
❖ St. John Newsletter ❖

Church: (847) 524-9746
stjohnelutheranchurch.org

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December 2009
Schaumburg, IL

ADVENT MIDWEEK SUPPER AND VESPERS SERVICE

Thank you to the St. John volunteers who will be hosting each Wed. evening's Advent supper, and all able to bring a salad or dessert to share at 6 p.m. The moments of Christian fellowship while dining together go back to the 1st century, and provide a break from the secular seasonal frenzy. In addition to nourishing the body and feeding the heart, God's Word is served at 7:30 p.m. with Advent Vespers. Sharing these brief congregational meditations, prayers and hymns overcome the feelings of emotional isolation, loneliness and exhaustion that arise from being bombarded by the consumer tumult and commercial turmoil of this world.

Sign up sheets assist in preparing sufficient victuals, but there's always enough for one more. Please enjoy sharing Christian friendship and spiritual moments together, so your faith may truly be blessed in celebrating God's Purpose for Christmas.

"GOD'S PURPOSE FOR CHRISTMAS"

DATE	MEAL	SERVING	VESPERS MEDITATION
Dec. 2	Ham	Seniors	God's Reason for Christmas is to Inspire Divine Faith
Dec. 9	Lasagna	Service Guild	God's Intention for Christ is to Instill Sacred Hope
Dec. 16	Chicken	Youth Group	God's Determination for Christmas is to Increase Holy Love

ADVENT DEVOTIONS NOT 1 BUT 2 CHOICES!!!

"From Nazareth to Bethlehem" AND "Who Would Have Thought?" are the Advent/Christmas Devotions themes for your personal daily meditations. Each includes 39 daily meditations for Advent and Christmas season, to strengthen faith in the Christ Child's promise for the world. Please choose the copy that will best serve your spiritual needs, to face the hectic days ahead with a strong heart prepared and ready to celebrate the Son of God's incarnation.

For your convenience to receive and read the "From Nazareth to Bethlehem" devotions on a daily basis into your email box, please go to <http://www.lhm.org/email/register.asp> to subscribe. Or you can hear the same daily devotion read via an MP3 file by going to <http://www.adventdevotions.net/audio.htm>. Subscribing for email delivery only requires your internet address, first and last name. I advise against filling in your street address, unless you like being on every Lutheran organization's mailing list for 2010.

(Would you prefer the church newsletter emailed to you monthly? Please see below!!!)



POINSETTIA ORDERS

Altar Guild will receive orders for these colorful flowers that will decorate the chancel and sanctuary and your home. The blood red pointed plants are beautiful representations of the wounds the Christ Child came down to bear as God in the Flesh for our salvation from sin, death and the Devil. These quality plants from Deptula can be ordered for \$11.00 by Dec. 13th using the signup sheet on the same board, along with the envelope for payment. Thank you.

CAROLING

The songs' lyrics, notes and promise to our faith they proclaim remains the same, but the annual spirit of joyous caroling makes them new and fresh every year. On December 11th evening St. John carolers cruise the NW suburbs, heralding the Good News of Jesus' birth to our members and their neighbors. Blessed with a big yellow bus from First Student, guided by our own archangel Mr. Lasocki, we follow Mrs. Himley's direction in keeping up a centuries old Christian tradition.

As is our custom, two departures from church are scheduled – the first at 6:30 p.m. and then again later at 7:30 p.m. This will allow for personal Friday evening timetables of returning home at different hours, and still participate. Following the songfest we'll rest our vocal chords, ease our hunger pains and relax our hearts in one another's' fellowship at Barb and Bill Himley's house for chili, drinks and desserts. A sign up sheet on the narthex bulletin board helps plan our itinerary of proposed stops, as well as how much chili to put in the pot.



***LAST CHANCE FOR SCRIPT SAVER
ORDERS IS DECEMBER 7TH.***

COOKIES!!!

Christmas cookies always sweeten the season, and help our Service Guild's mission and ministry. There are 3 options for participating, that you may mix and match as convenient.

