



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

## The Messenger

(a monthly publication)

DECEMBER 2017



*...The child to be born will be holy;  
he will be called Son of God...*

### An invitation to share

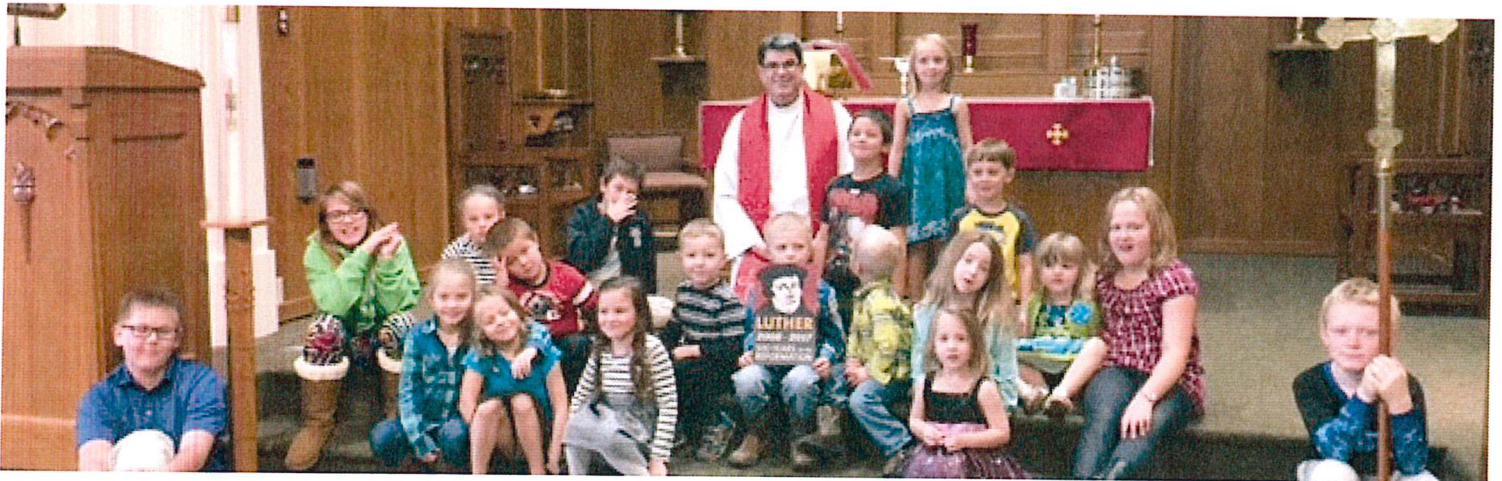
If you would like to make a special Christmas gift this year to support the mission and ministry of St. John's, you can return this envelope or the Christmas Offering Envelope if you have a boxed set.

Our shared ministry in 2017 has been blessed and we are grateful for the chance to be partners with people who hear and respond to the generous gifts of God in their lives.

Through your participation, each new generation hears the Good News that Jesus is born and comes to save us. Have a blessed Christmas, Pr. Erik



*A Season  
for*



“For  
**I KNOW**  
the plans  
I have for you,”  
declares the LORD,  
“... plans to give you  
**HOPE** and a  
**FUTURE.**”

Jeremiah 29:11, NIV





Greetings and God's Blessings to All!

Noah's Ark Nursery has been busy, busy, busy. We have greeted a lot of new friends this month. We said welcome to two new little baby boys, and one beautiful little girl. It's been amazing watching this room shift from an older infant room, to a lot of new little ones. It's always a joy watching new ones reach new milestones. We have gone from being excited about new steps and speedy running infants, to getting excited about kids rolling over and supporting their heads for the first time. It is a never ending cycle of milestone reaching in this classroom.

This month in God's Little Lambs also received a few new friends and a new teacher too. There are lots of new faces around our center. God's Little Lambs has been enjoying going out for walks while they still can. They have also been working really hard to get our new friends adapted to our everyday schedule. Lots of projects have been done this month with some of our favorites being pumpkin painting and also playing the fun games at our Halloween party. We are getting really excited to shift into the holiday spirit and our new teacher has a lot of festive projects planned to keep us occupied everyday.

