

# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church



## December 2013

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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 1 from 2:00-4:00 PM  
"Follow the Star"

#### Mid-Week Advent Services

"The Bright Star of Bethlehem"

Wednesday's on Dec. 4, 11, & 18 at:

10:30 AM-Traditional Service

6:30 PM-Informal Family Service

Weekday School Children Sing-Dec. 4 at 6:30 PM

#### Children's Christmas Service

"A Star is Born"

Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 PM

#### Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM

#### Christmas Day Communion Service

Wednesday, December 25 at 9:30 AM

### Weekday School News

Caroling from the Kids December 14 from 1-5 pm.

December 4 and 11 the Weekday School will be participating in the Advent service. The kids will take the last 15-30 minutes to practice their parts for the Christmas service so the evening will conclude around 7:45 pm.

### Advent Devotionals & Coin Folders

Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries "The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us" are now available in the narthex. We also have Advent Coin Folders for your use. Please return them to the drop off box in the narthex.

**Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*** will be the subject of a four-part Bible Study meeting on Sunday morning December 1, 8, 15, and 22. We will begin at 8:05 am each Sunday for discussion and activity. Copies of the reading for December 1 are available on the long table in the narthex (back of church). There will be no Bible study on December 29.

### Lost Books of the Bible

Ever wondered if some texts were intentionally excluded from the Bible and why? In *Lost Books?* We will look at why some ancient writings failed to make the cut for inclusion, why other texts most definitely met the standard, and why others, including those "gospels" found in the last century, came up short.

In *Lost Books?*, host Rev. Gregory Seltz, Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**, asks, "Were books intentionally excluded from the Bible? What if more information about Christ's life was buried for centuries? Are there books that should be in the Bible, but aren't?" Are these questions important? *Absolutely!* With worldwide hits like *The Da Vinci Code* and commercial and cable networks cranking out programs on cracking cryptic codes and unburying ancient secrets, the interest in knowing what the past has to say is running high. Often, too, these types of questions are directed to believers, putting them at a loss to answer those who wonder why the Bible should be believed over other ancient writings. In fact, many Christians have the same questions themselves.

Join us Monday evenings in January as we learn the answers to these and other questions. Watch the bulletin and January newsletter for exact starting date.

There will be no Monday evening Bible study during the month of December.

## Ladies Aid Christmas Party

The Ladies Aid would like to invite all ladies of the congregation to their Christmas party on Thursday, December 5 at noon. Bring a potluck dish to pass and a \$5.00 gift exchange.

## Evening Guild Christmas Party

The Ladies Evening Guild Christmas Party will be on December 5 at Lake Aire. Social hour at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM. Secret Pals will be revealed. Guests are welcome.

## 19th Annual Church-Wide Cookie Walk

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Church-wide Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. All members of the congregation are invited to prepare their favorite



## Cookie Walk

cookies and candies for sale by the pound. Donations are to be at the Church by Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 a.m. for the public as well as members to purchase "cookies and candies by the pound".

## A-MEN Christmas at Concordia-Dec. 7

We have pickups arranged at Immanuel Lutheran Church parking lot at 12:15 PM, St John-Kellner parking lot 12:45 PM, and Econo Lodge Stevens Point 1:15 PM. We will arrive at the Highland House Restaurant about 4:45 PM for dinner leaving at 6:15 PM for the 7 PM concert.-Ed Bieno

## Quilt Raffle

Don't miss the chance to win this beautiful queen size (105 x 87) quilt designed, made and donated by Marion Oleson. Tickets are being sold before and after church services and will be sold at the Cookie Walk on December 14. Tickets are 1 for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00. Purchase your tickets now before the time runs out. Drawing for the quilt will be after Sunday services December 15.

## Holiday Cards/Napkins for Sale

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

## St. John Hosting LLL

Lutheran Laymen's League will meet on Friday, December 6 at 6:00 PM at St. John-Kellner.

Dinner will be ham and the program will be Marv Altis and a few of his Choristers. They will also be leading us in a sing-along. Cost is \$7.50. For reservations call Duane Steinke at 715-423-2716 by Tuesday, December 3.



## Fruit Baskets

The Ladies Aid will be putting together the fruit baskets soon. If you or someone you know is not on the list and is 75 years of age or older please notify the church office.

You may pick up your basket the weekend of December 21 & 22 after the services.

Thanks for helping us keep our list up to date.

