



Preparations are already underway for a wonderful Christmas celebration. We spend so much time making sure everything turns out just right. We set the stage with shimmering lights and trees trimmed with just the right decorations. We prepare for our parties with beautifully decorated cookies and hours in the kitchen making sure the meal is delicious. We tie ribbons and bows on our carefully chosen gifts eager to see the smiles of surprise when they are finally opened. All our preparations are in the hopes of creating that Christmas card perfect Christmas. But how often does that happen?

Those same kinds of preparations are underway here at church. One group is planning a wonderful Christmas party for the congregation. We hope to fill Family Life Center with people enjoying games, crafts, singing and food. Our Sunday School teachers are helping the children rehearse lines and practice songs to get them ready to share the Light Before Christmas with family and friends. Decorations are being hung, services are being planned, and musicians are choosing music all in the hopes of the perfect Christmas celebration. But is that even possible?

Even in our songs we long for the perfect Christmas, just like that first one so long ago. *“Silent night . . . all is calm, all is bright . . . sleep in heavenly peace!”* But did it really happen that way?

God’s Word paints a much different picture of that first Christmas – an unwed mother, alone and far from home, no room in the inn, a baby in a manger, and an angry king. Not a very picture perfect Christmas, but a far more realistic picture of what our world is actually like.

No matter how hard we prepare something is not going to be right – lights that don’t work, cookies that get burned, gifts that need to be returned and someone always seems to be crying in the Christmas picture. We want to be filled with joy, but instead we deal with anger toward family members, stress at getting everything done, or the grief of Christmas without those that we love. Instead of a picture perfect Christmas it feels more like chaos, which may be exactly what that first Christmas was like and is the whole reason we need Christmas anyway.

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. . . and they will call Him Immanuel which means, ‘God with us’” Matthew 1:21-23.

Jesus was born into the chaos of our world to be the presence of God in our midst. He continues to come into the brokenness of our lives to save us from our sins. That’s why we need Christmas and the work of the Savior in our lives. So in the midst of your preparations or as you are surrounded by the chaos join us in remembering the real gift of Christmas, the gift of our Savior.

Brining Faith to Life,

Pastor Steve Hayden

**SERVING THE LORD IN
DECEMBER 2018**

AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN

USHERS:

8:00:

10:30:

GREETERS:

8:00:

10:30:

ELDERS:

8:00: Paul Johnson

10:30: Steve Barteau

ALTAR GUILD:

Jody Mauck, Lynda Happel
April Yates

VAN DRIVERS:

2 – John Schonarth

9 – Jim Waack

16 – Kim Rosevold

23 – Hugh Roderick

30 – John Schonarth

If you need to call to request a ride or cancel a ride for Sunday mornings, call **222-8579** and **leave a message at extension #408** for the Van Driver.

Sign up lists for Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes, and Altar Guild are posted on the bulletin board by the office door.



*Make Our Guests
Welcome*

Be a Greeter at the door. It's a great way to meet our fellow members – all ages are welcome to Greet. Be an Usher to help pass out bulletins, help with Offering and Communion.

ELDER LIST

Our church has eight Elders, and each Elder is assigned a portion of the congregation. The elders assist the Pastors in the spiritual life of the congregation. If you have a spiritual need or issue anytime or when Pastor Steve and Pastor Kendall are out of town, you can contact your Elder listed below.

Elder	Phone	Member Name
Paul Johnson	217-577-3669	(A-B)
Steve Barteau	660-349-8095	(C-E)
Rustin Otney	785-766-9776	(F-Hi)
Matt Dietrich	217-653-0944	(Ho-K)
John Schonarth	217-224-3375	(L-M)
Jason Watkins	217-257-2345	(N-R)
Mike Happel	217-222-2858	(S-T)
Aaron Clark	217-209-1830	(U-Z)

The Lutheran Church of St. John

Phone number: 222-8579

Fax number 222-1182

Emails: Pastor Steve Hayden – pastor@lcosj.org

Pastor Kendall Meyer –

associatepastor@lcosj.org

Marilyn – secretary@lcosj.org

Jan – christiancaregiving@lcosj.org

Website: www.lcosj.org

Church office hours: Mon.-Fri.: 8:00am-4:00pm.



