



# 2018 Newsletter

## A brief look at the month ahead:

- December 1—Annual Womens Brunch
- December 2—Pastor Kari Bahe's Installation
- December 8—Cookie Walk and Live Nativity
- December 9—Choir Cantata and Live Nativity
- December 11—Executive Mtg
- December 12—Organization Committee Mtg
- December 13—CCP Christmas Concert
- December 16—Sunday School Concert
- December 17—CAER Volunteers
- December 18—Council Mtg
- December 19—CAER Volunteers
- December 20—Community Dinner
- December 23—ONE Worship Service at 9am
- December 24—Christmas Worship Services at 10:30am, 5pm and 7pm
- December 26—NO Wednesday Worship
- December 30—ONE Worship Service at 9am





# Advent

By, Pastor Kari Bahe

You know it is about more than shopping days, or you wouldn't be reading this! We have entered the holy season of Advent. Did you know that Advent and Lent are closely tied together? Both seasons are meant for waiting and preparing. Both seasons are to call our hearts to their center: Christ.

In Advent, we are reminded of how much we need a Savior, and we look forward to our Savior's second coming even as we prepare to celebrate his first coming at Christmas.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming" or "visit." In this season, we keep in mind both "advents" of Christ, the first in Bethlehem and the second yet to come.

Advent, features the colors of purple, or dark blue and pink. The purple/blue color signifies seriousness, repentance, and royalty. Pink points to the minor theme of Advent, which is joy.

Advent is a time for reflection on preparing our heart room. We are to take time for reflection on our need for a Savior. The waiting should not be overshadowed by the busyness that has become the "holiday season". Advent gives you permission to slow down, pray, wait, and hope.

Advent is also about reflecting on the hope that is ours, because of Jesus Christ. We live in the now and not yet truth that Christ has come and that Christ will come again.

*Let every heart prepare Him room* are important words, they are more than lyrics to a favorite hymn. They are a prayer for us at Advent. Let us prepare Him room, both now and in the time to come.

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;* Advent, like Lent is a time to reflect on the ways we close our hearts, the ways we let sin and therefore sorrows grow. The truth is: we need a Savior. The truth is we have Jesus Christ; yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Come, prepare Him room.

## Christmas Eve Worship Services Reminder!

December 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 am

December 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30am, 5:00pm and 7:00 pm

December 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am

## Cornerstone's Church Corner

To keep up with the current happenings check their

website: [www.cornerstonechristianpreschool.org](http://www.cornerstonechristianpreschool.org)

Contact Ms. Lori for more information at 763-856-4561 Ext.14 or email at [Zimmermancep@yahoo.com](mailto:Zimmermancep@yahoo.com)

Cornerstone Christian Preschool will be having a Christmas concert on December 13th at 6:30pm. All are welcome to come and enjoy this wonderful event!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of the children and staff at Cornerstone!!



### CRADLE ROLL

Christmas is an exciting time for young children. They can become overwhelmed with the added activities. You can help your child manage this by spending quiet time reading the story of Jesus birth. Simple storybooks read to infants and toddlers will nurture their faith and begin the celebration of the birth of our Savior! For older children, start an Advent calendar to help remind them of the true meaning of the season.

Why not plan a birthday party for Jesus on Christmas Day-a tradition to keep for many years to come!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

### *Mark your Calendar:*



**Sign up in the Narthex to volunteer at CAER in Elk River** for Monday, December 17 and Wednesday, December 19 from 9:45am-12:15.

**Free Monthly Community Dinner:** December 20th, from 5-7pm in Fellowship Hall.

**St. John Quilting Group collected** for and put together 43 Lutheran World Relief kits! That's a new record! Thank you to all who helped by donating supplies! They also delivered 37 lap quilts to Shriners Hospital!

**Reminder for upcoming Annual Meeting** January 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. All articles for the Annual Report need to be turned in by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday School Christmas Concert** is on Sunday December 16th at the 8am and 10:30am Worship Services!

**Office Will be Closed on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> as well as January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Confirmation Announcement! J-Term Begins January 2<sup>nd</sup> and continues on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> with Students and Parents attending from 6-6:50pm.**



## First Church Hall Meeting Recap

Sunday November 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am

Our very first Church Hall Meeting was a success!! It was well received and it was decided that we should continue with having them. They will be held every other month (odd months) on the Sunday after Church Council meets. We had approximately 30 people in attendance.

