

to know and proclaim Jesus Christ and as disciples reach out in love

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Worship Times

Saturday 5:15 pm
 Sunday 8 & 10:30 am

Christian Education

Sunday School (K-6) 9:15 am
 Sunday Adult Education 9:15 am

Coffee Fellowship

Sunday 9:15 am

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday
 8 am to noon
 1 pm to 5 pm
 Friday—8 am to 12:30 pm

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 St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

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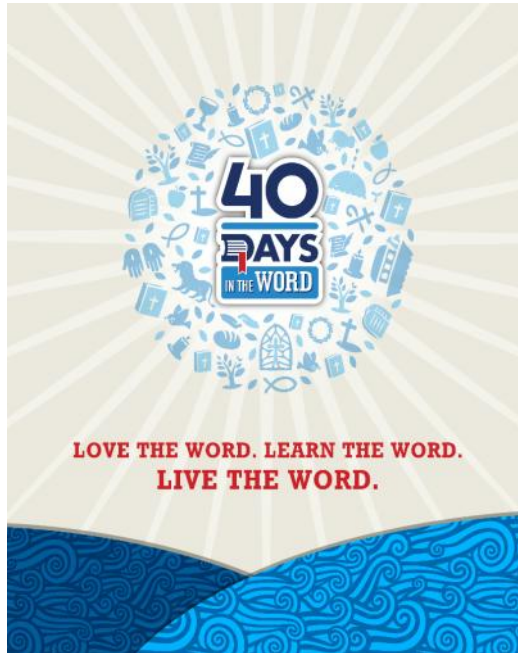
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40 Days In The Word:

A Journey of
 Spiritual Transformation



Beginning Sunday, January 29, 2012,

members of St. John will be participating in *40 Days in the Word*. Through small group studies, weekend services, and daily video and e-mail devotionals, participants will focus on the same spiritual themes over the same period of time.

1. Individual Participation. Every day, each person will view a daily video devotional from a variety of

outstanding pastors. This daily devotional time will challenge each person to reflect on the themes of this journey and apply truth to their lives.

2. Group Participation. The interactive program includes a Bible study taught on video by Pastor Rick Warren, followed by guided discussion.
3. Weekend Service Participation. Each weekend the congregation will experience themes from the devotionals through special sermons and music.

Pastor Rick Warren writes about the program, “God’s word is unlike any other book. It is alive. When God speaks, your life will be transformed, but that can only happen by making the Bible the authoritative standard for your life: the compass you rely on for direction, the counsel you listen to for making wise decisions, and the benchmark you use for evaluating everything. The Bible must always have the first and last word in your life.”

If you have not already done so, please fill out the interest form at the bottom of this page. There will also be forms in the Narthex for the next two weeks. We would like an idea of the number of participants by Monday, January 9, so that we can order materials.

Yes, I want to participate in a small group during the **40 Days in the Word** program. _____

I prefer to meet: Mon.____ Tues.____ Wed.____ Thurs.____
 Fri.____ Sat.____ Sun.____

I would rather meet during the day. _____

I would rather meet in the evening. _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Congregational Council Meeting

St. John Lutheran Church -- Reedsburg, Wisconsin
December 13, 2011—6:05 p.m.

Meeting was called to order. Devotions by Todd Erdman

Steve Atkinson, newly elected Council member, was welcomed.

The agenda was approved as written.

There were no committees or boards reporting in December.

The November minutes were approved as written.

Pastor David's report included the following items:

Beth preached and presided at worship services December 3rd and 4th.

The Advent Candlelight service was beautiful, but attendance was down probably due to the many activities taking place at the same time.

The Call Committee has two candidates under consideration. One of them will be interviewed on December 29. She is from Wisconsin, but serving a pastorate out East.

Pastor David will be visiting family after the Christmas Day service and will return December 28.

President Percy announced that the Executive Committee has completed Pastor David's yearly evaluation. She thanked those members of Council who submitted their input into the process.

January 8 is the installation date and recognition of retiring council member Migs Percy.

Ben is setting up Congregational breakfasts the first Sunday each month during 2012. The council, committees, and boards will each sponsor one of these breakfasts. The Council has asked for January (1st choice) or February (2nd choice).