It was a spooktacular last October in Caring Cross as they were able to do a lot of fun and festive projects. They made lots of pumpkins, spiders, and bats to help decorate our center. They kept busy with all of their fun crafts and games that they got to learn throughout the month. Their stupendous behavior in the classroom also earned them a fun movie this past month. It has been a joy to help them learn and use their manners and watching them care for one another.

Promise Land Preschool had so many fun field trips and visitors this past month. They were able to go to the fire station just down the street and tour it. They also got to see what a fireman looks like in his full fire fighting suit. Our goal is to make sure that every child is aware that when they see a firefighter that they are nothing to be scared of, but to know they are safe. We also had Officer Staska of the Jamestown Police department come in and do a stranger danger presentation just before Halloween so that our kids know the difference between a stranger and someone they know. On top of all that we were also able to go trick or treat up at the Edgewood retirement home. Mrs. Ford has done a wonderful job planning her classroom and preparing our wonderful preschoolers for Kindergarten. Next month will be full of new adventures, learning, and projects as well.

It was a busy October and we are looking forward to our even busier November with a center full of wonderful children and staff.

Torrey Herrington, Director

Sincerely,

Torrey Herrington,  
Director Child in our Hands



# STEWARDSHIP



In Memory of:

Given by:

*General Fund*

Elda Thurn

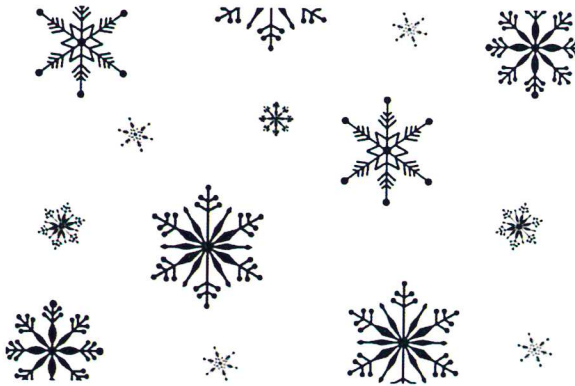
Kimberly Groszhans  
Florence Goehner

Lloyd Clemens

Grace Walz

Margaret Reinke

Debbie Clemens



## 2018 SPONSORSHIP UPDATES

Radio broadcast and Altar flower sponsorships for 2018 will cost \$25 for altar flowers and \$190 for the radio broadcast. It is a nice way to honor or memorialize a loved one. Contact the church office at 252-1198 to select your sponsorship date.

### *Available dates for Radio 2018*

January 7 and 21  
March 4, 18, and 25  
April 1, and 15  
May 13 and 20  
June 10, 17 and 24  
July 15, 22, and 29  
September 2, and 23  
October 14  
December 1, and 16



### *Available dates for Altar Flowers 2018*

January 7, 21, and 28  
March 4, 18, and 25  
April 1, 22 and 29  
May 6, 20, and 27  
June 3, 17, and 24  
July 15, and 22

# Giving Matters

## Disciples sent out to make a difference in God's name & Contributions to God's mission:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
October	
1	181
4 mid-week	0
8	170
11 mid-week	11
15	149
18 mid-week	0
22	166
25 mid-week	14
29	165
<b>General Offering</b>	<b>\$ 27,677.33</b>

## December 15, 2017

# DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES



## Jesus comes for us

One of the joys and challenges of life together in community is the knowledge that people are hurting. It is a joy when we are able to help and walk with people through difficult times. It is challenging when complex problems and our own limitations make us feel powerless. In a world where people are hurting, Jesus comes. The bible tells us that “the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” That light shines for us.