December Prayer Focus –

TREE OF LIFE

Each year our congregation helps about 20 families from the church and community with Christmas gifts for their children. In addition, this year we are partnering with Lutheran Child and Family Services to provide gifts for some of the kids they serve. This is a wonderful opportunity to display Grace Overflowing. Pray for each of the families who will receive gifts. Pray that they will recognize the gift of our Savior and that this act of kindness will bring joy to their Christmas celebration.

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



This time of year we try and hold back the growing darkness of winter by stringing Christmas lights or lighting candles. Join us this Advent season as we remember *The Light Before Christmas*. As we prepare for the Light of the World to be born we will be encouraged by the ways the light of God worked in the lives of His Old Testament people. Services begin at **6:00 PM**.

December 5– Midweek Advent Service
The Light of Creation

December 12 – Midweek Advent Service
The Light of Promise

December 19 – Children’s
Christmas Program



December 24 – Christmas Eve –
6:00 & 8:00pm - Candlelight Services

Both service times will include familiar carols and the lighting of candles.



December 25 – **CHRISTMAS DAY**
9:00 am Service

Join us as worship the newborn King. Service will include the celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

December 31st – New Year’s Eve Worship
Service will be held at **St. James Lutheran Church**, 17th & Jefferson Street, at **6:00 PM**



The Oasis

The Wednesday evening worship service begins at **6:00 pm** in the Sanctuary on Dec. 5, 12 & 19.. In the month of December we will have our Advent services in the Sanctuary. **There will be no worship service on Wednesday, December 26.** This is a casual worship about 40 minutes in length and the coffee is always ready. This service is a great opportunity to introduce someone to our congregation or invite someone who doesn’t normally come to church.



***A Christmas Party
for the whole congregation
will be held on Saturday,
December 8, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm***

Plan to join in the fun & festivities for all ages as we come together to decorate Christmas cookies, make Christmas crafts, sing Christmas carols, have your individual or family Christmas photo taken in the Photo Booth, and best of all here the story of the first Christmas. There will be hot dogs & chips and beverages available.

If you would like to help the children with crafts, cookies, the Photo booth, or serving, please contact Erica Perry-Broekemeier at eperryx@yahoo.com.

*Hope to see you in the
Family Life Center!*



Congregational Boards

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the month of October, 2018:

Income: \$ 33,399.71
Total All Expenses: \$ 44,450.33
Income short of expenses: (\$ 11,050.62)

Year-to-date as of October 31, 2018

Income: \$ 367,653.77
Total All Expenses: \$380,435.33
Income short of expenses: (\$ 12,781.56)

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Come join us on Sunday morning at 9:30am in the Discovery Den. We will be working on the Christmas Program on Dec. 2, 9, & 16. We would love to have you be a part of the program. We will not have Sunday School on Dec. 23rd or 30th.

The Sunday School presents
"The Light Before Christmas"
Christmas Program
Wednesday, December 19
6:00 PM

...Let There Be Light!



Gather your church family!
An adventure ...of LIGHT and LIFE...
can be as close as Christmas!

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION FOCUS FOR DECEMBER

St. John's Food Pantry

You can either bring a nonperishable food item or change to feed Mac the Money Vac.



CRADLE ROLL

There are twenty-six children enrolled in the Cradle Roll. Children receive materials until age 3, that parents can share with them about God's love. If you have a child in this age range that has been baptized at St. John's, watch your church mailbox for materials that are brought for them. If you find a note, the corresponding materials will be placed on the shelf in the coat rack area, with your name on it.

December Birthdays:

Magnolia Lynn Dietrich	3 yrs. old on Dec. 8
Nathan John Zimmerman	2 yrs. old on Dec. 8
Daisy Sue Dickhut	1 yr. old on Dec. 10
Theodore James Crabtree	2 yrs. old on Dec. 16
Felicity Grace Otten	3yrs. old on Dec. 30
Chloe Elise Leifheit	1 yr. old on Dec. 27

One removed in November:

Breck Meloy Mauck	3 yrs. old on Nov. 23
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--Wilma Tieman, Nursery Roll Coordinator

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN CAREGIVING



TREE of LIFE

The Tree of Life has been up for a week. Please take an ornament, purchase the gift, and return it wrapped, if possible, attach the tag and **return it to the church by Sunday, December 2nd.** Help a family celebrate Christmas. If you have questions contact Erica Perry-Broekemeier. **Be sure to keep the ornament tag with the gift.**

FOOD PANTRY –

In the month of October, our food pantry served 326 households. These households were comprised of 1295 individuals and of those 599 were children.