Meeting Recap follows:

“Ways To Serve” information directory

- Recently started to document activity at St John; this is a work in progress.
  - There will be blank pages available for leaders to fill out for their tasks.
  - It will most likely be stored in the narthex.
  - Suggestion: put information on our website.
- Thrivent
- If you are a member you can do the following at no cost to you.
  - Fundraiser – apply (on-line) for \$250 seed money for an “Action Team Project”
  - Choice Dollars – dollars that you earn on your accounts – dollars can be directed to St John.
- January 28, 2019 - Congregation Annual meeting
- We hope to see/hear you all there – save the date - put on your calendar!
  - We have a new electronic system so snow birds/shut in/home sick can join the meeting and have the ability to cast their vote.
- Nomination for new Council Members
- Please pray about for our council and the people with the right gifts would step forward.
    - Skills: future planning and organizational structure
  - Let council or pastor know if you think there is someone who would be good for council
- Electronic transaction
- We now have a card reader for credit card/debit card transactions
  - On-line giving (one-time or reoccurring) through our website
  - Application for on-line giving (can link to a QR code)
- Helping Honduras Kids
- Thank you for all the donations! These will be shipped in January 2019
- Church house
- Way-to-go on remodeling the front of the house (windows and siding). Looks great!!
  - Too much “miscellaneous treasurers” (aka junk) around the church grounds.
  - Dumpster (treasurer chest) is coming – can use help to fill it up!
  - Need more members to help the green hat team to help with projects around the church

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**Thank YOU!** Our local food shelf CAER is in Elk River and several churches provide volunteers for it every month. Our church is scheduled to work there two days each month on a Monday and Wednesday. For half of the year we go in the morning (9:45am-12:15pm) and for half of the year we go in the afternoon (12:15-3:30pm).

In January we plan to have Chad Johnson, the director of CAER come to our church to talk to us about CAER. At that time, we will take an offering for CAER. A one-dollar donation will buy TEN DOLLARS worth of food! Thank you to all those who have volunteered each month. Also thank you for all the food donations that are put in the grocery cart for CAER. I appreciate your help and so does CAER.

Thank you! Marge Niebergall.

## **Worship Theme for December:**

### **December 9—2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent “Wrapped up in God’s Story of Covenant”**

Readings: Malachi 3:1-4

Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

{no Psalm this Sunday}

### **December 16—3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent “Wrapped up in God’s Story of Certainty”**

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalmody Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

### **December 23---4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent Wrapped up in God’s Story of Comfort and Joy”**

Readings: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55

### **The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve “Wrapped up in God’s Story of Christmas”**

Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7

{no Psalm}

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

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## **Installation service for Pastor Kari Bahe!**

The Installation Service for Pastor Kari went great! We are so blessed and excited to have her here. We look forward to the future and all God has for us!



## Christmas Poinsettia Memorial Garden

This Christmas we will be having a poinsettia memorial garden! You can sponsor a poinsettia “in honor of” or “celebration of” loved one(s) for 10.00. The names of the honored will be included in the Christmas worship services.

Please have payments to St. John Lutheran church by December 19<sup>th</sup>. Include “poinsettia memorial garden” along with payment.

In Honor of/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_

You may give this information and any monies to the Ushers or Church office.

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**6th grade Youth class that begins in January is in need of a teacher!** This class is fun and high energy. Curriculum is easy and flexible. Class meets Wednesday nights at 5:45-6:50pm. If you can help us with this, please contact Kari Steinbrecher at 763-200-4206 or kari@steinbrechercompanies.com.

**Thank you to all who brought pies, volunteered to help setup, serve and cleanup at our** Thanksgiving Pie Fellowship. It was a Huge Success. And Thank you Pastor Kari for a beautiful Thanksgiving eve service! Thanks a bunch!—Dawn Bourdeaux

**Mucho Gracias!!** Thank you so much for all the donations for Helping Honduras Kids in Honduras. These items have been packed up and ready to ship. The shipment will be done in January and I will be in Honduras in February to see the kids when the shipment arrives. I hope to bring back photos for all of you to see the difference you make. Thank you again for your generosity. Cheryl Schraeder (See Picture below)



# St. John Lutheran Church

## Council Meeting

October 16, 2018

**Attendees:** Kathy Fore, Kim Forster, Karen Kaehn, Will Potter, Eric Roensch, Cheryl Schrader, Jennifer Schurrer, Carolyn Schwab, Pastor Kari Bahe and Dawn Bourdeaux

**Absent:** Gina Kadlec, Gary Luebben

**Guest:** Marilyn W.

Kathy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Devotions:** Eric

### **Agenda:**

Add to agenda letter from Carolyn for newsletter. Motion to approve agenda with the addition by Karen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jennifer. Motion carried.