A devotion sign up for council meetings was passed around.

The communion assistant schedule was also passed around, asking for council members to volunteer.

The annual meeting report indicated that it went well; there was plenty of time, and no major issues.

Treasurer's Report.

For the month of November, we had a positive cash flow of \$724. The year to date income is \$455,715.51, which is 95.1% of the budget. Expenses were 89.2% of the budget.

Reach Out 2011



The Benevolence Focus for 2011, Reaching out in Love stands at \$6,896.29. How the money is dispersed will be discussed early in 2012.

So far, for 2011, we have gained just over \$18,000 of our general operating fund deficit.

Treasurer's report was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30, followed by a buffet at Pizza Ranch.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10 at 7pm. Election of officers and liaison appointments will be included in the agenda.

This concludes my six years on the Congregational Council. What an honor to work with the various members! I'll miss this opportunity, but I am sure that I will find another way to serve St. John.

Blessings,

Migs Percy, Council President



Answers
I N S I D E

From Pastor David

Happy New Year! With that being said, have you noticed that more people look back at the year that was rather than forward at the New Year that is breaking open before them? I do the same thing; I confess to rather enjoying the “year in review” TV shows, magazine articles and slide shows on the Internet. We each have our own reasons for doing this: maybe we are saying good riddance to a bad year and we look back thanking God we made it; or maybe we look back longingly on milestones and blessings, and we find the exercise of looking back to be a joyful one.

A number of years ago I was in a Home Depot store in Green Bay just after the first of the year. As I stood in line with a saw blade, the gentleman in front of me was going off... the clerk had wished this particular customer a “Happy New Year.” It seems this was a mistake. The man was nearly ranting: “What’s good about it, last year was awful, and this year hasn’t changed a bit.” Then he said something that nearly made me bust out laughing. Calming down just a bit, he said: “and to top it off, I just wrote the wrong date on this check, and I’ll be doing that until June!” The clerk was about to say something when this unhappy gentleman tore his check into pieces and proceeded to write yet another check. Once he handed over the new check and received the receipt, he left with his load of 2x4’s and what seemed like a little grey cloud floating over his head. When I stepped up and laid down my saw blade, the clerk looked up and said, “just a sec... he wrote the wrong date on this one too...” I don’t remember what happened after that; I was just lucky enough to pay in cash.

To paraphrase an old hymn, time is like “an ever rolling stream” things change, and we have to learn, grow and adapt. Many of us these days don’t write as many checks as we use to, we use electronic funds transfer, credit cards and debit cards. We might not have to learn to write the new date on our checks as often, but we have had to learn how to use these new tools.

My point is this: when was the last time you spent any real time learning and growing in your faith life? Sure you learn new things all the time, but when was the last time you took time outside of worship to study scripture? If you can’t remember the date, or even if you can and it might be your confirmation day, then I have a New Year challenge for you! It’s time to get into the Word. As 2 Timothy 3:16 states, “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.”

God has given us the gift of His word so that we might grow in faith, love and relationship with Him and others in our lives. To help us in this endeavor we will be kicking off *40 Days In the Word*, a program from Rick Warren, the pastor of Saddleback Church in California and the author of *40 Days of Purpose*. We will be joining with people from churches all over the country and of every denomination to grow in our understanding of God’s Word. I highly encourage you if you have not yet done so, to sign up today, call the church office, send an e-mail or fill out one of the forms in our weekly bulletin. You can find more information in this month’s *Evangel*, or if you would rather you can talk to me or Beth Voigt, our Director of Christian Education. You can also find a link to an informational video on the St. John web site (www.stjohnreedsburg.com)

I am excited about this program because it offers so many different ways for us to grow and connect in God’s Word. Starting on January 29, our weekly sermons will follow our journey through the 40 days. There is a standard workbook; for those of you who are technologically adept, or are willing to give it a shot, there are daily e-mail devotionals and web videos. If you are the kind of person who learns best with others, there are small groups where we all bring the differing gifts we have to share in growing in our knowledge and living of God’s word and will for us. You will also will be encouraged to do something, to “reach out in love” with what you learn. Faith in action is key to this campaign.