We know the physical darkness of this season. The days are short, most people are waking up before the sun rises and leaving work after the sun has already set. It may seem strange to think about walking in darkness when all the stores and streets are shining bright with flashing lights and sparkly ornaments. Even sweaters and hats can have flashing lights. Jesus is not born into the world to be dazzled by the flashy lights of decorated trees or amazed at the cookies or food on tables. Jesus is born into the world to announce the Reign of God and invite us to receive it.

The darkness that surrounds us is emotional and spiritual, as well as physical. Hurting people know what darkness is like. It can linger. It can seem to spread. It can block out the joy of things that are normally comforting. Jesus comes into the world to find the lost, reclaim the isolated, free the captive, and say “peace be with you”.

How will you receive the Reign of God this year? Will that gift be recognized and appreciated amidst the hustle and bustle of shopping, cooking, and visiting?

Jesus comes for us as God’s light breaking into the world. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Merry Christmas.

Pr. Erik

## Happy Birthday Jesus!



Come join us at the 10:45 am service on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> for the Sunday School Christmas Program.

We will be singing and celebrating the birth of Jesus.

There will be a meal following the service downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

Each family is asked to bring a fruit or dessert to share.

## St. John’s Council Highlights-

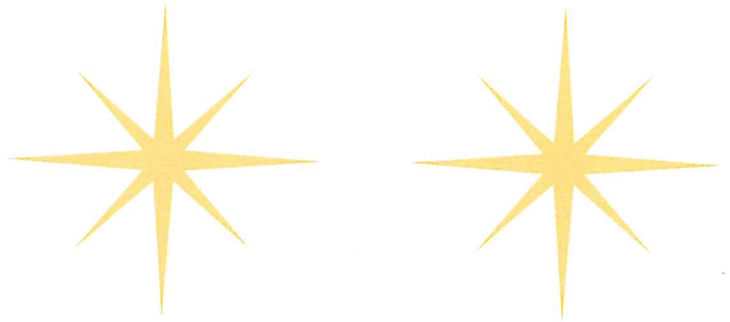
The Council received the 2018 budget for Child in Our Hands. Income projected at \$209,000 and expenses at \$207,811.

The Council received the 2018 Mission and Ministry plan from the Budget Committee. The council chose to include expenses related to an Associate Pastor in the presentation and accepted the Budget Committees recommendations. The proposed congregational spending plan is \$403,570.

Council members will hold an informational Mission and Ministry preview on Sunday January 21st. The Annual Meeting will be Sunday January 28, 2018.

The Council was updated on the progress of the Nominating Committee.

The Council was updated on the status of the Call Committee– no candidates are available at this time.

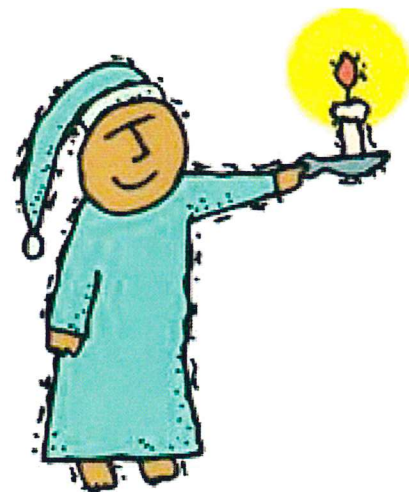


## Sunday School Families

Come join us for Pajama Vespers!

*Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>*

*5:00-7:30 PM*



All Sunday School children are invited to wear your pajamas and spend an evening eating and playing until gathering in the sanctuary at 7 pm for a fun vespers service.



*Greetings to my St. John's Family,*

We are now in that busy time of year when every one is getting ready for Christmas. Decorating our homes inside and out, buying gifts, baking goodies, and planning when and where to be somewhere. It can be overwhelming to most and terribly hard for someone who has lost someone to a death. Please try to be extra kind to these people, they truly need understanding at this time of year. You don't even need to say anything, most of the time a hug is needed and not words.

If you don't have a lot of money and don't know what to get someone, how about an IOU for something they like to eat that you make or something that you can-do for them. There are so many things that will cost little to nothing and are so greatly appreciated, because they come the your heart.

