

St. John's *EAGLE*

**ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Peg Otte, *Interim Pastor*
Robert McConnell, *Music Director and
Organist*
Brooke DeJong, *Director of Youth &
Community Outreach*
Janis B. Wendel, *Administrative Assistant*
Efren Frausto, *Custodian*

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January, 2108

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members of St. John's,

We have much to look forward to this year. The call process will take a big step forward this month with the congregational vote to elect the Call Committee that has been nominated by the Council. Once that happens, the search portion of the call process can begin. The Executive Council, the Call Committee and the Synod will meet to discuss the process and the congregational profile. Once that happens, the Call Committee will begin their work.

The construction is done and we can begin finding ways to use our new space to engage with the community. We have already used the space for several events. It has the potential to truly transform how the community views St. John's.

Finally, we look forward to all the good that will be done at St. John's to help us show others God's love.

Regards,

Chad Johnson
President, St. John's Lutheran Church

*Happy
New Year*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

By the Light of....

If only it hadn't been so cold these last days of December and first ones of January we (that is, I) might have really been able to appreciate the fantastic Super Moon that's marked the beginning of 2018. It's so bright it casts shadows at night and so big it seems bigger than the sun. When I'm out with our dog—the only reason I've been willing to put on enough layers to do a 10-minute walk around the block—I just want to stop and look up at it. My dog keeps reminding me that's not what we're out for, but what force it is on some ancient DNA part of me and my imagination. And when it's been setting I want to take a picture of it, it's so clear and seems so close. Being in light-saturated Chicago, the moon is about the only thing noticeable in the night sky. And what a brilliance this one has been. What light!

Light is on my mind, I guess, especially in these still-too-long, dark nights of winter. I'm thinking about the points of light from the Christmas Eve candles in the dark sanctuary, and about the ongoing quiet candlelight worship on Saturday evenings this January in the new, smaller gathering space. And I'm thinking about all of you, being points of light in some pretty dark places of homelessness, despair, anger, loss, injustice, illness, disrespect....all the places that God has promised to intersect with the Light. Epiphany is great for that.

This New Year holds a lot of promise for St. John's—lots of points of light:

- A Call Committee elected, installed and equipped for the process of calling a pastor
- A high school group meeting for service and education
- A new phone system and internet connections
- Renewed gathering spaces that welcome and engage the community
- New one-time projects and events, ongoing ministries and fellowship
- A renewed website
- All of you getting ready to receive and partner with your new pastor

Blessings of Hope, Light, Peace and courage for this new year of possibility and promise!

In Christ,

*Pastor Peg
Interim pastor*

TREASURER'S ALCOVE

The time is upon us to vote on a new operating budget for 2018.



The budget preparation process first begins with a meeting of a task force consisting of myself, Lisa Hogarth, Chad Johnson, Kristen Danielsen and Pastor Peg. Prior to our first meeting, program leaders have been asked to estimate what they plan to spend in the next year in their ministry. A preliminary budget was presented to the task force, categories were review and revised. Then this proposed budget was presented to the Council for review on December 12. On January 9, the Council will make a motion to approve the proposed budget and then it will be mailed out to the congregation. The Sunday prior to the congregation meeting there will be a budget review open forum for any members of the congregation to ask questions or make suggestions. At this writing, the open forum will be on January 21 and our **Congregation Meeting will be on January 28**. Your involvement in this process is welcomed and encouraged.

Cindi Rachowicz, Treasurer

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.

Thanks...

...to the 20 women who took a break from holiday preparations to join us for the annual Christmas lunch.

Quilting

Is this the year you finally try quilting for Lutheran World Relief? We meet the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month from 10am -2pm. This month that's 1/11 & 1/25. Come for an hour or bring a lunch and stay the day.

Book Club

We don't have a date or a book! Any ideas?

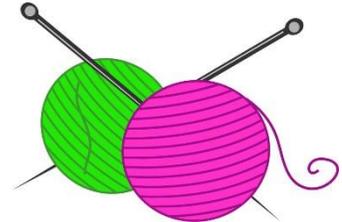
And as always...