### **Secretary's Report:**

Jennifer made a motion to accept the September 18, 2018, meeting minutes; Carolyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Pastor Report:**

Pastor Kari gave words of Thanks for the Welcome to St. John. Excited to work together and will be making some changes. People will notice changes, simply because each pastor has their own leadership style. Pastor Kari handed out Together for God's Glory sheet which contains information on communication and a covenant for being church leaders together. The sheet also included information on healthy councils. Top priority is to get to know people. Confirmation is in need of a male small group leader. Pastor reported that staff is often overworked during an Interim period, and that our staff has worked very hard and should be thanked, possibly with a gift. She encouraged Council to give Thanks to the staff for all they have done. Cheryl will send out cards to the staff members. Need to install Sunday School Teachers and Confirmation Leaders.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer report was presented – see attached.

- Jennifer handed out St. John Lutheran Credit Card Policy. Have a log to sign out and accept the terms of the credit card when check out. Motion by Eric to set in place St John Lutheran Credit Card Policy as stated, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will. Motion carried. Please see attached policy.
- Jennifer handed out St. John Lutheran Church – Payment Approval Form. This will be rolled out mid-November. Please attached for form.
- Review electronic payment options. The fees will be absorbed by the Church. Different groups can use this option. Can be used on someone's phone, with correct equipment. The tablet was purchased to run sound board. Karen made a motion to go ahead with the swipe service from Vanco and purchase equipment for swipe device, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kim. Motion carried.
- Information on Building Loans was presented. See attached information on the loan options.
- Information on the budget was given. Council did an exercise if the budget to stay the same: 72% staff, 17% Building & Grounds items (electric, water, garage, etc.) and 10% building loan.

Motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes by Karen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Eric. Motion carried.

- More discussion on the budget. Jennifer made motion for income for 2019 of \$285,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen. Motion carried.

- Motion by Jennifer to use money in Schwartz account to be used for principal payment on the loan payment, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cheryl. Motion carried
- Table for loan options.

Motion to extend meeting by 15 minutes by Jennifer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Karen. Motion carried.

**Building & Grounds:**

**Committee Members:** Eric, Will, Kevin

Eric talked about the water issue by the fellowship door. Dig down 2 feet and place rock on each side of the sidewalk, for better drainage.

**Education:**

**Committee Members:** Dawn, Dan, Marge, Jennifer, Sabrina, Trisha, Carrie, Kari, Michelle

See attached report.

**Nominating:**

**Committee Members:** Eric, Gina, Karen, Kathy, Kim, Kari S., Sabrina, Cheryl H.

No report.

**Worship and Music:**

**Committee Members:** Eric, Gary, Kathy, Jessica G., Lil, Phyllis

No report

**Tech Committee:**

**Committee Members:** Eric, Sabrina

No report.

**Constitution:**

**Committee Members:** Gary, Dawn

See attached report.

**Finance:**

**Committee Members:** Jennifer, Margaret, Melanie, Diane

See treasurer report.

**Stewardship:**

**Committee Members:** Pastor Kari, Maren, Mary, Pat, Paul, Tom

No report.

**Evangelism:**

**Committee Members:** Carolyn, Cheryl

No report.

**Cornerstone:**

**Committee Members:** Karen, Lori, Rhonda, Pat

See attached report.

**Youth:**

**Committee Members:** Gina, Kim, Rhonda, Sabrina, Angie, Kari

No report.

**Endowment:**

**Committee Members:** Gary, Kevin, Paul, Bruce, Margaret, Larry

No report.

**Women of St. John:**

**Committee Members:** Cheryl, All women of St John

No report.

**Cherish All Children:**

**Committee Members:** Gary, Wanda, Cheryl H., Kari S., Judy J.

No report.

**Committee Reorganization:**

**Committee Members:** Cheryl, Kim, Dawn

No report.

**Old Business:**

- No old business.

**New Business:**

- Living Nativity Spaghetti Dinner is on Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Parking Signs – have council members park away and let the front be for members to park.
- Letter shared by Carolyn, please see attached. Carolyn and Pastor Kari will work together on.

Jennifer made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Cheryl seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Council members closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Dawn Bourdeaux