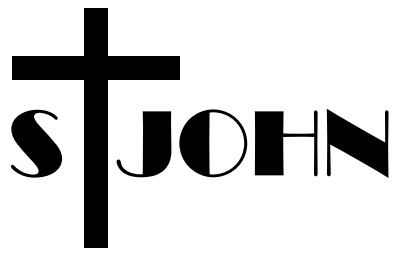


GOOD NEWS FROM ST JOHN



December
2017

NEWS FOR ALL



ADVENT ANTICIPATION! Welcome to our December issue which will be a bit different...more like a news BULLETIN, rather than our usual Newsletter.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00am

Sunday School
9:15am—10:00am
(during the school year)

Holy Communion
1st & 4th Sunday

PASTOR

Gail Sowell
Office Hours: 9am-1pm
Tuesday-Friday
(And by appointment)

SECRETARY'S HOURS

Monday-Friday
9:00-1:00

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Items for print **MUST** be submitted by the 20th of the preceding month.

Along with Advent Anticipation, Pastor Gail and I (Rose) are looking forward to an "Italian Escape" which begins December 1 and will last through Dec. 9, with us returning to Edgar late December 10th. Whew!

We've worked to have everything in its place so that no one will miss a beat during this busy time, and we know that things here will be cared for by very capable hands, and God will take care of ALL. As always, everyone and all things here at St. John will be in our prayers while we're away.

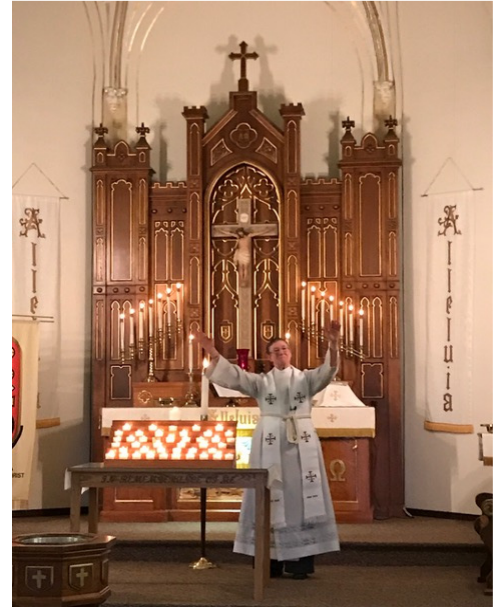
The season of Advent is always a time of preparing in anticipation for the celebration of the coming of our Savior, clothed in humanity as a baby. It's also a time to look forward and rejoice that He will come again when ALL will recognize that truly he IS the KING of KINGS, and LORD of LORDS !

In light of these things we have many upcoming events that will help us to focus our attention on JESUS CHRIST the "reason for the season". Please keep your eyes on the bulletins, and ears open to announcements as well. You won't want to miss a thing!

This Sunday, December 3, begins Advent. Decorated Christmas windows are beginning to add to the beauty of our worship space. Many thanks to those who are taking the time and sharing their Christmas joy with us in this way! *We will be lighting the Christmas tree this Sunday.* Louann Miles will preside over worship in Pastor Gail's absence, and Linda Kovalik will read the sermon that was prepared by Pastor Gail in advance. Much appreciation to both for being willing to minister in this way.

The Sunday School students continue to practice their **Christmas program** which will be presented on **December 17th** and followed by the annual **Cookie Walk**.

St. John Family News!



We lit 41 candles in loving remembrance of dear ones we wanted to honor this year on **All Saints Sunday**. Hertha Werner was especially noted as a member who passed away from our presence this past year. *Many thanks to Dan Rosien for providing the photographic memories.*

Blessing upon Blessing !



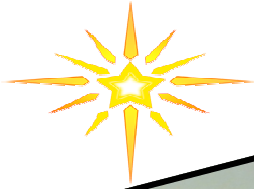
Our time of worship together on November 12th was a very special time of blessing indeed! We asked God's special blessing on **Wedding Rings** for Troy & Shae Wiesman, more **QUILTS** made by our ladies as they were being prepared to be sent out, and those who were looking forward to **Deer Hunting** this season. We also had a special time of prayer in honor and thanksgiving for our **Veterans**. *What a precious time together!*

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The **Thanksgiving Eve worship** was held at St. John this year. 47 people attended, and we enjoyed warm fellowship around pie and coffee after the service. Many thanks to all who helped to prepare and baked the delicious variety of pies that were shared!



That's My Pan! is a new fundraising opportunity that was introduced this year by Susan Robers. It offered the opportunity to purchase personalized, quality products while helping to raise money for St. John. Over \$300 in profit has been gained for St. John so far. Sunday, December 3rd will be the last opportunity to place an order. Many thanks to Susan Robers, for seizing and spearheading this opportunity!



Decorating the Christmas Tree



Thanks ladies, for getting the tree ready for lighting this Sunday! (Dec. 3)



What is a Chrismon anyway ??

