



# 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:

- The Gift
- Announcements
- Council Meeting
- Financial Report
- Youth and Family
- Preschool

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## RESPONDING TO THE GIFT

As you read this article, many of you have already opened your Christmas gifts for the year. For our children, they focus largely on the gift itself, whereas others of us focus on the meaning behind the gift. Unfortunately in the season of Christmas, far too often do we forget to give out of gratitude and instead give out of obligation and the meaning behind the gift is missed. But when we manage to receive a gift knowing that it's a sign of the giver's love, then that truly embraces the spirit of Christmas as God gifted the world with His son, a gift that was freely given. God did not give out of obligation, but out of love, grace, and mercy.

The month of January will feature several meaningful events for our congregation. We begin the year by baptizing Lila Mae Edin, daughter to Luke and Ashley, on Jan. 4. She is a beautiful gift for their family and for ours. Luke and Ashley, in turn, will respond to the gift God has granted to them by making public promises to raise her in a family of faith and we will respond to this gift by supporting, praying, and encouraging them in their journeys of faith. Our collective response of thankfulness is appropriate as we understand the love of God behind the gift of Lila.

On Jan. 11, we will highlight the confirmation of our 9<sup>th</sup> grade youth. Ironically, they will make the same promises that Luke and Ashley made the previous week for themselves. They will make public affirmation of their faith as they respond to the gift of baptism. They will be surrounded by family and sponsors who have and will continue to encourage them on their faith journey. And we, the church family, will continue to do likewise. Again, all appropriate responses to the gifts that God has blessed us with.

Finally, on Jan. 25, we will gather as a congregation at our annual meeting. This is an opportunity for us to elect new leadership for our church council, approve a spending plan for the congregation as we seek to utilize God's gifts in a meaningful way, and to address and questions that are raised. Now that we meet only once each year, this gathering becomes that much more essential as we consider the direction for our church. As information becomes available, please read through our annual reports, our proposed missional spending plan, and biographies of the church council candidates. These are important decisions for the life of our church and your input is not only appreciated, but also important. Childcare will be provided during the meeting so that our ministry can be discussed without distraction. This too, is indeed an important response to the gifts that God has blessed this church with.

*(continue on page 2)*

I can't wait to see what 2015 will bring. If 2014 is any indication, our church will continue to grow into a great future and impact lives of people we know as well as strangers across the world. How awesome it is to respond to God's gifts with thanksgiving, gratitude, and generosity!

Peace,

Pastor Martin

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

An all day quilting day will be Saturday, January 4. We will start quilting at 9 a.m. with potluck gathering at 11:30 a.m. and then they will be wrapping up things around 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!!



As a member congregation of Luther Park Bible Camp, we are eligible to bring 3 voting members to their annual meeting. It will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24 starting at 10 am. If anyone is interested in serving in this capacity, you need to be a voting member of St. John's Lutheran Church. Please contact Pastor Martin for further information!

Beginning January 1, 2015, the library committee is starting a new checkout system. You no longer need to remove and fill out the card, rather just sign out the book on the clipboard found on the library desk or at the book cart in the Narthex. New books recently added to our collection are The Walk (complete series) by Richard Paul Evans. Enjoy your library!



## Council Meeting

December 9 2014

President Pat Boettcher called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Kathy Faschingbauer opened the meeting with prayer.

- ◆ **Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster and seconded by Jordyn Keller to approve the agenda.** Motion carried.
- ◆ **Motion made by Rod Johnson and seconded by Kathy Faschingbauer to approve the e-mailed November meeting minutes.** Motion carried.

**Council Member Comments:** Benefits of monetary donations to the Food Pantry/second collection discussed, announcements in bulletin, church schedule in the Bloomer Advance.

**Congregational Input:** None

### **Committee Reports:**

- ◆ Youth & Education-Met 12/1/14. Budget discussed, Christmas Pageant is 12/20/14, Rite of Confirmation 1/11/15 at 9:00A.M. Next meeting 1/19/15.
- ◆ Discipleship-None
- ◆ Worship & Music-None
- ◆ Fellowship/Social Ministry-Agnes Table 12/25 & Meals on Wheels in January.
- ◆ Property Management-Damaged tree removed, stump removal in spring. Burners on stoves repaired/replaced as needed.

**Chair Report:** None

### **Pastor's Report:**

- ◆ **Motion made by Janice Naset and seconded by Alice Zinsmaster to approve membership by Baptism of Emmitt Torpen, Transfer to the Church Triumphant of May Koch and Affirmation of Baptism of Kim and Don Oldenberg.** Motion carried.
- ◆ Wednesday Night Dinner-Going well
- ◆ Parent's Nite Out-Off for December, resume in January
- ◆ Visit Report-Hospital visits & communion
- ◆ Housing Allowance-**Motion made by Adam Ewings and seconded by Rod Johnson to allow \$24,000.00 to go for Pastor's housing allowance.** Motion carried.
- ◆ Annual Meeting-1/25/15. Discussion on pros/cons of one service that week. Worship will be held Wednesday, 1/28/15.
- ◆ Luther Park's Annual Meeting is 1/24/15 at 10:00 A.M. St. John's allowed up to 3 voting members.