Watch the Sunday bulletin, church website & email for our next book club selection and other activities.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS & CROCHETERS

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 first gathering will be Tuesday, January 9 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. They have a great need for these items with the weather as cold as it is. This group is open to everyone, including anyone in the community who would like to join us. You may also work on your own projects if you prefer. We will also decide how often we want to meet and what day works best. If you have any questions, please call Jan Wendel in the church office. Hope to see you there!



THANK YOU!!

Thank you all for the generous Christmas gifts provided by you for the staff! We're grateful to serve together with you in the gospel and in being a place of welcome, worship and ministry. A Christmas card and a gift was also sent to Pastor Joe and Jane on behalf of the congregation, with thanks and blessings on their new beginnings in Oregon.

-- Pastor Peg, Robert, Jan, Sue, Efron, Zaira, Natalie Pastor Peg

THANK YOU FROM HOLY FAMILY



Santa was busy sorting and packing all those wonderful presents you provided for the children of Holy Family. Their Christmas party was December 20th and the kids were thrilled with your gifts. A big Thank You from the third and fifth graders at Holy Family School. Can't wait for those adorable letters.

The Women of
Trinity Lutheran Church
Cordially Invite
The Women of
St. John's Lutheran Church
to join them for the

Have A Heart for Holy Family

Valentine Benefit Luncheon

Saturday, February 10

11:30 am

Trinity Lutheran Church

3637 Golf, Evanston

Join us for this festive luncheon to support Holy Family School.

Please RSVP on the sign up sheet by February 4th

or call Cindi 847-491-6265

All proceeds will go towards raising \$5,000 to fund the annual tuition for one child at Holy Family School.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Here are highlights from the December 12, 2017 Council meeting

- The Council reviewed and approved the proposed Call Committee members, which will now be presented for a Congregational vote on January 7, 2018.
- The Council is evaluating disaster preparedness training options, as well as the development of formal response protocols.
- As of the end of November, there is an overall deficit of \$9,254.
- A draft of the 2018 budget was presented and reviewed by the Council. A Congregational meeting to review and vote on the budget is being finalized for January

BIRTHDAYS!

God's blessings to the following members who are celebrating birthdays during the month of January:

Happy Birthday to:

Jose Cano (1/1)	Buck Crist (1/12)	Bob Oakes (1/21)
Frank Scholz (1/1)	Peter Hauser (1/12)	Jeff Knobel (1/23)
Brad Bergman (1/2)	Jeongok Kang (1/15)	Cleland Noe (1/28)
Benjamin Rasmussen (1/6)	Susanna Kvam (1/17)	Paul G. Hoffmann (1/29)
Ken Johnson (1/10)	Alan Beutelspacher (1/20)	Kyle Swanson (1/30)
Karen Clarke (1/12)		

WHO'S SERVING IN JANUARY, 2018

JANUARY 7, 2018, 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Dave Brunn
Communion Minister: Ken Kastman
Minister of the Word: Peter Knobel
Acolytes: Aidan Maglocchi
Ushers: Luke Rasmussen, Buck Crist, Tim Witt
Greeters: Jan Wendel, Ann Wagner
Carillon: Jan Wendel

JANUARY 14, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Bill Kaspar
Communion Minister: Ken Kastman
Minister of the Word: Margye Smith
Acolytes: Shayna Leinberger
Ushers: Luke Rasmussen, Buck Crist, Tim Witt
Greeters: Tina Ziegler, Millie Braun
Carillon: Susan Crist

JANUARY 21, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Cindi Rachowicz
Communion Minister: Alan Swanson
Minister of the Word: Kristen Danielsen
Acolyte: Volunteer Needed
Ushers: Jeff Danielsen, Tom Morrison, Larry Wood
Greeters: Nancy Wood, Cathie Knobel
Carillon: Rachel Cordts

JANUARY 28, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Jan Wendel
Communion Minister: Alan Swanson
Minister of the Word: Alla Ruzs
Acolyte: Volunteer Needed
Ushers: Jeff Danielsen, Tom Morrison, Larry Wood
Greeters: Ralph & Janet Kiernicki
Carillon: Tina Ziegler

Altar Guild: Susan Crist

