



## HOLY COMMUNION

“... in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.” (The Small Catechism, by Martin Luther, *The Sacrament of Holy Communion*, No. 2)

**COMMUNION WILL BE OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY IN JANUARY. WHY WOULDN'T WE?**

NOT ABLE TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAY?  
**SATURDAY EVENING  
WORSHIP**  
5:00 P.M.

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## St. John Congregational Annual Meeting

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**January 26, 2020  
11:00 a.m.**

**Come and be involved!**

Please remember to bring your copy of the Annual Report, which will be mailed to you soon. And remember, all confirmed members (including the youth!) are voting members. Pray for a good, productive meeting.

*A light brunch will be served by the St. John Youth*

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### *Notice of Proposed Bylaw Change:*

#### **PART IX - ST. JOHN AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

#### **2. DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME**

##### *Current wording:*

One-fourth (1/4) for scholarships or grants to members of St. John American Lutheran Church for the purpose of attending college or seminary; for church-related camping or leadership conferences; or such other training which enables members of this congregation to grow in Christian faith and service to God's people.

This fund will not necessarily be divided among all the above programs or individuals at each distribution, but it is recommended that seminary student scholarships be given preference.

##### *Proposed wording:*

One-fourth (1/4) for scholarships to members of St. John American Lutheran Church for the purpose of attending higher education.

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- In memory of Dennis & Dorothy Thompson: \$237 to Contingency Fund for postage  
 - In memory of Norma Matthies: \$25- Lutheran World Hunger; \$40-Capital Fund  
 -In memory of Connie Roberts: \$25- Lutheran World Hunger  
 -In memory of Viorene Larson: \$10-Quilt Makers

**Other Gifts:** \$50-The Banquet; \$500-Gifts for Youth; \$741-Mission Globe for Rosebud Ministry; \$90-Rosebud Ministry; \$100-St. Dymas

**ST. JOHN GENERAL FUND – November 2019**

*Harley Shafer, Treasurer*

BALANCE ON HAND	11/1/2019	\$	545.54
	Total Receipts for Month	\$	26,436.17
	Total Cash on Hand	\$	26,981.71
	Less Expenditures for Month	\$	(30,030.17)
	From Capital Fund Payable	\$	4,000.00
BALANCE ON HAND	11/30/2019	\$	951.54
	Harley Shafer, Treasurer		

EXPENSES	THIS MONTH PAID	YEAR TO DATE PAID	ANNUAL BUDGET
Our World Mission	\$ 1,805.00	\$19,895.00	\$ 21,700.00
Pastoral Ministry & Staff	23,201.90	243,980.73	282,743.00
Worship & Service	1,697.63	20,504.48	31,075.00
Our Church Home	3,325.64	39,883.77	49,600.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 30,030.17	\$324,263.98	\$385,118.00



**Project CAR Drivers Needed**

*Volunteers are the key to independence and quality of life for seniors.*

Project CAR (**Call A Ride**) offers transportation to Sunday church services, and other church functions, and medical appointments for adult members of ten different churches. This transportation is a crucial element in their ability to remain connected to their church and community. Project CAR provides vehicles, gas, etc. **Please** call the Project CAR office (332-2777) and visit with Kate or Wanda for more information. **Men, women, retired, working, young, young at heart ... We Need You!**

**DECEMBER STATS:**

Families	375
Baptized Membership	682
Confirmed Membership	558

*(Statistics as of 12/18/19)*

**FUNERALS**

*Eugene Thomas Grocott, December 7, 2019*

**NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED DECEMBER 15, 2019**

*Brandy Pesicka, Keith Rippe, Vicki Sibert, Carolyn Williams*

**CHANGES FOR YOUR DIRECTORY:**

Neva Opland, Trail Ridge, 3408 West Ralph Rogers Rd. A102, Sioux Falls, SD 57108-2683

Shawn Plienis, 300 N. Dogwood Pl., Sioux Falls, SD 57107-1028

Donald Schmidt, 905 W. 18<sup>th</sup> St., Apt, 193, Sioux Falls, SD 57105-0567

Melinda Viereck, 6401 S. Lyncrest Ave., Apt. 122, Sioux Falls, SD 57108-2543

**Special Funds – November 2019**

*Joanne Pesicka, Treasurer*

Adult Education	\$19.68	Choir Fund	\$ 3,155.21
Angel Foods	\$987.05	Education designated	\$ 4,038.81
Banquet	\$ 2,870.55	Food To You	\$ 1,303.39
Care Team Ministry	\$ 392.26	Library Fund	\$ 726.99

**From Pastor Paul:**

## EPIPHANY



Eastern Magi's nascent star.  
Brilliant comet's path converging.  
Celestial portents of a promised life.  
For those who feel like phantoms,  
No past, no future.

