:

*This Advent series gives voice to the complex situations and emotions with which we greet the coming Messiah and uses the reactions of those who first received the news of Jesus' birth (Zechariah..., Mary, and the shepherds) to do so. These services acknowledge responses of fear..., doubt, and curiosity, while the coming of Jesus promises comfort and joy for all of us.*

Human emotion is part of our faith journey and I look forward to offering this series as we seek to find the face of God in the midst of all of our emotions! Consider bringing a friend to these worship opportunities as we work toward our own theme – Come and See!



# Bible Basics

## **November 6**

This week we celebrate the festival of All Saint's. Our gospel lesson centers on Luke's version of the Beatitudes, which fits well for the livelihood of a saint. Beatitude is Latin for what term?

- A. Beneficiary
- B. Blessing
- C. Brilliant
- D. Boredom

## **November 13**

According to Luke 21 (today's gospel), which of the following is not a sign of the Jerusalem temple being thrown down?

- A. Prophets proclaiming that "The Kingdom of God is at hand!"
- B. False prophets claiming to be the Messiah
- C. Nation will rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom
- D. Persecutions of the disciples

## **November 20**

Today is Christ the King Sunday, where we find Jesus enthroned upon the cross. The kingdom where Jesus is crucified is called Golgotha, which means:

- A. The garden
- B. The skull
- C. The rock
- D. Roman centurion anger management arena

## **November 27**

As we enter the season of Advent, a primary theme of expectation arises. Today's gospel lesson, Matthew 24, compares the coming of the Son of Man to which of the following?

- A. A thief in the night
- B. A fig tree full of leaves
- C. The destruction of the Temple
- D. A pregnant mother





# ANNOUNCEMENT

Thank you for your generous donation to the Bloomer Food Pantry . Monies raised over three months totaled \$1,281.00

**Volunteers and bakers are needed**

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 p.m. we will be hosting the New Auburn Community Choir at St. John's. There will be a reception to follow this event and we will need 4-5 servers and a variety of desserts to feed 100 – 120 people.

There is a sign-up sheet placed in the narthex on the welcome station. If you have questions contact Tom Buchner. 715-568-2778

**Saturday, December 24, 2016**

4:00 and 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

**Sunday, December 25, 2016**

9:00 a.m. Christmas Worship

(No worship on Wednesday, December 28th)