The holiday season has now arrived and our pantry is preparing to stock our shelves to help ensure our patrons do not go in need during this time. Most of us take for granted the overabundance of food & gifts that we receive. I am certainly one of them. Working in our pantry reminds me of all of the families within our own community that are not as fortunate. Please keep our pantry in mind this month and consider donating any food, toiletries, monetary gifts, or time that you are able to offer. We are also seeking a few specific items that have been requested to make several families Christmas' a bit more special.

2 Beds (any size)	Kitchen table
Living Room Set	Full size bedding
Size 4T girls' clothing	Size 9 girls shoes

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season.

Melanie Covey, Food Pantry Administrator

VOLUNTEERS for the Food Pantry – Meeting.

Sunday, December 2, 9:15am in the Family Life Center: For everyone that volunteers in the Food Pantry, or anyone that has been thinking about volunteering but have questions on how they could help, or anyone that has helped in the past and can help occasionally; this meeting is for you. Please join us between services, food provided.

Walgreens Coupons

You can put any Walgreens coupons in Melannie's mailbox but please be aware that they are time sensitive, many expiring within 2 weeks.

CLOSET OF GRACE –Cleaning your closets?

We always especially need clothes for babies, kids, teens, and men. Spread the word to your family and friends too. We have also received donations from local resale shops; and we thank them all for the donations.

MANNA MEALS - If you or a loved one could benefit from having a couple of home cooked meals a week during a time of illness or after being hospitalized, please let Jim & Janet Totsch, Pastor Steve or Marilyn know and these can be arranged for 2 or 3 weeks. If you would consider taking meals to a church member in need, please let Jim & Janet know via email jtotsch@hughes.net or call 779-8603 or 779-3303. Each person usually makes 2-3 meals a year.

The Food Pantry is always looking for additional volunteers to help on a Monday or Thursday, even if for just a couple hours in the morning or afternoon. We also need volunteers at times when the food shipments come in, to help unpack or move cases of food to the storage shelves. **PLEASE, Sign up on the bulletin board** by the office so that we know what time you are coming. It helps us to know if we need to call someone in to help when we're shorthanded.

Christmas vacation is approaching for our teenagers. Please remind them that not only is serving in the pantry a rewarding experience, it is also a way to earn service hours.

T.O.Y.S. Give-away:

Help spread the Christmas spirit by assisting the T.O.Y.S. toy giveaway. **We will be starting Dec 3rd and Dec 6th then every Monday and Thursday until December 20th or until we run out of toys.** You can **help from 10 until 2 or any part of that time.** We really do need your help so please consider volunteering. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the office. Thank you and if you have any questions please call Janet Enroth 217 242-0396.

Thank you to all the members of the Lutheran Church of St. John for prayers and donations that help to make Christmas joyous to many children and adults. Blessing in Christ's name. The Board of Christian Care Giving

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

2018 Contributions to the General Fund: Offerings for the General Fund through November were **\$33,500** under budget year-to-date for 2018 and **\$17,000** behind where we were at the same time in 2017. Please continue to pray that our income will exceed expenses throughout 2018 & 2019.



Thank you so much for your continued support of the **Hearts Overflowing Debt Reduction Campaign**. Donations of **\$467,400** received through November have enabled us to reduce our mortgage principal from over **\$666,000** at the end of May 2017 to **\$191,200** after our November payment. We have reduced our debt by **\$475,000** since the Campaign started in May 2017!

The Board of Stewardship believes that based on giving during the same period last year, we should be within \$20,000 of paying off our mortgage by the second anniversary of the Campaign (May 2019). So, during the October Recommitment & Re-envisioning Event, the Board challenged the Congregation to make this the next goal of the Campaign: **PAY OFF THE MORTGAGE BY MAY 2019...a full year early for the Campaign!** Please consider making an extra year-end, tax-deductible donation to the Campaign to enable us to meet this goal!

If you need more green Hearts Overflowing envelopes to assist you in regular giving to the campaign, additional envelopes may be found on the information desk in the Church Narthex. Using these envelopes will help the Board of Stewardship keep accurate giving records.

Thank you for your sacrificial giving to the Campaign! Please continue to pray that God would bountifully bless the Lutheran Church of St. John through this Campaign.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

HORIZON'S – Serve meals.

