

To know and proclaim Jesus Christ and as disciples reach out in love.

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Worship Times

Saturdays

5:15 p.m.

Sundays

8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Education Hour

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:30 a.m. to Noon
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday

8:30 to 12:30 p.m.

The Evangel is a monthly publication of
St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Office phone numbers:
254-9763 or 524-4516

Email:

stjohn@stjohnreedsburg.com

Web Site:

www.stjohnreedsburg.com

Congratulations!!!

Baby Lydia Elizabeth Berg was born December 8, 2010, weighed 6 pounds 13 ounces, and was 19 inches long. Ben, Maria, Aiden and Lydia are all doing well!



Thank you to Ray Zobel & Sons for cleaning up after the big snowstorm the weekend of December 11 and 12. FYI—they have donated snow removal for our parking lots since before I came to work at St. John in 1988.
- Carol Julius

It took some heavy equipment and lots of hours to clean up the parking lots after the big snowstorm December 11 and 12. Compare those trucks to Pastor David's Mazda.



Cancellation Notifications & Policies

Please alert the church office if you would like to be included in the email when there are any cancellations or rescheduling of events—including worship services. If you are already on the "Email Blast" list, you will automatically be included in this notice. If you haven't already signed up and would like to do so, please make sure your email address is on file in the church office. Just email stjohn@stjohnreedsburg.com and include your information.

Other ways to find out if church services have been cancelled: Watch or go to the web sites for Channel 3, 15 or 27; or go to the St. John web site and click on the link in the center column of the page. www.stjohnreedsburg.com. Call 254-9763 and listen to the answering machine—keep in mind there may be many callers. (We have found that RUCLS channel 11 and WRDB radio play pre-recorded programs and do not provide reliable announcements concerning cancellations.)

FYI—When there is an early release from the Reedsburg Area Schools due to inclement weather, all evening activities are also cancelled. If school is cancelled in the morning, most often, but not always, church activities are cancelled in the evening also. Check with the appropriate activity leader to confirm. (Sometimes roads are cleared by evening)

Congregation Council Meeting

December 14, 2010—Rich Sorom opened with devotions.

Welcome: Shirley West, Ryan Hayes and Todd Erdman, newly elected Council Members. Bill Henke is also serving a full three year term, after stepping in last year to finish a one year term.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account November 30th was negative \$92,727.95. Dedicated Accounts balance is \$160,431.52, with net balance in the bank account at \$67,703.57. Dedicated Accounts (designated gifts) received \$10,711.11 and disbursed \$4,710.71 during the month.

November income was low, just 64.5% of November budget and \$8,563.29 below the November benchmark of \$48,000.

Year to date income is \$450,773.42 compared to 2009 at \$419,825.45.

The organ was tuned Dec. 7 & 8. The bill for tuning is \$2,000. It is the first time it has been fully tuned for many years.

November 21, attendance was low due to annual meeting and one service that day. Average attendance was still a bit higher in November 2010 than in 2009.

2009 benchmarks were put into place as a minimum needed to keep operating. The 2011 budget is closer to reality and therefore the actual budget will be used to set the goals for each month.

Correspondence: Migs received a letter from the bishop asking for an increase in our synod benevolence giving. Pastor David and Blaine attended a meeting concerning this, and found that the number that the bishop proposed was less than the number we had budgeted for 2011.

Pastor David's Monthly Report: He thanked all who have served on Council this past year. Pat Lewis, Norma Peters, and Jill Burmester will be leaving the council, and will be missed.

Treasurer's Notes for November

Offering benchmark for November was \$48,000

Offerings for November were \$39,857.42

Offerings were 64.49% of the November budget Expenses for November were \$6,749.23 less than budget, but exceeded income \$2,922.76.

Our general fund deficit increased by \$7,403.12. and is currently at negative \$92,727.95.

Average attendance for November was 318 (2009 average attendance was 312)

Ben and Maria have a new child, Lydia Elizabeth, born December 8. Big brother, Aiden rounds out their family.

Pastor David dislikes calling off worship services The Candlelight Service is rescheduled for December 19 at the 8 a.m. worship time. Children's Sunday School program is scheduled for the first part of the 10:30 service. Coffee fellowship will be held in Fellowship Hall between events.

The Saturday worship service was taped, and played back on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. Pastor David would hope that someone would be able to take over the editing and uploading of the scriptures and sermon each week.

We are hoping to get more people interested in the work of the church boards. A "Souper Sunday" on February 6th is being planned. Stations will be set up for each board and people can check out what each board does. This is also a fund raiser – containers of soup will be sold., and each group will have dessert to share at their station.

A proposal is going to be discussed in January concerning raising \$15,000 to be divided up, \$5000 each for local ministries within our community, national benevolences and global ministries such as LWR. We will share more about this following our next meeting.

Foundation Board appointment: Eleanor Luehrsen will be asked to serve a second three year term.

Parish Support Committee: Appoint Owen Hughes to replace Steve Braunschweig and extend Bill Klang's term until May, or until Council appoints his replacement.

Discussion of Annual Meeting: Pastor David feels cancelling a worship service for a business meeting sends a wrong message. He proposes we have more pre-annual meeting forums so that the annual meeting will be the time to make decisions, with discussion concerning the topics being held ahead of time during the forums..

