

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church



December 2012

REV. KEVIN K. ADER

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Mission Statement: We are called by God to be the light of the world. We are to go forth and show Jesus' love and forgiveness through loving care for all God's creation.

Special Services and Programs

Advent by Candlelight

Sunday, December 2 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

"Light of the World" Based on John 8:12

Mid-Week Advent Services

Wednesday's at 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM

December 5, 12 & 19

Weekday School Children

Sing—December 5 at 6:30 PM



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 PM

"The Evening News Hour"

Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 24 at

4:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Christmas Day Communion Service

Tuesday, December 25 at 9:30 AM

18th Annual Church-Wide Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 8. All members of the congregation are invited to prepare their favorite cookies and candies for sale by the pound. Donations are to be at the church by Friday, December 7. The Ladies Evening Guild organizes the Cookie Walk, but **the Cookie Walk is a "Church-wide" event.** The proceeds are donated to a variety of church projects. Doors will open at 9 AM for the public as well as members to purchase **"cookies and candies by the pound."**

Quilt Raffle

Donna Rae Polansky made and donated a beautiful reversible Queen size bed quilt 92" x 108" to St. John for our quilt raffle. We have been selling tickets to win this quilt since the bazaar. Tickets will be on sale at the Cookie Walk and before and after church services until December 9. Tickets are 1 for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00. Drawing will be after the Sunday AM service on December 9. Join the fun and purchase your chances to win this beauty--Mona Heindl

New Member Welcome

On Sunday, December 9 we will welcome three new members to St. John's. Their names are: Doug and Barb Kasten and Charles Peters. Fellowship and refreshments will follow the service. Please come and help us give them a warm welcome!—The Board of Stewardship.

Ladies Aid Christmas Party

All ladies of the congregation are invited to the Ladies Aid Christmas Party. It will be a potluck dinner at the church on Thursday, December 6 at noon. Please bring a \$5 gift exchange.



Evening Guild Christmas Party

The Ladies Evening Guild Christmas Party will be on Tuesday, December 11 at Conley's. Social hour at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM. Secret Pals will be revealed. Guests are welcome.

Annual Report Deadline

Annual reports from all boards and organizations need to be brought or e-mailed to the church office by Wednesday, December 26.

Fruit Baskets

The Ladies Aid will be preparing fruit baskets for members who are 75 years or older.

If you or someone you know is not on the list and would like a fruit basket please notify the church office. Thanks for helping us keep our list up to date.

Marlyn Alft, Jeanine Arneson, Chuck & Mable Behm, Joanne Behrend, Harriet Brandt, Jan Bremmer, David & Dorothy Cook, Ronald Geiger, Grace Gilman, Robert & Laura Hanneman, Eva Helke, Florence Helke, August Henke, Gilbert Hofschild, Dick Kertis, Jere Kirst, Jack Kester, Neil Knoll, Lorin Lutz, Ray Monje, Laura Neinfeldt, Diann Peotter, Shirley Piekarski, Elaine Punzell, Lester Rabska, Charles & Darlene Rickman, Bertie Rosenthal, Duaine Saeger, Gladys Sawaska, Willis & Karon Sharpe, Helen Schoenick, Ardel Schoenick, Howard Schuldt, John Tomesek, Garnet Tucker, Carol Warren, Robert Warren, Robert Westfall, Elaine Whitrock, Pearl Zeman, Dorothy & Fred Zimmerman.

You may pick up your basket the weekend of December 15 & 16 after the services.

St. John Hosting LLL

On Friday, December 14 we will be hosting Lutheran Laymen's League here at St. John. Dinner at 6:00 PM. Program at 6:45 PM. The program "The Twelve Days of Christmas" will be presented by Pastor Paul Mueller. Cost is \$7.50. For reservations call Duane Steinke at 715-423-2716 by Tuesday, December 11.

No Knitting Group In December

There will be no knitting group on December 1 due to other church activities. We will meet on January 5. We continue knitting for Hope's Door and have provided over 130 knit items, which include hats, scarves and mittens since we resumed in October! Thank you to all who have knit items. Hope's Door is very grateful and excited any time we bring in our knit wear!

Holiday Cards and Napkins



Stop by the display in the narthex for your holiday cards and napkins. Cards are sold by the box. If you need assistance, ask one of the Evening Guild members.

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions

Price \$21.65 per year (11 issues-- June/July is a combined edition). Please make your check out to St. John Lutheran Church and on the memo line write "Lutheran Witness." Mail or drop your payment off at the church office by Monday, December 17. New subscriptions will begin in March 2013.

Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2013 offering envelopes in the narthex. Envelopes are on the table in alphabetical order. Thank you for putting your first and last name on your envelopes. Your cooperation is appreciated! If you didn't get envelopes last year and would like envelopes for 2013, please call the church office. **Do not use your new envelopes until January 1, 2013.**

Stop In The Narthex

Advent Devotionals, Advent Coin Folders, & 2013 Calendars are in the narthex. Please return your Advent Coin Folder to the drop off box.