Volunteers are needed to help serve meals on every 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the office. Sign up for November through February. Hot meals are served 11:30am – 12:30pm.

The Board of Evangelism will meet on Thursday, **December 6th at 5:30pm** in the Conference Room.

Service Sunday Thank you:

*Dear friends at Lutheran Church of St John,
We are never more like Christ than when we are giving and serving. Your church family reflects Christ so well with your hearts to give and serve.
Thank you for cleaning the tables, chairs and bathrooms at Horizons for your Day of Service. Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on the 8th was made even better by your service. Thank you for the many ways you partner with Horizons. We are blessed by your friendship!*

*Serving Him together,
Sarah Stephens & friends at Horizons.*

BOARD OF YOUTH & FAMILY

MINISTRIES

The BYGM board members will be serving refreshments at the after-the-program Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 19th.

T-LO: Teen LYF Overflowing



ALL JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held on **Sunday, December 16th at 6:00 pm**. Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and bring a white elephant gift to exchange. Boys bring a snack to share and girls bring a drink to share. Friends are invited to join us too.

Senior High - join us on Sunday morning for Sunday school at 9:30am in the Youth Room with Aaron Clark! No Sunday School on Dec. 23 & 30.

National Youth Gathering

Our planning and preparation is now underway. Our 16 youth and 4 adults will join with the youth of Our Redeemer to travel to Minneapolis. The next pre-gathering meeting for youth will be **Sunday, December 2 at 6 pm**. Don't forget to bring your nerf gun!



SCRIP - Members of the Teen LYF group sell scrip as a fundraiser for their activities. **HyVee Cards:** Use these cards at the Hy-Vee grocery store and at their gas stations. It's just like cash—Hy-Vee donates 5% of each card to our Teen LYF group. Other Gift Cards are now available for Applebee's, Home Depot, Kohl's, Panera Bread and Starbucks. All of them make great gifts. You can also buy Scrip during regular church office hours from Marilyn.



Confirmation

Confirmation students continue with their studies each Sunday morning at 9:30 am our 7th -8th graders gather to study the small catechism and grow in the faith of the baptism. The class meets in the Conference Room. We will meet the first three Sundays of December, then take a break for Christmas.



DID YOU KNOW???

The Lutheran Church of St. John is a Stephen Ministry congregation. It's an important way we care for one another. If you are going through a difficult time, consider having a Stephen Minister. If you know someone else who is facing difficulties, suggest that he or she request Stephen Ministry. Make use of it. Stephen Ministry belongs to you!

CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

ADVENT: –

On December 5th – Mary & Martha Guild will be serving various flavors of hot & delicious soups in the Family Life Center. Serving will run 5:00pm – 6:00pm. A free-will offering will be accepted.

On December 12th - Various desserts and/or cookies will be served with coffee, hot chocolate and water in the Oasis. Stop in after worship for some Christmas season fellowship and goodies. A free-will offering will be accepted.

On December 19th – Board of Youth & Family Ministries will be hosting desserts, cookies, coffee & hot chocolate in the Family Life Center, following the Board of Christian Education's Sunday School Christmas Program.

Connection Point Café in the OASIS

Stay after worship, come early before Sunday School and Bible Class, or before worship and enjoy some coffee, tea, or hot chocolate along with some breakfast treats and a chance to meet and visit with fellow members and is a great opportunity to welcome visitors. Anyone that is willing to provide some breakfast items one morning may do so and donations for coffee & supplies and donuts are accepted. Thrivent Action Team funds helped to provide some of the coffee & supplies.

BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS begins at 9:30am. Grab some coffee and/or donut/treat at the Connection Point Café and join us.

Offerings collected on Sunday morning go toward the December Sunday School mission, to help support the St. John's Food Pantry.

KELLER MONDAY NIGHT STUDY GROUP

The Monday night Bible study group meets at 7:00pm at Bill & Lynda Keller's home. The group will not meet on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday morning women's group will be studying "Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both our Hearts and Minds". by Jen Wilkin. Watch your announcements for details. Join us one morning; we'd love to have you. They meet at 9:30am in the Oasis. The group will not meet on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

Join us for this midweek morning Bible study. Follow up with fellowship and join the group for lunch at an area restaurant. Everyone is welcome. The group will not meet on December 25th.