The vote concerning adding the amendment to the by-laws at the annual meeting was 27 for and 76 against adding the amendment.

Adjourned: 6:55 for food and fellowship at Pizza Ranch. Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 11, 7pm.

Blessings,
Migs Percy, Council President

New Member Classes have been scheduled for
Thursday evening , February 3, 7 p.m. OR Saturday morning, February 5, 10 a.m. New members will be received Sunday, February 13, 3022

Souper Sunday—February 6, following the 10:30 worship service—an event for the whole congregation. More info to follow. Plan to attend!

As I sit at my desk I look out the window to a sea of white. This is not unusual; I and most of you live in Wisconsin, it is winter and snow happens. This year it took a while to get here, sure we got some freezing rain and stuff around the first week of December, but what I would call the first real snowfall of the season hit December 11th and we got about a foot of the stuff. I could be wrong, but usually, we get a few flakes here and a few flakes there some time in November, maybe even a measurable snow once or twice, before Christmas. However, in my memory Christmas is at least as likely to be more umm...greyish brown, than white.

But some Christmases, like ours this year are very white, which, despite the song, is not always a good thing nor a wonderful dream!

Several years back on the way to visit the in-laws after Christmas it snowed... not a ton, but on the Ohio-Indiana border east bound on I-74 the road got very dicey. The drivers of the snowplows down there have an interesting approach to their jobs. It was sort of hard to guess where they would plow.. and why... sometimes we were driving on the shoulder, sometimes in the middle of the two east bound lanes... sometimes on the right sometimes on the left, sometimes they were plowing snow back on to the road!

It made the last leg of our trip a little interesting and my knuckles very white.

So, you are saying to yourself, "Hey, I bet this is where Pastor David is going to start talking about prayer!" and while it is not a bad idea, I am not directly going there, this time.

No, what we are talking about here is practice! You see they have snow plows in Indiana and Ohio; they just aren't use to using them very much. But back home here in the frosty state of Wisconsin, our snowplowers get fairly regular practice, so they know that you shouldn't stop plowing in the middle of a highway, or that when you do plow you should try and put the snow off the road rather back on to what has already been plowed. But I am sure that you only learn some of these tricks, by doing them, by practicing them over and over again.

As we mark the New Year, what might we look to improve in our faith lives by practicing? Perfection, we know eludes us in this world, but someone once said "practice doesn't make perfect; it does however, make progress." Where could we progress in our relationship with our Lord? Maybe we could chat together a little more often (ok I didn't say I wouldn't talk about prayer). Maybe we could worship a little more often, join in the work of the church somehow, or find a way to reach out in love to the world around us for Jesus sake.

May God bless you this upcoming year, and God bless all those who plow the snow.

In Christ,

Pastor David

One thing to practice is listening to God in scripture.

If you are into making resolutions in the New Year here is a list of verses to get you reading one verse a day throughout January!

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) John 3:16 | 17) Romans 3:23 |
| 2) Isaiah 43:1 | 18) Jeremiah 31 :34 |
| 3) I John 4:7 | 19) I Corinthians 13:1 |
| 4) Psalm 23:1 | 20) Proverbs 12:25 |
| 5) Romans 8:31 | 21) Luke 23:34 |
| 6) Joshua 2:15 | 22) Genesis 1:31 |
| 7) Matthew 11 :28 | 23) II Corinthians 5:20 |
| 8) Isaiah 61: 1 | 24) Psalm 30:2 |
| 9) I Thessalonians 5:17 | 25) I Peter 4:8 |
| 10) Micah 6:8 | 26) Ecclesiastes 7:5 |
| 11) II Peter 3:18 | 27) Galatians 5:22 |
| 12) Psalm 46:10 | 28) Philippians 4:8 |
| 13) Hebrews 13:2 | 29) Lamentations 3:25 |
| 14) Psalm 57: 1 | 30) Colossians 3:14 |
| 15) Mark 8:34 | 31) Psalm 91:14 |
| 16) Exodus 20:8 | |

Making Sense of the Christian Faith—A Study

Starting January 10th at 6:30 p.m. join us for a unique class, Making Sense of the Christian Faith. Making Sense of the Christian Faith is an exciting and inviting exploration of the major theological doctrines of the Christian faith in the order of the biblical story. Topics include Theology, Creation, Sin, Covenant, Law, Community, Incarnation, Atonement, Church and Holy Spirit, and Eschatology. So if you are new to the faith, or have forgotten a thing or two since your Sunday School days, you are welcome to join us. The course work is very conversational in nature, and easy to read.

Those who will be joining St. John in February are **HIGHLY** encouraged to attend this 8 session class. We ask that you please sign up today by e-mailing or calling the church office or indicating your interest on the worship attendance forms. Cost of materials is \$12.00. Please speak to Pastor David or CED Beth if you have any questions!



Picture by Ken Leiviska
Reedsburg Times Press

St. Olav Medal awarded to Blaine Hedberg

After working in Norwegian genealogy for nearly 30 years, Blaine Hedberg was bestowed an honor few in the world ever receive, a royal award - the St.

Olav Medal - on August 28 in recognition of his services to Norway, most notably his extensive genealogical research on Norwegian immigration into the United States.