My hope for you this holiday season is for a blessed time with your family and friends. What a wonderful time to remember what the Lord has done for us and others. Enjoy the time you have with others and remember those who are alone and try to include them in some way.

Blessings to you and your family during this time we have together.

Charlotte Freeberg,  
Congregational President



Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Reverse Advent Calendars in November. Please be sure to return all the items by December 3rd.



**Calendar of Events**

- November 29th Ave Maria Worship 2:30 pm
- December 3rd Ave Maria Worship 2:30 pm
- December 6 Advent Worship "Behold the Signs" 5:30 pm meal to follow (hosted by the Evangelism Team)
- December 10 Pajama Vespers 5 pm
- December 12 5:00 pm Evangelism Meeting  
6:30 pm Council Meeting
- December 13 Advent Worship "Behold the Son" 5:30 pm, meal to follow (hosted by Women of the Church)

- December 15 News Letter Deadline
- December 17 Children Christmas Program 10:45 am
- December 20 Advent Worship "Behold the Son" 5:30 pm, meal to follow (hosted by Child in Our Hands)
- December 21 Blue Christmas Worship 7 pm

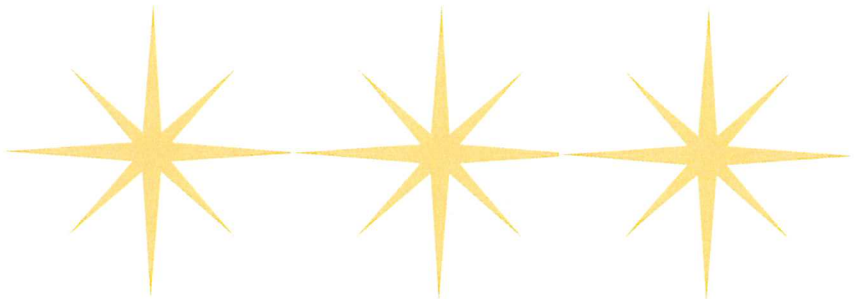


- December 24
  - 9:00 am Worship Service
  - 1:00 pm Christmas Eve Children Service
  - 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service Candlelight
  - 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service Candlelight

December 25 Christmas Day Worship 10 am  
**CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED**

January 1, 2018 **CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED**

January 28, 2018- Annual Meeting



**ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE**

The Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday January 28th at St. John's. The meeting will begin at 12:45 pm (following the Souper Bowl of Caring Meal hosted by the Evangelism Team)

Annual Reports will be available for pick up by January 21st or earlier if printing goes smoothly.

**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH UPDATES**

Bazaar day at the Mall was October 28th. Thank you to everyone that donated baked items. Our profit was \$563.00 This will be used for our mission projects at the end of the year.



We will be preparing the Advent meal on December 13th. Call the church office if you would like to bake any goodies for this meal.

**Our Annual Church Rummage Sale.**

With winter here it's a good idea to clean closets, cabinets, basements and garages. There must be many items that are not being used or just in your way. Pack them up and mark For Rummage Sale. That way in the spring all you have to do is just drop it off at the church. Mark your calendar April 9th, 10th, 11th, are the dates to bring everything to the church. Our Sale will be on the 12th and 13th.

Starting in December: 3rd, 10th and 17th we will be selling: Cards, napkins, dish rag, Rada knives, embroidered dish towels, hanging stove towels, baking towel scarves and many other items. We will be in the Hospitality Center. Come over and get a cup of coffee and do some Christmas shopping.

Sharon Dockter  
Women of the Church



Poinsettias are available at a cost of \$20.00 each. If you would like to share a plant(s) with the congregation to decorate the church for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, please fill out the form below and drop in the offering plate or turn into church office. The plant(s) may be taken home after the 10 a.m. Christmas Day worship service.