MENS BIBLE BREAKFAST

This group of men meets on Thursday mornings at 6:30am in the Family Life Center, for Bible study and breakfast, and some of the best coffee in Quincy. This group is usually finished around 7:30am to give you time to head to work or your to-do list. If you would like to join this group, either every morning or just a few, enter through the kitchen on the south side of the building. The group will not meet on December 27th.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

MARY & MARTHA GUILD

Mary & Martha members will gather for a meeting fellowship on Tuesday, December 4th at 6:00pm in the Oasis. Bring a guest and RSVP to Janet Enroth.

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

The Ladies Aid members will meet on **Wednesday, December 5th at 11:30pm** for fellowship & lunch at Tony's 2 Restaurant. We will collect our MITES and have the Mite Devotion. Bring a guest and RSVP to Marilyn or Wilma.

MEN'S CLUB The Men's Club will not meet in December, however they will resume in January.



VOLUNTEERS for ALTAR SERVICE

Volunteers assist with preparation for communion and washing & putting away communion ware, clean and maintain Altar linens, paraments and flowers. If you would like to serve your church by being a part of this group, or helping out for one or two Sundays, join us at the meeting or sign up by the office. If you have any questions about this service, please see Marilyn in the office.

MUSIC MINISTRY

NEED VOICES - St. John's Choir and One Voice are always looking for additional Singers and Musicians for their next musical offerings. If you are interested, see Pastor Steve or Denise Percy with any questions, or stop in the church office.



Mark your calendars now: Join in the next **Illinois Veteran's Home Christmas Singalong, on Wednesday, December 12th, beginning at 2:00 PM.** Tune up your Christmas Caroling voices and join Denise Percy (on Piano) and others as they entertain our Veterans at **The Singalong is at Illinois Veterans Home, Elmore Unit.** If you would like to help the Veteran's with the music instead of singing, they would be glad to have you. Everyone is welcome!



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

2019 Groundwork Guatemala Mission Team

We are still in the process of gathering a team for our 2019 Guatemala Mission. The trip will be June 1 – 9, 2019. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Steve. The next meeting will be on Wednesday December 12 at 7 pm.



NEWS & NOTES



Mark your calendars!

**Annual Christmas Party
on Saturday, December 8th,
12:00pm – 2:00pm.**

There will be children's crafts, cookie decorating, story-telling, a photo booth, and fun for all.

St. James Lutheran School News

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Our PreK – Kindergarten program will be Tuesday, December 11 and our 1st – 8th grade program, *The Christmas Carol Special Report!*, will be Thursday, December 13. **Both programs begins at 6:30 pm.** Please come and join us as our students deliver the message of salvation through the birth of our Savior.

BOXTOPS AND UPC LABELS – Please continue to save General Mills Box Tops, Hy-Vee UPCs and Tyson A+ labels throughout the school year. They help support our school library! Thank you!

CHALLENGE – Getting ready for the next school year is approaching very quickly. Enrollment will begin in mid-January. Word of mouth has proven to be a highly successful marketing tool. Therefore, while seeing many people over the holidays, please participate in a challenge to tell five different families about St. James Lutheran School and the awesome opportunity that lies before them for a strong Christian education along with rigorous academics. Let me know how this goes. If you need further information or just want to talk about it, please contact the school office.

Principal Landskroener

COLLECTING LIDS – We are again in the business of collecting lids to purchase a hallway bench. (The current bench will find its permanent home on the playground.) We will collect lids until we have enough to get the bench (200 pounds). You can bring them into the church or school office. The lids must be clean!! Unacceptable caps include metal lids or trash, soap/lotion pumps, grocery bags, K-Cups, straws, fast food drink lids, plastic pieces that are not a lid. Acceptable caps include caps from medicine bottles, milk jugs, detergent, hair spray, toothpaste, deodorant, apple sauce pouch, drink bottle (soda, water, juice, sport drinks), flip-top (ketchup), spout (mustard), spray paint, ointment tube, baby food, shampoo/conditioner, cottage cheese container, mayonnaise jar, yogurt, peanut butter jar, ice cream bucket (under 8 inches), Cool Whip container, coffee can, cream cheese container, butter container and Pringles lids. Remember, the lids must be clean! Thank you for helping us purchase another bench!

