

# St. John's *EAGLE*

<p><b>ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b></p>	<p>Rev. Peg Otte, <i>Interim Pastor</i> Robert McConnell, <i>Music Director and Organist</i> Brooke DeJong, <i>Director of Youth &amp; Community Outreach</i> Janis B. Wendel, <i>Administrative Assistant</i> Efren Frausto, <i>Custodian</i></p>	<p>1235 Wilmette Avenue Wilmette, Illinois 60091 <i>phone 847 251 1730</i></p> <p>web <a href="http://stjohnswilmette.com">stjohnswilmette.com</a> e-mail <a href="mailto:churchoffice@stjohnswilmette.com">churchoffice@stjohnswilmette.com</a> Facebook St. John's Lutheran Church Wilmette, IL</p>
--	--	---

**February, 2018**

## **A Message from the President**

Dear Fellow Members of St. John's,

If you didn't already know, the Call Committee, consisting of Bill Kaspar, Chris Maglocchi, Peter Hauser, Lisa Hogarth and Christi Wise, has been elected and installed. They will meet with the Council and the Synod this month, and will then begin their work. Please understand that all of the work that they do is confidential, so refrain from asking them specific questions. The Call Committee will provide regular updates on where they are in the process but cannot share all of the details on their work. I hope you will respect this and give them your full support. The Synod has told us they expect to have candidates for us to consider in February.

One of our hopes when we started planning for the building renovation was to create a space where people could come together to do good. I'm pleased to tell you that there are two new groups that have started meeting at St. John's. One is a group that meets on Tuesday evenings in the Fellowship Hall to knit and crochet for charity. Anyone who is interested can join them at 7 pm. There is also a community group that will use our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 10. Sew4Good is a non-profit group that meets to sew various items and then distributes them on Random Acts of Kindness Day, February 17. We are very pleased to offer them the use of our space.

During the last few months, I've spent a lot of time thinking about what church means to people today. To me, church is a place of peace that is a respite from everything else in the world and a place where people can come together to do good and to worship. I hope St. John's is one or all of these things for you.

Best regards,

Chad Johnson, President

## “To All Generations” - Our Lenten Journey

*The LORD exists forever;  
Your word is firmly fixed in heaven.*

*Your faithfulness endures to all generations;  
You have established the earth, and it stands fast  
---Psalm 119:90*

I know I don't need to point out that we're living in a period of great transition (although, of course, I just did). Some analysts note that it might be compared to the Reformation or the Industrial Revolution for all the changes going on socially, culturally, nationally and personally. Sometimes I wish I was in the future, studying this period rather than living in it—how about you? Maybe that inclination speaks more to me feeling tossed and blown by the usual suspects (news cycles, technology updates that leave me behind, traffic impatience—you've got your list, I'm sure) than to anything else.

But one transition I'm glad I'm in the midst of is this interim as you call your new pastor to St. John's. Because this is an exquisite time for deepening our dependence on God. God, whose faithfulness is to all generations.

“To All Generations” is the theme for this year's Lenten season, and on the Wednesday evenings following Ash Wednesday (February 14<sup>th</sup>), fellow members from different generations will be speaking about faith at the Vespers worship that precedes a simple soup meal. God is faithful to God's beloved people and that is a welcome bedrock in times of change, whether those changes come in periods of life or in the midst of the things I mentioned above. The Bible is filled with stories about God's persistent faithfulness, and there will be even more stories added on Wednesday evenings. I'm really looking forward to these Wednesdays for simple worship, simple meals, simple faithful stories. And by this, listen for God's faithful presence with us and with this congregation.

I hope you'll be here on the Wednesdays of Lent. It'll be a time to find some sure footing in the fast currents of transition. I know I need it and maybe you do, too. And it'll be a time to enjoy sharing in an easy, simple, homemade meal before you start your “second shift” at home or go on to other stuff.  
Kind of just right.