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) at a cost of \$20.00 each

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

would like the plant in *memory* of:  
\_\_\_\_\_

would like the plant in *honor* of:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Last Date to order is December 20, 2017**

**Blue Christmas  
Thursday  
December 21  
7:00 PM**



The Blue Christmas service is a time set aside for people to greet our Savior, Jesus the Christ, in a calm, quiet, and supportive community. It grows out of an understanding that, for many of us, Christmas is a time of worry, isolation, and even sadness. Jesus enters the world FOR and TO us-no matter how ready or where

we are, we come bringing our laments, our longings, and our hopes.

Please come and invite a friend who may appreciate a quieter Christmas.



**LAST CALL  
ANGEL TREE**

**St. John's is supporting food baskets for families as part of Adopt-a-Family Program through the Salvation Army Angel Tree.**

**Check out the needs and requests of the families near the Hospitality Center.**

**All donations must be received by December 6**

## Thanks to Our Volunteers in December

**Readers:** Ann Ede, Frank Perleberg, Jan Johnson, Gavin Kutz, Shelly Moltzen, Pauline Roeske

**Communion Assistants:** Pauline Roemmich, Linda Goehner, Connie Wells, Gayl Lange, Marlys Perleberg, Paulette Ritter, Joan Enderle, Joseph Fuchs, Cindy Kleven, Mary Klundt, Sandy Franke, Char Freeberg

**Greeters:** Mike Miska, Marva Miska, Betty Frigen, Margie Schrenk, Deloris Lux

**Acolytes:** Conner Ede, Kaiya Dodgeson, Anya Bostan, Macy Steele, Josilynn Walton, Tamika Holte.

**Ushers:** Bill Ebele, Glenn Johnson, Shilo Ford, Jolene Baltrusch, JoAnn Perleberg, Lloyd Landscoat, Jim Walters, Jerry and Darlene Michael, Leslie Guthmiller, Gary Staab, Al Kessel, Joe Goehner, Jerry Readle, Linda Misemer, Mary Klundt, Deb Guthmiller, Char Guthmiller

**Communion Set-up:** Alden and DeLanda Kollman, Kathy Wiest, Mary Klundt, Pauline Roemmich, Gayl Lange, Marlys Perleberg, Paulette Ritter, Connie Wells, Pauline Roemmich, Linda Goehner, John and Cindy Kleven, Cindy Wolff, Del and Gloria Davis

**Fellowship/Coffee Hour Servers:** Del and Gloria Davis

**Projection Screen Operators:** Cindy Willey, Char Perleberg, Frank Perleberg, Aaron Kleven, Bobbie Landscoat, Lynn Krueger

**Van Drivers:** Dan Dockter, Tom Enderle, John Kleven, Howard Weispfenning, Jr.

**Organist/Pianist:** Robert Murphy, Connie Wells, Rachael Williams.

**Choir Members:** Ken Gumke, Charlie & Connie Wells, Carl Franke, Gary & Laurie Staab, Mark Wolf, Steve Hallberg, Helen Ashwell, Florence Goehner, Tina Lake, Shelley Mack, Pat Fennern.

Special thanks to JoAnn Deede and Jerry Perleberg for preparing the Wednesday meal.

We apologize to anyone who have served but not mentioned. We appreciate all who volunteer their time and talents to support our community worship.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
From St. John's Staff

### 2017 Radio Sponsorship

<b>December</b>	<b>3</b>	Carol Weispfenning
	<b>10</b>	Edith Coddling
	<b>17</b>	Jerry and Darlene Michel
	<b>24</b>	James & Phyllis Lees
		Larry and Nadine Readle
	<b>31</b>	Melva Oak

(St. John's 9:00 am worship service is broadcast Sunday morning over KSJB radio (600) or computer [www.KSJBam.com](http://www.KSJBam.com).)