The new day dawns.  
Now within grasp.  
In this moment:  
Fertile, safe, and open to God's future.  
We live and breathe:  
Anticipation, Faith, and Peace of heart.

Something I scribbled a number of Christmases ago. A greeting. A poem of sorts. Not great poetry. Not even good poetry. But may it in some small way convey the hope God gives in Christmas: God is *with us*. God is *for us*, God getting the last loving Word over all. May the greeting flood all our hearts with the Light no darkness can ever overcome.

May this greeting also convey my thanks to you for your abiding faith, your ceaseless prayers, your countless kindnesses, your strength of service, your personal investment of "sweat equity" which keeps the mission of St. John vital, your openness to the leading of God's Spirit to continue our church's legacy of reaching and risking whenever new opportunities arise, and the often palpable sense of community and caring that is the hallmark of our life together. Thanks and thanks.

God bless you. And may God lead us, St. John, into a New Year full of hope and promise, creating in us hearts that are responsive, able, and willing to make our contribution to Christ's kingdom, so that we may continue to be a people reaching deep within to replenish our spiritual hearts while reaching out to lift up the fallen.

In this moment, fertile, safe, and open to God's future, let us live and breathe ANTICIPATION. What, indeed, will come?

**From Intern Pastor Rebel**

I must admit, there is a lot to learn in internship. You may have realized that you play a significant role in it. Each time we have coffee, lunch, tea, a conversation in the hall, the hospital or my office, share a prayer, serve together or sit together at a meeting, you are teaching me. You are teaching me to be the pastor you need, and you are forming me to be a pastor for future congregations to come. Thank you.

I have and will continue to be super grateful for your willingness to allow me to walk alongside you on this journey called life, and sometimes death. My take-aways from our time together this month are:

- We are all brothers and sisters in Christ, needing support, encouragement, and love from one another.
- We are beautifully, uniquely made with many gifts to offer and share. We show up with our whole selves- sometimes, that requires belonging before believing.
- We are all sinners, needing a Savior – our needs are significant, and so are the needs of our neighbors.

We will continue learning from each other and growing together into this new year. May the Lord bless you and keep this month. Happy New Year.

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### **Year End Contribution Statements**

Help us save on postage expense. If you would like to have your 2019 Contribution Statement e-mailed to you, please call the church office. Thank you!

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The **deadline** for the monthly Newsletter is 8:00 a.m. on the 20th of the preceding month. This month it will be 8:00 a.m. Monday, January 20th.



*Thank you to all who contributed your time, sweat and financial gifts to our sisters and brothers in Rosebud. The quilts were beautiful, the coats were warm, the gifts were fun, and the food was delicious. We served 19 communities and 858 people. God's Work, Our*

*Kari Clark*

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! (Psalm 100:1) Thank you for the gift of music- Sunday School children, Adult Bell and Vocal Choirs. Thank you to the Directors – Joanne Pesicka and Sarah Jorgenson and accompanist, Amber Holtberg. Your voices, the bells and piano were beautifully heard. It makes the preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth even more exciting.*

*Kari Clark*

*My sincere thanks to Pastor Paul for his home visits and visits while I was having infusion treatments. Intern Pastor Rebel for home visits and bringing Angel Foods and those who prepared them. Thanks to the rest of my church family for the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, food and encouragement. All were much appreciated. God Bless all of you.*

*Ann Mortenson*

*Dear St. John Lutheran Congregation,*

*Thank you for your donation of \$358.65 to Food To You Mobile Food Pantry. Your generous donation is much appreciated and your volunteers are, too.*

*Sincerely, Food To You Mobile Pantry*

*Dear members and staff of St. John Lutheran,*

*Thank you all so much for supporting Laundry with Love. Your partnership allows us to give the gift of clean clothes to people living on the street or just struggling to get by. We look forward to continuing the partnership!*

*In Christ, Harriet & Church On The Street*

**THE NEW FLOWER CHART for 2020** is now up and ready for you



select a date. If you wish to donate altar flowers for a particular Sunday this next year, please sign your name and include your phone number on that date.

**Please sign up only once for the year until others have a chance to sign up, too. Please, only one per Sunday.** If you wish to share a Sunday with someone who has already signed up, you must check with them first to see if they wish to share that Sunday. The Altar Guild will contact you prior to your Sunday. The cost of the bouquet is \$29.00 (includes tax). Thank you!

