

St. John's Church
3833 8th Ave

2012
December/
2013
January

MESSENGER



Special points of interest:

- * **Christmas Service Schedule**
- * **Annual meeting report deadline**
- * **Scholarship Applications**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Annual Church Meeting</i>	On cover
<i>Birthdays</i>	5
<i>Christmas Luncheon</i>	7
<i>Thank you</i>	12 & 13
<i>Financial Info</i>	14
<i>Poinsettia Order Form</i>	15

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Service 3:00 pm	Christmas Day Worship 9:30 am	Lessons & Carols December 30th at 9:30 am
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Advent services

Midweek Advent services will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesdays during the season - Dec. 5, 12 and 19. Come join with your sisters and brothers of the St. John's community of faith as we anticipate and prepare for the birth of our Lord and Savior.

The Annual Church Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on the final Sunday in January, the 27th. Please put that date on your calendars. It is important to be part of preparing for the following year.

WORDS FROM PASTOR JIM LYNCH

It is cold up here in Marathon, WI. As I write this at 6:30 a.m. on Nov. 12, 2012, weather.com is reporting that the temperature is 21 degrees. Cold in northern Wisconsin in mid-November: Who would have thought such a thing was possible? But it is warm as well, surrounded as I am by the love of a God who wants only the best for me, the best for all of us together, for each and everyone of us as individuals. It will get colder, I am told, before it gets warmer but it will never get so cold that we are separated from God's overwhelming love. We will relive and thrill to the story of that love in a few weeks when we immerse ourselves in the Christmas story. Not the Ralph Billingsley movie that runs and runs on cable TV, but the oft-told tale of how the son of the Most High God became human, being born to a teenage mother who didn't even have a bed to call her own when she gave birth. That God would do such a thing for us, for each and every one of us, is almost too magnificent to consider. Yet consider it we do. Marvel at it we must. Share it with the world we have and will. It is a story that is just too good to be true and yet it is. So do just that. Share the story of God come into the world with the world. Use words if you have to. Examples are better. Actions are best. Make this time both holy and merry for someone whose holiday season might otherwise be dark or blue. And remember what the angels said to the shepherds in fields as they lay keeping their sheep: "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." That is the good news the type of which will keep us warm no matter how low the temperature goes outside. May you be blessed this season and all the seasons of your lives.

Tidbits from the Council President:

Happy holidays to the St. John's community. The holidays bring a time for rejoicing and celebrating the birth of our Lord, the completion of 2012 and the ringing in of the New Year! We will be sharing our joy for the holiday season with the residents at St. Catherine's Commons and Casa Del Mare on December 1 by caroling. We may not be the best carolers they will see this season, but we will be joyful and probably loud. Midweek Advent services will begin in December. The children of the congregation will share the Christmas Story with us on December 16, this story is most precious when presented by the children, I am looking forward to it! There will be special music throughout the season to add to our worship experience.

It is so easy to become so caught up in all this celebration that we do not look to the future and the coming year, though we must. Please be sure to get your annual reports to the church secretary as close to the end of the year as is possible, thank you as always for your cooperation. The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on January 27th. This is the time when we review the business of running the church for the past year and plan for the coming year. We will be asking all members to prayerfully consider whether or not this is a time when you might step up to a leadership role in the congregation. We will have positions open on the congregation council, and we are looking for volunteers to fill those positions. As the council president, it has been my great honor to serve this congregation, our community and God through this office, but it is time for another to take on this role. As we work toward this change other positions will become available on the congregation council allowing members to step up to another level of involvement in the work of our church. This is also a time for us to discuss our vision for the mission of our congregation in the coming year. And of course there will be food.

Blessing to all, and to all a good night.....