### **Financial Report:**

- ◆ **Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster and seconded by Tom Buchner to accept Financial Report.** Motion carried.
- ◆ Budget-Pat Boettcher, Pat Prill and Lynette Pank presented 2015 budget proposal. Discussion.
- ◆ Audit-None

## Council Meeting

### Old Business:

- ◆ Dream Team/Long Range Planning-Possible meeting in January
- ◆ Audit Committee-Lynette Pank to contact appointments

### New Business:

- ◆ 2015 Budget Proposal-**Motion made by Rod Johnson and seconded by Pauline Stertz to accept proposed budget, presented by the Chair, with the correction of 2013 Pastor salary comparison.** Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M. with the Lord's Prayer.

Shelly Lane, secretary

Meeting attended by Pastor Martin, Tom Buchner, Rod Johnson, Alice Zinsmaster, Pat Boettcher, Adam Ewings, Lynette Pank, Janice Naset, Pauline Stertz, Kathy Faschingbauer, Jordyn Keller and Shelly Lane.

**JANUARY 2015**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service	<b>29</b> No Preschool 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	<b>30</b> No Preschool	<b>31</b> No Preschool No Worship, Youth Faith Formation, or Wed. Meal	<b>1</b> No Preschool Office is Closed	<b>2</b> No Preschool Office is Closed	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service and Baptism of Lila Mae Edin 10:00 AM Faith Formation with Friends (FFF) 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	<b>5</b> Preschool starts 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 11:00 AM Pastor attending Bloomer Clergy Meeting 5:45 PM Youth Faith Formation 7:00 PM Worship	<b>8</b> 6:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting	<b>9</b> 6:30 PM 3rd - 12th Grade Recharge at Luther Park	<b>10</b> - 7:30 PM 3rd - 12th Grade Recharge at Luther Park 9:30 AM Conformatin Breakfast
<b>11</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service and Confirmation 10:00 AM Faith Formation with Friends (FFF) 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	<b>12</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	<b>13</b> 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	<b>14</b> 5:45 PM Youth Faith Formation 7:00 PM Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service and Childrens Music 10:00 AM Faith Formation with Friends (FFF) 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	<b>19</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Committee Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:45 PM Youth Faith Formation 7:00 PM Worship Service and Childrens Music	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Annual Meeting	<b>26</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:45 PM Youth Faith Formation 7:00 PM Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:00 PM Durch/North Rehearsal	<b>31</b> 3:00 PM Cassandra Durch and Brandon North Wedding

# Financial Report - Dec. 2014

	2013	2014	Budget 2014
<b>Beginning Balance – Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	\$23,002.00	\$7,513.00	
<b>Income – December</b>	\$207,859.00	\$229,402.00	\$248,760.00
<b>Expenses - December</b>	\$ 223,348.00	\$234,026.00	\$248,760.00
<b>Balance</b>	\$7,513.00	\$2,889.00	
<b>Loan – Security Financial Bank</b>	\$95,344.00	\$81,747.00	



There are still Hymnal Angels on the window sills for sale. Cost is \$20.00. Proceeds will go towards the Worship and Music fund. See Lisa Goettl or Janice Naset after worship.



**CHILDREN'S VOICES**  
Sunday, January 18 during  
9 am worship

Wednesday, January 21  
during 7 pm worship

“Write it on your heart that every day is the  
best day in the year.” ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

**FAITH FORMATION JANUARY SCHEDULES**

10:15 am Sunday, January 4, 11, 18  
Preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

5:40 pm Wednesday, January 7, 14, 21  
Preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible 101  
6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation

Sunday, January 25: St. John's Annual  
Congregational Meeting immediately after worship,  
Children's Activities & Child Care provided during  
meeting (no learning scheduled)

**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.



**9<sup>th</sup> GRADE CONFIRMATION WORSHIP**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 at 9:00 AM S

**CONFIRMED IN CHRIST**

- Trey Baker
- Payton Dachel
- Haley Faschingbauer
- Laken Jones
- Joseph Lanzer
- Samuel Lanzer
- Masen Miller
- Aaron Price
- Jenna Ruffedt
- Kendall Zeman



**ALL MEMBER WINTER FELLOWSHIP**  
EVENT

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28**

**FROM 5 PM UNTIL YOUR TOES ARE FROZEN**

**SKATING, SLEDDING,  
HOT CHOCOLATE & MORE**

**SEE YOU AT THE BLOOMER GOLF COURSE**  
**SKATING RINK & SLEDDING HILL**



**GOD IS GOOD!**  
**ALL THE TIME!**





2014

# Christmas Pageant



# St. John's Preschool News

We enjoyed family Christmas celebrations the evenings of Dec. 8th & 9th. Activities included: cookie decorating, crafts, family pictures, singing and making reindeer food. It was great to be able to share in the holiday spirit with the little ones, and their family members!

Classroom Christmas parties were held Dec. 18th & 19th. The children exchanged gifts, played in a tub of artificial snow :) and enjoyed tasty treats.

We extend a sincere thank you to Nylah Gust for the \$30 Christmas donation to the preschool, given in honor of Pastor Martin and his family. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated!

We'll be back to class on Jan. 5th, after our holiday break. Merry Christmas and a blessed new year to everyone!