Flower Chart

The new altar flower sign up chart is on the north bulletin board. If your flowers are for a special occasion please indicate that as well or call the church office by the Wednesday before the weekend you have chosen. Then your special occasion can be noted in the bulletin.

Bulletin Chart

If you would like to donate \$15.00 for the cost of printing the weekly bulletin please sign up on the chart on the north bulletin board. You may make you donation in honor of a birthday, anniversary or memorial. More than one person can be signed up for the same date. Please enclose payment in an envelope marked "Bulletin" and place in the offering plate. You may also mail or drop it off at the office. If you would like it published in the bulletin enclose your name and personal message.

Please Pick Up Dishes

We have lots of dishes downstairs left from funerals and other functions. Please check to see if any of these dishes belong to you and take them home. They are located off the kitchen across from the refrigerators.

Scrip Scrap Corner

We have been selling Scrip since the last weekend in October and we are happy to report our total profit so far (October 27 & 28 through November 24 & 25) has amounted to : \$301.00. Thanks to everyone who has purchased Scrip. Isn't it great to be able to put your shopping dollars to work and earn money for the church without spending a single additional penny.

Remember the holidays are right around the corner and Scrip cards make great stocking stuffers and gifts for family, friends, teachers, paper & mail delivery persons, etc. Restaurant Scrip cards can be used for your holiday parties and special nights out too!

Scrip is sold after the Saturday and Sunday services. Order forms are on the table for your use. Place your order by filling out a form and handing it to the Scrip salesperson. If you are writing a check please make it out to St. John Lutheran Church. Special orders will be available upon pre-paid request. You may also purchase Scrip at the church office on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 AM to 2 PM. If you are interested in seeing all of the gift cards that are available please check the list in the narthex or the Great Lakes Scrip website at www.glscrip.com.

Bethesda Thrift Shop

Shop in town and shop at the Bethesda Thrift Shop. The store is loaded with many Christmas items and gifts, books, clothing etc. and in December we will have various special clearance sales to make your shopping even better. The 50% off Blue Tag sale begins November 29. Christmas items will be discounted beginning December 10. On December 28-29 we will have a 50% Clearance Sale on almost everything in the store. For a special Christmas gift for that special person, why not get a new recliner, chair, sofa, or other new furniture items? The store will be open on Sundays through December 23 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Christmas Eve from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and New Years Eve from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. All the volunteers at Bethesda thank you for a great year and wish you all a very blessed Christmas.

Yunker's Community Days Update

Mission Accomplished

For everyone who may be tired of hearing about Yunkers Community Days Coupons....you will be happy to know the event is over (for now)! AND, at the end, we were able to bring back to St. John a total of \$1,060.00. Hope you will agree it was worth the effort.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to those who bought the books here at church and to our St. John Team who helped to sell the coupon books at the Yunker's store in Plover 10/2-11/10: Jeanine Areneson, Bonnie James, Betty Spurlock, Anita Westfall, Donna Strack, Toni Hamann, Deb Sandberg, Judy Van Ert, Judy Shepard, Sue Helmuth, Linda Lindaas, Rhonda Knoll, Gail Bossingham, Lois VerVoort, Darleene & Jerry Swen, Lydia Greening and Terri Lybeck. Thank you so much ladies and you, too, Jerry. Without each one of you, we couldn't have reached our goal.

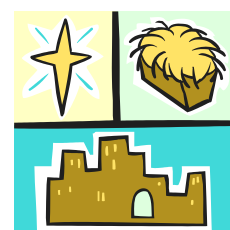
Also, special thanks to Jon Sandberg for making our terrific sign and to Judy Shepard for supplying us with information cards about our church that we passed out to customers who expressed an interest. Well done, one and all!

P.S. Just to give you a "Heads-up": The next Community Days Sale is in the works for April, so you have a chance to catch your breath and plan which days/times you can join us.

Red Boots for Christmas

Hans the shoemaker, who never learned the true meaning of Christmas, works into the night, purposely shut away from the holiday festivities. As the story unfolds, Hans learns the joys of sharing and fellowship and finally embraces the meaning of Christmas as he receives the ultimate gift—a gift from God. This 23 minute DVD can be found in our church library and is a nice one to enjoy with your children.

Take a look for other Christmas DVD, videos, and books. Check something out, take a break from your busy holiday schedule and enjoy some down time with a good movie or book from our church library.



Thank You

Thank you Pastor Ader for the many prayers that are being said for my family and me. Thank you Ladies Aid & Evening Guild for the thoughtful cards that are sent. Thanks to my Compassionate Friends of St. John for the beautiful prayer shawl—Garnet Tucker and family.