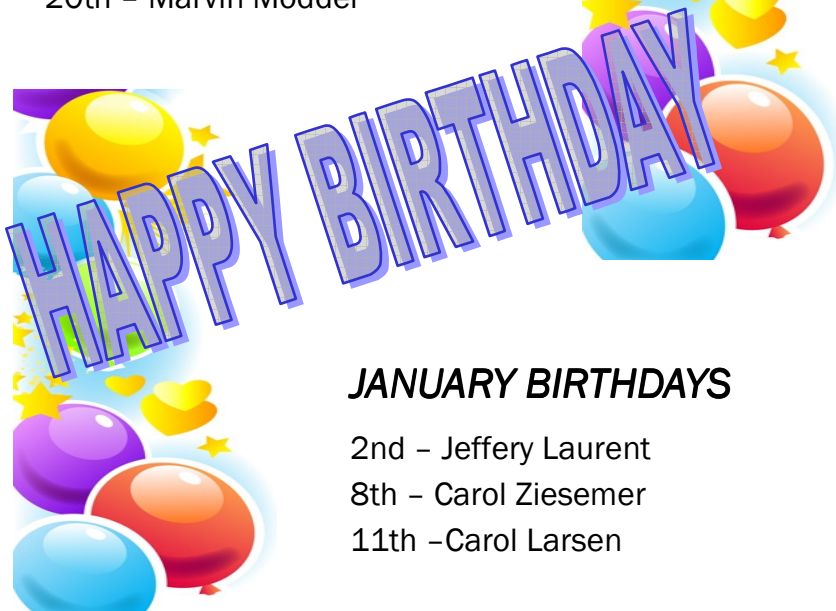
Unwrapping special music

What is Christmas without the sounds of the season? No one would want to find out. It somehow wouldn't be quite as special. Each year at St. John's, we receive a gift of special holiday season sounds from a raft of talented musicians. This year will be no different. The skills of many will be brought together in various combinations at various times for the enjoyment of the congregation and the honor and glory of God. Please take time to thank these disciples and friends of St. John's for their contributions to our Christmastime.

DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd - Brittany Ellsworth
- 6th - Jennifer Kirkpatrick
- 9th - Alice Kobrow
- 17th - Jacob & Lauren Magnuson,
Sandra Wiegand
- 20th - Joseph Hrupka
- 20th - Marvin Modder



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd - Jeffery Laurent
- 8th - Carol Ziesemer
- 11th - Carol Larsen

**If your Birthday was missed,
please let Mary in the Church
Office know,
so that we keep our
records up to date.
Thank you.**

Stewardship Pledge Cards

Thank you to everyone who has returned their 2013 pledge cards. If you are one of those who have not done so yet, please do so as quickly as possible. Even if you are not making any changes to your last year's contributions, we still need your cards back. If you lost yours there are extras in the back of the church. Thank you!

Your 2013 Church Giving Envelopes should be available for pick up on Sunday, December 16.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Hopefully we won't need this just yet, but during inclement weather please check TMJ4 for Church cancellations.

If you move, change your phone number, marital status, have a baby, etc.; please let the church office know so that we may maintain our church records accurately.

Please include in your prayers:

Louis Cobo

Paul Gehrke

(son of Donna Schneider)

Alice Kobrow

Chuck Richter

Jim Reilly

(friend of Carol Larsen)

People who are dealing with results of natural disasters and their families.

Please inform the church office with changes to the prayer list.



The Women's Christmas Luncheon will be on Dec.8th at 11:30 AM at the Boathouse Restaurant, all the ladies of the church are

invited. There is a signup sheet in the gathering space.



Look for your Poinsettia signup sheet in this Newsletter or in the church. This years price is only \$11.00. Help decorate the Church for the Holiday Season.



You don't want to spend your New Year's Eve creating your Annual meeting report .

Get it in early.

Deadline is December 31.

Please get the information for the Annual Church Report to the Church Office ***as soon as possible***. It can be put into Mary's mailbox or sent to her at stjohnswi@tds.net.

Thank you.

Do You chair one of the worship committees?