### 2017 Altar Flower Sponsorship

<b>December</b>	<b>3</b>	Carol Weispfenning
	<b>10</b>	Edith Coddling
	<b>17</b>	Jerry and Darlene Michel
	<b>24</b>	Tom and Joan Enderle
	<b>31</b>	Melva Oak

### Ministry Acts

#### Funeral

Ruby Job—11/9  
Virgil Greer—11/21  
Henry Fietzk—11/22



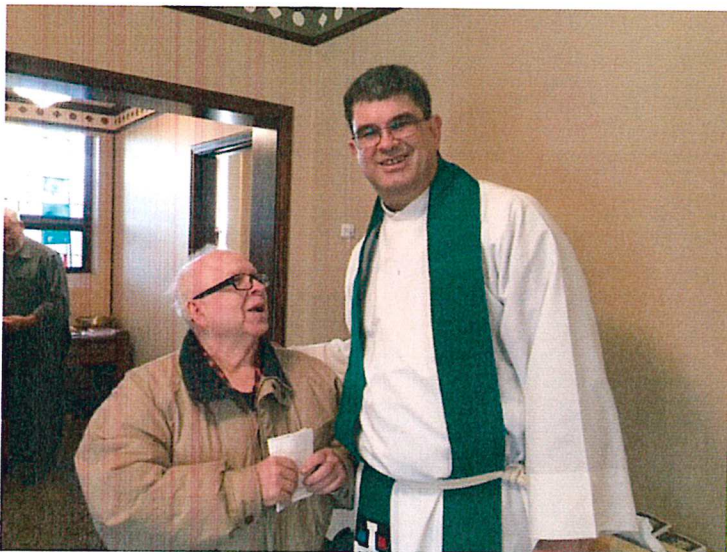
**Baptism Class**  
**December 10, 2017**  
**11:45 am**





*Advent Mid-week Worship*  
*5:30 pm Wednesday followed by a meal*  
*December 6:*  
*Behold the Signs*

*December 13 and December 20*  
*Behold the Son*



Selmer keeps asking, "When is the new pastor going to get here?" We keep assuring him that the call committee is working on it and we will be sure to let him know when there is something to announce.

### St. John's Lutheran ND Tax Credit Endowment Fund

If you are in a position to make a substantial year end gift to the congregation, consider the benefits of a gift to the endowment that qualifies for the ND Tax Credit.

The fund is available for gifts between \$5,000 and \$25,000 for an individual and could result in significant tax savings. Consult a tax professional to see how this would apply to you.

For additional information, contact Denise Steel or Pr. Erik to complete a gift agreement before December 31st.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

2018 ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE Narthex for pick up. We have worked hard this fall to make sure that everyone who wants envelopes receives an appropriate amount of envelopes for the year.

1. If you have been a regular giver in 2017, you should find your name on a full boxed set of envelopes.
2. If you have not had envelopes or have not used envelopes in 2017 but would like them for 2018 speak to Pr. Erik.
3. If you give electronically, we have ordered smaller sets of "special" envelopes that include Lent and Advent envelopes.

Please, recycle any old envelopes that you still have after December 31st. We have renumbered nearly every household for 2018, so the yellow 2018 envelopes that you receive will likely have a different number than the blue envelopes in 2017. ***Please do not use old envelopes after January 1st, 2018.***

St. John's is committed to offering a variety of ways for people to practice the faith discipline of giving. Where that is weekly, monthly, or electronically. If you want/need more envelopes, please contact Gem in the Church Office.



### New Daily Bread Refrigerator

The New Refrigerator near the elevators is the latest step in our effort to help *Fill the Hungry with Good Things*. Fresh fruits and vegetables are available to anyone who needs them. The refrigerator is stocked by clients of Triumph/