Thank You To Our Church Family

Just wanted to send a special thanks to St. John's Ladies Aid, Ladies Evening Guild, the pastor and the whole congregation for all your thoughts, prayers, cards, and calls. Your prayers are working and I'm on the mend! Amen & Thanks—Donna Rae Polansky.

Thank You

I want to thank Pastor Ader and the congregation for their prayers and cards before and after my surgery. God Bless You—Bob Warren.

Office Thank You

Thank you to all our office “volunteers.” Your dedication and desire to help out especially on the spur of the moment is greatly appreciated. Thanks to all those who donated paper or sponsored the weekly bulletin. Thank you to our Ladies Evening Guild for their generous monetary gift which was used for paper. Thank you to our custodians Ron and Marcia Doescher and Bill Coley for taking care of our church inside and out. We also thank Doug and Karen Ross for being our after office hours parcel pick up. Christmas Blessings to all!

Attention Members of St. John

The Ladies Aid is putting together a St. John Cookbook and we need your help! We hope to have it ready for sale the year of our 150th Anniversary. We hope to collect lots of recipes from the congregation. As a suggestion please bring the recipe for the cookies you bring to the Cookie Walk December 8. Also bring the recipes for the wonderful dishes you donate to the funerals and pot luck dinners. So bring your favorite recipes and put them in a box in the kitchen or narthex made to receive them. It will be a very good cookbook as St. John has the BEST cooks in the country!! Thank you—St. John Ladies Aid.

Cancellation Notices

In the event that a service would need to be cancelled due to severe weather, cancellation notices will appear on River Cities Community Access (Solarus Channel 3, Charter Channel 967), WAOW Channel 9 Wausau, WFHR AM 1320 and WGNV FM 88.5.

Evangelism

Psalm 90: 17 (NIV), May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

Can you picture what it might have been like for Mary when she received an angelic visitor?

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”



(Luke 1:26-33).

What was going through Mary's mind at that moment? The text says that she was “perplexed” and “pondering,” what the angel meant. Gabriel set her heart and mind at ease, “Do not be afraid.” Reflect for a moment on his next words: “you have found favor with God.” What an incredible, beautiful, and wonderful statement! **Can there be any greater joy or any deeper wonder than to know that we enjoy God's favor?** Not by anything we have done, it is an act of pure divine grace. The same was true with Mary. In His divine sovereignty, God **chose** to favor Mary. His favor was to entrust to her the incarnation of His only begotten Son! What an awesome privilege and responsibility to bear the Son of God!



**St. John
Lutheran Church
Kellner**



Corner of 80th Street South and South Park Road
(The Stone Church on the corner by the Park)

**18th Annual
Cookie & Candy
Walk
Saturday, December 8
Doors open at
9 a.m.**



A large variety of delicious
homemade
Cookies and Candies
are sold by the pound



**Please join the St. John
weekday school children on
December 9th at 4 pm
as they tell the story of the Christ's birth
in the presentation of
"The Evening News Hour."**



Do you know of
someone who
could benefit
from a visit, a
card, a listening
ear, an act of
kindness, or a
prayer?

Nearly every day,
challenges occur
that affect the lives of
our members, their
extended families, and
their friends. Although
we can't make those
challenging situations
disappear, there is
something we can do....
We can offer care in
the midst of those
times.



That's what the Caregivers of our
Compassionate Friends Care Program
are waiting to offer.

Our Compassionate Friends are looking for
opportunities to care....

Please help by responding to the church office or
fill out a Compassionate Friends pew request.

All requests confidential.



URGENT DISASTER RELIEF

Superstorm Sandy Relief: *Let Us Love One Another (1 John 4:17).*

Hurricane Sandy, which stormed across the Caribbean and came ashore on the East Coast, has left a wide swath of devastation, killing at least 100 people, destroying hundreds of homes and leaving millions without power. In the Northeast, the storm collided with additional weather fronts that resulted in strong winds, floods and even heavy snow.

Already, damages from Sandy are estimated to be in the billions, with only half of the damage likely to be covered by insurance.

We thank God that no deaths among LCMS members have been reported. But, drawing on lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina and other major disasters, we anticipate rapidly growing demand for assistance with transitional housing, essential transportation, replacement food and medication, and more.

Now is the moment for the saints who know so clearly that all they have for time and eternity is a gift, to sacrifice for those who are in need. Right now, LCMS Lutherans are rescuing, caring for and binding up the wounds of their friends, families and non-Lutheran neighbors. It's time to help them in the name and for the sake of Christ. I know you can. I know you will. *"Let us love one another"* (1 John 4:7).

You can respond through a gift of long-term help and hope:

- Go online (www.lcms.org/givenow/disaster);
- Send checks payable to "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" (with a memo line or note designating "LCMS Disaster Response") to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861; or
- Call toll-free 888-930-4438.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