Do you have to do all of this? No, shoot, we’re Lutherans, but I do ask that you plug into this study and in particular to one of the small groups; and we ask that you commit yourself to the full 40 days. Never done anything like this before? Good. Neither have I, but I haven’t lived in 2012 before either, and I am excited about what God might be doing in my life, the life of St. John and in your life as we spend *40 days in the Word*.

In Christ,



FYI

The sessions are:

Session One: Pronounce It!

Session Two: Picture It!

Session Three: Probe It!

Session Four: Paraphrase It!

Session Five: Personalize It! and Pray It!

Session Six: Principles of Bible Interpretation

Christian Education News

This logo represents Christians of mature faith holding the cross, inspiring the growth of others, while creating a shell of love and guidance.



Meeting Dates

January 2012

Seventh and Eight Grade LIFE

Wednesday @ 6 pm Memory Work

Jan. 4 Matthew 6:19-21

Jan. 11 Luke 6:31

Jan. 18 John 17:10-11

Jan. 25 Introduction and First Petition pg. 301
(with explanations)

Sunday School Dates to Remember

Jan. 1 No Sunday School

Jan. 8 9:15 Congregational Breakfast—

Classes meet immediately at 9:15 am in class rooms—break at 10:05 for music in Fellowship Hall.

10:30 am - Kids sing for service

Jan. 15 9:15—meet in Sanctuary

Jan. 22 9:15—meet in Sanctuary

Jan. 29 9:15—meet in Sanctuary

Sunday School Scripture Focus

Jan. 8 Mark 1:4-11 *Jesus' Baptism*

Jan. 15 1 Samuel 3:1-20 *God Calls Samuel*

Jan. 22 Jonah 1-4 *Jonah and the Big Fish*

Jan. 29 Mark 1:21-28 *Teaching and Healing*

Sixth Grade Sunday school class participates in 40 Days in the Word

Sunday, January 8, the sixth grade Sunday school class is invited to have breakfast with the rest of the congregation. Beginning Sunday, January 15 and continuing until Sunday, February 19, the sixth grade class will meet at 9:30 am in the Koinonia room as a small group study.

Sunday Morning Adult Education

January 15 and 22 will be Faith Talks, based on the Worship Service. Adult Education will focus on *40 Days in the Word* beginning January 29.

40 Days in the Word

Sign up now! See Pastor David's page for themes. Small groups are forming. We would like to know numbers by Monday, January 9.

Family Fun afternoon

Sunday, January 8, at 3 pm, we will have another installment of our Family Fun gathering. See Ben Berg's Youth and Family page for more information.

Choices

Each of us makes hundreds of choices a day, perhaps beginning with the sound of the alarm clock when we choose whether or not to get out of bed. Many of our choices are made unconsciously. We choose what we'll wear and what we'll eat and whether we'll spend our leisure time reading or watching TV. We choose our friends and our pets but not our families. Those we're born into without our having a voice in the matter.

It is similar with the family of God, for it is our heavenly Father Who has chosen to adopt us into His family. We were dead in sin, "*but God, being rich in mercy...made us alive together with Christ*" (Ephesians 2:1, 4-5). That is God's choice. Paul wrote to Timothy that "*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...*" (1 Timothy 1:15). That is His choice. Matthew recorded Jesus' words: "*The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many*" (Matthew 20:28). We are, as Peter wrote, "*A chosen race...a people for His own possession*" (1 Peter 2:9).

As the redeemed and chosen people of God, we now can choose to respond by proclaiming "*the excellencies of Him who called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light*" (1 Peter 2:9). We can choose to follow Paul's directive to serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13). We can choose to begin this new year with renewed resolve to nurture God's gift of faith in us through regular worship and Bible study with other believers. We can choose to follow the example of Joshua who counseled those headstrong Israelites: "*Now therefore fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and faithfulness...And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*" (Joshua 24:14-15).

