

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:

- ◆ What a Fellowship
- ◆ Church News
- ◆ Poinsettia Order
- Bishop Hoyme Message
- Church News
- Calendar
- Financials
- Council Minutes
- Youth & Family



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WHAT A FELLOWSHIP!

Nancy Schindler and Martha Libersky

More than 800 people gathered on Sunday, Oct. 29, for a common prayer service at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Eau Claire to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran/Catholic Reformation. We and others from our congregation along with Catholics and Lutherans from the whole Chippewa Valley and other locations as well were blessed to be a part of these 800 people.

Our common prayer service was filled with joy, peace, faith and hope! Father John Schultz and Reverend Doctor Lori Ruge-Jones presided during the service and gave a joint sermon connecting the reforming that still continues in Christian denominations today with the Gospel of John 15:1-5, the vine and the branches.

An important shared prayer time was the commitment to the Five Ecumenical Imperatives that have us focus on what we have in common as Christians instead of what divides us:

1. Catholics and Lutherans should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division.
2. Lutherans and Catholics must let themselves continuously be transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith.
3. Catholics and Lutherans should again commit themselves to seek visible unity, to elaborate together what this means in concrete steps, and to strive repeatedly toward this goal.
4. Lutherans and Catholics should jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time.
5. Catholics and Lutherans should witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.

A large candle was lit after each commitment reading and two of our own members participated in this act: Jaden Halom and Dylan Halom. Annie Ram (daughter of former member Ember Ewings), carried one of the small candles forward from which a large candle was lit. (article continued on page 2)

Office number: 715-568-5446

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

St. John's Website: www.Stjohns-bloomer.org

Church News

(continued from page 1)

We were enthralled with the musical aspects of the service as well: an adult choir of 200 from multiple Catholic and Lutheran church choirs in the extended Chippewa Valley, combined children's choirs from Trinity Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, brass and timpani, organ and piano, woodwinds and harps. The hearts and souls of all worshippers were deeply filled.

A reception followed at St. John's Lutheran Church right across the street. Food, fellowship, and a book display offering a selection of items of the history, politics and theology of the Reformation era were all available.

A Heritage Edition of The St. John's Bible - the first handwritten Bible since the invention of the printing press – was present during worship and was on display during the reception. There are 299 Heritage Editions, one of which is housed at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Mayo Hospital, and HSHS St. Joseph Hospital.

What a Fellowship!

St. John's Church will be hosting the Red Cross Community Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at the Bloomer Middle School.

Volunteers will be needed to help at the event and we will need people to bring in cookies. (25 dozen are needed)

Sign-up sheets will be out on the welcome desk in the narthex.

~Sharon Schwartz



POINSETTIA ORDERS



Poinsettia Order

Due by: December 20, 2017

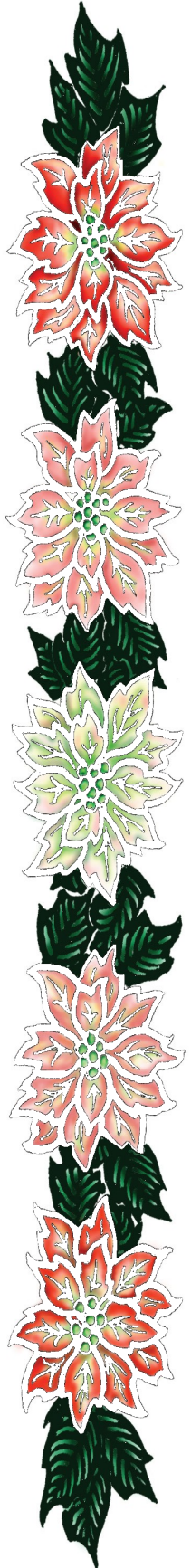
Given "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one, an anniversary, birthday, etc.

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

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.





Dear Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

The year was 1986 and it was a beautiful December morning in our new home in Minnesota. We had recently moved and I was preparing my Christmas Eve message for my new congregation. But I was having difficulty focusing on the task at hand. Each time I attempted to pen relevant and impressive thoughts, my eyes were diverted to a photo on my desk; a photo of a baby with thick dark hair and deep brown eyes. Although we had never met, she had been named and she was loved.

Her name was Laura and Lutheran Social Services had assured us that she would soon be on a plane that would fly her from Seoul, South Korea to the Minneapolis airport and then into our arms. But for now, she was in a crib in an orphanage in a faraway land. And that made me sad...

