

St. John Lutheran Church  
1710 5th Street South  
Fargo, ND 58103

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

‘THE HERALD’

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**St. John Office Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday: 9 am-4:30 pm  
Friday: 9 am-2 pm

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St. John Lutheran Church

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE HERALD

Volume 116, Issue 1

Community in Christ: Christ in Community

January 2016

### Coming Soon:

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL: "Rescue in the Night"

The story about Daniel in the Lions Den and all the events that led up to it!

We will even have lions and a lion pit!

Sunday, Feb. 7 at both services (8:30 and 10:45).



### In This Issue

- Notes from the Pastor
- Upcoming Events
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### Sheltering the Homeless

We will be providing a warm place to stay here at St. John for the homeless January 17th-January 23rd. There are many ways to be Christ in our Community while representing our Community in Christ. See the back of the calendar for details!

### St. John 2016 Pictorial Directory

If you or someone you know was unable to get your picture taken for the directory please send a photo to [picture@stjohnfargo.com](mailto:picture@stjohnfargo.com) with "picture directory" in the subject line. Or you can bring one in to the church office and we will scan it for you. We would love to see each and everyone of you in the new directory!

### Contact Us

St. John Lutheran Church  
1710 5th St. S., Fargo, ND 58103  
701-232-8521 e-mail: [office@stjohnfargo.com](mailto:office@stjohnfargo.com);  
[www.stjohnfargo.com](http://www.stjohnfargo.com)

The Ministry Team of St. John: All the People of God, along with  
Rev. Nathan Keith, Rev. Brian Hansen, Pastors  
Dawn Papenfuss, Director of Music/Organist  
Rachel Coen-Tuff, Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
Jackie Jabens, Finance/Office Manager  
Carly Rogne, Secretary Randy Shone, Custodian  
Jana Bruhschwein, Preschool Director  
Kellie Knodel, Cheryl Dietz, Katie Olson, Preschool Teachers  
Peggy Hammerling, Recorders Jessica Westgard, Handbells  
Editor: Carly Rogne, Articles accepted before  
1 pm Friday, January 16th for the February 16' Herald.

### St. John Annual Meeting Sunday, January 24

Fellowship Hall

The Annual Meeting will begin immediately after the 10:45 worship service.

Please note:

Copies of the 2015 Annual report will be available on Sunday, January 10 and anytime after that in the office. Please bring your Annual report to the Annual meeting.

ONE SONG CAN CHANGE  
A MOMENT,  
ONE IDEA CAN CHANGE  
A WORLD,  
ONE STEP CAN START A  
JOURNEY,  
BUT A PRAYER CAN  
CHANGE THE IMPOSSIBLE

## From the Pastor:

Happy New Year!

Well I would imagine that at this point most of us have had ample time to recover from the holiday festivities. Perhaps for some, if not most, of us the tree has been returned to its box, the company has left, the new toys have been thoroughly played with, the leftovers eaten and the normal routine reestablished. Perhaps there is even a sense of relief in having made it through another holiday in one piece.

Perhaps for many of us the greatest struggle now is in figuring out where to put all the new things we've received over the holiday. I've noticed that as I've gotten older I really want less and less stuff, for not only do I struggle to make more room for the things given to me, but I've also begun to discover that the accumulation of stuff ultimately brings no happiness. It almost seems that the contrary is true; that more stuff brings with it greater and greater unhappiness. Sure, temporarily we may receive that sense of heightened excitement as we receive that which we believe will fulfill our dreams, but within days to weeks that sense of joy fades and we are faced with an empty feeling once more. And so, we identify that next best thing that will make us happy and a vicious cycle is reinforced.

Perhaps it is only when we recognize this reality in our lives that we are able to affect a change in our living that can bring us to a place where we are truly able to find happiness in the gift of life, rather than the gift of getting more stuff. I mean isn't that ultimately the meaning of all those classic Christmas stories, like The Grinch and a Christmas Carol. Aren't they intended to remind us that our value and worth is not defined by the quantity of our stuff, but instead by the quality of our love.

Perhaps that is the reason in some respects that the Christ child comes to us, to strip away all the stuff and to remind us that our worth and value is not defined by our stuff, but rather it is found in the one who claims us in love and comes into the world to offer us life. There is a book in our home that we occasionally read with our children called The Quiltmaker's Gift. This book tells the story of a king who has everything that anyone could ever possibly want, yet he is not happy and in fact he craves more and more stuff in the hopes that that next best thing will bring happiness. As the book progresses, he hears word of a quilt maker who makes quilts for the poor and needy to keep them warm at night. Immediately the king demands one of her beautiful quilts for himself. However, she refuses to give him one until he has given away all that he owns.

Initially, the king refuses to give away any of his most cherished possessions, believing that the loss of his treasures will only bring him unhappiness. However, he discovers that as he gives away his treasures, happiness and joy fill his heart. The story of course ends with the king returning to his kingdom having traveled far and wide distributing the things that once defined his life. He returns as the transformed ruler who is now happy and content in having found true happiness and meaning in giving out of abundance to those in deepest need.