Gary Gandrud broke the news to Hedberg in one of his first official acts as the consul general for the government of Norway. "When he called in February, I thought, 'Oh no, this must be some mistake,'" Blaine said. "But when I found out there are lots and lots of people in the U.S. and Norway who wrote letters about all the work I've done for them, it made a little more sense. It's quite an honor." Blaine can only wear the medal on Norway's Independence Day, May 17 or in the presence of Norwegian diplomats.

The Medal of St. Olav was founded March 17, 1939, by King Haakon VII of Norway. It is conferred as "a reward for services in advancing knowledge of Norway abroad and for strengthening the bonds between expatriate Norwegians and their descendants and their country of residence."

According to the office of the Royal Norwegian Consulate General, between two and six medals are awarded worldwide each year and is ninth in order of Norwegian medal precedence. "They don't give very many of these," Blaine said.

Despite Blaine's initial shock upon receiving the honor, his distinguished resume constitutes a strong case for his worthiness. For 28 years, he has been working at the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library in Madison, learning and tracking the history of Norwegian ancestry in the U.S. He served as the facility's director from 1993 to 2001 and again from 2007 to 2009. He said he also delivers about 25 lectures a year across the country.

Blaine recently finished a collection of books which serve as an encyclopedia of sorts, detailing the history of Norwegian men and women who came to America before 1851. It's titled "Norwegian Immigrants to the United States, a Biographical Directory, 1825-1850."

He began writing the collection with Gerhard B. Naeseth, the founder of the genealogical center in Madison. Blaine went on to finish the collection after Naeseth's death in 1994. "On his deathbed, he said, 'Blaine, you have to finish this set of books.'"



All those qualifications are pieces to a puzzle that helped Blaine qualify for the prestigious medal. But perhaps most notable of all his accomplishments - and the reason he received the medal - is the list of people he has met and assisted over the years.

"I've helped tens of thousands of people learn their Norwegian heritage," Blaine said. "It's really rewarding to get people back to Norway and take them to the land their relatives used to work on."

"When I was a junior in high school, growing up north of Milwaukee, we had a man come in for Career Day and he said that if you wanted to stay busy in your work, you had to become either a doctor or a lawyer," Blaine recalled. "He said everyone will need one or the other at some point in their lives. "I asked him about genealogy and he looked at me like it was the stupidest thing in the world," he continued. "I decided that day that's what I wanted to do." Congratulations, Blaine.

Excerpts from: Leiviska, Ken. "Medal-Worthy: Hedberg's genealogy work results in St. Olav Medal." *Reedsburg Times Press* December 8, 2010 www.wiscnews.com/reedsburgtimespress/news/article

Money \$ to St. John

A painless way to give your money away to a good cause.

A new program for people with Thrivent accounts is called **Thrivent Choice**. Money from your assets that previously went into a large pot to give out to groups as matching funds is now **your choice**. Give your portion to St. John, or wherever you feel the need.

Here is how. Call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836, listen to the voice prompt and say "Thrivent Choice," when asked for your last four of your social security number, say, "Don't have." a real person will come on line. (There may be a wait). You can also have the \$s go to the same designation every year by telling them you want it recurring. Deadline to act is March 31, 2011, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is fun to give. Questions? Call your Thrivent Rep.

St. John would like to thank Vern Stando, Shirley Stando, Gloria Crawford, Bruce Karstetter, Marcia Karstetter, Sharon Schulte, Darcy Swisch, Brenda Hockmuth, Blaine Hedberg, Jan Harkins, Tom White, Scott Darnell, Donna Bergman, Laverne Bergman, Dawn MacFarlane, and Delores Ellingson for directing their Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John.

From the Parish Nurse:

The Blood Center of Wisconsin will be coming to St. John on February 19, 2011, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex.





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.

Happy 2011!

Of course, included in the resolutions to exercise more, eat less, budget, etc. is the commitment to attend Sunday morning education and worship at St. John! Excellent.. Glad to hear it. Let me up the ante. We have tweaked our Sunday school curriculum. We still use the SPARKS material familiar to teachers and Sunday school families who attach a worksheet to their refrigerator each week. However, we have ordered materials that reflect the scripture focus of our three church services. So...what does this mean? Well, Pastor Glesne uses the lectionary as a guide for worship preparation. The lectionary is a group of scriptures that include Old and New Testament texts that rotate on a three year schedule. The goal is to familiarize church members with a variety of scripture. OUR goal is to provide opportunities for families to talk about faith...together. The lesson used by the Sunday school class will also be the focus of the worship service. While Sunday school is wonderful and the church service is great, the two are better together. I encourage ALL participants in our Sunday school to attend church together as well. And then, go home and take a look at those worksheets. Talk about the sermon of the day. Explore what YOU think, what your children wonder. Let's grow a vital ministry that bursts out of the building, into your home and the community.

What's Happening!

Sunday School Parent Breakfast, Sunday, January 9^h @ 9:30 a.m. Be There!

Sunday school kids sing Sunday January 9 at the 10:30 a.m. service. All children will head to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 9, following class. If you are not staying for the singing – and I HIGHLY recommend that you do—you may still pick up your child in the Fellowship Hall on this particular Sunday.