Parochial Report

Baptisms

December 11—Tabatha Marie Drew
December 11—Zaon Alexander Drew, son of Tabatha Drew and Robert Schmidt
December 24—Ava Rose Bernien, daughter of Joshua and Jennifer-Lynn Bernien

Marriages

December 10—Tami VanBeek & Alan Simon

Gifts and Memorials

Received from:

Donna Kahl, in memory of Frieda and Leonard Schroeder
Art and Rosemary Behnke, in memory of Lillian Marshall
Betsy Demerit, in memory of Lillian Marshall
Bob and Dixie Fusch, in memory of Lillian Marshall
Norma Hammer, in memory of Lillian Marshall
Mildred Hinrichs, in memory of Lillian Marshall
Paul Marshall, in memory of Lillian Marshall
Darrel and Shirley Waugh, in memory of Lillian Marshall
Nancy Newton, in memory of Lillian Marshall

Sponsorship Calendar— January Availability

Altar Flowers (\$30) — weeks available: 1/15,1/22, 1/29
Bulletins (\$25) — weeks available; 1/1, 1/8, 1/22, 1/29
Radio Broadcast — all weeks available
(\$30, \$60, and \$90)
TV Cable Broadcast (\$40)—all weeks available.

Coffee Fellowship — Check out the three ring binder in the coffee serving area to reserve a Sunday. **We need volunteers** to continue this ministry.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

This month St. John deposited \$2,174 because Thrivent Financial members have designated their “Choice Dollars” to St. John. These people include:

Donna Bergman, Laverne Bergman, Delores Ellingson, Barbara Exner, Joe Fish, Edna Karstetter, Diana McGlynn, Paul Mittelsteadt, Norma Peters, LeRoy Petersen, Scott Polak-Bezotte, Beulah Riedel, Sharon Schulte, Shirley Stando, Vernon Stando, Verna Watts, Wendell Watts, Thomas White, Norman Wilbrandt.

Meetings & Greetings

Dorcas Circle — 9:30 am, Wednesday, January 18
Hannah Circle — 2 pm, Tuesday, January 3
Sarah Circle — 1 pm, Thursday, January 19
Sunshine Circle — 1:30 pm, Thursday, January 12

St. John Quilters — 9 am, Thursday, January 5
9 am, Friday, January 20
Card Ministry — 2nd Monday of the month
Men’s Breakfast — 7:30 am, the 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month at Marty’s
Park St. Bible Study 10:30 am, January 17, Park Street Apts
Sheep than Therapy 4-6 pm, resuming January 9, 2012

Thank You

To Rich Sorom and Sorom Painting for painting areas of the church.

To all outgoing members and officers of the Congregation Council and Board members for your thoughtful care of this congregation. A special thank-you to Migs Percy for her years of dedicated service to St. John as Council President. Her leadership and guidance will be missed.

To Tabatha Drew for attendance posting, to **Linda Behn** for general office help and proofreading, and to **Wendy VanDusen** for uploading Sunday sermons as audio files. (Follow the link on the St. John’s web page—*Newsletter and Sermon Archives* to listen to past sermons)

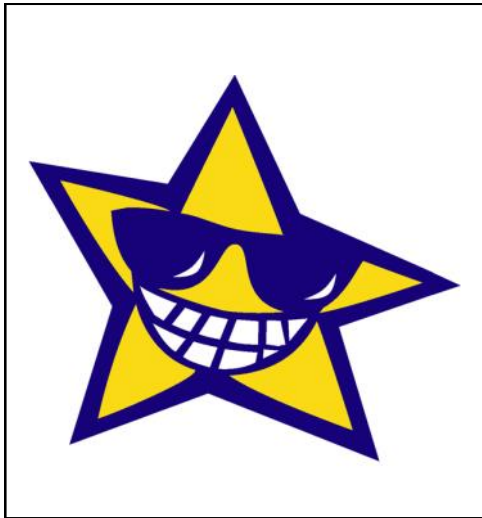
A very special, heartfelt thank you to the anonymous donors who helped make Christmas more joyous for a number of our Reedsburg families. Thank you also to all members who donated to Christ’s Cupboard and The Good Samaritan funds or who filled grocery bags. This provided necessary aid for local folks. Thank you to all of you who brought Helping Hand Mitten Tree gifts, who rang Salvation Army bells, and who contributed in countless, thoughtful ways to make this Christmas a special celebration of God’s gift of love.

