

**CHRISTMAS FROM THE HOLY LAND**

Having just returned from a trip to the Holy Land, I'm sure you expected it would somehow find its way into this article. The trip was amazing in so many ways. After reading the Bible since a child, walking in the places Jesus walked, and traveling through the regions mentioned in those pages, expanded my view of the Scriptures.

Whether it was standing on a boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee, tasting of the water from Jacob's Well (John 4), scanning the beauty of Jerusalem while standing high on the Mount of Olives, or walking through the Garden of Gethsemane, each day was filled with opportunities to add dimensions to the pages of the Gospels. To stand beside an olive tree which was there at the time when Jesus entered the Garden to pray, is a humbling thing indeed.

One of the leaders of this trip told the story of taking his granddaughter to the Holy Land two years ago. He said he and his wife weren't sure what this teen would think about her time there. But the comment she made rings true to my heart. Nightly she explored the places they'd visit the next day and in summary she said, "Grandpa, it's all real."

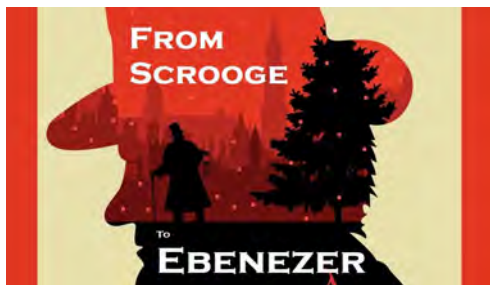
I think there's a place in the back of our mind which distances us from the pages of the Holy Scriptures by more than just time and miles on a plane. Perhaps we wonder if the land of the Bible isn't something like the Middle Earth of Tolkien's classic, the Lord of the Rings. But this is real. The Sea of Galilee is real. The town of Nazareth is real. The City of Jerusalem is real. The Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane is real. Christ's coming to walk among us is real. He entered a real place at a real time and face our very real dilemma of sin and life in a broken world

Entering the Advent and Christmas season right on the heels of this trip to the Holy Land will give me even more passion as we listen to the announcement of Gabriel, the song of Mary, and the choir of angels announcing "news of great joy for all the people for Christ the Savior is born." It's all real. Come join in the celebration.



Pastor Jeff





## Weekend Worship in December

Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup> /Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bah Humbug - Changing Our Tune
December 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Past - Hope for the Heartbroken
December 14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Present - Look Upon Me
December 21 <sup>st</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas Future - Death Defying Acts
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Arrive - God Bless Us Everyone

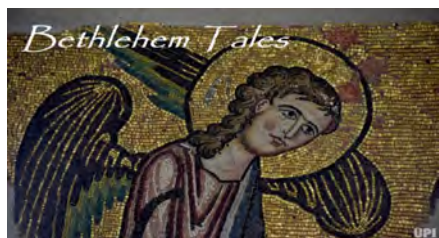


### Christmas Eve Services in the Sanctuary

- 4:00pm - Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service
- 6:30pm - Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service

### Christmas Day Service in the Sanctuary

- 9:00am - Christmas Day with Communion



### Wednesday Afternoon Advent Devotions - 4pm

For those who would like a time of reflection, Pastor Jeff is leading a 30-40 minute Advent devotional at 4pm each Wednesday in the sanctuary. Pastor Jeff will be sharing pictures and stories.

- December 4<sup>th</sup> Tales from the Walls
- December 11<sup>th</sup> Tales from the Wood
- December 18<sup>th</sup> Tales from the Fields



### St John Advent Concert Series – Wednesdays at 6:30pm

- December 4<sup>th</sup> - St. John Middle School Concert
- December 11<sup>th</sup> - St. John Elementary School Concert
- December 18<sup>th</sup> - St. John Choir, Handbells and Praise Group Combined

## WOMEN'S ADVENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

### Under the Gift Wrap

When: Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

Time: 6:30pm

Where: Grace Place

Cost: \$10 plus an appetizer or dessert

Special Guest Singer: **Wendysue Fluegge**

Wendysue is a pianist, guitarist and gifted vocalist with an energetic personality that will entertain and inspire you. Her contemporary songs includes touches of pop, rock, jazz, and country, and even spoken word.