# December 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 AM Worship 10:45 AM Worship	27 Girl Scout Meeting 5:30 PM Endowment Meeting - Conference Room	28 9:00 AM Pre-school Chapel 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Pre-school Chapel 7:00 PM Priscilla Altar Guild	29 9:00 AM Pre-school Chapel 2:30PM Ave Maria Communion 4:15 PM Confirmation 5:30 PM Worship and meal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	30	1	2
3 <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 2:30 PM Ave Maria Worship	4	5 9:00 AM Pre-school Chapel 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Pre-school Chapel 6:00 PM Child in Our Hand Board Meeting	6 9:00 AM Pre-school Chapel 4:15 PM Confirmation 5:30 PM Worship and meal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM 9th Grade Confirmation - Trinity	7 5:30 PM Executive Meeting	8	9
10 <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 11:45 am Pre-Baptism Class 5-7 PM Pajama Vespers	11 Girl Scout Meeting	12 9:00 AM Pre-school Chapel 1:00 PM Pre-school Chapel 5:00 PM Evangelism Meeting 7:00 PM Council	13 9:00 AM Pre-school Chapel 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 4:15 PM Confirmation 5:30 PM Worship and meal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	14	15 4:00PM News Letter Deadline 4:00 PM Annual Reports Due	16 Christmas Program Rehearsal and set up—TBD
17 <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship and Children Christmas Program 11:45 AM Advent Meal	18	19 9:00 AM Pre-school Chapel 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Pre-school Chapel	20 9:00 AM Pre-school Chapel 5:30 PM Worship and meal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	21 7:00 PM Blue Christmas Worship Service	22	23
24 <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 4:30 PM Christmas Eve Service 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Church Office Closed 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 AM Worship (1 service Only)	1 Church Offices Closed	2 9:00 AM Pre-school Chapel 1:00 PM Pre-school Chapel	3 9:00 AM Pre-school Chapel 4:15 PM Confirmation 5:30 PM Worship and meal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM 9th Grade Confirmation - Trinity	4 5:30 PM Executive Meeting	5	6



New Office Hallway Carpet - \$12,884



Emergency Replacement of Sanctuary Air Conditioner - \$7,769

## 2017 Fit for the Journey Update

As of November 1st we have completed our scheduled 2017 projects. Thank you to everyone for supporting these ongoing improvements to St. John's. Cumulatively, Fit for the Journey has invested \$171,163 in congregational projects (by far the largest being the elevator mechanical upgrades in 2016). The next payment to our note-holders will be going out in the middle of December. Right now we have an outstanding note balance of \$33,333. We have enough cash in hand to continue to meet our debt obligations and proceed with planning on the final projects.

**We have just \$41,360 to go to fully fund our campaign.**

Thank you to everyone who generously supported the "Buy the Yard" fundraiser in July and August and who have supported the campaign through ongoing pledges, contributions, and gifts. We are well on our way to finishing the campaign and dreaming about what is next.



New Sanctuary Projectors and upgraded sound system: \$39,961

Our sanctuary sound system and projector project cost significantly more than originally proposed, but has been supported by a generous estate gift as well as a \$4,000 grant from the St. John's Endowment Fund.





St. John's Lutheran Church  
 424 1st Ave S  
 PO Box 1309  
 Jamestown, ND 58402-1309  
**Change Service Requested**

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
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 Permit No. 1  
 Jamestown, ND  
 58401

**Worship Services**

Sundays  
 ~ 9:00 am  
 ~ 10:45 am

Wednesday  
 ~ 5:30 pm

**Holy Communion**

All Worship Services

Church Office 701-252-1198

Preschool/Child Care 701-252-1903

Website: [www.st-johnslutheran.org](http://www.st-johnslutheran.org)

Email: [stjohns@st-johnslutheran.org](mailto:stjohns@st-johnslutheran.org)



*December 17, 2017*  
**10:45 am Children Christmas Program**

*December 21*  
**7:00 pm Blue Christmas Worship**

*December 24*  
**9:00 am Regular Worship**  
**1:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Worship**  
**4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**  
**10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**

*December 25*  
**10:00 am Christmas Day Worship**

**STAFF OF  
 ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN**

**Senior Pastor**  
 Erik Weber

**Admin Secretary**  
 Gem Saied

**Custodian**  
 Frank Perleberg

**Child In Our Hands  
 Director**  
 Torrey Herrington

**Choir Director**  
 Robert Murphy

**Choir Accompanist/Pianist**  
 Connie Wells  
 Rachel Williams