New Member Sunday January 8

On Sunday, the 8th St. John will receive new members, install Council members and officers (8:00), share a Congregational Breakfast, and enjoy the Sunday school children singing (10:30). It is an important Sunday; please join us.

Scripture Readings for January

January 1— Numbers 6:22–27, Psalm 8, Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:15–21
January 8— Genesis 1:1–5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1–7, Mark 1:4–11
January 15— 1 Samuel 3:1–10, Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18, 1 Corinthians 6:12–20, John 1:43–51
January 22— Jonah 3:1–5, 10, Psalm 62:5–12, 1 Corinthians 7:29–31, Mark 1:14–20
January 29— Deuteronomy 18:15–20, Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8:1–13, Mark 1:21–28



Calendar of Events



MSYG

Family Fun Night

What: Sledding Party

When: Sunday, January 8

Time: 3-5:30 pm

Where: Meet in Church Parking Lot

Bring your Favorite Sled

Cost: Free Will Offering for dinner

Come join us for a night of sledding, hot coco, and supper.

Where: Mt. Olympus Water and Theme Park

When: January 15

Time: Noon—5 pm

Meet: In Church Parking Lot

Cost: \$6 per person

King's Kids January 4 & 18

Son Seekers January 11 & 25

MSYG

•Water Park Day —January 15

YG

•Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm

in the Youth Room!



When: January 8

Time: 9:15

Where: Fellowship Hall

Who: Anyone and everyone

Menu: Egg bake, muffins, coffee and juice

New Year

January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 9:00 AM AA 11:00 AM Staff meeting 2:00 PM Hannah Circle 5:30 PM Cong Life Bd 7:00 PM AA	4 3:30 PM King's Kids 6:00 PM LIFE 7:00 PM YG	5 9:00 AM AA 9:00 AM Quilting 6:30 PM Admin Bd 6:30 PM Education Bd 7:00 PM AA	6 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Marty's	7 5:15 PM Worship
8 8:00 AM HC Worship, Council Installation, Receive New Members 9:15 AM Congregation Breakfast 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM HC Worship, Sunday school sings 3:00 PM Family Fun Night	9 9:00 AM Card Min- istry	10 9:00 AM AA 11:00 AM Staff meeting 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Council	11 3:30 PM Son Seekers 6:00 PM LIFE 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM YG 7:30 PM Sr Choir	12 9:00 AM AA 1:30 PM Sunshine Circle 5:30 PM Yoga 6:00 PM United Fund Meeting 7:00 PM AA	13	14 5:15 PM HC Worship
15 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM Education Hour & Sun- day School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM MSYG 1:30 PM Yoga retreat 6:00 PM MSYG	16 6:30 PM Open Ta- ble Core Group	17 Evangel Articles DUE 9:00 AM AA 10:30 AM Park St Bible Study 11:00 AM Staff meeting 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Church in Society Bd 7:00 PM Worship Bd	18 9:30 AM Dorcas Circle 3:30 PM King's Kids 6:00 PM LIFE 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM YG 7:30 PM Sr Choir	19 9:00 AM AA 1:00 PM Sarah Circle 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA	20 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Marty's 9:00 AM Quilting	21 5:15 PM Worship
22 8:00 AM HC Worship 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM Education Hour & Sun- day School 10:30 AM HC Worship 4:00 PM Open Table	23	24 9:00 AM AA 11:00 AM Staff meeting 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA	25 3:30 PM Son Seekers 6:00 PM LIFE 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM YG 7:30 PM Sr Choir	26 9:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Foundation Bd 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA	27	28 5:15 PM HC Worship
29 8:00 AM HC Worship 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM Education Hour & Sun- day School 10:30 AM HC Worship	30	31 9:00 AM AA 11:00 AM Staff meeting 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA	1 3:30 PM King's Kids 6:00 PM LIFE 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM YG 7:30 PM Sr Choir	2 9:00 AM AA 9:00 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Admin Bd 7:00 PM AA	3 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Marty's	4 5:15 PM HC Worship