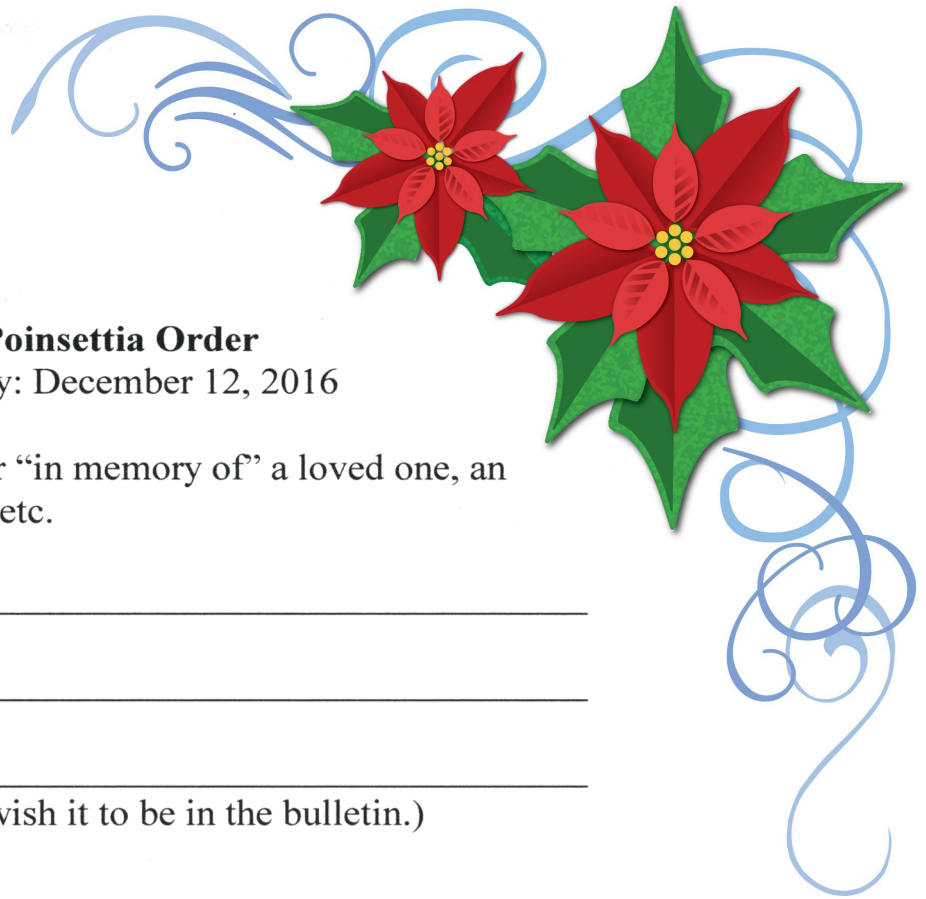


## Financial Report-2016

	2015	2016	BUDGET 2016
<b>Beg. Balance - Jan. 1</b>	\$2,143.00	\$4,401.00	
<b>Income-November</b>	\$195,202.00	\$188,401.00	\$227,524.00
<b>Expenses-November</b>	\$205,739.00	\$207,180.00	\$227,524.00
<b>Balance</b>	(\$8,394.00)	(\$14,378.00)	
<b>Loan - Security Financial</b>	\$74,755.00	\$70,523.00	Bld. Fund
<b>Loan - Security Financial</b>	\$11,000.00	-0-	Bathrooms
<b>Loan - Security Financial</b>	\$7,000.00	-0-	Gen. Fund



Poinsettia Sign-Up



**Poinsettia Order**

Due by: December 12, 2016

Given "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one, an anniversary, birthday, etc.

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Donated by: (as you wish it to be in the bulletin.)

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Cost is \$10.00 per plant.

Place this form and cash or check (**payable to St. John's Lutheran Church**) in an envelope in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.

You may take your Poinsettia home after the service on Christmas Day.

**Merry Christmas**

**Poinsettia Sale**

Again this year the altar guild will be selling poinsettias. It is a wonderful way to decorate our church for the holidays and an opportunity for you to honor your loved ones. Order forms will be inside some bulletins, on the desk in the church entry, and in the church office. The flowers will be \$10.00. You may take them home after the service on Christmas Day.

Thank you to those of you who helped clean the church on Service Day. Thanks to you, the altar guild room has been decluttered and ready for the next improvement phase. Lori Ruff purchased a mini-fridge for us to use and it has already made our work much easier. Thank you, Lori! The old tile has been removed and the floor is ready for new tile installation. We discovered we do have a heat register in the room. All we needed were new batteries for the thermostat. Thank you, Zach Bohl! We removed the old contact paper on the walls. The next project is painting the room. Would anyone be willing to volunteer their services for this project? The church will buy the paint. Please contact Pastor Martin or Sue Nehring if you are interested in a painting project.

**Sunday, December 18th** the Food Pantry will have an appreciation meal for everyone at the Senior Center. Roberta Poirier asked if anyone from St. John's could assist that day.

There is a sign-up sheet placed in the narthex on the welcome station. If you have questions contact Tom Buchner. 715-568-2778



# Friendly Reminders

**WELCA Potluck and Meeting**  
Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.


*No Quilting in the month of December.* Please watch the bulletin and newsletter for further information.

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 3rd starting at 8:00. You are invited to join us.



**"Come and see" (John 1:45-46)**

DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>27</b> Butterbraided Pastry Sale No Financial Peace University 9:00 AM Worship Service with guest preacher, Martha Libersky 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation</p>	<p><b>28</b> Butterbraided Pastry Sale 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Youth in Action</p>	<p><b>29</b> Butterbraided Pastry Sale 6:30 PM Youth Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>30</b> Butterbraided Pastry Sale Ends 9:30 AM Preschool Bowl-a-thon 4:45 PM Wednesday Meal 5:45 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship</p>	<p><b>1</b> 9:30 AM Preschool Bowl-a-thon</p>	<p><b>2</b> 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>3</b> 9:00 AM Church Christmas Decorating</p>
<p><b>4</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Financial Peace University 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM New Auburn Community Choir Christmas Concert with reception to follow</p>	<p><b>5</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Youth in Action 6:00 PM Preschool Christmas Party</p>	<p><b>6</b> 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (Dementia Training) 6:00 PM Preschool Christmas Party 6:30 PM Foundation Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>7</b> 4:45 PM Wednesday Meal 5:45 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship</p>	<p><b>8</b> 12:00 PM Potluck Lunch &amp; WELCA Meeting 6:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>9</b> Newsletter Article Deadline 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>10</b> 12:00 PM Martin Luther Exhibit Bus Trip</p>
<p><b>11</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Financial Peace University 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation</p>	<p><b>12</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study</p>	<p><b>13</b> 12:00 PM Butterbraided Pastry Pickup 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>14</b> 9:15 AM Bloomer Clergy Meeting at St. John's 4:45 PM Wednesday Meal 5:45 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship 7:45 PM Sr. High Mission Trip</p>	<p><b>15</b> 8:45 AM - 1:00 PM Pastor's Conf. in Boyceville</p>	<p><b>16</b> 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>
<p><b>18</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation</p>	<p><b>19</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Youth in Action</p>	<p><b>20</b> 11:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>21</b> No Preschool 4:45 PM Wednesday Meal 6:45 PM Christmas Pageant</p>	<p><b>22</b> No Preschool</p>	<p><b>23</b> No Preschool No Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>24</b>  No Preschool 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship</p>
<p><b>25</b> No Preschool 9:00 AM Christmas Worship Service 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation</p>	<p><b>26</b> No Bible Study No Preschool No Youth in Action Office Closed</p>	<p><b>27</b> No Preschool 6:00 PM Agnes Table</p>	<p><b>28</b> No Preschool No Wednesday Night Meal, Youth Faith Formation, or Worship</p>	<p><b>29</b> No Preschool</p>	<p><b>30</b> No Preschool No Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>31</b> No Preschool</p>