**Meals-On-Wheels 2020**



St. John is responsible for **Meals-on-Wheels** drivers and helpers every **Tuesday**. If you are able to help out with this important community activity, please use the sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center (east entry of church). The meals are picked up at the Center for Active Generations. Thank you!

**Remember – you can sign up for just one Tuesday if you wish. Any and all help is needed and appreciated!**

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Happy 2020! Thanks to all the Adult Choir and Bell Choir members for all your hard work over the Advent/Christmas season! I also want to send a shout-out to Amber Holtberg for providing beautiful music during communion at our Advent Musical Celebration on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. She only had two days to prepare and it was gorgeous. This month the Bell Choir will perform a new piece, "Immanuel's Land", on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. The Adult Choir will perform the lively gospel song, "Precious Lord", on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Wishing you and yours a healthy and happy New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sarah Jo Jorgensen  
Director of Choirs

## Bible Study



Join Daniel Hooks and Pastor Paul in the church Library Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. following worship. Everyone is welcome & encouraged to attend!

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## NO WELCA BIBLE STUDY IN JANUARY

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### LWR (Lutheran World Relief)

January through March we will be collecting bath towels for the health kits that we send to Lutheran World Relief. Donations can be placed in the box near the church office door.

Please remember to save the Box Tops for Education. Please check the expiration date on them before putting them in the container in the kitchen. Pop tabs will also be collected and given to the Ronald McDonald House.

If you are not a shopper you may want to contribute to the cost of shipping items for LWR.

We have 14 ladies that meet every Wednesday to make quilts. We invite you to come and join us! You do not have to know how to sew, we do other things like cutting and tying that we do, as well as assemble the Health and School kits and the Layettes. This is a fun group and we have great fellowship, so if you are able to come, we would love to have you join us on Wednesdays from 9:00-2:00. If you can only come for part of the day that is ok. We have coffee and treats and everyone brings a sack lunch for lunch.

Thank you for your continued support and hope to see you soon!

Barb Buchanan and Ann Mortenson  
Co-Chairs of Mission Action Service Group

WELCA has greeting cards for sale in the church office. There are, Birthday, Sympathy, Thinking of you, Encouragement, Get Well, etc. at \$6.00 for a box of twelve. There are also pretty table napkins for \$3.50 per package.



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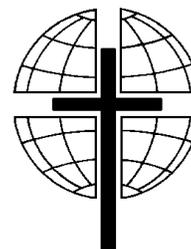
**Come join Pastor Paul at 12 noon on Thursdays in the church library for fellowship and a Bible Study. Everyone is welcome!**

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## OLDER & WISER LUTHERANS

The Owls (Retirees) usually meet the second Monday of each month at **10:00 a.m.** Come join the group ... even if you are not a regular attendee. Come for coffee & fellowship. This month they are meeting on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Fryn' Pan. All are welcome!

### January Mission Globe



**Our January Mission Globe** gifts will go toward Intern Pastor Rebel Hurd's seminary expenses. You are welcome to make a contribution, *above and beyond your regular giving*, in the globe at the back of the sanctuary. Make checks payable to St. John Special Funds.



### Potluck & Movie

No Potluck & Movie Night in January or February. Watch for 2020 dates in the March Newsletter. Thank you!



## Support Our Youth!

Monday, January 13th - E. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Pizza Ranch, 5-8 PM. There will be promo slips available on the Welcome Center for you to pick up. If we turn in 20 promo slips we are guaranteed a certain dollar amount. Let the youth of St. John pick up your dirty dishes and help them raise funds for summer camps. Hope to see you all there. Thank you!



## From the Library

[www.librarything.com/catalog/stjohnchurch](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/stjohnchurch)

Watch for the following library books coming to St. John Library in 2020:

A Million Little Pieces by James Frey

Waterlily by Ella Cara Deloria

Life of Pi By Yann Martel

As You Wish by Chelsea Sedoti

The Horse Whisperer by Nicholas Evans

The Residence by Kate Anderson Brower

Don't forget to stop by the library and CHECK IT OUT!

Linda the Librarian (Linda Weber)

 Third class mail cannot be forwarded. If you change your address, let us know so you receive your next Newsletter. **You will also save the church the 59¢ cost of address corrections.**

## High and Middle School Events

All events are for both Middle and High unless marked.

**Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>:** H.S. Coffee hour will need you there by 10:00 a.m. Looking for bakers to provide 2 dozen muffins, breads, rolls, or coffee cake. Let me know if you can help.

**Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>:** Lunch is Served- 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. needing 10 volunteers to help. Location: 405 S. Mable. Making sandwiches for Labor Ready, and the Banquet.

**Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>:** H. S. Youth at 10:30 a.m., we will be focusing on our trip. Butterbraids, Puffins and Little Casar forms and money are due.

**Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>:** Pizza Ranch E. 10th – 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., looking for 5 volunteers. Remember to pickup your promo slips if you or your family plan on eating. Let me know if you want to work.

**Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>:** Youth Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Library. Everyone welcome, come with ideas to share that you would like to have the youth participate in.

**Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>:** M.S. Coffee hour will need you there by 10:00 a.m. Looking for bakers to provide 2 dozen muffins, breads, rolls, or coffee cake. Let me know if you can help.

**Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> deposit for the H.S. Servant Trip.

**Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>:** Backpack Program – 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in need of 20 volunteers. 4701 North Westport Ave. It is located South of J & L Davidson off North 60<sup>th</sup> and I-29.

**Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>:** Serving the Annual Meeting Brunch after church, we will be serving egg bake, biscuits and gravy, and breakfast sandwiched with fruit. Looking for volunteers to bring egg bake, and juice. Let me know what you would like to bring. This is for all high school, stay for the meeting and put your votes in.

**Belva Kurtz** | Youth & Family Ministry Director

p. 605.214-7539 Call | Text e. [bkurtz@vastbb.net](mailto:bkurtz@vastbb.net)

Gift Cards for a number of local businesses/restaurants are available for purchase on Sunday mornings at the Welcome Center in the east entryway of the church. (Cards are also available weekdays in the church office.) Gift Cards may be purchased in varying denominations allowing you to purchase merchandise at their respective businesses up to the face value of each card. In most instances, Gift Cards purchased at St. John result in a 5% profit from participating businesses to our St. John Youth to help with summer camps and servant events.

**THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING GIFT CARDS AT ST. JOHN.**

**St. John Prayer Ministry & Prayer Box** – Pastor Paul and prayer ministers would like to pray for you. Prayer requests are received in a secure prayer box in the back of the St. John sanctuary and



are kept in strictest confidence before, during, and after prayers are said on your behalf. It is of utmost importance to the St. John congregation that all our members and friends are prayed for on a routine basis. Please help your pastor and prayer ministers to be faithful and effective in this undertaking by sharing with us whatever you may have in your heart to share.



**Anti-slip Project**—There are individual bottles of ice melt available for pick up in the east entryway to keep in your automobile. These can be used in case of an icy driveway or parking lot. Many thanks to the Good Samaritan Society and our properties board.

<b>Capital Fund Statement</b>			
Mary Johnson, Treasurer			
<b>SAVINGS BALANCE</b>	November 1, 2019		\$52,234.68
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
	Memory of Patsy Flansburg	\$60.00	
	Memory of Norma Matthies	\$40.00	
	Interest	\$0.00	
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<u>\$100.00</u>
<b>EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS</b>			
	Transfer to General Fund	\$4,000.00	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES &amp; WITHDRAWALS</b>		<u>\$4,000.00</u>
<b>SAVINGS BALANCE</b>	November 30, 2019		<u>\$48,334.68</u>
<b>CHECKING BALANCE</b>	November 1, 2019		\$356.25
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
		\$0.00	
		\$0.00	
	Interest	\$0.01	
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<u>\$0.01</u>
<b>EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS</b>			
		\$0.00	
		\$0.00	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES &amp; WITHDRAWALS</b>		<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>CHECKING BALANCE</b>	November 30, 2019		<u>\$356.26</u>
<b>CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT</b>			
	Mission Investment Fund; 2.23%; maturity 1/25/24	\$103,382.54	
	American State Bank; 2.7%; maturity 3/3/21	\$101,351.01	
	Mission Investment Fund; 2.23%; maturity 10/15/24	\$55,000.00	
	<b>TOTAL CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT</b>		<u>\$259,733.55</u>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	<b>November 30, 2019</b>		<u>\$308,424.49</u>
<b>PAYABLES</b>			
	Transfers from General Funds (end of year)	\$47,000.00	
	Transfers to General Fund 2019	-\$19,000.00	
	<b>TOTAL PAYABLES</b>		\$28,000.00
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>			
	Elevator Funds for maintenance	\$6,853.08	
	<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>		\$6,853.08
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	<b>November 30, 2019</b>		<u>\$273,571.41</u>
	5% of 2019 budget	\$19,255.90	
<i>St. John Policy #5: The Capital Funds Account shall maintain a minimum balance amounting to 5% of the annual congregational budget. Any transfer of money from the Capital Fund to the General Fund shall have Council approval.</i>			