Jan 1 8:00 am			
Greeters	Gary & C.J. Neumann Lois Steinhorst	Lector	Blaine Hedberg
		Ushers	Jennifer Kitson, Barb Demaske
Acolytes	Caitlin Voltz		Jerry & Mary Zuhlke
Jan 1 10:30 am			
Greeters	Lorna Spohnholtz Alice Vande Water	Lector	Alice Vande Water
		Ushers	Art Behnke, David & Carol Melby
Acolytes	Please volunteer		
Jan 8 8:00 am			
Greeters	Al & Barb Exner	Lector	Julie Adelman
Acolytes	Brockton Helmeid Haley Templin		Glen Weirauch, Maggie Andres Ryan Hayes, Ron Snyder
Communion	Rich Sorom, Jennifer Kitson, Migs Percy		
Jan 8 10:30 am			
Greeters	Warren & Bunny Frank	Lector	Rachel Burkel
Acolytes	Alexis Johnson Caitlin Voltz	Ushers	Derek & Lynn Horkan Warren & Bunny Frank
Communion	Patty Sauey, Bill Henke, Rachel Burkel		
Jan 15 8:00 am			
Greeters	4th Grade Youth	Lector	Sherry Atkinson
Acolytes	Chris Johnson Trent Adams	Ushers	Mel Hahs, JR Colvin Judy Bransted, Bob Weix
Jan 15 10:30 am			
Greeters	4th Grade Youth	Lector	Bunny Frank
Acolytes	Marissa Miller Rachel Anderson	Ushers	Bill & Barb Klang Tim & Becky Greenway
Jan 22 8:00 am			
Greeters	Gerald & Sharon Stevens	Lector	Shirley Buss
Acolytes	Isaac Mwakisunga Jarod Davis	Ushers	Dave Buss, Louis Voltz Shawn Foss, Beverly Leake
Communion	Shirley West, Todd, Erdman, Steve Atkinson		
Jan 22 10:30 am			
Greeters	Kristi Behn, Judith Boe	Lector	Donna Hahn
Acolytes	Libby Peterson Jacob Erbs	Ushers	The Ratajczyk Family
Communion	Patty Sauey, Ardell Albers		
Jan 29 8:00 am			
Greeters	Al & Betty Machmueller	Lector	Barb Exner
Acolytes	Max Steinhorst Hannah Erdman	Ushers	Jerry & Mary Zuhlke Al & Barb Exner
Communion	Deb Adams, Rich Sorom, Blaine Hedberg		
Jan 29 10:30			
Greeters	Alice Adams, Diane Douglas	Lector	Derek Horkan
Acolytes	Danielle Schmidt Brent Firari	Ushers	Derek & Lynn Horkan Norma Peters, Patrick Boyd
Communion	Patty Sauey, please volunteer		