Watch those bulletin boards...In January, take time to look at our CE bulletin boards. I will be creating a board that tests everyone's knowledge of the church facility. Think "Where's Waldo". This board is located downstairs in the education wing. The senior high youth group helped take pictures ALL around the church. From those pictures, I am making a photo scavenger hunt. I challenge families to take some time, either on Sunday morning or during the week, to locate all the

places pictured. The first family/individual who correctly identifies each picture wins bragging rights as a church expert, my utmost respect, and a small prize. Our upstairs bulletin board will have pictures of all our Sunday school classes. I am proud of the educational commitment St. John makes to its young people. Let's admire how well we work together.

Starting January 10th at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a unique class, *Making Sense of the Christian Faith*. Making Sense of the Christian Faith is an exciting and inviting exploration of the major theological doctrines of the Christian faith in the order of the biblical story. For more information see page 3.

Another BIG thank you to the 5th and 6th grade Sunday school classes who count our monthly offering.

Sunday School scripture focus for January:

Jan. 9th - Jesus' Baptism - Matthew 3:13-17

Jan. 16th - The Lamb of God - John 1:29-42

Jan. 23rd -

The Disciples - Matthew 4:12-23; 9:9-13; 10:1-4

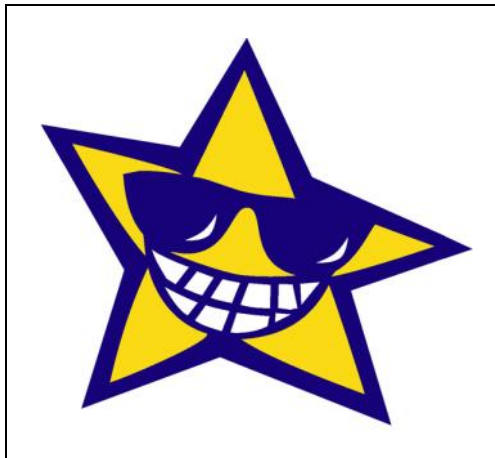
Jan. 30th - The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:1-12

Adult Education Jan. 9,16,23, and 30

The Be-Attitudes. The lectionary focuses on the book of Matthew this January. One of the texts highlighted is Matthew 5:1-12 - the Beatitudes. This particular scripture has informed helping ministries within and outside of the church walls for hundreds of years. We will explore Jesus' call to service as outlined by the author of the Gospel of Matthew. What does this charge mean for members of St. John? For residents of Reedsburg? For citizens of a vast and complex world of need? Join me Sunday mornings in January at 9:15 a.m. in the choir rehearsal room next to Fellowship Hall.

Beth Voigt, CE





Calendar of Events

King's Kids January 5 & 19

Son Seekers January 12 & 26

MSYG

Game Night, January 16, 6-8 p.m.

YG

Wednesday nights at 7:00 in Youth Room

Family Fun Day

Where: Mt. Olympus Water and Theme Park

When: January 23rd

Time: Any time after noon

Cost: \$6 per person

Come and join us for a fun filled day at Mt. Olympus. You will be able to take advantage of both the water and theme park for just \$6 per person. \$1 will be donated back to the youth. Just show up and say you are with St. John Lutheran and enjoy your day.



BREAKFAST CLUB

Sick of sitting in your car waiting for Sunday school to be over, or traveling back and forth from home. Come and join us for some breakfast and fellowship when your kids are in Sunday School.

When: Sunday, January 9

Where: Fellowship Hall

Who: Parents of Sunday School

Why: Fellowship while your kids are in Sunday School.

Menu: To Be Announced

January 2011

| Sunday | | Monday | | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | | Friday | | Saturday | |
|--------|---|--------|---|---------|---|-----------|--|----------|---|--------|-----------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 26 | 9:00 AM Worship w/HC 9:15 AM NO Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 4:00 PM Open Table | 27 | Office Closed | 28 | 9:00 AM AA 11:00 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM AA | 29 | 6:00 PM NO LIFE 6:30 PM NO Bell Choir 7:00 PM NO HSYG 7:30 PM NO Sr Choir | 30 | 9:00 AM AA 7:00 PM AA | 31 | Office Closed | 1 | 5:15 PM Worship w/HC |
| 2 | 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM NO Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship | 3 | Office Closed | 4 | 9:00 AM AA 11:00 AM Staff meets 2:00 PM Hannah Circle 5:30 PM Cong Life Bd 6:00 PM Education Bd 7:00 PM AA | 5 | 3:30 PM King's Kids 6:00 PM LIFE 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM HSYG 7:30 PM Sr Choir | 6 | 9:00 AM AA 9:00 AM Quilting 6:30 PM Admin Bd 7:00 PM AA 6:00 PM ChristCare <i>Epiphany</i> | 7 | | 8 | 5:15 PM Worship |
| 9 | 8:00 AM Worship w/HC & Council Installation 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM SS Parents' Breakfast 10:30 AM Worship w/HC | 10 | 9:00 AM Card Ministry 6:30 PM Making Sense of the Christian Faith | 11 | 9:00 AM AA 11:00 AM Staff meets 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Council | 12 | 6:00 PM LIFE 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM HSYG 7:30 PM Sr Choir | 13 | 9:00 AM AA 1:30 PM Sunshine Circle 5:30 PM Yoga 6:30 PM United Fund 7:00 PM AA | 14 | | 15 | 5:15 PM Worship w/HC |
| 16 | 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM MSYG | 17 | 6:30 PM Making Sense of the Christian Faith | 18 | 9:00 AM AA 10:30 AM Park St Study 11:00 AM Staff meets 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Worship Bd | 19 | 9:30 AM Dorcas Circle 3:30 PM King's Kids 6:00 PM LIFE 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM HSYG 7:30 PM Sr Choir | 20 | 9:00 AM AA 1:00 PM Sarah Circle 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM ChristCare | 21 | 9:00 AM Quilting | 22 | 5:15 PM Worship |
| 23 | 8:00 AM Worship w/HC 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship w/HC Noon—Family Fun Day Mt Olympus 4:00 PM Open Table | 24 | 6:30 PM Making Sense of the Christian Faith 7:00 PM Church in Society Bd | 25 | 9:00 AM AA 11:00 AM Staff meets 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA | 26 | 3:30 PM Son Seekers 6:00 PM LIFE 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM HSYG 7:30 PM Sr Choir | 27 | 9:00 AM AA 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA | 28 | Noon Foundation Board | 29 | 5:15 PM Worship w/HC |
| 30 | 8:00 AM Worship w/HC 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship w/HC | 31 | 6:30 PM Making Sense of the Christian Faith | 1 | 9:00 AM AA 11:00 AM Staff meets 2:00 PM Hannah Circle 5:30 PM Cong Life Bd 5:30 PM Yoga 6:00 PM Education Bd 7:00 PM AA | 2 | 3:30 PM King's Kids 6:00 PM LIFE 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM HSYG 7:30 PM Sr Choir | 3 | 9:00 AM AA 9:00 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Admin Bd 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM ChristCare | 4 | | 5 | 5:15 PM Worship w/HC |

