

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church



DECEMBER 2014

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 Begins on Sunday, November 30th. We invite you to join us for our weekend Advent worship series, "Let Us Adore Him", that looks at the story of the birth of Christ through the lens of the Gospel of John. The services include dialogs that reveal in a powerful way just who this child born of Mary is and what the new life in Christ is all about for all those who believe.

Wednesday Mid-Week Advent Services

Our theme will be "Comfort and Joy". We will again be having our traditional worship service at 10:30 am in the sanctuary and a family oriented worship service at 6:30 pm downstairs. Themes for each week are: Dec. 3 – The Peace of Christ; Dec. 10 – The Pardon of Christ; Dec. 17 – The Presence of Christ. As part of our family service on Dec. 3, we will be tying fleece blankets for the children of our Christmas families.

Weekday School Children Sing—Dec. 3 at 6:30 PM

Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 PM

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

will continue our theme of "Comfort and Joy". Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm with the theme "Comfort and Joy in the Manger". Christmas Day service with Holy Communion will be at 9:30 am with the theme "Comfort and Joy to Treasure and Proclaim

Adult Bible Study Opportunities with Pastor Ader

Sunday Mornings at 8:05 we continue with our study of the liturgy.

Monday Evenings at 6:30 we will begin a three-week Advent study that co-ordinates with our Mid-Week services entitled "Comfort and Joy". Study guides are \$5.00 and you may see Pastor to get a copy.

In January, our time will change to 1:30 pm and we will begin a study of the Gospel According to Mark. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex on the table beneath the "New Member" pictures. Please sign up so that enough study guides can be ordered. Cost of the guides is \$8.00.

Weekday School News

Caroling from the Kids
Saturday, December 6
from 1-5PM

December 3 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.



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 20 & 21 after the services.

Thanks for helping us keep our list up to date.

Marlyn Alft, Jeanine Arneson, Mabel Behn, Joanne Behrend, Lee & Flora Bottensek, 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 & Emily Henke, Dick & Kathy Kertis, Jack Kester, Jere & Bev Kirst, 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 Sager, Gladys Sawaska, Rose Schimke, Larry Shepard, Helen Schoenick, Ardel Schoenick, Howard & Darlene Schuldt, John Tomesek, Robert Warren, Robert Westfall, Alice Witte, Dorothy Zimmerman.

Ladies Aid Christmas Party

The Ladies Aid would like to invite all ladies of the congregation to their Christmas party on Thursday, December 4 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 4 at Lake Aire. Social hour at 6:00 with dinner at 7:00 PM. Secret Pals will be revealed. Guests are welcome.



Lutheran Hour Broadcast

If you would like to sponsor the Lutheran Hour on WFHR 1320 AM at 9:00 AM please call the radio station at 715-424-1300 and ask for Bob or Chuck. Previously we had announced that WFHR would no longer be broadcasting the Lutheran Hour. As we become informed about the situation we will include updates.

The Lutheran Hour will be on the following radio stations on Sunday: WAXX 104.5 FM at 6:30 a.m.; WDLB 1450 AM at 8 a.m.; WDUX 92.7 FM at 8 a.m.; WSAU 99.9 FM at 8:30 a.m.; and WRVM 91.3 FM, 94.3 FM or 101.3 FM at 10 a.m.

December 7

"We Need Something Stronger"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Jesus exchanges our weakness for His strength. (Mark 1:1-8)

December 14

"In Christ, Unbroken"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
God's grace restores those broken by sin and grief. (Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

December 21

"Surprised by Grace"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
God's grace comes as a surprise and blessing to those who deserve none of it. (Luke 1:26-38)

December 28

"Monsters in Our Tomorrows"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus
Unknown monsters lurk in the shadows of the new year but Christ will carry us through. (Romans 8:37-39)

Advent Devotionals & Coin Folders

Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries "Home for the Holidays" are now available in the narthex. We also have Advent Coin Folders for your use. Please return them to the drop box in the narthex.

20th Annual Church-Wide Cookie Walk

The 20th Annual Church-wide Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 13th. 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 12th. 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".

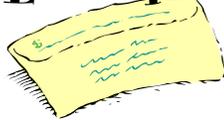


Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2015 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 2015, please call the church office. Please wait until after January 1, 2015 to use your new envelopes.