ST. JAMES EAGLES VISION:

E VERYONE deserves our respect

A CT with kindness

G OD'S LOVE is our greatest strength

L OVE one another

E VERYDAY live for Jesus

S HOW OTHERS we are Christians.



WRAPPED IN HIS LOVE

We've started a new group at St. John's called "Wrapped In His Love!" We are looking for beginner to experienced sewists to meet twice a month with the goal of making comfort or prayer quilts. We will write for a Thrivent grant and have some fabric and thread donated but it would be helpful if members have a small "stash" of fabric, thread, and patterns to get started. We would also welcome knitters and crocheters to join us for the evening and donate blankets for our cause.

If you are interested please come to our next meeting **THURSDAY, December 13, 6:00pm in the Oasis.** Contact Cheryl Kestner if you have any questions. 217-223-7659



Operation Christmas Child

The Quincy official total of shoeboxes from National Collection Week was 2,709.

Praise God!!!

The shoeboxes will be processed over the coming several weeks...some will be shipped out as early as the end of this week! We do not know exactly where ours are going; logistically it's too difficult to try to keep our Quincy shoeboxes together. Be assured that they will wind up in the hands of exactly the right children over the coming weeks & months.

Along with heartily thanking your congregation (on behalf of Operation Christmas Child!), please continue to pray for the safe transportation of the shoeboxes, the volunteers who will be distributing the shoeboxes, and the children who will receive them. Pray that the love of Jesus is made known, that His name is lifted high, that many lives would be saved through these simple shoebox gifts!

A tremendous thank you to St John's for making our Operation Christmas Child season a success! Over 2700 boxes are now in Minneapolis to be sorted and shipped to children sharing the love of Jesus. Our Packing Party was a frenzy of over 100 people packing boxes. The Collection Week brought in not only boxes but many people who had never visited St John's before. A special thank you to John Schonarth, Steve Barteau and Ken Kestner who packed our cartons. That is a huge job. Thank you for all of the donations that filled the boxes, the volunteers, the cookie bakers, and those who had to adjust their time and space because we were in the Family Life Center. We are so grateful for Operation Christmas Child and are confident that each box will be delivered to exactly the right child. Please continue to pray that the saving love of Jesus is made known through the distribution of simple shoeboxes.

Thank you!

Cheryl Kestner and the

Operation Christmas Child Committee



FLOWER CHART

The *Altar Flowers*, each week, are a welcome offering to our worship. *Flowers* are alive. They are of God's creation. They are a symbol of new life in Christ. *Altar flowers* can be and are more than mere ornaments. They are the expression of our love for God as well as a means of glorifying His name in all the earth. Altar flowers may be dedicated to commemorate a special event, like a birthday or anniversary, or in remembrance of a loved one. Donations of \$17.50 covers the cost of one vase and \$35.00 covers the cost of both vases. For all of these reasons, we give thanks to everyone who is moved to give toward *flowers* on a particular Sunday. You can sign up on the Flower Chart on the bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary, or notify Marilyn in the office. Dedications are listed in our worship bulletin.



Order a Christmas Poinsettia to beautify our Church

If you would like to order a poinsettia (or a few) to beautify our church during the Christmas season, fill in the information below. All orders must be turned in no later than Sunday, December 9. Place your order form in the poinsettia basket located on the counter in the Office.



Pick up a copy of the **Advent Devotion booklet** furnished by Lutheran Hour Ministries to enhance your Advent season in preparing for the celebration of Jesus's birth. They will be on the Information Center in the Narthex. The booklet is entitled **"The Coming King"**. Or you can access it daily online at <https://www.lhm.org/advent/>



The LCOSJ Food Pantry will be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring 2018. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of young people working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. In the weeks leading up to or on Super Bowl Sunday (**February 3rd, 2019**), young people take up a collection (many use a soup pot), asking for one dollar or one item of food for people in need. They give 100% of their donation directly to the local hunger-relief charity of their choice. Watch for more information in the coming months.



Your Mite Offerings Have Made an Impact!

Holy Hope Lutheran School: The LWML's Lasting Contribution

In the early 1950s the LCMS missionary in Hanno, Saitama, Japan was approached by a local Japanese pastor of another denomination who was in need of dire help. This pastor, Rev. Fujiwara, had taken over the management of a local school that had been an agricultural vocational school. It was his vision to run it as a Christian school as there were none in the area. However, after taking it over, the school was more than he could manage. It was heavily in debt, in disrepair and run down, so he was looking for alternatives.