As I sit here today mindful of another Christmas passed, I am also mindful that perhaps true happiness and joy comes not from receiving, but instead in the simplest act of giving. So, as you enter 2016 may you be blessed with the spirit of generosity. May you come to see in Christ the claiming love of a God willing to give everything for the treasure that is you. And, may you find Joy in experiencing the power of giving as it shapes your heart and soul.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to you all,

In Christ,

Pastor Brian

## DON'T MISS THE BOAT

During Lent, we will take a look at different boats and connect them to faith. Pastor Brian shared this quote which is often attributed to John A. Shedd, "A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." Many sanctuaries are built by using the common construction of early wooden ships and Jesus did a great amount of ministry while sitting, sleeping, or stilling the storm in a boat, Join us at the end of the dock, jump on a boat, and join us on this journey which will certainly experience rough seas.

Wednesday Worship Topics:

Cruise Liner, Speed Boat, Canoe, Sail Boat, Fishing Boat, Life Raft

*\*If you have a canoe, kayak, heavy gauge fish netting, oars, life preserver or other fun nautical equipment please let us know as we'd love to decorate our sanctuary.*

## Stephen Ministry of St. John

Perhaps you may be reluctant to request a Stephen Minister to visit you during tough times because Stephen Ministers receive supervision. This peer supervision is a well organized process. Confidentiality is assured. We all meet and discuss the caring relationship by referring to the person as "my care receiver" as names are not used.

The facts of why the visits are occurring are not the thrust of this meeting.. Instead, questions asked are: are your goals being met, what is the nature of the care giving relationship, what can be done to improve relational matters.

Peer supervision will improve the caregiver's skills as Focus Notes are used. These printed Focus Notes pinpoint certain areas to discuss such as when to refer the care receiver to a mental health professional or when to stop visiting the care receiver because progress has been made.

This gives you an idea of the careful organizational process of Stephen Ministry supervision. Caregivers are not left out on a limb. Thus, you will have highly qualified Stephen Ministers giving you Christ centered care.

Gini Duval, Stephen Leader

# Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Rachel Coen-Tuff, Director of Youth and Family Ministry 701-232-8521, Rachel@stjohnfargo.com

## Milestone Ministries

Milestone Ministries are intentional ministries that connect families to each other and to the congregation, as we recognize and learn about God's presence throughout the different stages of a child's life. Each Milestone directly reflects our desire to fulfill the promises we, as a congregation and family, made to our children at their baptism. Coming Soon:

## Cross+Walk News

Families have been gathering together, having fun, talking about God, and faith, and life, while growing relationships with other families, and nurturing their own faith. CROSS+WALK is our new faith formation ministry for people of ALL ages, to grow relationships and nurture faith in ways that are real, relevant and impacting. This innovative ministry takes the place of traditional Sunday School, with the purpose of engaging the whole family and our whole faith community in faith conversations together. CROSS+WALK is offered Wednesdays (7:15-7:45 p.m.) and on Sundays (9:45-10:35 a.m.).

## Confirmation News:

Confirmation at St. John is a place for our youth to learn, explore and to understand what is important about being a Lutheran and why we are called to follow God. The sixth and seventh grade students this year have been focusing on the Old Testament with Pastor Brian. Each week students gather to dive into a specific book they have been studying and how they might learn to interpret the text in their own life. The eighth and ninth grade students have been exploring different texts such as Jonah, the creation story, and the Christmas story. The remainder of the year will focus on articles of the creed and starting to look at Luther's Small Catechism. Once a month the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students meet with their confirmation mentor. Ninth grade students and their mentor focus on Peer Ministry and each session has a different focus. Students, along with their mentor learn how to tell their own story, and how their story might be valuable in the life of the community at St. John.

Next year our confirmation model will remain the same. The sixth and seventh grade students will move toward New Testament, and the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders will focus on Luther's Small Catechism and Peer Ministry.

We are thankful for the commitment families have made in the faith life of their child by bringing them to confirmation and for serving in the church in many ways!

## Music Notes by Dawn Papenfuss

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL REHEARSALS

\*\*\*Wednesday night rehearsals for the month of January are from 5:00-6:15pm. Parents of 4 year olds can decide if your child can handle that period of time. If not, have them come at 5:30.

HOWEVER: Feb. 3 EVERYONE needs to be in the sanctuary for a dress rehearsal from 5-6:15. (I may also have a dress rehearsal Jan. 27.) PLEASE have your kids memorize their lines and the songs over Christmas break.

<u>Choir Schedule</u>			
Jan. 3	Jan. 24 8:30		
Jan. 10 Worship	10:45	St. John choir	band
Jan. 17 8:30 St.	10:45	Jan. 31 8:30 Hand bells	John choir
		10:45 St. John Choir	Children's choir