Worship Assistants

8:00 a.m.

January 2

Greeters: Dan Biermeier & Deb Vanthournout
 Acolytes: Rachel Anderson, Adam Colvin
 Lector: Fred Behn
 Ushers: Kathy Finn, Fred Farber
 Warren & Bunny Frank

January 9

Greeters: Gerald & Sharon Stevens
 Acolytes: Jacob Erbs, Ashley Lewin
 Lector: Myron LaRowe
 Ushers: Jerry & Mary Zuhlke
 JR Colvin, Shawn Foss
 Communion: Pat Lewis, Migs Percy

January 16

Greeters: Tom & Delores Geimer
 Acolytes: Hannah Erdman, Dylan Peterson
 Lector: Les Sandberg
 Ushers: Scott Sidell, Fred Behn
 Bob & Patti Kessler

January 23

Greeters: Jerry & Mary Zuhlke
 Acolytes: Tyler Hongisto, Lexi Hayes
 Lector: Beverly Hoeg
 Ushers: Myron LaRowe, Ron Snyder
 Art Behnke, Mel Hahs
 Communion: Shirley West, Rich Sorom

January 30

Greeters: Tom & Carolyne White
 Acolytes: Kaylie Polk, Dillon Keller
 Lector: Kathy Finn
 Ushers: Dave Julius, Barb Demaske
 Don Erickson, Steve Muchow
 Communion: Migs Percy

10:30 a.m.

James & Susan Peterson
 Jarod Davis, Hannah Belk
 Julie Adelman
 Derek & Lynn Horkan

Bob & Judy Willis
 Brent Firari, Michaela Miller
 Donna Hahn
 Tim & Becky Greenway
 Idelle Lautenbach, Ed Zobel
 Patty Sauey

Lois Steinhorst, Alice Adams
 Tasha Haase, Aly Pfaff
 Lynn Horkan
 Bill & Julie Ratajczyk
 Katie, Sarah, Becky

Diane Douglas, Lynelle Roessler
 Tarek Horkan, Matthew Pfaff
 Judy Willis
 Norma Peters, Tami VanBeek
 Kristi & Kasi Roth
 Please volunteer

Lorna Spohnholtz, Alice Vande Water
 Andy Matz, Sarah Ratajczyk
 Tami VanBeek
 Bill Klang, Norma Peters
 Barb Klang, Patrick Boyd
 Patty Sauey

Our Sunday 8:00 a.m. worship service is broadcast on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. on our local radio station, WRDB, AM 1400. It is also televised on the Reedsburg cable station, RUCLS, channel 11, on the following Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.



Radio Monitor

Rich Sorom

Videographers

Todd Gardner

Fred Farber

January Money Counters

Linda White/

Audrey Throndsen

Kathy Finn

Julie Brown

Communion Bread

9 Patty Sauey

23 Lisa Hoff

30 Yvonne Brekke

Note to ushers: If you can, make your own arrangements when you need a substitute. It saves the staff an unbelievable amount of time!

Also, head ushers are responsible for: turning on lights; checking the hymn board and making necessary changes; attendance count and recording; and offering follow-up.

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

Excel in the Grace of Giving – Stewardship Emphasis 2011.

Stewardship as a Partnership

As Christian stewards, we are responsible to use all that God entrusts to us for His purposes. We are to be active administrators and managers of what we have received as a trust. This understanding of stewardship is revealed in W. H. Greever's definition of stewardship. "Christian stewardship is the practice of Christian religion. It is neither a department of life nor a sphere of activity. It is the Christian conception of life as a whole, manifested in attitudes and actions."

