

# Messenger

## Saved to Share Called to Care

### *From the Desk of Pastor Tanney*

Happy New Year

We began the New Year with a worship service. Remembering all the blessings we received and looking forward to the plans, adventures, and journeys we will be taking together and individually.



I will definitely remember our time spent with our grandchild in California, (she was the one who was born on our visit last year.) So in Tanney fashion we celebrated her first birthday



and baptismal day, the same day! I'll remember the long conversations this one-year-old had to say without a word that was recognizable for an adult. I'll remember putting on snow skis and going down the mountain. I'll remember the long walks and visiting a gold mine. I'll remember not having luggage at the



end of the journey and the St. Louis cold air that greeted us. I'm sure you have fond blessings also this past year.

One thing is sure my ways are not always God's way, nor my plans his plans. They are so much higher and

greater. Which means the Lord goes before us preparing the road for our lives until our heavenly home is ready. Ginny, (Virginia Turner) is the first in our congregation this year to go home. (Actually she died New Years Eve,) but her funeral was at St. Johns and her body laid to rest on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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As long as we are here on this earth there is always death, but there is also life.

I'm not sure if I have shared the news, but the Tanney families are expecting two new life forms in 2018. God willing a healthy baby girl and sister for Peter and we don't know what the other one is yet.



I'm just glad to remember the Savior's birth was for me. That it was a baby boy whose name Jesus meant more for the world rescue and salvation than any other name. My soul rejoices as he grows up to die on the cross for my sins. His death for my life, let me be born again.

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better person." - Benjamin Franklin



## 2018 Boards

*Installation Sunday, January 7*

### **Executive Council**

- President: Jonathan Schmidt
- Vice President: Ray Glusenkamp
- Secretary: Kim Karner
- Treasurer: Ruth Evers
- Members at Large: Bob Rehmer  
Debbie Schmidt

### **Elders**

- Al Bohannon
- Mark Holdenreid
- Ban Le

### **Board of Social Ministry**

- Maureen Rehmer – Chairman
- Carol Cool
- Eileen Wehrheim
- Ruth Trauth
- Cindy Geiger
- Irene Hurst
- Karen Vineyard
- Ethelmae Leuther
- Hannah Harkey

### **Board of Evangelism**

- Melba Fanger – Chairman
- Deb Meyer
- Sue Hampel
- Karl Frerichs
- Joan Potvin

### **Board of Stewards**

- Eunice Bain – Chairman

**Board of Education** – Currently Vacant

### **Board of Trustees**

- Terry Hartz

## Social Ministry

As 2018 approaches, we are certainly looking back to 2017 and thanking God for all of our blessings.

Christ Memorial Church provided us with Christmas gifts to give out at the food pantry with an abundance of food and gift cards. Thanks to all of our regular food pantry staff, Hannah Harkey, Cathy Tanney, Craig Goebel, Christine Vineyard and Natalie Vineyard for their assistance in the distribution of the presents, and for keeping the food pantry running smoothly. We also want to thank all of you who provided gifts for the "Giving Tree".

Our St. Johns Lutheran Church, other Lutheran churches, Eagle Prep. School and Thrivent Insurance Co. have been so supportive of our food pantry that we are once again finishing the year with grateful hearts and funds to continue through the New Year.

Happy New Year and may God bless each of you as He has blessed us.



## Evangelism

### 2018 New Years Resolutions

As we enter a new year 2018, many of us may have made New Year's resolutions and we sincerely plan to keep them. Some resolutions we make but are doubtful of their results; some are made just for fun.

I am suggesting that we make one that know we can keep, only if we believe and seek God's guidance. The simple 4 letter word is to resolve to PRAY.

Obviously, many of us do pray and the Bible certainly encourages us to pray in ALL circumstances. Jesus is the best example of not only praying, but He showed His disciples and us how to do it in the Lords Prayer (Matt. 9:13 & Luke 11:1-4)



When we think a prayer can't be answered, we find God's assurance in circumstances which seemed impossible and the reply "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"



Gen. 18:14 & Jer. 11:24. If it is God's will He will answer our prayers in the way He knows is best for us. So don't hesitate to seek His guidance and praise Him for His loving care and continue to talk to Him daily.

So once again, let's all make a resolution to PRAY and GIVE THANKS every day. I am certain that we will recognize how AWESOME our God is! The Board of Evangelism wishes you a Happy and Blessed New Year!

## Stewardship

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless. But it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the Small Catechism informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and our questions arise in giving to the church.

So, what is our duty as members of the church with regard to giving? The Table of Duties, again, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, St. Paul taught: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor. 6:1-2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor.

8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

*The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*



**Look for the 2018  
Voter and Executive Council  
meeting schedule in upcoming  
bulletin announcements!**

- January 2** *Karen Vineyard*
- January 8** *Carmen Hobson*
- January 22** *Shayna Bobannon*  
*Tiffany Bobannon*
- January 25** *Ethelmae Leuther*
- January 30** *Terry Hartz*

**Our Vision**  
St. Johns, partnering with Open Sky  
Education will do Christ-centered  
community outreach that engages our  
community with worship

*Carmen Hobson*  
4443 Delta Queen Ln  
Godfrey, IL 62035

**Our Mission**  
St. Johns Lutheran Church is a diverse  
family of saved sinners, walking together  
in forgiveness. Motivated by Christ's  
love, we will share the Gospel and care  
for the needs of all people.

January 2018							
← December 2018	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	February 2018 →	
		<b>1</b> New Years Day 9:00am Service	<b>2</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 7:00pm Adult Information Class	<b>3</b> 10:00am Pre-Seminary Training 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm ESL 7:00pm Pre-Seminary Training	<b>4</b> 2:00pm Home Bible Study	<b>5</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>6</b> 8:00am Social Ministry 8:30am Food Pantry
<b>7</b> 9:00am Worship Installation of Boards 10:30am Bible Class	<b>8</b> 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Elders 7:00pm WOW	<b>9</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Adult Information Class	<b>10</b> 10:30am Avalon Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 4:00pm Compass Chapel 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm ESL 7:00pm Pre-Seminary Training	<b>11</b> 9:30am Preschool Chapel 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>12</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>13</b> 8:30am Food Pantry	
<b>14</b> 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Class	<b>15</b> Martin Luther King Eagle and Church Office Closed 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Evangelism	<b>16</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Adult Information Class	<b>17</b> 10:00am Pre-Seminary Training 3:30pm Compass 4:00pm Compass Chapel 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm ESL 7:00pm Pre-Seminary Training	<b>18</b> 9:30am Preschool Chapel 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>19</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>20</b> 8:30am Food Pantry	
<b>21</b> Life Sunday 9:00am Worship Servant Recognition 10:30am Bible Class	<b>22</b> 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Ushers	<b>23</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Adult Information Class	<b>24</b> 10:00am Pre-Seminary Training 3:30pm Compass 4:00pm Compass Chapel 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm ESL 7:00pm Pre-Seminary Training	<b>25</b> 9:30am Preschool Chapel 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>26</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>27</b> 8:30am Food Pantry 8:00am-12:00pm E2 Conference	
<b>28</b> 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Class	<b>29</b> 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Adult Information Class	<b>31</b> 10:00am Pre-Seminary Training 3:30pm Compass 4:00pm Compass Chapel 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm ESL 7:00pm Pre-Seminary Training				