At that time LCMS missionary, Rev. Paul Kreyling, had founded a church in Hanno and was approached by Rev. Fujiwara who desperately asked if he or the LCMS could take over the school so that the area would not lose the Christian school. Rev. Kreyling replied that he himself could not, but that the LCMS might be able to help. The LCMS mission took over management of the school, but it badly needed funds for rebuilding. The LWML took up a building project for the school, providing funds for a new building. Had it not been for the LWML initiative in the late 1950s, the school may not have succeeded and there would be no Lutheran junior and senior high school in Hanno.

1959–1961 LWML Mission Grant: HANNO HOLY HOPE HIGH SCHOOL (SEIBO GAKUEN), \$60,000 and 1967–1969 LWML Mission Grant: \$79,638.68

Holy Hope (Seibo Gakuen) Lutheran School

Junior & Senior Classrooms, Hanno, Saitama, Japan 1950s. A plaque on the building has this inscription “This Building was Donated by The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod 1961.”



本館日棟新校舎 1961年



Current day view of the classroom building provided by LWML funds.

1960s — Chapel

A decade later in the late 1960s, the LWML once again came to the aid of Holy Hope. At the time, the number of students had increased and the school was in need of a chapel as there was no suitable place to have students worship. With pledged funds from the LWML in 1968-1969, a new chapel was erected and dedicated in 1972.



The chapel can accommodate just over 300 students at one time. Chapel services are conducted during the first school period, four mornings a week: Monday, grades 7-9; Tuesday, grade 10; Wednesday, grade 11; and Thursday, grade 12.

A dedication plaque upon entering the front entrance to the chapel: “FUNDS FOR THIS BUILDING WERE PROVIDED IN PART BY THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY LEAGUE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD, 1972”

In 2018 - Holy Hope Lutheran School (Seibo Gakuen)

- The school now averages a yearly enrollment of around 1200 students in grades 7-12. When the LCMS took over the school in 1951, there were less than 150 students. Currently in the 2018 academic year, a total of 1,156 students are enrolled (junior high, 135; senior high 1,021). Since its founding in 1951, Holy Hope Junior and Senior High School has graduated a combined total of 20,494 Japanese youth. While this figure may seem impressive, the daunting fact is that less than 1% of the Japanese population is Christian. Japan has a culture that is highly resistant to the Gospel. However, God has graciously given the opportunity for seeds to be sown over the years at Holy Hope in cooperation with the LWML. We have God’s own promise that His word does not return empty but accomplishes its own purpose (Isaiah 55:10-11). Had it not been for the early support of the LWML, Holy Hope would not be the school that it is today and thousands of Japanese may not have had the opportunity to hear the Gospel.

“Serve the LORD with Gladness”



Connecting faith & finances for good.™

Don’t have a log-in for MyThrivent online?

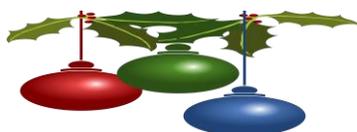
No problem, we can help you help others. Speak to one of the LCOSJ Thrivent Action Team Committee members listed below or you can call Thrivent Financial and they can help you set up your Action Team over the phone.

Thrivent Action Teams may be able to help your group, organization. If you are a Thrivent Financial member or have a Thrivent Member in your group, you can apply for Thrivent funds to help with a fundraiser or to finance an event. Go to

www.thrivent.com/actionteam and simply APPLY. Thrivent will provide resources to help you plan the event, promotional items, and a Community Impact Debit Card loaded with **\$250 of seed money**. The LCOSJ Thrivent Action Team Committee; Steve Barteau, Jan Fritz, Marilyn Humphrey, Denise Pearcy, Michelle Soltwedel, or Jim & Janet Totsch. It's a great way to help financially many of the activities that we have here at the Lutheran Church of St. John, St. James Lutheran School, or other groups that you may be involved in. Gather your "Team" and hit APPLY.

