



2018 Newsletter

A brief look at the month ahead:

- January 1—Office Closed
- January 2—NO Confirmation or Worship
- January 8—Music and Worship, Executive, and Mutual Ministry Meetings
- January 9—NO Confirmation or Worship
- January 10—Friends in Grace Resumes
- January 15—Council Mtg, Annual reports due to office
- January 16—J-Term for 7th Grade, and 6th Grade Class Begins
- January 17—Community Dinner
- January 20—Church Hall Meeting
- January 23—J-Term for 8th Grade
- January 27—Annual Meeting at Noon
- January 30—J-Term for 9th Grade





A Word from the Pastor
By, Pastor Kari Bahe

It is Annual Meeting Time. On January 27th at 12:00 in the fellowship hall of St. John Lutheran Church we will make "resolutions". But, these are different than the ones that fail by February. Together, we will pray, talk, and RESOLVE to be about the work God is calling us to in 2019-2020!

Looking back over this past year, we will celebrate what has been accomplished. Looking forward, we will be filled with anticipatory hope in God's future for St. John. We know who holds our future! That is cause for celebration.

I invite you to join with me in prayer for our Annual Meeting. Let's be bold in planning for the years ahead. Let's dare to be people who count on God's abundance. After all, God's vision is far greater than our sight. God's future is far brighter than our dreams. God's future...is...our future. I can't wait to see where we are going!

January begins the liturgical period we call the Epiphany Season, the liturgical period that follows Advent (the Christmas season) and continues until Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season.

Epiphany means "manifestation" as it commemorates the first time Jesus' divinity manifested itself through the visit of the Three Kings (also known as the Magi or Wise Men) and through his baptism in the river Jordan. It is a significant event in the church calendar as the celebration of the *Baptism of Jesus*.

Jan 6 Epiphany of our Lord
Jan 13 Baptism of our Lord
Jan 20 2nd Sunday of Epiphany
Jan 27 3rd Sunday of Epiphany



Cornerstone's Church Corner

To keep up with the current happenings check their website: www.cornerstonechristianpreschool.org
Contact Ms. Lori for more information at 763-856-4561 Ext.14
or email at Zimmermanccp@yahoo.com



CRADLE ROLL

January is a time for a fresh start or a clean slate. A new coloring book or a brand new pair of socks are examples of a fresh start that children can relate to.

Begin the new year by starting some Christ centered traditions in your home. Say prayers daily with your child either before bed or as a meal blessing. Volunteer within the church or your community and bring your child along to show them the joy of helping others. Read the bible daily to help your child become familiar with the words of our Lord. It is our joy as parents to teach our children the fresh start that Jesus gives to us all.

Check out the spruced up Cradle Roll tree in the Sunday School hallway! We welcome Hannah Schlicht and Theodore Halgren who were baptized in December.

Mark your Calendar:



Sign up in the Narthex to volunteer at CAER in Elk River
for Monday, January 21 and Wednesday, January 23 from
12:15-3pm.

CAER Visitor to speak at Worship services on January 20th. Chad Johnson, CAER director will be visiting St. John to talk about CAER.

Free Monthly Community Dinner: January 17th, from 5-7pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be serving Spaghetti, Bread, Salad and Dessert!

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

6th Grade "Break Away" class begins on January 16th at 5:45pm to 6:50 pm in the Double Room.

Church Hall Meeting is on January 20th in the Sunset Conference Room between services!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: MJ, Ruth Fagerman, Jack Hagberg, Phyllis, Lori, Bruce and Nancy Weaver and Leah Wilson.



Each Wednesday night, our confirmation students fill the church building with their energy, smiles, laughter, questions, and faith. Add to the mix our amazing Small Group Leaders and our Confirmation Coordinator

Extraordinaire, Dan Hackbarth, and the powerful Spirit of the Lord and you can understand why Wednesday has become my favorite night of the week at St. John!

J-Term is right around the corner. This year, we will meet separate weeks by class as follows:

January 16, 2019-----7th Graders and Parents (only)

January 23, 2019-----8th Graders and Parents (only)

January 30, 2019-----9th Graders and Parents (only)

**6:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall**

**Worship @
7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
in Sanctuary**

*******{NO CLASSES meet or worship on Jan. 2nd or Jan. 9th}**

**If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kari Bahe at
revkbahe@green-church.org**



Live Nativity update:

505 pounds of food was delivered to CAER, \$1,027.86 was collected in our free will offering box, and \$176,00 was collected from the sale of ornaments. We had 1262 people come through with 100 going through it a 2nd and 3rd time! These are all things we should celebrate!! Thank you to all of our volunteers and the hundreds of hours they put into building and decorating and costume making. This mission of St. John is nothing without your hands and feet and time. May God bless you for your willingness to serve. Thank you to all of our volunteers who “staffed” the live nativity and served food and interacted with all the people. Without you the live nativity wouldn’t be ALIVE!