Communion Bread

Sat, Dec 31
Cindy Sandberg

Sun, Jan 8
Kristi Behn

Sat, Jan 14
Rabecca Francour

Sun, Jan 22
Tracy Schmus

Sat & Sun, Jan 28 & 29
Carol Schulz

Sat, Feb 4
Diana McGlynn

Sun, Feb 12
Sheri Weldy

Sat, Feb 18
Patty Sauey

Wed, Feb 22
Ash Wednesday
Noon and 7:00 pm services
Lisa Hoff

Sat & Sun, Feb 25 & 26
Yvonne Brekke

Radio Monitor
Rich Sorom

Videographers
Todd Gardner
Fred Farber

Money Counters
Audrey Throndsen/
Linda White
Julie Brown
Migs Percy

Feb 5	8:00 am		
Acolytes	Ross Baldwin Kate Gesteland	Lector Ushers	Sherry Atkinson Steve & Sherry Atkinson Dan Biermeir & Deb Vanthournout
Feb 5	10:30 am		
Acolytes	Riley Fusch Tasha Haase	Lector Ushers	Yvonne Brekke Tim & Becky Greenway Ed Zobel, Brandon Winchell
Feb 12	8:00 am		
Acolytes	Gabriel Gauf Tyler Hongisto	Lector Ushers	Bev Hoege Mel Hahs, Shawn Foss Al & Barb Exner
Communion Todd Erdman, Deb Adams, please volunteer			
Feb 12	10:30 am		
Acolytes	Brockton Helmeid Tarek Horkan	Lector Ushers	Rachel Burkel Norma Peters, Lorraine Kaun David & Carol Melby
Communion Patty Sauey, please volunteer			
Feb 19	8:00 am		
Acolytes	Alexis Johnson Dillon Keller	Lector Ushers	Fred Behn Jennifer Kitson, Barb Demaske Robert Schmidt & Tabatha Drew
Feb 19	10:30 am		
Acolytes	Chris Johnson Andy Matz	Lector Ushers	Joyanne Nowak Bill & Barb Klang Todd Sauey, Art Behnke
Feb 26	8:00 am		
Acolytes	Marissa Miller Mike Olson	Lector Ushers	Deanna Benish Jerry & Mary Zuhlke Glen Weirauch, Maggie Andres
Communion Please volunteer			
Feb 26	10:30 am		
Acolytes	Isaac Mwakisunga Darcy Ondersma	Lector Ushers	Norma Peters The Ratajczyk Family
Communion Please volunteer			



Note to ushers:

Please make your own arrangements when you need a substitute. Also, head ushers are responsible for: ringing bells, turning on lights; taking and recording attendance count; and offering follow-up.

If you would like a list of current ushers for 8:00 or 10:30 am for the purposes of finding substitutes, please stop in the office.



Acolytes are also asked to find their own substitutes and notify the office of any changes.

The Blood Center of Wisconsin

The Blood Center of Wisconsin St. John Blood Drive will be held at St. John on February 11, from 7:30 – 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. We will need volunteers to donate blood, volunteers to care for the donors during and after they donate, and bakers to make bars for the donors to eat after they donate.

There will be signup sheets in the Narthex in mid January. Check the Kiosk for guidelines and restrictions for donors and tips on preparing yourself to be a donor.

Peanut Butter

Christ's Cupboard is running low on peanut butter, and we currently cannot buy it from Second Harvest because they have stopped offering it due to the cost. So, next time you are shopping, if you could buy and donate a jar or two (18 oz) of peanut butter, it would be greatly appreciated. You can place it in the designated area of the Narthex. Thank you so very much.

Sunday School Christmas Program December 18, 2011



**Special Thanks to Our Sunday School Teachers and Assistants
who provided leadership for the Christmas program.**

Brenda, Hannah, and Todd Erdman
Julie Adelman
Ann Schmitt
Lynn and Derek Horkan
Georgette and Danielle Schmidt
Kit Weix
Tabatha Drew
Robert Schmidt

Special thanks to: Diana McGlynn for her weeks of singing practice with the individual classes, **Ben Berg** for keeping the peace and directing the final song, **all the bakers** who provided cookies and treats, **Pastor David** for leading our Advent candle lighting, the **sixth grade Sunday school class** for their help and to **the families** who came to watch our excited students. Next year is already in the works....

Spiritual Reflection for January 2012

This year the month of January means the start of a New Year. It also means that many people will use the words “this year” in their conversations. This year I am going to _____. This year I am not going to _____. This year I will do more _____. This year I will do less _____. There will be many goals, promises, and vows made in the first weeks of January. I want to reflect with you on the topic of making decisions for *this year*.

My encouragement to you is that you use the words *this year* only after you have looked into your heart for the things God is asking you to accomplish this year. Let me explain. I have been writing reflection letters now for 11 plus years. I have learned so much through this process. Over the years I received encouragement to compile my writings into a book. Being quite sure I would never do that, I brushed these comments off as being polite. The encouragement continued, and about five years ago I began to feel a strong pull toward compiling my reflections. So I moved this idea to my bucket list as something I would like to do before I died as a way for my family and friends to understand what made me tick, what motivated my life, and to define my personal relationship with God to them.