Offering Envelopes



Fellow Members of St. John

Please reach out to your family, neighbors and friends in the coming weeks and encourage them to attend church. St Johns needs the support of its members to help keep us strong in our community. Use your talents and your relationships to break the ice with someone who may not have regular attendance. Find a way to invite them, offer a way to get there if needed and once there, encourage those around you to keep coming back. Think back to when you were much younger and sang; "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine" Now is your time to shine. God Bless you! St John Board of Elders.

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 Land's End, LL Bean, Cabala's, Eddie Bauer, Amazon & Barnes and Noble, as well as many others. Carpet City is going to be added to our Scrip Program. The church will make 5% profit on any card purchased. If you are looking to purchase flooring for your home, please consider purchasing Scrip from Carpet City so the church can earn some extra money. Also, Panda Express is going to be added to the scrip program at an 8% profit. Our profit total for November was \$253.54.



Thank You! Thank You!

As many of you know by now, our efforts at Younker's selling Community Day Books this season provided the church with **\$2,245.00**

God is so good. Those that helped deserve a huge "shout-out": Betty Spurlock, Judy Shepard, Anita Westfall, Toni Hamann, Sharon Coley, Lois VerVoort, Darleene Swen, Sue Helmuth, Bonnie James, Debbie Sandberg, Lydia Greening, Marianne Timm, Cathy Timm, Doug and Karen Ross, Linda Lindaas, and last but not least, my own hubby, Ray Monje. Hoping Santa leaves you something extra-special! Thanks again, Judy Monje.



Bethesda Thrift Shop

The Bethesda Thrift Shop in the Rapids Mall still has a large amount of Christmas items, winter clothing and lots more! Special sales include discounts on Christmas items and blue tagged clothing and shoes beginning Dec. 7. Special 75% clearance discounts on Christmas items begin Dec. 21 and a year end clearance sale (50% off) on almost everything in the store will be held on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 26-27. The store will be open on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. till December 21. We thank you for your support this past month. The 120+ volunteers at our Bethesda store wish you all a very blessed and Christ-filled Christmas season.



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.

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 29, 2014.



St. John Hosting LLL

Lutheran Laymen's League will meet on Friday, December 5 at 6:00 PM at St. John-Kellner. Cost of the dinner is \$7.50 The program will be Marv Altis and a few of his Choristers. They will also be leading us in a sing-along. For reservations call Duane Steinke at 715-423-2716 by Tuesday, December 2.



Flower & Bulletin Charts

The new 2015 flower and bulletin sign up charts will be available soon on the north bulletin board.

Bulletins

Bazaar Thank You

Saturday, October 25th 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 crafts, the fresh bakery, the homegrown produce, the canned goods, the knives and dishcloths, the greeting cards, the students "cookies in a jar", the 150th Anniversary Cookbooks, the raffle tickets for the lovely baskets. Yes, even the "Grannie Garage" 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 to 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! A **SPECIAL "Thank You"** goes out to all who donated to and prepared the Theme Baskets for the Raffle! It was a GREAT new addition to the sale

Office Thank You

Even though I have not been in the office as the secretary for very long, I would like to thank everyone that have volunteered to help me in the office since I have been here. It means a lot to me. Thanks also to those who donated paper or sponsored the weekly bulletin. Thank you Doug and Karen Ross for continuing to be our after office hours parcel pick up. Thank you to our custodians Marcia Doescher and Bill Coley for all you do as well. Christmas Blessings to All—Sharon

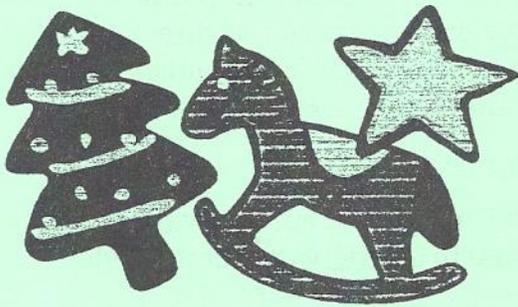
Cookie Walk

Saturday,
December 13th

St. John

Lutheran Church

8020 South Park Road, Kellner
(Stone Church on the corner by the Park)



Open at
9 a.m.

Homemade
Cookies and Candies
Sold by the Pound



St. John Lutheran Church

20th Annual
Cookie and Candy Walk
Saturday, December 13, 2014
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 19 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 12th.

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 12th
The **SALE** will be on **Saturday, December 13th**, doors opening at 9 a.m.

For information (715) Deb Sandberg, 424-2432; Marianne Timm, 423-1651;
Judy Shepard 423-2071; and Betty Spurlock, 423-4924