I was sad because this little one would spend her first Christmas alone... or as alone as one can be in a room filled with cribs. But she would not be held in the arms of loving parents and surrounded with gifts. And that was sad. And it made me feel alone.

But I had a sermon to write... so back to the words in my Bible and back to the story they told.

"Immanuel" - God with us. This word is first written in the book of Isaiah and then again in the Gospel of Matthew. Both times it is written as a promise that God will be with us, and God will never leave us. It is a promise that a baby will one day be born and that baby will fulfill the promise of God's presence with God's people.

Oh my goodness...could this be true? Could God's promise not be an ancient one, but one that was being fulfilled, even as I attempted to write a message of hope to my new people? Is God really with us?

Her first Christmas; wrapped in cloths and lying in a hard bottomed crib in the center of a faraway orphanage. And God is with her. God had knit her together in her mother's womb, and God would never leave her. And her name was Laura. And she was a child of God.

I remember this beautiful December morning often. I remember it when I am feeling alone. I remember it because I need to believe that God is with me. And that God will never leave me. And I believe it.

This will be my last Christmas message to you as your bishop. Next year at this time, you will read words from a new bishop but the promise will not change. God is with you. His name is Immanuel and the promise is real.

Have a blessed Christmas and... go to church! God will be there!

Rev. Robert A. Hogue

Check out the new St. John's website at <http://www.stjohns-bloomer.org/>

Inside you can find

- the most accurate calendar of events
- pictures detailing our vibrant ministry
- featured upcoming events
- an online giving feature (new!) for Paypal and credit card users

Visit Us
ONLINE 

*Here is your Dementia Friendly Tip of the Month.
Being Dementia Friendly is a Community Effort!*

Thank you for your dedication to providing education, awareness and compassion surrounding this disease that affects so many lives!

Body Language: People with dementia may find it difficult to understand what is being said, but may quickly interpret the look on someone's face and your body language.

Smile warmly, make eye contact, use a friendly tone, and respect personal space.

It takes passionate people to help make our community Dementia Friendly.

Church Custodian Wanted!

Val and Dennis Rubenzer have decided to retire as custodians of St. John's Lutheran. If you are interested in applying for this part-time position, please pick up an application in the church office. Interviews will be held the week of Dec. 10.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE



Introducing our new financial secretary!

Welcome to Tracey McCann, who will now serve both as our office manager and future financial secretary. **Congrats!**




 FOR
 unto us a
 Child
 is born,
 unto us a
 Son
 is given; and the government
 will be upon His shoulder. And
 His name will be called
 Wonderful
 Counsellor,
 Everlasting Father
 PRINCE OF PEACE
 PRINCE OF PEACE
 ISAIAH
 9:6