The first is on Dec. 10th at 6:30 p.m. to bring your favorite recipe's ingredients and bake up a batch or two of treats together in the big ovens of the church kitchen. **OR** the second choice is to bring your baked goods offerings to the choir room by 9 a.m. on Dec. 12th. That morning volunteers will prepare plates of goodies that will be laid out for sale in the narthex. Please contact Dawn Hinz if you have questions. **LASTLY** your purchases on Dec. 12th after Sunday School rehearsal, and following worship on Dec. 13th support the ongoing work of our congregational ladies Svc. Guild. They organize charitable work like helping Uptown Ministries, Project Compassion, DuPage PADS, Lutheran Bible Translators, Voice of Hope, Food Pantry and other benevolent mission projects as arise during the year. Your sweet tooth's support is appreciated.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM PRACTICE

One hour rehearsals for the Sunday School Christmas programs start Saturday mornings at 10 a.m., December 5th, 12th & the 19th. An exclusive program written especially for St. John Sunday School, by our own Barb Himley and Lynne Andrews is in the works. We will need parental support offering timely transportation, clearing the calendar of other Saturday morning events, and helping with memory work, so our children are ready to proclaim the true meaning of Christmas in their own joyous way.

CONFIRMAND RECITATION

Our 1st and 2nd year Confirmands will stand before the Adult Schola Scriptura on December 13th at 9:15, to publicly proclaim from memory the 10 Commandments and meanings, the summary of the 2 tables of the Law, and the Close & Meaning to the Commandments. All are welcome to attend.



BEDECKING THE SANCTUARY

As economic times may diminish the number of lights and home decorations we can afford to display, it is all that much more important God's house be a place of inspirational beauty to lift our hearts with the joy of Christmas. Please decide to help on Dec. 20th after worship, until about 3 p.m. to arrange the chancel, nave and narthex with the tree, poinsettias, garland, lights, banners and ornaments. Pizza and pop will be on hand to sustain the body, even as the physical transformation of this spiritual sanctuary boosts our spirits. Please help.

(Would you prefer the church newsletter emailed to you monthly, especially if your email address remained confidential? Please keep reading!!!)

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE – 6:30PM The message of Christmas will be shared in poetry, Scripture and song, as the children rejoice in “A Promise Fulfilled!” All are invited. The program will conclude with each child being thanked with their own “goody bag” of nuts, fruit, and noisemaker!!!!

CHRISTMAS EVE – 11PM - “Holy Communion, Carols, and Candlelight”

CHRISTMAS DAY – 9AM – “Feast of the Nativity of our Lord” - NOT a repeat of the previous evening but an additional offer of Word and Sacrament to celebrate in the light of a new day the Christ Child's presence in our lives.

NEW YEAR'S EVE – 7:30PM – “Commemoration of the Name of Jesus”

HOLIDAY DONATIONS WANTED

SOMETHING NEW TO CONSIDER WHEN LOOKING IN THE COAT CLOSET!!!

Please check to see if you can assist our own Beth Hinz in her Girl Scout service project. Find any gently used warm coats for adults or children and deposit them in the box in the narthex. The time is short as all coats must be in the narthex by December 13th, but this will insure that all coats can be distributed to local shelters to fend off the winter cold as soon as possible. Please help Beth with this important mission project.

THE MITTEN &/or CAP TREE

Thanks to Jean Flaxman for getting the Mitten Tree out in the narthex again this year. This annual collection helps children fight the cold Chicago winter, making them not only more comfortable, but also safer. As you get a head

start on your Christmas shopping, please pick up a couple pair of mittens or a stocking cap to hang on our Mitten Tree.

ST. JOHN FOOD PANTRY

Our little food pantry was brimming with such bounty that we were able to send boxes of the more perishable items to First Student, Schaumburg Township and Uptown Ministries. We give thanks to our Preschool families whose generosity helped make this possible. Still, your help is needed also. We are holding our own in canned and pasta goods, but are especially hurting in the areas of cereals and personal hygiene stuff (toothpaste, paper goods, soap, etc.) Offerings are always welcome and there's no better time than right now.

COLLECTION CABINET

We have enjoyed another successful year of collecting items for various organizations and ministries. Please keep in mind throughout the year, you are encouraged to turn in pop tabs, old crayons, old cell phones, stamps, Campbell's labels, used ink cartridges, Project Compassion items and LWML sundries to our narthex collection cabinet. This central location for all your offerings and your faithfulness in delivering them throughout 2010 will offer help and service to others. Please use it as often as possible. A refrigerator flyer to post at home as a reminder of what items to save can be found in the right hand drawer of the cabinet.

LAST CHANCE FOR SCRIPT SAVER ORDERS IS DECEMBER 7TH.