“Chrismons” are decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus’ birthday. They are gold and white, representing majesty and purity. Some of the symbols that I found on our tree I was able to look up, and here’s some of what I found:

IHC—are the first 3 letters of JESus in the Greek, reminding us of the name given to the baby who is “God with us”, Emmanuel. *“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name of Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21*



“Chi Rho” is made up of the first 2 letters for the Greek word for Christ, “Christos” which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word “Messiah” meaning “God’s anointed one. As God’s anointed one, Jesus takes on the roles of prophet, priest, and king for his people. *“Christ is the mediator of a new covenant.” Hebrews 9: 15*



The Crown—Jesus answered, *“You say that I am a king. In fact the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me”.* John 18: 37 Pilate had questioned Jesus before his crucifixion, asking if he was a king—

The King of the Jews. The Kingship and the Kingdom that Jesus represents are so radically different from the kingdoms of this world that it was difficult for Pilate to understand.

It was interesting research. Much more time could be spent. Many thanks to those who made the Chrismons (*many years ago*), to those who set up the tree, and to those who put the meaningful decorations on it!



The St. John & St. Stephen Joint Community Mission Project comes to a close December 10th. We want to get the collection to Circle of Joy a couple of weeks BEFORE Christmas. There is a tote in the Narthex to receive your donations of winter socks, hats & mittens. Thank you to ALL for your warm generosity!

Women of the ELCA

Next Bible Study—Tuesday, December 12, at 1pm. (at St. Stephen).

It will be preceded by a wonderful Salad Luncheon.

(Bring a dish to pass!)

Next General meeting—Wed. February 7, at 6:30pm.

Next Funeral Group to serve is Group #2



Many thanks to those who made pies for the Thanksgiving Eve Pie & Coffee fellowship following the service. Appreciation also to those who participated in the Thankoffering this year.

The gift collection for **Operation Christmas** which goes to Homme Youth & Family Services in Wittenberg will be ending December 17th. Bev plans to deliver the gifts on the 18th. Many thanks to those who have generously given. A decorative box remains in the narthex to receive your donations.

Your delicious **cookie donations** would be much appreciated for the upcoming **COOKIE WALK on Dec. 17th**. Help would also be appreciated with setting up and overseeing this much anticipated annual event!

Information has been gathered, and the 2018 Yearbook for the St. John women of the ELCA will be going to press SOON. If you have any changes in contact information, get them to Bev ASAP!

An area of need that has been discovered for the upcoming year is volunteers to serve on **Altar Guild**. If you would be able to help, please talk to Bev Umnus. If it's not an area you're familiar with, don't worry. Coaching would be provided! It's an important behind-the-scenes ministry that's pivotal to our worship times together.



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Quilters Taking a BREAK ! TUESDAY, Dec. 5th will be the LAST Quilting time for awhile.

The re-start time has yet to be determined. The Quilters have completed 52 quilts since they began in September. They have been sent out to be a blessing through various outlets: Orphan Grain Train, ELCA World Relief, Homme Youth & Family Services (Wittenberg), and 2 were donated for Raffle at the October Pancake Brunch. One was also donated for Raffle in November with proceeds to go to the General Fund to help with St. John winter expenses. The BLESSED winner of that Quilt was Abigail Drabek. *Congratulations!*

A Quick Peek Ahead

You won't want to miss ANY of this!



The **Sunday School Christmas program** and **Cookie Walk** will be on December 17th.



Christmas EVE is on Sunday this year !



The **Christmas Eve Day** services will be at

9am at St. John (*Advent 4*)

4pm—Candlelight

10:30am at St. Stephen

7pm—Candlelight

Pre-service music starts at 6:30pm.



Christmas Day services will be at

9am at St. John (Communion)

10:30 at St. Stephen.



Blessed CHRISTmas
JOY to ALL!



A NEW YEAR is right around the corner.

The **Annual Meeting** is on January 21.

Annual Reports from Ministry leaders will be **due** to the secretary on **January 10th**.

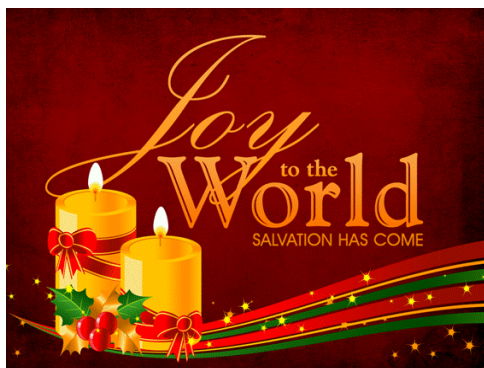
2018
Here we come !

GOOD NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church ELCA
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Edgar, WI 54426

We're on the Web
www.stjohnelcaedgar.org

December 2017



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Deadline for Jan. 2017 News



December 31st

Joint St. John/St. Stephen Mission Statement:

“Saints united to be the body of Christ in the world, freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.”