In essence, we are in a partnership with the Lord as the stewards of His kingdom. In the Old Testament, this partnership could be referred to as the partnership between master and servant. However in the New Testament, this partnership gives way to the relationship between friends working together for the realization of a common purpose. Jesus told His disciples. *"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you"* (John 15:15). The Apostle Paul adds to the status and dignity of our lives as stewards by calling us God's *"fellow workers"* (1 Corinthians 3:9). This partnership is furthermore the partnership of father and son. *"So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you a son, God has made you also an heir"* (Galatians 4:7). Christian stewardship is a family affair. God has elevated us so we don't merely work for Him as His agents and administrators of His property, but we work for him as His children sharing His purposes and His resources.

Through God's Word, we understand His purpose. *"And He made known to us His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ"* (Ephesians 1:9-10). What a joy and privilege God has given us to be in partnership with Him to help all people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. As Jesus' junior partners, we understand that all we are and have are to be used in our stewardship partnership with Him.

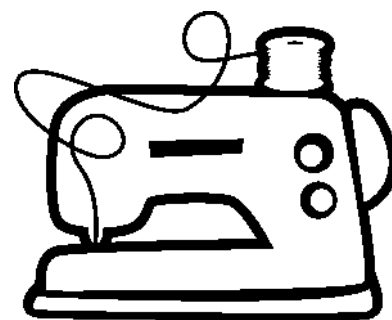


St. John's Relay For Life Team is beginning to take shape. Be a part of the fight against cancer. The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life is a unique celebration of life in honor and in memory of those touched by cancer.

Everyone is welcome to be a part of the St. John team and make plans for the 2011 Relay For Life event in Reedsburg on June 24-25. Feel free to call Candice Swartz at 434-1334 if you have questions. Otherwise, we look forward to having you join our awesome team!

St John Quilters

have been busy every month sewing & tying together a sandwich of three fabric layers. The resulting quilt is a handmade caring package sent by Lutheran World Relief to where it is needed most.



We have an ebb and flow of members, Pat Luck fell and broke her hip at exercise class, Eva Kalin has more care-taking issues, and soon Delores Ellingson will go for her yearly three month visit to her daughter's in Indiana (what a great gift of time to have with her daughter). Mildred Hinrichs, Elva Luedtke, Lorraine Krueger, Jean McFarlane, Norma Hammer, Carolyne White, and Delores Wersal will carry us through the coming winter months.

The QUILTERS HAVE A NEED...we would consider ourselves blessed if someone could donate a sewing machine that has a zig-zag stitch and also has power to sew through three layers of sturdy fabric. Our current machine is so old that it only has a straight stitch. LWR requests that quilts are sewn with a zig-zag stitch around the outside to better secure the layers. Currently we cannot do this. Contact Carolyne White at 985-8076 or tcwhite@mwt.net if you are interested.

The Blood Drive is February 19th. We will need volunteers to assist donors during the drive (bringing water to them while they are donating and assisting them to the snack table). You can sign up on the back of the attendance sheet. We would also like volunteers to bring cookies or bars for the donors. You can sign up on the back of the attendance sheet. For questions about how to prepare to be a donor there is information on the kiosk or you can contact Kathy Krolkowski 524-6886.



Parochial Report

Baptisms

November 27—Brooklyn Ann Foesch, daughter of Andrew & Nichole Foesch

November 28—Kendra Lee Mueller, daughter of Kirk Mueller and Shannon Radcliffe

Marriages—None in December

Funerals

Lloyd William Dunse, died November 21, 2010; a memorial service was held November 27, 2010

Melvin Walter Richert, died December 15, 2010; the funeral service was December 20 at St. John

Gifts & Memorials

None to report as of 12/9/10

Three split chalices, three patens, and two ciborium were dedicated at the December 18, 5:15 worship service. They were given in memory of Evalyn Zimmerman. (not Harold & Lucille Drescher as previously published)

Sponsorship Calendar— January & February

Altar Flowers (\$30)

January & February—all weeks are available

Bulletins (\$25)

January & February—all weeks available

Radio Broadcast (\$30, \$60, and \$95)—

January & February—all weeks available

TV Cable Broadcast (\$40)—all weeks are available.

Coffee Fellowship—Check out the three ring binder in the coffee serving area to sign up for a Sunday to reserve the Sunday you wish to serve.

Meetings & Greetings

Dorcas Circle - 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 19

Hannah Circle - 2:00 p.m., January 4

Sarah Circle - 1:00 p.m., Thursday, January 20

Sunshine Circle - 1:30 p.m., Thursday, January 13

St. John Quilters

- 9 a.m., Thursday, January 6

- 9 a.m., Friday, January 21

Thank You:

Thank you to Rich Sorom for repairing the finish on our beautiful oak doors on the north side of the church building.

From Reedsburg Helping Hands

”Thank you for supporting our ‘Christmas Program.’ We appreciate the support the congregation always gives.

Kim Pearson, R.A.H.H.”



To all Christmas Cookie Bakers

and Candy Makers: Thank you for your delicious donations. Thirty-seven members of St. John living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities or in their own homes received a variety of cookies, candy and other snacks. Thank you for sharing in this Christmas tradition.

To all of you who remembered us with cards and gifts this Christmas season, thank you very much. It is always very special to us and we wish you a blessed New Year.

-Pastor David, Kristi, Hannah and Daniel.

To all who shopped for a Bag of Groceries. The Sunday School decorated 47 bags and the office staff is pretty sure we got back that many and more—all filled to the brim and many were overflowing!