It is with great thanksgiving to our Sunday School that we hear the Christmas story in song today!

Thank you to all who work together to continue this tradition. Teachers, music leaders, superintendents and helpers, you give of yourselves each week and it makes an amazing difference to the children and families of St. John. Thank you!!

A special thanks to Kari Steinbrecher and Jennifer Schurrer for your leadership with the Sunday school kids that makes today’s Christmas program possible! —Pastor Kari Bahe.

CentraCare Hospice is seeking men and women who want to provide emotional support and practical assistance to those facing end of life.

We offer flexible training options to fit your busy schedule. If you are a person who has the compassion and a desire to serve our hospice patients by helping them live their final weeks and months to the fullest please contact one of CentraCare’s hospice volunteer specialists. Sherry Rausch at 320-240-3276 or Chris Nehring at 320-202-7191.

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.

St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting November 20, 2018

Attendees: Pastor Kari Bahe, Dawn Bourdeaux, Kathy Fore (phoned in), Kim Forster, Gina Kadlec, Karen Kaehn, Will Potter, Eric Roensch, Cheryl Schrader, Jennifer Schurrer, Carolyn Schwab

Absent: Gary Luebben

Cheryl called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Devotions: Kim

The agenda was updated with the meeting being called to order by Cheryl instead of Kathy and Pastor Kari's Installation added to New Business. Dawn made a motion to accept the agenda with changes/additions; Karen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Karen made a motion to accept the October 16, 2018, Council Meeting Minutes with corrections; Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

The sanctuary will be decorated for the season on Saturday, November 24. The theme this year is "Wrapped Up in God's Story." Pastoral acts this month include one baptism and one funeral.

Treasurer's Report:

The balance in the checking account as of 11/8/18 is \$20,366.04. The credit card balance is \$1558.30 and will be paid in full on 11/9/18.

Signatures were required on various documents to complete the application process for the ELCA Credit Union and credit cards.

- Contact person for the credit card application – Jennifer Schurrer
- Loan Application Form (Indicates interest in opening an account with ELCA credit union) – Jennifer Schurrer and Cheryl Schrader
- Business Account Card Application (start membership, \$25 down) – Jennifer Schurrer, Cheryl Schrader, Dawn Bourdeaux, Carolyn Schwab
- Authorized Designees (grant permission to work with the bank) – Jennifer Schurrer, Cheryl Schrader, Carolyn Schwab, Dawn Bourdeaux, Karen Kaehn, Will Potter
- Access to Savings Account (\$25 in account at all times) – Jennifer Schurrer, Kathy Fore, Melanie Nelson
- Recipients of Statements - Jennifer Schurrer, Kathy Fore, Melanie Nelson

Jennifer reviewed the different accounting systems that St. John currently uses including cash based and accrual-based accounting. Council agreed that St. John would switch to the all accrual-based accounting system. Starting in January 2019, there will be various monthly reports that will be more user friendly and easier to understand.

At the Stewardship Meeting, it was discussed that due to the lack of responses to the pledge drive, they will make another attempt to see if they can get more members to turn in their pledge cards.

Jennifer went over the draft of the "St. John Lutheran Transaction Policy" based on the ELCA Congregational Treasurers' and Bookkeepers' Financial and Accounting Guide, key points include:

The ELCA, recommends four points of contact.

Income

1. Handlers/Counters – small, rotating non-familial group of at least 2 individuals.
2. Data Entry into Church Windows Donations– Office Manager / Vice-President back up
3. Verify deposit slip matches entry into Church Windows Accounting – Accountant/President back up
4. Reconciler – Treasurer/Past-Treasurer back up

Expenditures

1. Expenditure approval – committee/small group chair/designees
2. Data Entry into Church Windows– Office Manager / Vice-President back up
3. Sign checks/ACH/EFT – Accountant/President back up
4. Reconciler – Treasurer/Past-Treasurer back up

Check signers would not include the Pastor.

Karen made a motion to extend the meeting 30 minutes; Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Following the Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 21, 2018, Dawn will be serving 12-13 pies.

Annual meeting reports should be sent to Sabrina no later than two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting which will be held on January 27, 2019. A notice should be put in the bulletin to remind all members of the date. Council agreed to each donate \$20 to pay for the lunch prior to the annual meeting.

Pastor Kari's housing allowance this year will be \$30,000.

The first Church Hall Meeting will be held between services on November 25, 2018.

The Council Retreat will be held on Friday, February 2, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, February 3, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., with a council meeting to follow.

Pastor Kari's installation will be held on December 2, 2018. Bishop Ann will be preaching at both services. A continental breakfast will be served.

Eric will make sure the conference call system and software is working prior to the Annual Meeting. A call-in number needs to be included on the mailing.

The Nominating Committee needs to be proactive when looking for new members for council with complimenting skills.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.