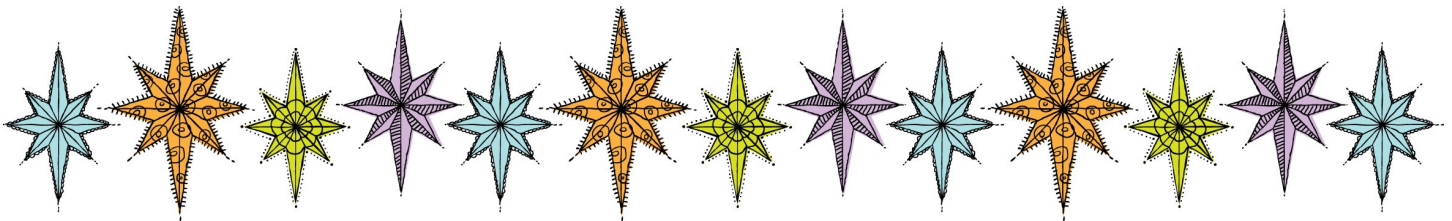
Church News

DECEMBER 2017

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	Butler Braid Sale No Faith Formation 9:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Youth in Action	27 Butler Braid Sale 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	28 Butler Braid Sale	29 Butler Braid Sales Due 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation (Grades: 6, 7, 8) 5:30 PM Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship	30	1 No Bible Study 6:00 PM Preschool Board Christmas Party	2 9:00 AM Christmas decorating
3	9:00 AM Worship Service, Baptism for Tenley Susan Boese, Nursery Dedication 10:15 AM Faith Formation	4 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	5 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	6 11:00 AM Bloomer Clergy Meeting 11:00 AM Bloomer Clergy Meeting 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation (Grades: 6, 7, 8) 5:30 PM Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship and Nursery Dedication	7 6:30 PM Discipleship Committee Meeting	8 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Pseudo Lock-in	9
10	9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Faith Formation 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Youth in Action	11 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:45 PM Preschool Family Night	12 5:45 PM Preschool Family Night 6:30 PM Church Council	13 3:30 PM Pageant Practice 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation (Grades: 6, 7, 8) 5:30 PM Faith Formation & Confirmation Christmas Caroling 6:45 PM Worship	14 1:00 PM Pastor's Conf.	15 No Bible Study	16
17	9:00 AM Worship Service and Baptism for Sara Marie Davis 10:15 AM Faith Formation 1:00 PM Bingo	18 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	19 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	20 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation (Grades: 6, 7, 8) 5:30 PM Faith Formation 6:45 PM Christmas Pageant 6:45 PM Worship	21	22 No Bible Study	23
24	No Faith Formation or Youth in Action 9:00 AM Worship Service 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 Church Office is Closed No Bible Study No Preschool 9:00 AM Christmas Worship	26 No Preschool	27 No Preschool 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM No Wednesday Meal, Faith Formation, or Worship	28 No Preschool	29 No Bible Study No Preschool	30
31	9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Faith Formation	1 Church Office is Closed No Bible Study No Preschool	2 No Preschool 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	3 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation (Grades: 6, 7, 8) 5:30 PM Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship	4	5	6

CATHOLIC AND LUTHERAN CONTINUING EDUCATION

The planning group for the October 29 “From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017” Prayer Service has scheduled four sessions of Catholic/Lutheran continuing education. The third session is Tuesday, November 28, Notre Dame Catholic Church, 117 Allen St., Chippewa Falls at 7:00PM. Enter the former school which is between the Church and the Hyde Center from Allen St. Presenters are Rev. Phil Ruge-Jones, Associate Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, and Fr. John Schultz, Chaplain at HSHS Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Hospitals. Content includes a historical sketch of the Lutheran Reformation and the Catholic response plus basic themes of Luther’s theology in light of Lutheran/Catholic dialogue. The public is invited. The final sessions will be December 5.



Financials 2017

	2016	2017	BUDGET 2017
Beg. Balance - Jan. 1	\$4,465.00	\$4,399.00	
Income 1/1/ - 11/1	\$177,333.00	\$179,446.00	\$209,101.00
Expenses 1/1 - 11/1	\$191,718.00	\$185,990.00	\$209,101.00
Balance	(\$9,920.00)	(\$2,145.00)	
Loan - Security Financial	\$70,523.00	\$61,638.00	Bld. Fund
Loan - Security Financial		\$10,000.00	Gen. Fund

WELCA

Thursday, December 14
Potluck at noon with meeting to follow.

Quilting will resume in January 2018.
Please watch the bulletin or newsletter for updates.

Holiday Worship Schedule:

Wednesday, December 20 - Christmas Pageant @ 6:45p

Sunday, December 24 - Worship @ 9:00a

- Christmas Eve @ 4:00

- Christmas Eve @ 8:00p

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Worship @ 9:00a

No Worship on Wednesday, December 27th



Church Council Meeting Special Meeting of Church Council November 7, 2017

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM by President Tyler Halverson.

Opening Devotion: by Rod Johnson – “Called by God to Serve” Chapter 8.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made by Ellyn Hudacek, seconded by Barb Ross, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of October meeting minutes: A motion was made by Lynette Pank, seconded by Janice Naset, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Council Comments: Announcements on screen seem to be scrolling rather quickly. Members are interested in forming a choir, but need someone able to direct.

Congregational Comments: Recent baptisms weren't announced in the bulletin or on the screen. Some information in the new member pamphlet needs updating. Comment that Wednesday meal portions are small.

Financial Report: A motion was made by Janice Naset, seconded by Ellyn Hudacek, to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Discipleship Ministry:

- ◆ Fall Small Group campaign gatherings have completed. Group will meet to share and discuss compiled information. Commitment cards are still being collected.

Fellowship Ministry:

- ◆ Bingo was well attended by 40 people.
- ◆ Cake walk was a success with 42 donated cakes, raising about \$160 for the Youth trip.