Marlyn Aft, Jeanine Arneson, Mable Behm, Joanne Behrend, Harriet Brandt, Jan Bremmer, David & Dorothy Cook, John & Doreen Cook, Jim Eberhardt, Gordon Eberhardt, Ronald Geiger, Grace Gilman, Robert Hanneman, Les & Mona Heindl, Eva Helke, August Henke, Gilbert Hofschild, Dick Kertis, Jack Kester, Jere Kirst, Neil & Arlene Knoll, Lorin Lutz, Ray Monje, Pastor Paul Mueller, Laura Neinfeldt, Doris Oleson, Marion Oleson, Diann Peotter, Shirley Piekarski, Lester Rabska, Charles & Darlene Rickman, Bertie Rosenthal, Duaine Saeger, Gladys Sawaska, Willis & Karon Sharpe, Larry Shepard, Helen Schoenick, Ardel Schoenick, Howard Schuldt, John Tomesek, Robert Warren, Robert Westfall, Alice Witte, Pearl Zeman, Dorothy Zimmerman.

## WOW!

The St. John congregation seamstresses did it again! Last week we sent 254 pillowcase dresses by Orphan Grain Train to go to the girls of Haiti. The ladies of this congregation are great designers and seamstresses. You created nice dresses any girl would be proud to wear. Thank you! We are sure they will wear them proudly—St. John Sewing Group

## Annual Report Deadline

It's that time again!!! Annual reports from all boards and organizations need to be brought or e-mailed to the church office by Monday, December 30.



## Bazaar Thank You

Saturday, October 26 dawned bright and crisp! That seemed to set the stage for the Annual Bazaar and Bake Sale. The doors opened with many shoppers ready to purchase the fresh bakery, the homegrown produce, the canned goods, the knives and dish-cloths, the greeting cards, raffle tickets for both the lovely baskets and the homemade quilt. Yes, even the “white elephant” items. Shoppers also enjoyed the St. John Bar B Que, topped off with a delicious slice of pie. The Evening Guild and Ladies Aid, who organize the Bazaar and Bake Sale, extend “THANKS” to all the congregational members who donated in any way to make this 40-plus year old tradition a huge success! The monies raised at this event will be used in many forms to enhance the Lord’s work in the congregation, community and the world. Thank you again, whether you donated items, purchased goods, placed the information on a bulletin board, marquee or sponsored an advertisement in the paper your support is greatly appreciated!

## It’s Over...Until Spring Anyway!

The hard work of those who helped with the sale of Younker’s Community Days Sale coupons really paid off and we were able to return to St. John a total of \$1,917.00 as a result of our effort (who says it’s not worth it?) I would like to give a huge “Thank You” to each person who gave of their time: Jeanine Arneson, Rhonda Knoll, Cindy Knorr, Sue Helmuth, Linda Lindaas, Bonnie James, Judy Van Ert, Judy Shepard, Lydia Greening, Toni Hamann, JoLynn Winkels, Judy Ontl, Bernice Twinn, Darleene Swen, Tina Miller, Jill Weiland, Doug Ross, Karen Ross, Anita Westfall, Anissa Rosenthal, Brenda Prange, Deb Sandberg, Don Spurlock, Donna Rae Polansky, Lois VerVoort, Teri Lybeck and last but certainly not least (my super woman of sales) Betty Spurlock. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! I’ll be looking forward to working with you all for the spring sale—Judy Monje.

## Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2014 offering envelopes in your mailbox downstairs. Families that have more than two boxes will find the extras on the table by the coat rack across from the mailboxes. 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 2014, please call the church office. Please wait until after January 1, 2014 to use your new envelopes.



## Scrip Scrap Corner

With the holiday’s fast approaching we’d like to remind you that Scrip cards make terrific stocking stuffers:



McDonald’s comes in \$5 & \$10 denominations. Culvers in \$10 (think also of gifts for teacher’s, co-workers, mailmen and newspaper delivery folks). For your gift shopping, we routinely carry Younkers and Kohl’s, but can special order Lands’ End, LL Bean, Cabala’s, Eddie Bauer, Amazon & Barnes and Noble, as well as many others. Just check out what’s available at the Scrip table or in the church office. If you order on Saturday or Sunday your Scrip will be here on Thursday! Scrip is handy to buy and use, easy to wrap or mail and best of all, it truly helps St. John! Thanks for your support! We are thinking of adding some Scrip vendors and are open for your suggestions. El Mezcal and Perkins have been suggested. What do you think? Please let us know your ideas by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. Our profit total for November was \$ 248.82.

## Thank You

Thank you for the prayers and cards after my surgery and for your prayers for our grandbabies Owen & Olivia who are now home and doing well—Bruce & Sandy Gordon

## Thank You

Thank you to our generous congregation for your donation of hot dishes, salads, cheese trays, deserts, and all the other food you brought in for the Elaine Punzel funeral. Thank you to Anita Westfall and Jean Zeman the co-chairman of group 4 and Sharon Dix and Gail Bossingham co-chairman of group 1 for coordinating the meal. Thanks kitchen helpers! Thank you to the group that helped set up the tables. The Punzel family expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the find job they did in serving the meal.

## 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 16. New subscriptions will begin in March 2014.

## Pick Up Dishes

Please check the cart downstairs for dishes left from funerals, etc. Many of these dishes have been here for a long time. Any dishes not picked up by December 31 will be given to charity.

