

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church



January 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.

Weekday School News

The Board of Education would like to congratulate all the children and teachers on a wonderful Children's service. Thank you to all the kids who participated and made this another wonderful event at St John. A special thank you to Jon Sandberg and Sandra Sweeny for lending us all their talents.

On Sunday January 6th please join us once again during the 9:30 service as the children will be singing again.

We have many more fun learning events coming up after the 1st of the year for our week night school so if you have questions about joining us please feel free to contact the church office.

Monday Evening Bible Class: Philosophy, Science and the God Debate

'Science disproves the existence of God' - and thanks to high profile scientists such as Prof. Richard Dawkins and Prof. Stephen Hawking - many people unquestioningly believe it. But many scientists and other academics of the highest caliber, are challenging this 'assault on faith.' Among them are three top Oxford professors: Professors Alister McGrath, John Lennox and Keith Ward.

In this series of discussions hosted by Chris Jervis, these eminent professors discuss a range of relevant subjects in eight 20-minute programs.

Please join us Monday evenings beginning January 14th from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm.

Sunday Morning Bible Class: Study of Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 8:05 am beginning January 13 as we study St. Paul's letter to the Philippians. This will be a short 5-week study.

Annual Report Deadline

The annual report deadline has been extended to January 2. All boards and organizations please bring in or e-mail your reports to the church office by this date. Please note that the office will be closed on New Year's Day, January 1. Thank you!

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17 at 6:30 PM in the church sanctuary. Copies of the annual report will be available in the narthex for review prior to the meeting. When you come to the meeting please bring your copy along with you.

Community Days Bonus Check

We have received our bonus check of \$182.66 from Yonkers. So...\$1,060.00 (from our coupon booklet sales) plus the bonus check gives us a grand total of \$1,242.66. We were 5th in overall sales!!! Thanks again to all who helped make this endeavor a huge success!!!!

Men's Retreat –February 8-10, 2013

The deadline for signing up for the 2013 Men's Retreat to be held at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc on February 8-10 is fast approaching. The hotel's cutoff date for rooms and food order is January 26. The theme for this year's retreat is "True Courage" and takes a look at the life of Daniel who was forced to leave his homeland, stripped of his name, lived out his life in a godless culture, and never saw his homeland again. Whatever circumstances Daniel faced he put his entire life into the hands of God who never abandons His followers. On Saturday at the retreat we will offer 13 sectionals on building ourselves up to become courageous men just like Daniel was as we face the society we live in today.

Besides our regular sectionals from the book "True Courage", Rich Cohrs from the Men's Network of the Lutheran Hour will be with us the entire weekend and will be having sectionals all day Saturday. His sectionals will be based on, "Power Tools For Men-As They Share The Gospel." He will also be available to help congregations start a men's ministry, how to grow your men's ministry, and show you the materials the Men's Network has available for a men's ministry.

If you have any questions about the registration process or what goes on at a retreat call Jim at 414-462-5871.

Our Giving Tree

The Spirit of Giving and Generosity is alive and well in the caring congregation of St. John. The compassion of each of you for the poor families in our area is outstanding. On Monday, December 3 we delivered to Hope's Door: 3 gifts for each family member of the three families we had on our Giving Tree and \$480 in scrip evenly divided between the three families. They were very impressed by the great response. Thank you everyone!
--The Human Care Board

Life Circles

Are you looking for something fun to do? A new experience? Life Circles is for you!

St. John church is offering a unique and fun opportunity to socialize, meet new people and share life experiences.

A new group entitled "Life Circles" is being organized. This is a Christian venue open to all men, women, couples, church members and non members. Feel free to invite friends, relatives and neighbors!

Life Circles will offer timely topics of interest and will allow for discussion of our life experiences: the ups and downs, the challenges, joys and blessings. Social hour will follow with a game and refreshments.

Leaders of the group are Pastor Ader, Marge Rumble and Sue Helmuth.

Our first meeting will be February 14, 2013. We meet from 1 PM to 3 PM at St. John. The topic will be: "Hey, wasn't this us?" A humorous look at changes in our life time.

The agenda includes:

Open with brief devotions and prayer
Topic and discussion
Brief break—then games and refreshments

In order to plan for refreshments, we are asking that you sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call the church office. Walk in's are most welcome!

If transportation is a problem, please call the church office and hopefully we can arrange a ride for you.

We are very excited about this new group that will meet monthly, the 2nd Thursday of every month, September thru May.

We hope to see you there on February 14: a great opportunity to spend Valentine's afternoon with friendship, fellowship and food.

—Submitted by Sue Helmuth

Quilt

Congratulations Linda Lindaas!!!! Linda won the drawing for the lovely quilt donated to the Bazaar and Cookie Walk for the raffle for St. John. Again thank you Donna Rae Polansky for the generous gift.

Scrip Scrap Corner

In order to increase availability of scrip, we will be selling scrip at the beginning of Weekday School on Wednesdays starting on January 2. We are able to order scrip that is not on our list--tell us what and how much you want--pay in advance and when Scrip comes in we will get it to you. Buying Scrip is an easy way to donate to our church. Our profit total for December was \$294.76.

Fellowship Sunday 2013

If you would like to serve for Fellowship Sunday in 2013 please signup on the sheet located on the north bulletin board. Fellowship is after the 9:30 AM church service on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Please bring bars or cookies and serve coffee.

Many Thanks

We would like to thank everyone involved with the church Christmas decorating: Two altar trees plus outdoor trees and boughs to decorate our church nativity donated by Donald and Arlene Hess. Les Heindl and Jerry Swen for setting up the two altar trees. Mona and Les Heindl for outdoor decorating. Jon Sandberg for creating the nativity scenes. We would also like to thank our interior decorators: Marcia Doescher, Marion Oleson, Nathalie Reinke, Rose and Jerry Schimke, and Donna and Jerry Strack.