Property Committee:

- ◆ Leaky roof in balcony, missing slats in bell tower and missing soffit all need repair.
- ◆ A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Lynette Pank, to approve the bid of \$1542 from Bauman Construction to replace soffit, fascia, trim and roof flashing. Funds will come from Property Committee, then Property Budget, if necessary. Motion carried.
- ◆ A motion was made by Lynette Pank, seconded by Tom Buchner, to approve the bid of \$2605 from B&B Electric to replace lights in basement near preschool area and rewire switches. Funds will come from Property Committee, then Property Budget, if necessary. Motion carried.

Social Ministry:

- ◆ A check was presented to Bloomer Food Pantry on behalf of St John's for \$289, plus an individual donation of \$100. A Thank You was received from the Food Pantry.

Worship/Music Ministry:

- ◆ None

Church Council Meeting October 10, 2017

Youth/Family Ministry:

- ◆ Confirmation update: 5 small groups with 32 students.
- ◆ Confirmation youth gathered to bake about 300 cookies, package them, and distribute to Bloomer Middle School teachers and staff during Appreciation Week.
- ◆ Raffle Fundraiser is ongoing, with final drawing on November 8th.
- ◆ Financial Policy for youth events has been established, requiring payment in full before the event, with partial reimbursement coming after the event. An exception is the National Youth Gathering, due to the higher cost.
- ◆ There are currently 10 members signed up for the National Youth Gathering. There is still time to sign up. Those who sign up after November 15 will miss the early bird discount.
- ◆ Butterbraid Fundraiser will be November 15-29.

Dream Team: None.

Preschool:

- ◆ Looking at options to replace reloadable debit cards for staff, which are being phased out.
- ◆ Enrollment is around 75%.

Council President's Report:

- ◆ Discussed recent event of church violence in Texas. Plan to hold Armed Intruder Training again in January and encourage all to attend.
- ◆ Reminder to submit items to be included on the next agenda by noon Tuesday of the week prior to council meeting. Next meeting will be December 12, 2017 at 6:30

Pastor's Report:

- ◆ **CELEBRATING:** 500th Anniversary of the Reformation; Nearing completion of Financial Secretary hire; Completion of Small Group campaign; Confirmation cookie project for Middle School staff.
- ◆ **ENCOURAGED:** Small group presenters; Families attending National Youth Gathering; Property committee leadership.
- ◆ **GOALS:** Led three small group sessions; Preached about ELCA ministry; Met with prospective members.
- ◆ **WORKING ON:** Preschool financial process; Completion of filling Financial secretary position; Annual Meeting prep (budget; annual reports; nominations for council)
- ◆ **LEARNING:** Blessing of the orange/pink.
- ◆ **PRAYERS/HELP:** For Arizona trip; Sanctuary lighting and ceiling fans
- ◆ **Membership Update:** New members: Jeanie, Kelsey and Wyatt Kettner. Baptism: Havyn Rihn and Ryla Ward.
- ◆ Motion made by Tom Buchner, seconded by Barb Ross, to approve membership update. Motion carried.
- ◆ Bishop's election will be held at the Annual Meeting for Synod Assembly in June 2018. We can send two voting members from our congregation.
- ◆ Deadline for committees to submit annual reports, financial reports and candidates for election to council is December 25, 2017, to be prepared for Annual Meeting on January 21, 2018.

Church Council Meeting

Old Business:

- ◆ A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Rod Johnson, to hire Tracey McCann as Financial Secretary. Motion carried.
- ◆ A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Ellyn Hudacek, to set a start date of November 8, 2017 for Financial Secretary position. Motion carried.
- ◆ A motion was made by Lynette Pank, seconded by Phil Skaar, to set an hourly wage of \$12 during the three-month trial period. Funds will come from Council Fund through December 31, 2017. Motion carried.
- ◆ A motion was made by Ellyn Hudacek, seconded by Lynette Pank, to hold a raffle at the Annual Meeting on January 21, 2018, with prizes purchased with funds from Council budget. Motion carried (Phil Skaar – voted no.)
- ◆ A motion was made by Tyler Halverson, seconded by Tom Buchner, to award cash prizes for the raffle at the Annual Meeting, with the stipulation that winners need to be present to win and need to be a voting member of St John's. Motion carried.
- ◆ Discussion of cash raffle prizes as follows: 1st prize- \$350, 2nd prize- \$100, 3rd prize- (2) \$50, and (6) \$25 prizes. Tickets will be sold for \$5 each.
- ◆ Discussed Nominating Committee for Council Candidates.