See you in church—and all around

Pastor Peg, *interim pastor*

## Youth and Family News

Greetings, St. John's

I hope you all had a wonderful, Holy Spirit-filled and safe holiday season. Since my last introduction letter, a lot of great new things have happened or are in the works for 2018 for St. John's youth and families. In 2017, we started a new program for our 1st-4th grade students called Godly Play. In Matthew 18:3 Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." But what does becoming like a child mean? This is the exact question the creators of Godly Play asked. If you truly watch a child play, you will notice that they do it with joy, sincerity and authenticity. Things that can be easy to lose as we move through life. So the creators of Godly Play invite leaders and kids to lay the first foundations of faith using the principals of embracing the creative process, wondering about and living a creative, authentic and playful life. You can find an example of a lesson here: <https://youtube/4I9GiHqIshU>

Some new things are also coming for our high school students. I met with them in early fall to hear about their hopes for their youth group time. All of them were very interested in looking at some of the big questions of faith and the world and doing service in the city. After hearing their hopes for their faith journeys, I have picked out a program called "Can I Ask That?" The creators of "Can I Ask That?" found that many young adults were leaving the church because no one was willing or able to walk with them as they explored the big questions about the intersection of faith and the world. We will work together through questions like "Can I believe in God and evolution?" and "Can someone be Christian and gay?" Both answers are yes according to ELCA social statements but it is important to know why, and why others might think differently than you do. That's what I am hoping to work on with the high schoolers in 2018. I also am working on a plan to take them to Inspiration Kitchen for a volunteer opportunity in the spring.

Finally some new things have happened with me! In November after the close of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, which I was helping run for the larger ELCA, I transferred jobs to Heartland Alliance Health (HAH) where I am now managing grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. HAH is working to end homelessness in Chicago through providing housing and supportive services to work on the root cause of homelessness, such as the lack of access to quality health care and mental health services. HAH provides over 200 homes a year to those in need and provides great free or low cost health care to those who would otherwise be without.

Wishing you many blessings as we near the Lenten season,

Brooke DeJong

## Our 2018 St. John's Vision Keeper

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Chad Johnson, the St. John's recipient of the 2018 Vision Keeper award. The Vision Keeper award is given by congregations to members in recognition of their outstanding contributions to their congregation and/or community. The award, sponsored by Interfaith Action of Evanston, will be presented at a banquet at the Orrington Hotel in Evanston on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Below is the program biography for Chad.



Chad and his son were the visionaries and are the ongoing coordinators of Brother Dano's Sandwich Ministry, which supports The Night Ministry in Chicago. Monthly, Brother Dano's has prepared hearty bag meals (more than 20,000 to date!) and engages the congregation and many community groups in its work, broadening compassion and responding to faith with active love. It is a defining ministry for St. John's.

He was a founding board member of Family Promise Chicago North Shore, and helped lead St. John's to becoming one of the first hosting congregations.

Chad's first role at St John's was as a Sunday School teacher. He later was elected to the Church Council and is currently serving as its president. He and his daughter organized sales of Fair Trade goods at the church and with his wife, created UpCycle ReCycle events to benefit many ministries. He is also an assisting minister, usher, and communion minister.

He is the president of Wildcat Aquatics, an age group swim team based at Northwestern University. For the fifth year in a row the team is ranked by USA Swimming as one of the top 50 teams in the nation.

Congratulations and many thanks, Chad!

We also want to recognize our previous St. John's Vision Keepers: Cindi Rachowicz, Ann Wagner, Bill Kaspar, Jan Rassenfoss & Alan Swanson, Ken & Diane Kastman, Larry & Nancy Wood, Peter Knobel, Tim & Laura Witt, and Buck & Susan Crist.

## Sunday Soup Kitchen



The next Sunday Soup Kitchen will take place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church - 1004 Greenwood - Evanston - on **Sunday, February 4, beginning at 1:30 p.m.** Start making your plans now to invite the entire family to help. Have your children plan to bring friends. This is always a wonderful opportunity to be working together as a family and serving others at the same time. Please sign up to bring the needed food items and sign up to help serve and clean up. Call Ann Wagner at (847) 446-6876 if you can help!

*Keep in mind that even though this is Super Bowl Sunday, there is plenty of time to help with the Soup Kitchen before kick-off!!*

## 'Have a Heart' Valentine Benefit Luncheon

The Women of Trinity Lutheran Church cordially invite the Women of St. John's Lutheran Church to join them for a Holy Family Benefit Luncheon on

**Saturday, February 10  
at 11:30 am**

at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston. Please make your reservation by Sunday, February 4 by signing up in the gathering area or contacting Cindi Rachowicz 847-446-2757 or att41623@sbcglobal.net

All proceeds will fund the annual tuition for a child at Holy Family School.

## Sew4Good Sew 4 National Random Acts of Kindness Day

St. John's will be opening our new Parish Hall to an organization called "Sew4Good" on Saturday, February 10 from 10 am to 3 pm. They are hosting a group "Sew-In" to make little Fabric Tissue Holders to be given away on National Random Acts of Kindness Day. Each participant will leave with a bag of Tissue Holders and will be Sew4Good Ambassadors giving them away to senior centers, homeless shelters, crossing guards, etc. on National Random Acts of Kindness Day, which is Saturday February 17th. This year they are also going to make bookmarks for reading programs for children.

