

**ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER**  
**January 2019**

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
821 Denver Street Schuyler, Nebraska 68661  
402-352-3550

stjohns821@gmail.com

**Our Mission: to witness and serve in the name of Jesus Christ**

**Ministers: the People**

**Pastor: Day Hefner**

**St. John's Reservation Book** If you have received approval to utilize the Church/Social Hall/Classrooms from the St. John's Church Council, please utilize the Blue Day Planner in the Church Office to block out your date and times.

**February Assignments:**

Greeters: **Jalaine Vavricek**  
Head Communion Assistant: **Chellee Nelson**  
Lector: **Sharan Stoltenberg**  
Green Team: **None**

Please be thinking ahead as sign-up sheets for committees will soon be out.

**January**

**Birthdays**

Darli Vrba	3
Janelle Rocha	4
Gavin Nelson	5
Rylan Nelson	16
Michael Swanson	20
Mark Hartman	28



**Special Note:**

Annual Meeting of the Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Worship Service.

## A Word from Our Pastor...



Ecclesiastes 3:1,10-13

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover God has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.*

It is commonly thought that the month of January takes its name from the Roman god Janus, the god of beginnings and endings, thresholds, doorways, passages, and transitions. Janus is often pictured with two faces, one looking ahead to the future, and one looking back into the past. As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I imagine each of us with two faces looking forward and backward, and I remember these words from Ecclesiastes. God has given us a sense of past and future. God is the Alpha and the Omega, whose great works stretch out before us and behind us to lengths we can't even comprehend.

At times like these, with a text like this, we remember all the good that God has done for us in the past, all the ways that God has richly provided, in ways and at times we didn't even expect. And our remembering of God's past faithfulness provides a firm foundation for hope in what the future will bring. I pray that each one of us may begin this new year with a sense of gratitude and hope – gratitude for what has been before and hope for what is coming next.

I especially pray that we carry these attitudes with us to our annual meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, as we read the reports (stories) of what happened in 2018 and look out over the coming year to see where we are headed. This congregation has taken a courageous leap of faith in calling a full time pastor – and you will see that reflected in our budget, which may be intimidating. But I invite us all to remember all the more how God has been faithful to this community in the past, and to remember that God often responds to big leaps of faith with even bigger surprises! Our hope has a firm foundation. And I have faith that God is about to do wonderful things in our life together.

So let us enjoy God's gifts – let us eat and drink and take pleasure in our toil! Cheers to 2019 – may your new year be happy and blessed.

Faithfully,

Pr. Day

Have you visited our cool website? You can find an updated calendar of all our events, as well as our most recent newsletters, in case you misplace your copy! Check it out here: <http://stjohnslutheranschuyler.wordpress.com>

# WORSHIP IN JANUARY:

All Services at 9:30 a.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Color is White

## Sunday, Jan. 6 Epiphany of Our Lord

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (11) Ephesians 3:1-12

## Sunday, Jan. 13 Baptism of Our Lord

Readings: Isaiah 43:1-9 Psalm 29 (3) Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## Sunday, Jan. 20 - Second Sunday After Epiphany

Readings: Readings Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

## Sunday, Jan. 27 - Third Sunday After Epiphany

Readings: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21

*Year C focuses on the Gospel of Luke. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings are of prophetic proclamation chosen in chronological order and highlighting Jeremiah. The second, New Testament, readings are chosen mainly from Galatians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy and 2 Thessalonians.*



*St. John's Women of the ELCA "Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ." All women of St. John's are invited to participate in the activities of the Women of the E.L.C.A. WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a place for you in Women of the ELCA at St. John's. We're a community of women where fellowship, friendship, study, service and advocacy are nurtured.*

## **St. John's Women of the ELCA**

"Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ."

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan 13 Serve coffee fellowship

Jan 15 1:30 pm General Meeting and Bible Study in church library

Jan 19 8:30 NSWOW winter retreat at St. Paul's in Grand Island \$18.00

Jan. 22 1:30 pm Quilting

Jan 29 1:30 pm Quilting

Feb 5 1:30 pm General Meeting and Bible Study in church library



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTING

**Quilting will resume January 22, 2019**

**Thank you to all who helped pack 54 quilts for shipping. And to all who provided funds for shipping all types of LWR kits overseas.**

Lutheran World Relief mission quilts are a valuable tool to show God's love and compassion around the world. Help us help others. No experience is necessary. Quilts are ready to tie or there is fabric to be cut. If you would like to sew at home, we will provide the materials. Let Lemay know if you would be willing to help if we scheduled some evening dates in 2019.

Thank you for your generosity, helpfulness and passion for this year's Holiday Fair!



## St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Holiday Fair 2018

Income:	Bake Goods and Soup Sales	\$1,106.25
	Prize Drawing Tickets	\$981.00
	Soup, Meat, Drawing & Silent Auction Donations	\$1,155.00
	Silent Auction	\$2,025.00
	Meal Tickets	\$1,125.00
	Cash from Cash Boxes	\$400.00
<b>Total Income.....</b>		<b>\$6,792.25</b>
Expense:	Meal and Soup Supplies**	\$0.00
	Drawing & Silent Auction Items	\$697.50
	Advertising & Postage	\$172.00
	Cash for Cash Boxes	\$400.00
<b>Total Expense.....</b>		<b>\$1,269.50</b>
<b>Net Revenue.....</b>		<b>\$5,522.75</b>

\*\*A Thrivent Action Team Gift card of \$250 was applied for Meal and Soup Supply Expenses

Respectively submitted,  
Larry Konz, Church Treasurer

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## Other news.....

**New Secretary!:** Good news of great joy — we have hired a new church secretary, Esmeralda Ortez. Esmeralda will start on January 7 and will be in the office from 10-1 Monday-Friday; we hope you'll stop by to meet her!

**Annual report:** If you are writing any reports for the annual congregational report, please email them to [stjohns821@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns821@gmail.com) by December 31, 2018. Thank you!

**Other messages for St. John's bulletins, newsletters, etc. Please use the email:** [stjohns821@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns821@gmail.com) OR call the Secretary's office to leave messages as we begin the new secretarial transition.

*Congratulations...to our own **Jon Knutson** who began his Mayoral term for the City of Schuyler on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Previously, Jon has served on the Schuyler City Council as 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Council Member for twenty years.*

# Happy New Year!