Then in January of 2011, within the first week of the New Year, I had five different people ask me if I was ever going to write a book. Hmm, I wondered what was God telling me. Next, I had a self-publishing company send me an email. Curious? I had not solicited any information. Was God telling me that this year I was to do that which he had been prompting through the encouragement of others? Was he lining up the details for completion of a book? I could have put him off, but the signs were too strong. My heart was being pulled. The feeling in my heart to honor him and his commitment to sending messages monthly had become too strong to overlook. I vowed to compile his messages into a book, trusting that he would give me the strength to do it.

I began to investigate the publishing company, only to find that it was going to be cumbersome and more money than I was going to be able to afford. But I trusted that God would continue to lead me in the right direction. A couple of weeks later, as I waited for the next step to be revealed, I received another email from an unsolicited self-publishing company. This one was perfect. Less money, more help! Now I was committed.

The rest is a bit of a blur. It was as if God took over and I simply moved my fingers. God was present every step of the way. He opened time for me to work on the process, provided opportunities for support along the way, energized me to tackle even the technical questions I would have preferred to put off onto someone else. When my

doubt of making deadlines overwhelmed me, God met them. I could not have done this on my own. Indeed, whenever I would lose sight of the reason I was writing, I would be stopped cold. When I redirected my vision to settle on praising God through the work, things would unfold smoothly. God was in the whole process, right down to the creation of the book cover, and as the months seemed to fly by, an amazing thing happened; a book was born.

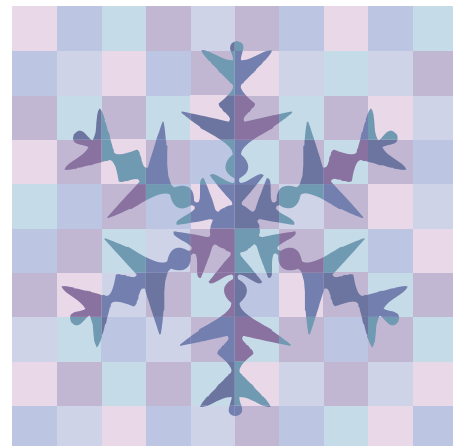
God has a purpose for your life, a purpose for you this year. I am not sure what you have experienced in the last year, but God wants to call you to a new future. He is prompting you to listen to your heart. He may send messengers of encouragement. He might even use technology (it is the going thing) as a way to get your attention. Mostly, he asks that you do not lose sight of his presence in your life. I invite you to embrace the challenges you are facing, knowing that with God’s strength you can accomplish them, perhaps even in *this year*.

Questions to ponder:

What is my heart calling me to do this year?

Who are the encouragers God has sent into my life?

How can I honor God through my work?



Tammy Koenecke, RN, BSN, MASL
Spiritual Care Coordinator, RAMC

Editor’s note: Opening to God’s Messages: An Invitation to Personal Reflection, by Tammy Koenecke, is a compilation of spiritual reflection letters, prayers, poems, favorite quotes and personal photos of God’s creation from her travels. It is available at Reedsburg Office Supply, the Reedsburg Area Medical Center Gift Shop, and online at amazon.com. It will be available as an eBook in the future. The cost of the book is \$11.99.

Tammy sends a huge *thank you* to the community for the encouragement that brought this book to fruition.

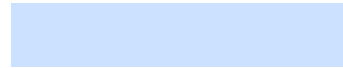
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Reedsburg, Wisconsin 53959

This newsletter was especially prepared for:



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Migs Percy, President <i>Administration</i>	524-5150	Patty Sauey <i>Worship</i>	524-6150
Rich Sorom, Vice President <i>Education, Cemetery Board</i>	524-2720	Lorraine Traeder <i>Education</i>	524-3821
Deb Adams, Secretary <i>Worship</i>	524-8004	Bill Henke <i>Congregational Life</i>	524-8606
Blaine Hedberg, Treasurer <i>Budget Task Force, Foundation</i>	524-2896	Shirley West <i>Congregational Life</i>	524-2942
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Don Ondersma <i>Administration</i>	415-5259	Jennifer Kitson <i>Youth and Family</i>	524-8612

Italics indicates board or committee which the council member serves as liaison

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Jane Zuehlke, <i>Sec. Treas.</i>	524-4676
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St. John Cemetery Board

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Youth & Family	Position open