Dates to Remember:

- December 5 – Midweek Advent Service**
- December 8 – Christmas Party**
- December 12 – Midweek Advent Service**
- December 19 – Children’s Christmas Program**
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Services**
6pm & 8pm
- December 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY - 9:00am**
- December 31 – New Year’s Eve Worship Service**
at St. James Lutheran Church at



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

	Wedding Date	Years
Rich & Gayla Gastler	12/3/1988	30



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Cheryl Kestner	12/1
Amber Perrine	12/2
Emma Backoff	12/3
Michael Broadwater	12/3
Lexi Herman	12/3

Rayleen Holzgraefe	12/3
Tim Mitchell	12/3
Hunter Luker	12/4
Anna Zelle	12/4
Dain Heming	12/5
Lauren Tenhouse	12/5
Tyler Turnbaugh	12/5
Brian Patterson	12/6
Michael Parrish	12/7
Magnolia Dietrich	12/8
Nathan Zimmerman	12/8
Katlyn Grott	12/9
Kyle Cirrincione	12/10
Daisy Dickhut	12/10
Peggy Duesdieker	12/10
Kevin Soltwedel	12/10
Aaron Marshall	12/11
Dillon Waack	12/11
Ryely Meyer	12/12
Hila Waterkotte	12/12
Jacob Houghton	12/13
Bethany McMahan	12/15
Theodore Crabtree	12/16
Barbara Freiburg	12/16
Renita Goodwin	12/16
Carolyn Bergström	12/17
Michael Bergström	12/17
Marlena Gorton	12/18
Chase Nierman	12/18
John Schonarth	12/18
Wilma Tieman	12/18
Jonathon Gibleon	12/20
Joseph Barnes	12/21
Nicholas Cory	12/22
Anne Marshall	12/22
Steve Barteau	12/23
Cathy Boren	12/23
Cathy Collison	12/24
Josh Gibleon	12/24
Emberly Stolte	12/24
John Ufkes	12/25
Kathy Flowerree	12/26
Austin Baker	12/27
Alyssa Gooding	12/27
Chloe Leifheit	12/27
Danielle Wiley	12/27

Bobby Anders	12/28
Chris Enroth	12/29
Margaret Gilbert	12/29
Dan Merker	12/29
Felicity Otten	12/30
Jody Mauck	12/31

If your name is not on the Anniversary or Birthday list, or if you wish your name removed, please contact Marilyn at the church office. If a date is incorrect, please let me know. The deadline for submitting an article in the January Broadcaster is Friday, December 21.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday, December 8th, 6:00pm – Midnight, Jeff Turner Benefit – Norby’s Pub

Come enjoy a night full of great food, people and Live Country Music and help support Jeff Turner and his battle with Cancer. \$20.00 Cover Charge per person, all proceeds to the Benefit. Brown County Barbeque will be serving up delicious Smoked Pork & Sides (Included in the cover charge). Raffle beginning at 7:00pm. Cornhole Tournament beginning at 8:00pm (\$100 per team). The band **NonStop** takes the stage @ 9:00pm (included in cover charge). All for a short drive to Norby’s Pub in Clayton.



Reserve your spot at the Rudolph Marionette Puppet Show at 6:00pm on **Monday, Dec. 3** and at **10:15am on Tuesday, Dec. 4, & Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 6, 7 & 8**. Join us as we celebrate the hero in all of us at this year’s performance of Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer. Puppet shows are designed for children of all ages and fill up fast so reserve your spot today by calling Natascha Will at 223-1309 ext. 501, or

nwill@quincylibrary.org or online at quincylibrary.org!



Great River Genealogical Society
Adams County, Illinois

The Great River Genealogical Society will celebrate the Illinois Bicentennial on **Thursday, December 13th with a carry-in dinner beginning at 6:00 pm**. Bring your knowledge of Illinois history and a side-dish to share to the Lutheran Church of St John, at 3340 State Street. Following dinner, we will hear some little known facts of Illinois at its beginning and early years. We will also celebrate the Christmas season with some early Christmas carols performed by St. John’s One Voice musicians and singers. Baked Ham and Beverages will be provided. **RSVP by calling Phyllis Smith at (217) 964-2348**. You do not need to be a member to attend. Go to www.gr-gs.org for more Society information and resources for you family history search.

The Great River Genealogical Society invites you to a tour of the Brenner Library at the Quincy University, on Thursday evening, January 10, 7:00 pm. Parking is available off of 18th street, in the QU lot of Pepsi Arena. The group will not meet here at church in January.

CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00am Worship



*Have a Safe &
Blessed Christmas
and New Year’s Eve.*

THE WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS can be found on www.lcosj.org under the NEWS tab.