## Council Meeting November 8, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Rod Johnson at 6:30 p.m.

Opening devotion: Rod Johnson

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Lynette Pank to accept agenda, seconded by Alice Zinsmaster. Motion carried

Approval of October meeting minutes: Motion made by Ellyn Hudacek to accept minutes, seconded by Lynette Pank. Motion carried

Chair Report: Via email vote Oct 27<sup>th</sup>: Motion was made by Adam Ewings to allow the transfer of \$975 from council funds to Discipleship Ministry to purchase Financial Peace University kits (10) with the expectation that the funds will be reimbursed with the next budget, seconded by Phil Skaar. Motion carried.

Note: A savings of \$275(savings is from two free kits plus free shipping) with the purchase of the financial kits by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Financial Report: Motion was made by Janice Naset to accept Financial report, seconded by Tom Buchner. Motion carried

Committee/Ministry Reports:

Discipleship: 2017 Financial Peace University kits (12) ordered. "Giving Campaign" number of Faith commitment cards returned is low.

Fellowship: Bingo attendance is good. Book Club met and is open to anyone interested in joining.

Property Committee: "Take Pride in your Church" cleanup day was very successful (about 21 congregation members were there to help) Tiles in the Sacristy are scheduled to be installed on November 22. Seals on the refrigerator in kitchen are bad. Stove is not working properly and needs to be replaced. Property and involved committees will meet and discuss options on how to handle and correct the issues with the mentioned appliances.

Social Ministry: Housing grant project update-Buck Paulson will review the project area when he gets caught up with his work. Ministry was approached in regard to St John's supporting and helping serve Senior Citizen dinner at the Senior Center.

Worship Committee: Holden Evening Prayer will be used for Advent. Youth Christmas Pageant scheduled for December 21<sup>st</sup>. Future Rally Day to be held on a Wednesday. Annual Pet Sunday second Sunday in October. Confirmation scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Youth/Family: Working with "Youth in Action" group. Confirmation lock-ins will total two(one before and one after Christmas) One opportunity is to go to Stout for a Lutheran Campus Ministry lock-in. 2016 Mission Trip banquet-low attendance. 2017 Mission Trip, June 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> in Cincinnati.

## Council Meeting

### Pastor Report:

Elderly visitation-WELCA, Bingo, Monday Bible Studies, St John's Apartments, Buck Oldenberg, Joanne Black.

Pastoral matters: funerals, private pastoral care, social ministry housing grant follow up, High School ministry, member participation, leading Financial Peace University.

Membership Update: Baptisms-Oakley Prill, Tyler Berlin and Claire Berlin. New members-Jason, Laurice, Isabelle, Abrina and Gabriel Hillman. Motion was made by Tom Buchner to accept membership update, seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried.

Leading Well Retreat/Arizona- November 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Old Business:

Policies/Practices review in progress.

Nominating committee: in progress

### New Business:

2017 Budget in progress.

2017 Annual Meeting scheduled date January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Makeup date January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Adjournment: Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster to adjourn meeting, seconded by Tom Buchner. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m. with the "Lord's Prayer"

Pauline Stertz/Secretary

Meeting attended by Pastor Martin, Rod Johnson, Janice Naset, Lynette Pank, Alice Zinsmaster, Adam Ewings, Ellyn Hudacek, Tyler Halverson, Tom Buchner, Nick Zakrzewicz, Pauline Stertz.

Absent: Phil Skaar

### FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULES

**Sunday: 10:15am-11:25am**

Faith 5 Small Groups: Preschool Age 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Wednesday: 5:30pm-6:30pm**

Preschool: Ages 3, 4, & sometimes 5

Faith 5 Small Groups: Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Confirmation: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Restrooms with changing facilities can be found near the offices and men & women's restrooms in the lower level at far end of dining hall.