## Flower & Bulletin Charts

The new 2014 flower and bulletin sign up charts are now on the north bulletin board.

## Office Thank You

I have been truly blessed by all the help the office volunteers have provided me this past year. I can not express enough how much it means to me. Thank you so much for serving our church in this capacity. Thanks also to those who donated paper or sponsored the weekly bulletin. Thank you to the Ladies Evening Guild and Ladies Aid for their generous monetary gifts which were used to purchase office supplies. Thank you Doug and Karen Ross for continuing to be our after office hours parcel pick up. Thank you to our custodians Ron and Marcia Doescher and Bill Coley for all you do as well. Christmas Blessing to all!—Laurel

## Thank You

Thank you to all who remembered me with cards and letters, and calls of sympathy, on the sudden death of my dear sister Joyce Radtke.  
—Laura Neinfeldt

## Bethesda Thrift Shop

The Bethesda Thrift Shop in the Rapids Mall has a large amount of Christmas items, winter clothing, new furniture and mattresses, and much more. December is a great time to shop at Bethesda because the entire month has some great 50% off sales on those Christmas items and clothing. The store is open on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through Dec. 22. We have a special clearance sale on Dec. 27-28 with 50% off almost everything in the store. The store will be open Christmas Eve from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and New Years Eve from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The store is closed on Christmas Day and New Years Day. Bethesda Thrift Store is run entirely by volunteers and ALL our profits will help the intellectually and physically handicapped folks at Bethesda. All our volunteers wish you all a very blessed Christmas season and thanks for giving us a great year!

## A Star Is Born



Please join the children of our St. John Weekday School on December 15 at 2:00 PM for the presentation of "A Star is Born"

Please invite your friends, family and neighbors as we celebrate his birth and remember that it is his Light alone that enlightens our lives

For those participating practice will be on December 14 from 10:00 AM-noon

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## Pancake Breakfast



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Sunday, January 5, 2014  
10:30 AM-Noon

Breakfast is Free Will Offering  
Proceeds will go to "Journey to The Cross"  
(Spring Event at St. John reliving Jesus' last days on earth from Palm Sunday-Easter)

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation".*

*Mark 16:15*

You may not be able to attend this event but would like to support it in means of the event itself, baking supplies, or "Journey to The Cross" there will be envelopes for monetary donations marked Pancake Breakfast & place in collection plate.

Thank-You.



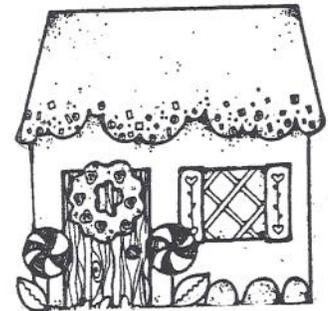
# St. John Lutheran Church Kellner



Corner of 80<sup>th</sup> Street South and South Park Road  
(The Stone Church on the corner by South Wood County Park)

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Cookie & Candy Walk Saturday, December 14 Doors open at 9 a.m.

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



# *St. John Lutheran Church*

**19<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Cookie and Candy Walk  
Saturday, December 14, 2013  
Doors open at 9 a.m.**

**What is a cookie walk...?**

**How do we get involved...?**

**Why should we get involved...?**

It's time to look over your favorite **HOLIDAY COOKIE & CANDY** recipes, make a few dozen extra to help make this the "Sweetest" event of the year! Share your baking and candy making talents!

Over the past 18 years the **Cookie and Candy Walk** has been a huge success! Everyone who visited the "Sweet Treat Event" in previous years is eager to purchase homemade cookie and candy again. A good turn out of the finest cookies and candies in the area is expected from all the fine cooks, candy makers, and chefs in our congregation!

All families of St. John Lutheran Church are asked to bring 2 to 4 dozen (or more if you would like), of your favorite **HOLIDAY COOKIES OR CANDY** to the church by Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday morning the **Holiday Cookies & Candy** will be sold "**By-the-pound**". **Holiday Cookies and Candies** can be purchased individually, by two's or three's or whatever...by the ½ dozen, whole dozen or an assortment! Cookies and Candies will also be sold in attractively packaged **Holiday Gift Boxes and Trays**, ideal for your Holiday Parties and Gifts!

The Ladies Evening Guild coordinates the Cookie and Candy Walk, but the event is a "**church-wide**" project with the proceeds to be donated to a variety of church needs.

The sale is open to the Congregation as well as to the surrounding community. Come early..... the goodies sell out quickly!

**Have your HOLIDAY COOKIES & CANDIES to the Church by Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
The SALE will be on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, doors opening at 9 a.m.**

For information (715) Deb Sandberg, 424-2432; Marianne Timm, 423-1651; Judy Shepard 423-2071; Betty Spurlock, 423-4924; Judy Monje 424-0285; or Jeanine Arneson 345-0568.