They would love to have members of St. John's participate. You do not need to know how to sew to attend! They purposely pick simple projects to enable anyone to participate. They also have station positions for non-sewers like pressing, cutting, and stuffing. Children over 10 interested in sewing or crafts may attend.

Registration: Go to their website to register

[www.Sew4Good.net](http://www.Sew4Good.net)

(There is no fee, but you must register)

## Stories Tell It All

Our Bible tells us of God's uninterrupted love for us and the rest of His creation as well. Jesus told us of the expectations God has of us as we live out the life He has given us. Many of these expectations were told in the form of parables or stories.

We have found a DVD presentation of short, 3-4 minute stories shared and spoken by Tex Sample. He has told these stories as part of a series titled "Living the Questions," and our Adult Forum is so excited about the possibility of sharing a few of them with you.

After the Wednesday Lenten meals, you'll have the opportunity to watch one of them with us on our new, big, recessed movie screen. If you are able to stay an extra 5 minutes to experience one of these exciting stories, I'm sure you'll be glad you chose to do so.

Peter Knobel

## Confirmands Care for Our Local and Global Neighbors

Thank you for your generous support for the Soup-er Bowl of Caring! The class worked together with Trinity's confirmands to prepare a hearty, delicious meal and then took dinner orders and waited on the guests. A good experience and a special treat for their neighbors, too.

The class is broadening that definition of "neighbor" by preparing Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits and invites the whole congregation in this Project of Promise. Items for the kits are listed below, with special emphases each Sunday in Lent. A collection box will be in the Welcome Space and thank you for your partnership with them in being conduits of God's grace, compassion and generosity!

### Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

- 2/18 Lightweight bath-size towel, dark color recommended
- 2/24 Bath-size bars of soap
- 3/4 Adult-size toothbrushes
- 3/11 Sturdy combs
- 3/18 Metal nail clippers (attached file, optional)

## Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age

This timely and thought-provoking documentary will be shown on February 11 at 6:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston. The confirmands and their parents will be attending and it is open to all in the congregation and the community; tickets are \$5. Please come and invite friends, family and neighbors—it's a film that will make for some meaningful conversation! Contact Pastor Peg with questions, <https://www.screenagersmovie.com/>

## Women of St. John's

ALL women in the congregation are included in the Women of St. John's group. There are no dues, meetings or other requirements for membership. Our primary goal is fellowship.

### Quilting

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month from 10 am -2 pm. This month that's 2/8 & 2/22. Come for an hour or bring a lunch and stay the day.

### Book Club

We are reading "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles. It is an entertaining read about a Russian count sentenced to live in a luxury hotel for more than 30 years. Discussion date will be Thursday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m.

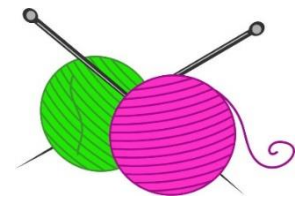
### And as always...

Watch the Sunday bulletin and church website for other activities.

## Knit For Good

Would you like to get together with others who share your love of yarn and wool-gathering, and knit or crochet for a good cause?

The Knitting For Good knit and crochet group meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the St. John's parish hall. The plan is to make hats, scarves and mittens for those individuals served by the Night Ministry of Chicago and other charities. There is of course a great need for these items during the cold weather. This group is open to anyone in the community who would like to join us. You may also work on your own projects if you prefer.



Also, if you have any extra yarn in your stash that you would like to donate for a good cause, we promise we will put it to good use!

If you have any questions, please call Jan Wendel in the church office. Hope to see you there!

**You're Invited!**  
**Holy Family Ministries'**  
**Reach for the Stars Spring Benefit**  
**Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> - 6:00 p.m.**

**The Glen View Club**  
**100 Golf Road, Golf**

Through the generosity of friends like you, we raise funds to support the more than 600 children who excel academically, grow spiritually, become effective leaders and expand their life experiences through Holy Family programs. Enjoy the fellowship of new and long-time friends, along with good food, live and silent auctions, and a chance to meet Holy Family students. It's a party-with-a-purpose - and sure to be an inspirational and entertaining evening!

Individual tickets are \$175 and the tax-deductible value of each ticket is \$75.