Scripture Readings for January

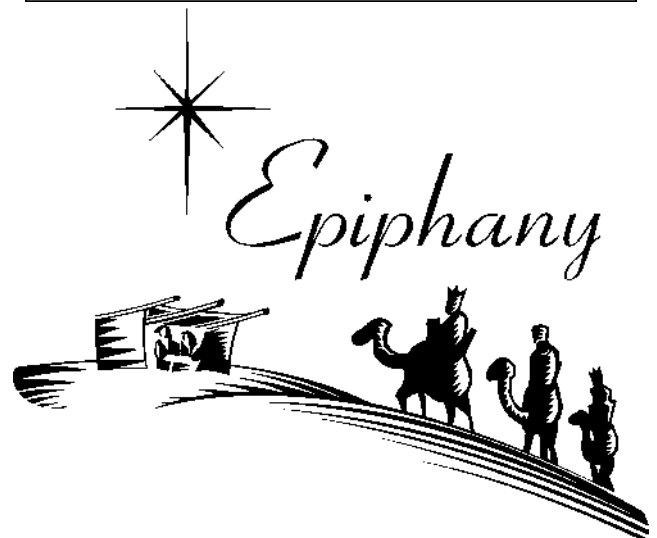
Jan. 1&2—Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Jan. 8&9—Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Jan 15&16—Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Jan 22&23 —Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1,4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Jan 29&30—Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12



Angel Food Ministries— Blessings at Work

Hello Beautiful people of St. John !!

I would first like to reach out to the AMAZING souls who have chosen to donate a boxed cuisine to families in need. We were able to help seven families in need this month... YAY!! Thank you for your generosity as it does not go unnoticed! For those of you who missed out on last month's Evangel with the information on Angel Food Ministries, I've again provided it for your reading as you'll see below...

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and financial support to communities throughout the United States. The program began in 1994 with 34 families in Monroe, Georgia (between Atlanta and Athens) and has grown to serve hundreds of thousands of families every month across 45 states. Angel Food Ministries crosses denominational lines and has spread the good news of the gospel of Christ through salvation tracts that are placed in each food order.

Angel Food is available in a quantity that fits into a medium-sized box at approximately \$30 per unit. Comparison shopping has been done across the country in various communities, using a wide range of retail grocery stores and has resulted in the same food items costing between \$42 and \$78. Each month's menu is different from the previous month and consists of both fresh and frozen items.

Generally, one unit of food assists in feeding a family of four for about one week or a single senior citizen for almost a month. The food is all the same high quality one could purchase at a grocery store. There are no second-hand items, no damaged or out-dated goods, no dented cans without labels, no day-old breads and no produce that is almost too ripe.

Also offered are specialty boxes such as steaks, chicken and pork. Many participants in this bonus program appreciate the expanded choices. Additionally, there is no limit to the number of units or bonus foods an individual can receive.

There are no income restrictions, minimums, or applications to complete, or qualifications to which participants must adhere. Orders can be placed through me or online. Angel Food Ministries also participates in the U.S. Food Stamp program, using the Off-Line Food Stamp Voucher system. Food Stamp orders need to be placed in person with me (Stevie). I will be available by appointment on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday by appointment only. Just call 608-393-2438.

Angel Food Ministries' food is "restaurant grade" meats, frozen vegetables, fruits, dairy products, etc. which are ac-

quired through involvement with only the best producers/vendors of high quality, "name brand" foods.

Everyone is encouraged to participate. Some churches even encourage participants to apply the money they saved to help someone else in need.

The greatest part of this program is that Angel Food Ministries donates \$1 per regular unit to the host's benevolent fund. Since its inception, Angel Food Ministries has contributed over \$12 million to host benevolence funds.

Don't forget that you will pick up your boxed Cuisine right here at St. John! We are the Host Site!!

Check us out at www.angelfoodministries.com. On the right part of the page click on "Find a local site" After you navigate to that page, there is a fill-in search toward the bottom of the page—search for the Reedsburg, WI location. Or you can visit our Facebook page under Angel Food ministries for the Reedsburg, Wisconsin location.

If you cannot get to an 'online' menu, I can certainly assist you. We do have printed menus for your convenience!

Please feel free to reach out to me. You may do so by email at: stevie@rucls.net or call 608-393-2428. I look forward to serving you...


















God Bless, ~Stevie

If you order by January 23, at 10:59 p.m. CST, it will be available Saturday, January 29, between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. here at St. John.

Sample Box for January ↴



B1 - BREAD OF LIFE - Signature Box \$31
Balanced nutrition and variety with enough food to help feed a family of four for about a week. (tax sales tax when applicable)

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
|  1.5 lbs. Choice Beef Netted Roast with Pop-up Timer |  2.5 lbs. 10F Split Chicken Breast (Resealable Bag) |  2 lbs. Breaded Chicken Breast Assorted Pieces |  1.5 lbs. Fully-Cooked Meatballs |
|  2 lbs. Fully-Cooked Minestrone Soup |  1 lb. Lean Ground Beef |  1 lb. Sweet Italian Sausage |  1 lb. Yellow Squash & Zucchini |
|  1 lb. Sugar Snap Peas & Carrots |  5 lbs. Waffle Fries |  6.9 oz. Beef-Flavored Rice & Vermicelli |  1 lb. Pasta |
|  25 oz. Pasta Sauce |  1 lb. Northern Dry Beans |  16 oz. Quick Oatmeal |  32 oz. 2% Shelf Stable Milk |
|  Dozen Eggs | | | Each box contains one family dessert item |