If so, you will need to have your 2013 schedule to Mary in the office by December 18, 2012. Please indicate if you will need copies made and distributed. Thank you.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for scholarships from the Exceptional Gifts Fund are in the Gathering Room. They are due in the church office by December 31, 2012.

From time to time help is needed in the office helping Mary prepare mailings, fold bulletins, do copying, etc. If you are available to help with these type of things, please call the office, or email to let Mary know. Thank you.

IMPORTANT

Please note, to assure that your final contribution is recorded as part of your 2012 pledge, please see that it gets into the Church office by December 30th. Thank you.

Pastoral Care

Please call the office, 262-654-7113, when someone is hospitalized so that a visit can be arranged or a phone call made. Because of Federal privacy laws, hospitals rarely inform Pastors when people are patients.

We are relying on your help & information so that people can be properly cared for.

Pastor Jim will be in the office from 10 a.m. to around 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. To make an appointment, please call the church. Pastor also can be reached on his cell phone at 414-491-5033.

Phone messages are answered on a regular basis.

Church office email address: stjohnswi@tds.net

Pastor Jim's email address: stjohnspastor@tds.net



**If you did not pick up your
Advent Devotions Booklet
there are more in the back of the Church.**

Any **calendar information** should be submitted by the 15th of the previous month that it will be distributed so the articles for the next **Messenger** should be submitted to Mary by January 15th, 2013.

Submissions can be left in the church office or e-mailed to stjohnswi@tds.net Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP HOST

The 2013 Fellowship sign up sheet is in the Gathering Space. Please pick your dates so Mary can list them in the Messenger and in the weekly bulletins.

Feel free to call the office if you have any questions.

A Great Big Thank You to all who signed up to receive the Messenger and other Church related items by email. This saves the church money. If you would like to sign up, please inform the Church office.

Thank you to everyone who helps with the service by sponsoring a monthly Bulletins and/or the weekly flowers that are set on the altar. The sponsors for the upcoming months are:

<p><u>Altar Flowers for December</u> 2 - Erv & Dorothea Prust 9 - Carol Ziesemer 16 - Judy Jankiewicz 23 - Charlene Polanski 30 - Christmas Poinsettias</p>
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<p><u>Monthly Bulletin Sponsor's</u> <u>December</u> Daniel Stika <u>January</u> Al Bella</p>

Sponsorship for Flowers or Bulletins

Flower sponsorship and Bulletin sponsorships are available. This is a great way to show that you are thinking of someone. For Monthly Bulletin sponsorship the cost is \$25.00 for the month. For Weekly Flower sponsorship, the cost is \$11.00 per week, plus you get to take home the flowers if you'd like. It is actually a really good deal; cheaper then the store and free delivery right to you after service. Thank you for your help.

**Mission Basket Collection
for the following months:**

**Thank you in advance for your generous
donations to these causes.**

**December—
Kenosha
Jail
Ministries**



**January -
Shalom
Center**

**It is *Holiday Time* and you could help the
St. John's Sunday School Program ~ and it
is easy!** Please remember, and tell your
friends and family, to save their empty
aluminum cans. Leave them in the back
driveway garbage bin area. Can's should
be in a plastic bag and tied up. Proceeds
will benefit the Sunday School Program.
Every little bit helps.

Pick N Save We Care Program

You can help St. John's every
time you shop at Pick N' Save!
Just fill out a *We Care Card* or fill
out a **NEW We Care Card** and
put St. John's ID number
(774640) in the space marked
for charity. There are forms in
the Gathering Space if you need
one. Thank you for helping with
this project.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

LETTERS OF THANKS

**A decision was made to list names of people who make special donations or memorials to the church. If you are supposed to be listed and are not, please contact the church office to make sure that your donation was received and noted properly.
Mary**

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for your gift of \$22.00 to the ELCA Urban Outreach Center. Your donation helps us to serve our community through our adult education program, clothing closet, and programs for youth. Your support makes a difference. Without it we could not continue our mission.