For tickets, please visit our website at [www.holyfamilyministries.org/events](http://www.holyfamilyministries.org/events).

For more information, please contact Caitlin Duerinck at [cduerinck@hfm.org](mailto:cduerinck@hfm.org)

---

**Taste of Family Promise**

***SAVE THE DATE***

**ANNUAL TASTE OF FAMILY PROMISE & COMMUNITY DINNER**  
**SUNDAY, March 4, 2018 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Northfield Community Church**  
**400 Wagner Road - Northfield**

***More information to come!!***

**Birthdays**

God's blessings to the following members who are celebrating special days during the month of February:

***Happy Birthday to:***

Jim Dossa (2/4)  
Tim Witt (2/8)  
Michael Hayes (2/9)  
Doris Regan (2/10)

Sophia Beretta (2/10)  
Lucy Hauser (2/11)  
Ted Beutelspacher (2/17)

Grace Hauser (2/23)  
Allison Fitzgerald (2/25)  
Kristen Danielsen (2/27)



## Treasurer's Alcove

I would like to share with you some highlights of 2017. We ended this year with a small deficit. Estimates of giving have remained flat for the last 5 years with no increase for 2018. We've raised \$795,826 towards our capital campaign.

		<u>Percent of Budget</u>
Total Revenues	\$297,955	86%
Envelopes & Loose Offerings	209,939	83%
Benevolence Fundraising	16,303	66%
Mission & Ministry disbursements	298,502	83%
2017 Deficit	(546)	
2018 Projected Deficit	(6,162)	
Total Cash	157,850	
2018 Estimates of Giving	40 @ 150,149	
2017 Estimates of Giving	46 @ 180,597	
Mission Investment Fund Loan Balance	258,118	
Capital Campaign Fund Balance	(165,240)	
Extended Ministries Fund Balance	312,286	
Restricted Special Funds	38,697	
Memorials	39,641	
Benevolences paid from:		
Budget	17,864	
In Kind Donations	5,025	
Extended Ministries Fund	17,000	
Percentage of Mission Spending	13%	

Cindi Rachowicz  
Treasurer

## Council Highlights

- Our Call Committee has been approved and was installed. They will have a meeting in the near future with the Synod, and then will begin their work.
- We are working with Comcast on an upgraded phone system.
- Initial plans are being made for a Community Open House in April to invite members of the community to see our renovated space.
- The 2018 budget was reviewed by the Council and prepared for a Congregational vote on January 28th.

## Who's Serving in February, 2018

### FEBRUARY 4, 2018, 9:30 A.M.

*Assisting Minister:* Dave Brunn  
*Communion Minister:* Chad Johnson  
*Minister of the Word:* Robert McConnell  
*Acolytes:* **Need Volunteer**  
*Ushers:* John Hauser, Paul Knobel, Tim Witt  
*Greeters:* Nancy Wood, Cathie Knobel  
*Carillon:* Jan Wendel

### FEBRUARY 11, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

*Assisting Minister:* Dave Brunn  
*Communion Minister:* Chad Johnson  
*Minister of the Word:* Ann Wagner  
*Acolyte:* Shayna Leinberger  
*Ushers:* John Hauser, Paul Knobel, Tim Witt  
*Greeters:* Ralph & Janet Kiernicki  
*Carillon:* Susan Crist

### FEBRUARY 14, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - ASH WEDNESDAY

*Assisting Minister:* Alan Swanson  
*Communion Minister:* Bill Kaspar  
*Minister of the Word:* Jan Wendel  
*Ushers:* Larry Wood, Tom Morrison  
*Greeters:* Susan Crist, Jan Wendel

### FEBRUARY 18, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

*Assisting Minister:* Cindi Rachowicz  
*Communion Minister:* Alan Swanson  
*Minister of the Word:* Jim Dossa  
*Acolyte:* **Need Volunteer**  
*Ushers:* Luke Rasmussen, Buck Crist, Greyson Nester  
*Greeter:* Margye Smith, Peter Knobel  
*Carillon:* Rachel Cordts

### FEBRUARY 25, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

*Assisting Minister:* Jan Wendel  
*Communion Minister:* Alan Swanson  
*Minister of the Word:* Rob Seymour  
*Acolyte:* **Need Volunteer**  
*Ushers:* Luke Rasmussen, Buck Crist, Greyson Nester  
*Greeters:* The Seymour Family  
*Carillon:* Tina Ziegler

*Altar Guild:* Jan Wendel