THE EVANGEL

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Permit No. 56

January 2011

A Publication of
St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Volume 51, No. 1

307 6th Street
Reedsburg, Wisconsin 53959

This newsletter was especially prepared for:



Congregation Council

| | | | |
|---|----------|--|----------|
| 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 |
| Blaine Hedberg, Treasurer <i>Budget Task Force, Foundation</i> | 524-2896 | Bill Henke <i>Congregational Life</i> | 524-8606 |
| Jim Wheeler <i>Youth & Family</i> | 985-7067 | Shirley West | 524-2942 |
| Don Ondersma <i>Youth & Family</i> | 415-5259 | Ryan Hayes | 415-5141 |
| Deb Adams <i>Worship</i> | 524-8004 | Todd Erdman | 524-9888 |

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

St. John Staff

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Ministers | Members of St. John | Assistant Secretary | Leta Palmer |
| Pastor | David J. Glesne | Financial Secretary | Arlo Ketchpaw |
| Visitation Pastor | Jake Jacobson | Saturday Music Coord. | Shirley Buss |
| Youth & Family Director | Ben Berg | Custodian | Leta Palmer |
| Christian Ed Director | Beth Voigt | Head Organist | Tim Brown |
| Secretary | Carol Julius | Sr. Choir Director | Diana McGlynn |
| | | Bell Choir Director | David Knoble |
| | | | Les Sandberg |

St. John Foundation

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Eleanor Luehrsen, <i>Pres.</i> | 524-2634 |
| Diane Thieding, <i>Vice-pres.</i> | 727-2591 |
| Jane Zuehlke, <i>Sec. Tres</i> | 524-4676 |
| Tom White | 985-8076 |
| Blaine Hedberg | 524-2896 |
| Terry Penkwitz | 524-8638 |
| Bill Weis | 524-9875 |

St. John Cemetery Board

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Jake Steinhorst | 524-2874 |
| Rich Hahn | 524-6609 |
| Barb Demaske | 524-3379 |
| Keith Holcomb | 768-3554 |
| Rich Sorom | 524-2720 |

Chairs of St. John Boards

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Administration | LeRoy Petersen |
| Church in Society | Andrea Holcomb |
| Congregational Life | Julie Ratajczyk |
| Education | Kristi Glesne |
| Worship | Jolene Westerman |
| Youth & Family | Position open |

Spiritual Reflection Letter for January 2011

Trapped Inside

Winter is upon us and as many of you know I love to find beauty in the snow and crisp air, but the first thing on my mind on this particular morning was the fact that I could not walk outside. I had been walking inside all week and for another day it looked as though I was going to be trapped inside. The country roads were covered with ice and it was too risky to walk outside for fear of falling or having a car slide off the road into my path. So I prepared to accept the fact that I would be once again, trapped inside. I started to think about not only being trapped physically, but also about what it means to be trapped spiritually. There is more.

Later that morning I went to visit a woman with a friend of mine. As we arrived, by phone, we discovered that she was unable to navigate the stairs and had resigned that she would be unable to visit with us. After assuring her that we would come to her, she invited us to use the back staircase where she would then let us in. As we approached the door we could hear her working the key in the lock. We tried the screen door, but it was also locked. It appeared as though she was trapped inside. Questions began to go through my mind. What if she needed help? There was no way for us to get in. Or, what if she needed to get out for a fire? She seemed, to me, in all estimation to be trapped inside. Again I wondered what it must be like for her spiritually to be unable to come and go as she pleased (let me clarify for those of you wondering about her well-being, she does have a caregiver and family, there are other ways into the apartment, there are systems in place for her to have help and she utilizes those systems as needed).

I began to wonder why these circumstances presented themselves on the same day only hours apart. I was about to find out. As my friend and I prayed silently for her to get the lock unlocked her son arrived and directed us into the home and to his mother's apartment. As we entered her room she was so delighted to see my friend. Her biggest concern was not that she could not get the door open to freedom, but rather that our time to visit might run out before she got the door open. She invited us to stay and we sat with her happy to now be in her smiling presence.

As I watched her interact with my friend I found myself marveling at the peace that pervaded her whole being. As she shared her adjustments to her new limitations at this stage of her life she sprinkled her conversation with gratitude for her strong spiritual connection and the blessing of friends and gentle spirits in her life, like the one sitting at

her side. As we prepared to leave, I hugged her and asked for God's peace to be upon her and a big smile crossed her face and she joyfully chimed in, "Yes, yes, isn't that just it, when we have God's peace we have everything."

Faced with the prospect of a long winter and likely many days of having to be inside, I am preparing to search out God's peace and I want to encourage you to search for God's peace in your life. Drawing on a personal relationship will afford you and me freedom from feeling trapped physically or spiritually. I will hold on to the words found in, Isaiah 26:3, "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you," Psalm 34:4-5, "I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me, freeing me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy" (she was) and Psalm 34:17-18, "The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit."

Let us hold on to the promise of inner peace in those times when we feel trapped inside, for I know we are not alone, we are not trapped inside, and when we seek and find God's peace we will one day have "everything."

May God Bless You,

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