### BUTTERBRAID PASTRY SALE

#### BUTTERBRAID PASTRY PICK UP

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 AFTER 12 PM

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ST. JOHN'S YOUTH



### BREAKING NEWS LUTHER PARK BIBLE CAMP CHETEK, WISCONSIN

#### 2016-2017 RECHARGE

January 6-7, 2017

March 3-4, 2017

**WHERE:** Luther Park Bible Camp  
944 24 1/4 Street  
Chetek, WI 54729

**WHO:** Individuals in Grades 3-5, 6-8,  
and 9-12.

**COST:** \$80.00, Includes programming from 7  
pm Friday to 7 pm Saturday, meals, lodging,  
and Recharge t-shirt.

REGISTER ONLINE @ [www.lutherpark.org](http://www.lutherpark.org)



### CHRISTMAS CAROLING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth singing carols & frosting  
cookies at Maplewood, Hetzels, & Country  
Terrace spreading Christmas cheer.



### WEATHER ALERT!

Parents and youth, rule of thumb for St. John's Lutheran, when school is cancelled due to bad weather all learning events, scheduled (preschool, elementary, middle school, & Sr. high) are cancelled as well.

**ATTENTION PARENTS: SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY FAITH FORMATION  
CHRISTMAS BREAK DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 3, 2017**



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**9<sup>th</sup> GRADE CONFIRMATION WORSHIP**  
**JANUARY 8, 2017 at 9: a.m.**



**Holiday To Do List**  
 Be Present  
 Wrap someone in a hug  
 Send peace  
 Be the light  
 Love unconditionally  
 Life is a gift. Unwrap the present!



**GIFTS FROM THE HEART**

Little things do mean a lot, especially when those little things are brought together as gifts from the heart. Items received will be given to “The Bloomer and New Auburn Food Pantry to be dispersed during the holiday season. Please choose one or more of the items listed and put them in the large gift wrapped boxes in the narthex and office area by December 18. Tis the season for giving. Thank you for your generous hearts.

- Toothbrushes in original packaging
- Toothpaste
- Combs in packaging
- Metal nail clippers
- Bar of soap (bath size)
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Lotion
- Baby Wash
- Paper Gift Bags (small or medium size)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY**

**WHO:** CHILDREN, MEMBERS, FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN’S

**WHAT:** BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

**WHEN:** 10:15 AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

**WHERE:** ST. JOHN’S FELLOWSHIP HALL

Please bring a gift from the heart item listed to share with the Bloomer & New Auburn Food Pantry.



Jesus is the  
 Reason for the  
**Season**



# "THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS"

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 at 6:45 PM



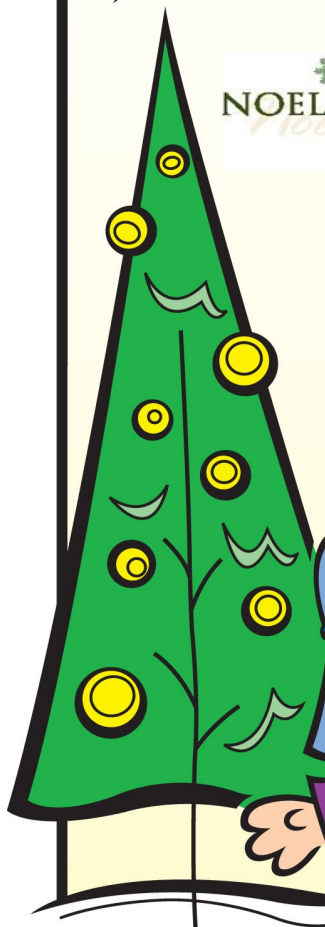
*ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WELCOME*

*FAMILY MEAL SERVED FROM 5-6 PM IN DINING HALL*

**Please bring your favorite Christmas goodie  
for dessert**



NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR





Serving God By Serving Others

## **WEEK OF HOPE SR. HIGH MISSION TRIP**

**Destination: Cincinnati Ohio**

**Date: June 25-30, 2017**

**Who: Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade and Adult Chaperones**

**What: Work in community garden, teach dance and literature to children, pack and sort supplies sent to families in developing nations, lead activities at Boys and Girls Clubs, prepare food and meals and take to feeding locations, work with elderly residents at assisted living with activities.**

**Cost: Spots reserved with \$50.00 non-refundable deposit. Total cost includes \$209.00 to Group, transportation (to be determined) and incidentals (food while traveling, fun event, etc.). Fundraisers will be implemented to offset total cost.**

**Youth and Parent Responsibilities: Assist with fundraisers, attend pre-trip planning meetings, and participate in group devotions.**

**6 Spots available for St. John's incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade through graduating seniors or non-members on a first come first serve basis.**

**For more info or to reserve a spot contact Marla at 715-568-5446 #12 or email [stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net).**



**PRE-TRIP PLANNING MEETING DECEMBER 14 FROM 7:45-8:15 PM  
IN DINING HALL. ALL YOUTH INTERESTED AND/OR REGISTERED AND ONE  
PARENT OR RESPONSIBLE ADULT SHOULD ATTEND.**