COMMITMENTS

The November Voters' Assembly accepted a 2010 budgeted expenses goal of \$245,750, so if you have not returned a commitment card towards our 2010 budget of mission

and ministry, please use the envelope and card on the usher table in the narthex, and place it in the offering plate. Remember, you may indicate a specific dollar amount or you may state "As the Lord Provides". Your response enables January Council and Voters to make healthy decisions for 2010. A letter explaining our goals and needs is also available.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

NEW boxes with 2010 offering envelope numbers will be out on the table in the narthex during these closing weeks of the church year. Please pick them up as you are able, but don't use the NEW set until after January 1st, 2010. Thank you for your help in this matter.

INSTALLATION OF NEW CONGREGATIONAL SERVANTS

First our thanks to all for so many years of devoted service. To Herb Hardt, Walter Bugajny, Theresa Bugajny, Lee Ann Himley, Jeanette Martinko, Ed Fondel Tina Reitz, Len Flaxman, Michelle Frede and Bev Graham, who collectively invested 19.5 years of elected or appointed time, talent and treasure towards our work at St. John. May they enjoy their rest.

We give thanks for new and seasoned servants for 2010 and beyond, including Karl Hinz and Ed Piepenbrink take up responsibilities of Pres. & V. Pres.; Karen Lasocki, Fin. Sec., Henry Unrath, Rec. Sec. and Sue Lewis, Treasurer on Council.

Bd of Ed - Lisa Bobby, Dawn Hinz, Jeff Parker & Laura Sutherland;

Bd. of Elders - Paul Bobby, Rich Keylard, Matt Stearns, Andy Dailey, Al Bobby and Mark Hager;

Bd of Stewardship – Beth McGonagle, Donna Keylard and Lynn Bobby;

Bd. of Evangelism – Bill Reichel and Margaret Fondel;

Bd. of Properties – Nels Anker, Curtis Wild, Marilyn Wille, Erwin Tonn, John Lasocki and Mel Wille;

We give thanks that God the Holy Spirit has inspired your hearts with a willingness to administer our mission and ministry at St. John, and pray He will bless you with wisdom and zeal for your tasks.

All Council and Board members should plan to be installed into their respective offices at whatever service they choose to attend on December 13, 2010.

LOOKING FOR YOUR CHURCH NEWSLET- TER TO BE EMAILED INSTEAD OF A HARD COPY VIA USPS?

Then wait no longer! ;-)

Send your request from the email address you would like us to make monthly deliveries to lbobby2@aol.com today. You are reassured your email address will be protected from any other use except this one. This service is being offered in the hopes of helping reduce postage costs for 2010.

SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE IN WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

ELDERS:

8:00 a.m.— Len Flaxman

10:30 a.m.— Andy Dailey

12/2—7:30 p.m.—Len Flaxman

12/9—7:30 p.m.—Mark Hager

12/16—7:30 p.m.—Karl Hinz

12/24—6:30 p.m.—Al Bobby

12/24—11:00 p.m.—Ed Piepenbrink

12/25—9:00 a.m.—Andy Dailey

12/31—7:30 p.m.—Len Flaxman

USHERS:

8:00 a.m. - Herb Hardt

Mike Hardt

Rheine Grischow

10:30 a.m. - John Darrow

Ed Fondel

12/2—7:30 p.m.— Nels Anker

Matt Stearns

Ed McVay

12/9—9:00 a.m.—Al Bobby

Bill Himley

Bill Reichel

12/16—7:30 p.m.—Al Bobby

John Lasocki

Rheine Grischow

12/24—6:30 p.m.—Herb Hardt

Mike Hardt

Rheine Grischow

12/24—11:00 p.m.—Ed McVay

John Darrow

12/25—9:00 a.m.—Mel Wille

Bill Himley

Steve Jones

12/31—7:30 p.m.—Ed Piepenbrink

John Lasocki

David Lasocki

ACOLYTES:

12/2— 7:30 p.m.—Cheyenne Pfeiffer

12/6— 8:00 a.m.— Steffanie Frede

10:30 a.m.— Sarah Barts

12/9—7:30 p.m.— Danielle Reptowski

12/13—8:00 a.m.—Tim Piepenbrink

10:30 a.m.— Kevin Bruns

12/16—7:30 p.m.—John Hercog

12/20—8:00 a.m. Kelly Bierer

10:30 a.m.—Kyle Bruns

12/24—11:00 p.m.—Kimberly Lasocki

12/15—9:00 a.m.— Sarah Barts

12/27—8:00 a.m. Steffanie Frede

10:30 a.m.—Eric Sutherland

12/31—7:30 p.m.—Kevin Bruns

ALTAR GUILD:

Lynn Bobby & Dorie Heine