God's peace,

Karl Erickson—Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your donation which has brightened our day and will help touch many with the gift of hope and strengthen our mission giving help to those experiencing homelessness and hunger. As you know, the needs are many and resources few.

Your support helps us provide more than 40,000 Soup Kitchen and Family Shelter meals, 16,000 Shelter nights, 270 tons of Pantry groceries and sundry items and after-school tutoring for 150 Shelter children annually. As we strive to meet the needs that many face, we greatly appreciate your gift.

Gratefully,

The Shalom Center Board and Staff

Members of the Exceptional Gifts Committee,
Thank you for the generous scholarship for the 2012-13 school year.

I very much appreciate the financial support as I work toward completing my Masters degree!

Sincerely,

Kate Tisch

Another successful Election Day Bake Sale. \$465. was added to current ministries from that sale. Thank you to all who baked, worked or bought to help reach that total.

A big Thank you to all 65 participants who attended the Annual Sauerkraut & Sausage Dinner in November.

\$549.00 was raised for St. John's from this event.

All of the bills were covered by D.L.Stika (\$265.00)

Thank you,
Lany

October food drive Thank you to everyone who helped with the Shalom Center food drive. Many people will be helped by your generous donations.

A donation was made in friendship and gratitude to St. John's for Pastor Jim's monthly visit and interaction with our assisted living residents here at Casa del Mare.

Sincerely,
Candy Peterson—Activity director

MEMORIALS RECEIVED:

- ◆ In memory of her husband John and parents Anna and Joe Zahn, from Mary Ann Ryan.
- ◆ In memory of Mary Lynn Becker, from Dawn & Al Bella and Steve & Jayne Bella.
- ◆ Jackie, Alice, Lowell & Laverne Kollmann from Joe, Lori & Angela Mitek, Keith & Kevin Kollmann, and Merle Malterer.

**St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
TREASURER REPORT**

	Year to Date:		
	2012 <u>Jan-Oct</u>	2011 <u>Jan-Oct</u>	2010 <u>Jan-Oct</u>
Current Ministries & Other*	\$78,773	\$77,655	\$64,588
Rent:	\$8,500	\$9,350	\$9,350
Total Income:	<u>\$87,273</u>	<u>\$87,005</u>	<u>\$73,938</u>
Total Operating Ex- penses **:	<u>(\$91,491)</u>	<u>(\$89,363)</u>	<u>(\$66,385)</u>
YTD Surplus			
(Deficit):	(\$4,218)	(\$2,358)	\$7,553

*Other income includes contributions to church year celebrations, memorials for Current Ministries, Sunday School, plate cash, bulletin support, fellowship collections and interest earned on checking acct.

**Operating Expenses do not include Mission Payouts or PIP Fund expenditures or income and expenditures related to Youth trip to New Orleans.

Checking Account Balance
10/31/2012 41,129.25

Thank you,
Nancy Otis, Treasurer

Greater Milwaukee Synod Commitment

Your contributions to Greater Milwaukee Synod thru November 18, 2012 is \$4,508. Our goal is \$6,900.00. Please consider a gift to the Synod. Use the Mission Support category on your weekly offering envelope to denote your gift to the Synod. Thank you!

Order Your Poinsettias Today

Share the beauty and joy of the season by placing a poinsettia in the sanctuary for the Christmas Season!

The Poinsettias will be **\$11.00 each.**

Checks should be made payable to "St. John's Lutheran Church" Please enclose this form with your payment and give it to Ruth Kulich or Irene Baskinsky by
Sunday, December 16.

Please fill out the information below as you would like it to appear in the Christmas Bulletin.

NAME:

PHONE:

DEDICATIONS:

(in memory of, in honor of, in celebration of, etc.)

Thanks for sharing!
Ruth Kulich
Irene Bashinsky