Thank You

A very big thank you from the family of Leona Dallman to Pastor Ader and members of St. John for all of your prayers, words of encouragement and kindness during our Mother's short illness. Also, thank you for all your prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy for the loss of our Mother. It all meant so much to our families. God bless you.

—Sharon Dix

Evening Guild Dates To Remember!

January 19, 2013-Rural Christian Women's Conference in Wautoma, WI. Watch for sign up sheet for car pooling to the event.

January 24, 2013-Monthly Meeting

February 10, 2013-Annual Spaghetti Supper

Readers Thank You

Thank you to all the members who participated in the worship services as scripture readers in 2012. They are Susan Ader, Bill Coley, David Lutz, Sharon Nieman, Melanie Peterson, Doug Ross, Cindy Johnson, Judy Shepard, Sandy Sippl, Jerry Strack, Darleene Swen, Bernice Twinn, Lois VerVoort, and Jeff Zimmerman.

If you would like to serve as a reader in 2013, please contact Pastor Ader, Doug Ross, or the church office.

Bethesda Thrift Shop

Happy New Year from all the volunteers at the Bethesda Thrift Shop in the Rapids Mall. January often brings clearance sales and at Bethesda we will have several different sales in January. Watch for a 99 cent sale on all pants and jeans; a 50% off sale on all yellow-tagged clothing and shoes; several 2-day clearance sales on various clothing items. Seniors and Veterans continue to receive 25% off on their purchases on Wednesdays. Valentine items will be available and we continue to provide NEW furniture, mattresses, bed sheets, and hats, gloves and socks. Our winter hours are 10:00 to 6:30 on Monday to Wednesday; 10:00 to 7:00 on Thursday and Friday; 10:00 – 5:00 on Saturday, and closed on Sundays. We thank you for your support during our Christmas sale and we hope you will continue to shop at the Bethesda Thrift Shop and support the intellectually and physically handicapped folks at Bethesda.



Pancake Breakfast



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday ~ January 6, 2013

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

*A sign up sheet is on table in back of church for # of people attending, it would be helpful for this first time event. But not required!

*Also - next to sign up sheet will be envelopes for monetary donations for those unable to attend/or those who would like to make a donation for this events cooking supplies.

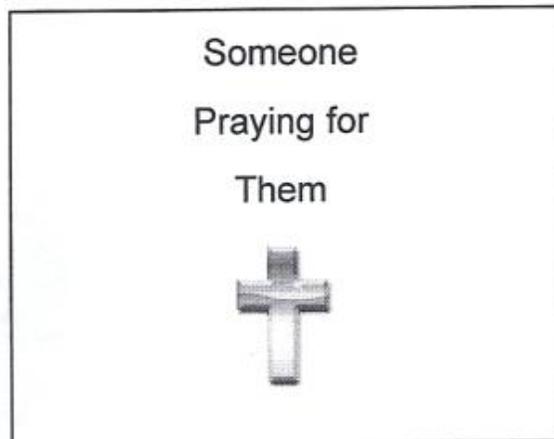
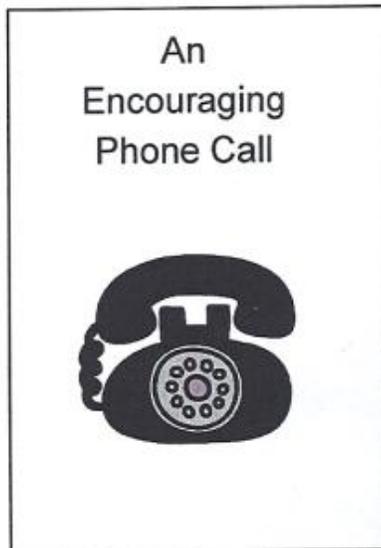
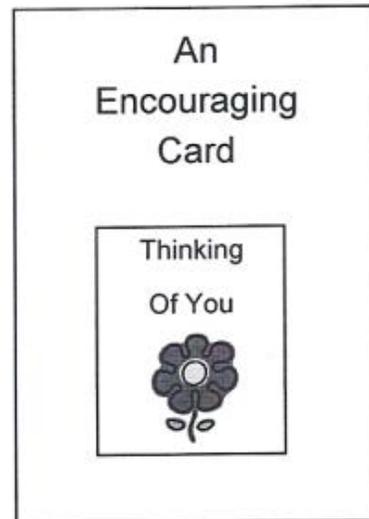
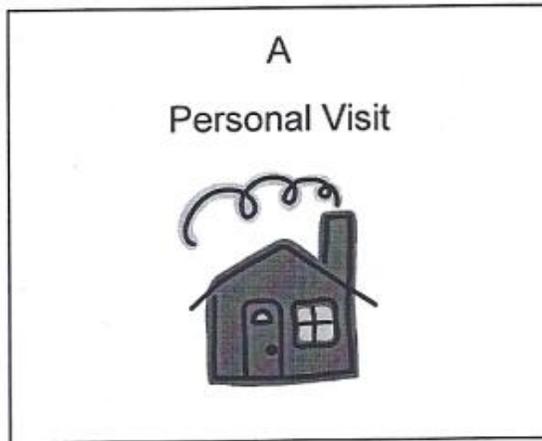
Mark envelope Pancake Breakfast & place in collection plate.

Thank-You.

Compassionate Friends:

WILL YOU HELP US?

Do you know of someone who would appreciate...



Respond by calling the church office or fill out our Compassionate Friends pew request. All request confidential.