New Business:

- ◆ A motion was made by Rod Johnson, seconded by Ellyn Hudacek, that funds from Cake Walk fundraiser be donated to Youth fund.
- ◆ Discussed Budget committee which consists of Lynette Pank, Janice Naset, Phil Skaar and Pastor Martin.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:46 PM by Janice Naset, with a second by Barb Ross. The motion carried.

The meeting closed with the 'Lord's Prayer' led by Pastor Martin.

Lisa Prill, Secretary

Present: Pastor Martin, Rod Johnson, Philip Skaar, Lynette Pank, Tyler Halverson, Tom Buchner, Janice Naset, Ellyn Hudacek, Barb Ross, Pauline Stertz, Lisa Prill. Absent: Nic Zakrzewicz.

Youth and Family

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

6th-8th grade youth singing carols & frosting cookies at Dove, Atrium & Country Terrace spreading Christmas cheer.



"HERE WE COME R-CAROLING!"

**BUTTERBRAID PASTRY PICK UP
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14
AFTER 12 PM**



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
ST. JOHN'S YOUTH

FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULES

Sunday: 10:15am-11:25am

Faith 5 Small Groups: Preschool Age 3 through 5th Grade, Dec. 3, 10, 17

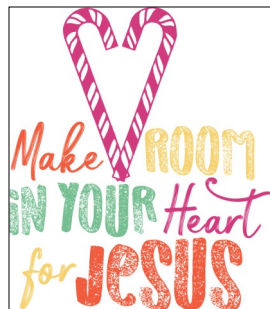
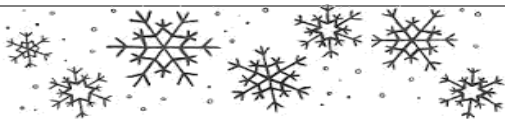
Wednesday: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Preschool: Ages 3, 4, & sometimes 5
Faith 5 Small Groups: Kindergarten through 5th Grade, Dec. 6, 13
Confirmation: 6th, 7th & 8th Grade, Dec. 6. & 13

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.

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.



We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
And a happy new year!

Blessings, Marla



ATTENTION PARENTS:
Sunday & Wednesday Faith
Formation Christmas Break

December 21, 2017 -
January 2, 2018



BREAKING NEWS

**LUTHER PARK
BIBLE CAMP
CHETEK, WISCONSIN
RECHARGE**

**2017-2018
LIFELINE**

- ◆ January 5-6, 2018
- ◆ March 2-3, 2018

WHERE: Luther Park Bible Cam
944 24 ¼ 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



Youth and Family

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 7, 2018 AT 9 AM
9th GRADE CONFIRMATION WORSHIP



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY

WHO: CHILDREN, MEMBERS, FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S

WHAT: BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 at 10:15 AM

WHERE: ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP HALL

Hear the Christmas Story

Frost Christmas Cookies



R E M E M B E R
THE CHILD

MIDDLE SCHOOL LATE NIGHT

WHO: 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Youth

WHEN: Friday, December 8, 8 pm-midnight

WHERE: St. John's Lutheran Church

FOOD: Please bring snacks to share

FUN (games etc.) & Fellowship



FRIENDS WELCOME

MUST HAVE UPDATED REGISTRATION, HEALTH, & CONSENT/LIABILITY FORMS ON FILE WITH MARLA TO ATTEND

Complete forms online at

www.stjohns-bloomer.org, go to more, resources, click on forms, fill out info for forms listed, save as a file on your computer, email a copy to Marla and info will be complete.

"FOLLOW THE STAR"

Children's Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 6:45 p.m.

All members and friends are welcome!!

Family meal served
from 5-6 p.m. in the dining hall.

Please bring your favorite Christmas dessert.



Celebrate the Season

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

2018 ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

JUNE 27-JULY 1,
HOUSTON TEXAS

WHO: 8th-12th grade youth

DATE: January 28 at 7 p.m.

About the event and registration available The gathering belongs on the timeline of your faith journey.



IN ACTION

WHAT: CHRISTMAS GATHERING

WHERE: ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

WHO: 8TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE YOUTH (Friends Welcome)

WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 5:30-7:30 PM

FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP