



# The *GOOD NEWS*

To provide hope by Reaching out and Connecting people to Jesus through the Holy Spirit and Encouraging them to share the same Good News.

December 2018

## A Message from Pastor Brewer . . .

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
**Pastor Carl Brewer**  
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### Worship Services

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Monday at 7:30 p.m.

### L.I.F.E. Hour

Sunday at 9:15 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

Holy Communion is served the  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of each month.

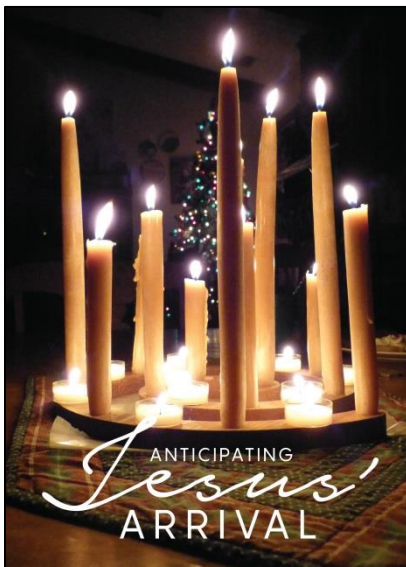
“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’” Jeremiah 33:14-16

December begins the season of Advent, a season of anticipation, when we are reminded of what God told His Chosen people to anticipate will come in the Messiah and of what God has told us will come when the Messiah comes again. But Advent is also a season of preparation, how God prepared His people then for the coming Messiah, and how He prepares us today for the same.

Are you ready? Are you prepared? I don't mean for the exchange of gifts that we have come to call Christmas. I mean for the coming of our Savior again. This question of readiness and preparation is asked often in Christian circles today. It is asked most often out of self-centeredness, or a concern primarily for ourselves or for our close relatives. But is this selfishness what God desired then or desires today? Is this selfishness what it means to be ready?

Let's explore the text again from Jeremiah 33. What is God stating to His people? The days are coming when God is going to fulfill His promise to His people. What is this promise? To send a descendent of David's line that will be righteous, without sin and solely focused on the needs of the people, to execute justice and righteousness in the land. When this descendant comes He will save the people and the people will be free, or dwell securely. What did Jesus do when He came?

First His cousin John prepared the way for Christ by telling the people, “Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand.” Then Jesus comes, healing the sick, eating with sinners, calling disciples and forgiving sins. All of Jesus' earthly ministry culminates in the Cross. Why? The Cross is the fulfillment of what God had promised in Jeremiah. Justice and Righteousness was executed in the fullest way possible on the cross when all the punishment for sin, all sin, for all time was laid upon Jesus. Jesus paid it all and fulfilled His Father's promise not just to the Israelites but to the whole world.



If we say that Jesus paid it all, then why do we then speak out the opposite side of our mouths and say that there is something that we must do to be saved? Why do we treat justification not as something that Christ has fulfilled, but only as something that He has begun? Why do we take the preparation and fulfillment that He has done for us and throw it out the window?

Why don't we live in the salvation that He has bought for us with His own Body and Blood, or dwell secure in the freedom that He provides? I believe the answer is both Pride and Doubt. The very same tools that the devil used on Adam and Eve in the Garden, he continues to use on us today to attempt to take away the Paradise God has given us.

Are we ready? Yes. Why? Because Christ has made and continues to make us ready, indeed He has done everything to make it so. What can we do between now and the day He either comes again or calls us home in death? Celebrate the freedom He has won for us by taking His message of salvation with us everywhere we go. By living a life of worship, where each moment is an opportunity to serve God by speaking His Word in word and deed. Instead of hanging our heads in defeat or fear because of seeing only our sin, Christ has fixed them upon His Cross where sin is taken away. Christ is the fulfillment and the victory all in one. We are ready, and now is the time of celebration for all that He has done and continues to do for us. Look to the Cross where you've been set free.

† In Christ, Pastor Brewer

## Ruby's Pantry Online Pre-Registration NOW AVAILABLE Starts Now for December!

**\$20 Share Donation + \$1 Processing Fee**

***Use Your Debit or Credit Card On-line***

**[www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org)**

**Select a Time Slot / Arrive 15 Minutes Before Your Time**

**Minimal Waiting on the Day of the Pantry**

**Pre-Registration is Available Until 3:00 pm Day Before Pantry**

**(Re-opens Next Day for New Month)**

**Bring 2 large boxes or totes for food!**

Everyone Who Gets Hungry Qualifies

You Will Receive an Abundance of Grocery Items

Need additional information: Call (651) 674-0009 | [www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org)

# NEWS & EVENTS

**Choir Practice will start on Monday December 3** at 6 pm. We will have 3 Monday practices in December and will sing at the 4pm Christmas Eve service. (Also possibly Christmas Day, depends on members available to sing that day). Questions? Contact Jodi Kinnard at 920-639-5135

**The Sunday School is sponsoring a Toys for Tots box.** If you would like to donate a toy, please place the item in the box by December 9<sup>th</sup>. The box will be located in the Narthex. Toy's for Tot's pickup will be December 9<sup>th</sup>. Look for the Toys for Tots box in the Narthex.

**We are collecting items for Adopt A Soldier** (Door and Kewaunee County). These items are in turn put into care packages and shipped out at various times during the year to our deployed military personnel. What a wonderful way to support and honor them! Items can be placed in the Adopt a Soldier box in the Narthex.

**We are preparing for our yearly Church Council Elections** and are looking for parish members who are interested in serving on one of the council boards. If you or someone you know would be interested in being a council member or you have questions about being a council member, Contact Pastor Brewer or the church office. Thank you for giving this opportunity prayerful consideration.

**Pick the perfect gift with Scrip!** It's time to start tackling that holiday gift list. Scrip gift cards don't just make good presents; they're also perfect to use when buying gifts this Christmas season. Check out what gift cards we currently have in inventory – or place an order for one and it will be here the following week. SCRIP is sold Sunday mornings or contact Deb Vandenberg for more information.

**Holiday shopping? Make Your Amazon.com Purchases Through AmazonSmile** and Help St. John Lutheran Church. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price on your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support St. John by shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7040573>



4/5K – 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Christmas Program  
(Students are asked to attend LIFE Hour to Practice)  
Sunday, December 9  
10:30 a.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Program Practice  
Saturday, December 15  
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Light lunch served at 11:00)

3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 16  
10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 23  
9:00 a.m.  
NO LIFE HOUR

Christmas Eve  
Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day  
Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 30  
9 a.m.  
NO LIFE HOUR

New Year's Eve  
Monday, December 31  
7:00 p.m.

NO service on New Year's Day

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Board of Education Minutes

Oct 10, 2018

We discussed possible practice date for older children's Christmas service. It was mentioned that due to many of the kids being in basketball, attendance might be lower on the usual Saturday morning. We will let Kim Piesler know, send give her options, such as a Friday after-school meeting. BOE will provide lunch or dinner, depending on what Kim decides.

We are keeping in touch with Terri Batten to make sure new Life Hour teachers know they have support if needed, especially with challenging children.

We are looking to order ornaments for the Life Hour students soon.

We are also looking to fill 2 positions for the Board this January.

Submitted by Wendy Havel

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## Elder Minutes

November 1, 2018

7:00 pm

Open with Prayer

Elders Present: Dan DeGrave, Neil Seering, Chris Hanmann, Chris denHeijer

Others in Attendance: Pastor Brewer, Amy VanPay

### Transfers In/ New Members:

- Grant associate membership to Deseree Dufek to Calvary Lutheran Chapel in Madison, WI
- Sigrid G. Bills transfer in through Affirmation of Faith
- Jacqueline McDonald transfer in from Christ the King Lutheran Church in Ishpeming, MI
- Kevin, Michelle, Josie Schingeck transfer in from Hope Lutheran Church in DePere, WI

### Transfer Out:

Keith & Roxanne Mueller transfer to Faith Lutheran in Marinette, WI

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Met with Amy VanPay
- Scheduled the Christmas season worship times
  - December 23 – 9am ONLY
  - December 24 – 4pm and 7pm
  - December 25 – 9am
  - December 30 – 9am ONLY
  - December 31 – 7pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by: Dan DeGrave

Next Meeting: December 5, 2018

**Stewardship Meeting**  
**November 13, 2018**

Opening With Prayer by Lisa Lemens

Attendees: Marilyn Mueller, Lisa Lemens, Ann Reckelberg, Bev Zimmerman

Next Church Council meeting will be Wednesday November 28th at 7 pm

Old business:

- 38 donated for September Blood Drive
- Voter/Pot Luck/ New Member. — 60 members attended

New business:

- Have all church council committees submit names by December 19th church council meeting

Ideas

Questions — possible confirmation gift to each member

- possible more shelves for library and make it more useable
- talked about cookbook idea

Next Stewardship meeting: December 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm

Adjourn by everyone

Closing: With the Lord's Prayer

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**Evangelism Committee Update**  
**Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Attendance: Peggy Miesler, Jean Loberger, Pastor Brewer, Miles Behling, Heidi VandenBush, Jodi Kinnard, & Jenny Shaw
- We met Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at p.m.
- Jeannie opened the meeting with devotion and prayer
- New St. John's member, Miles Behling was introduced, welcomed and thanked for his acceptance of being an Evangelism board member. Welcome Miles! We are so excited to have you!
- We discussed assisting with finding needy families & individuals to benefit from the "Blessing Boxes" offered from Ruby's Pantry to community members who are in need for various reasons... loss of loved one, hard times, health issues, etc.... St. John partners with St. Louis Church with this offering. Each church identifies shares for 3-5 people/families, with a joint number of 10 shares donated. The cost of each share is 100% donated by the Ruby's Pantry organization.
- Our committee will create the registry of names in need and will organize volunteers to meet and deliver the shares. We will also be creating a note of encouragement to be added to each share.
- We will be developing & printing "I'm praying for you" business size cards to be handed out by at any outreach event or encounter, which will include contact info to St. John's church.
- We will also be developing formal Prayer Request cards to be used at the Ruby's Pantry. These prayer request cards will be placed in the pew shelf for customers to write out and place in a basket on their way out.
- We discussed ways to communicate committee and outreach events happening in our church. A connection board placed at church and updating our Facebook page was discussed. We will discuss this further at our next meeting.

- We discussed how we could assist the elders with connecting with fallen away or absent members through written notes or phone calls. We will continue this discussion next month and will ask the Elders for thoughts on this.
- We reviewed several booklets offered from Lutheran Hour Ministries and discussed how we could use the booklets and where to make them available. We will be ordering several "What is Christmas?" booklets to be given away in the Pew Shelf at the December, Ruby's Pantry event. We also ordered little children's Christmas Story books in English & Spanish to be given away (in pew shelf) for the December Ruby's Pantry.
- We discussed the donation of benches to be placed possibly outside of church or in the Luxemburg community with bible verses & St. John's Logo on them. We also discussed having a gazebo or Pergola built near the community gardens for a spot of reflection, refreshment and shade.
- Our meeting closed in prayer at 8 p.m.
- We will be not meeting in December and will schedule our next meeting in January.

Submitted By: Jenny Shaw

## **Church Council Meeting**

**October 28, 2018**

Members present: Pastor Brewer, Craig Van Pay, Rob Funk, Norene Giese, Larry Jorgenson, Chris Hanmann, Marv Perleberg, Neil Seering, Wendy Havel, Char Ledvina, Marilyn Mueller, Lloyd Loberger, Nancy Loberger

Pastor Brewer opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Marv Perleberg asked to remove "and there are many stones in the lawn which makes it difficult for grass cutting" under New Business, Cemetery Association discussion. Motion to approve the minutes with correction was made by Marv Perleberg. Seconded by Marilyn Mueller. Motion carried.

Pastor reported Transfers In/New Members: Sigrid G. Bills transfer in through Affirmation of Faith, Jacqueline McDonald transfer in from Christ the King Lutheran Church in Ishpeming, MI, and Kevin, Michelle, Josie Schingeck transfer in from Hope Lutheran Church in DePere, WI. Deseree Dufek was granted associate membership to Calvary Lutheran Chapel in Madison, WI, while she is attending school at UW-Madison. Deseree is not eliminated from our church membership but the association membership allows her to partake of communion at Calvary. Keith and Roxanne Mueller transferred to Faith Lutheran in Marinette, WI.

Rob Funk provided the budget for January 1 through October 31, 2018:

- Church Revenue - \$241,560
- Total Expenses - \$215,457
- Total Assets - \$218,310
- Difference minus Operating Expenses = \$15,080

Elders –

- As stated in Pastor's report of Transfers In/Out of members.

Trustees –

- It is planned to begin the project of replacing all lighting with LED bulbs inside the church building before Christmas. A work day will be scheduled to set up the scaffolding for changing the lights which takes about 15-30 minutes per light. The projector bulbs will also be changed.
- Lloyd Loberger asked for input regarding hall rental fee which is \$100/4 hours for non-members and \$50/4 hours for members and there are times the fee has been waived for non-profit organizations. No need for change at this time. Lloyd questioned if payment is received for hall rental. Members normally place payment in the drop box or the collection plate but does payment come in from non-members. Rob stated that on Jenny's weekly deposit there is a space where she enters hall rental fees received. Lloyd will check with Jenny about receiving information of payments.

Stewardship Committee –

- Committee questioned whether confirmands receive a gift from church on their confirmation day. Yes, they receive a devotion booklet.
- Committee is looking into having more shelving for the Library. Bev Zimmerman will be organizing the books and checking for any inappropriate books.

Board of Education –

- Purchasing Christmas ornaments for Life Hour students.
- Working on candidates for the 2019 member election.

Evangelism Committee –

- The committee is stepping back from the 3 Colors of Ministry and instead plan to focus on more outreach and assisting with Ruby's Pantry.
- New to the committee is Miles Behling and he is willing to help focus on youth activities within church.
- Other discussion at their meeting included Blessing Boxes offered from Ruby's Pantry; business size "I'm praying for you" cards, which include church information, to be handed out at outreach events or encounters; Prayer Request cards to be used at Ruby's Pantry; ways to communicate committee and outreach events; reviewing booklets from Lutheran Hour Ministries and ordered little children's Christmas Story books to be given away in pew shelf for Ruby's Pantry; and possible donation of benches for outside the church or community with St. John's logo and discussion about a gazebo or pergola near the community gardens.

Old Business:

- Pastor received a phone call from Christ of the Bay about submitting a proposal for their church change. No proposal will be submitted as Our Savior Lutheran Church plans to work the members starting January 1.
- Future Needs Assessment – Boards should continue to look at needs for the budget. It was noted that NWTC builds benches and donates them to communities. Suggestions in the past have been: new roof, heating/cooling, more classrooms and storage areas for Life Hour, additional staff time (secretary time will be increased by 4 hours/week starting in 2019).

New Business:

- January 28, 2019, was slated for the Voter's meeting along with a potluck but the fellowship hall has already been reserved by an outside group. Therefore the Voter's meeting will take place on February 3.
- The Council membership sheet was shared and to list anyone for possible replacements for the election at the February 3 Voter's meeting. Committee job description sheets will be given to committees for update of duties and then posted on a bulletin board at the back of church.

The next Council Meeting will be Wednesday, December 19, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Rob Funk moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Neil Seering. Motion carried.

Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Norene Giese  
Council Secretary

## St. John Cookie Walk

**Thurs. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**4-6 pm**

(Prior to Advent by  
Candlelight)

**Sun. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:30-10:30 am**  
(Between services)

**Delicious Christmas treats  
for sale by the pound!**



**All proceeds support the  
St. John Missions Team**