She's has been traveling all over the U.S. full time for over 20 years, has sung our national anthem for the Milwaukee Brewers and Bucks, led music for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League's national and district conventions, snagged a cover story in the women's Quarterly magazine, sung to Southwest passengers while flying over Kansas, and had her country rendition of 'How Great Thou Art' air on her local country station 106.1FM. Wendysue has recorded CD's of hymns, modern praise, and her own original songs about the challenges and triumphs of living her faith boldly as an "Everyday Christian."

We will also need hostesses at each table...if you would like to host a table, you are in charge of decorating the table with place settings, a centerpiece and favors if you want. The tables seat 8 people and we would like you to invite 7 other people to be a part of your group. White tablecloths will be provided for the tables.



## 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE EVENT



*It will be our Christmas Party...*

**When:** Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Family Life Center

**Time:** 6:30pm-8:30pm

**Bring a wrapped \$5 gift**

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### **MISSION POSSIBLE:** Empowering kids to change the world by helping others

We are just meeting one time in this busy season of Christmas...it will be on **Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 2:45am until 4:30pm. This is for students in grades 1-5.

In November, we were working on what it means to have an attitude of gratitude. We started working on an activity where the students were asked to write letters of thanks to 5 different people to thank them for what they do. They could pick from various people such as the mail carrier, neighbors, family members, teachers, staff, custodial workers, cafeteria workers, office staff and business workers. They would then take these letters and deliver them to the people.

It was exciting to hear the students say when I saw them in the hallway how they wrote their letters and how they also delivered the letters to that particular person.

The students also made wonderfully, beautiful place-mats for our Thanksgiving dinner here on Thursday afternoon.

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### **ADVENT TO GO DEVOTIONALS FOR FAMILIES**



This Advent, we will be passing out "To go boxes" with Advent devotions for families. Included in the box, will be hands-on activities, interactive prayer activity, family conversation starters, a weekly challenge, an Advent Candle craft and Scripture readings for each week.

It is flexible in that families will have everything they need for the whole month and they can complete the activities at their own pace. There is no pressure to do one thing every day or even complete all the activities each week. Families can choose what works best for them.



## **YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY AND NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD DRIVE**

*December 15*

**LOCATION:** Family Life Center

We will meet in the Family Life Center after the Table Service for lunch, a white elephant gift exchange and then head out into the surrounding neighborhood to pick up bags of food that our neighbors will be leaving on their porches for us (middle school classes will be canvassing this neighborhood with info on this leading up to Dec 15).

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### **COOKIE WALK**

We will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Cookie Walk on December 8<sup>th</sup> right after the 8:30am service in the courtyard. This is where you can pick from an array of



Christmas cookies and pay one price. The monies raised from this will help support the youth on their mission trip to Tennessee June 7-13, 2020.



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### **ADVENT MEALS ARE BACK**

The youth will be serving up the Advent Meals in December. It will be a soup supper and dessert. The monies raised will be going towards their Mission Trip this summer. Free-will offering.

We will be serving from 4:45pm until 6pm.

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### **JINGLE JAM: Family Interactive Service**

This service engages families with the true Story of Christmas and a reminder that we can have joy knowing God is in control.

**When:** Sunday,  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 10:45am

**Where:** Grace Place



Dear St. John's Family and Friends,

Today I want us to examine why Godly stewardship should be important for us. Many people have a misunderstanding of what it means to be a steward. It's not just getting out of debt and sticking to a budget. It's much more than just writing a tithe check every month. Living as a steward means surrendering your finances to God and recognizing yourself as a *manager*, not owner, of all you have. It is a part of our identity, not just our behavior.

# STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

I want to share with you a few of the biblical principles of stewardship and four reasons why becoming God's steward is so very important, all taken from Matthew 25:14-30 – The Parable of the Talents. If you're not familiar with the Parable of the Talents, I'd encourage you to go read it. The story is of three people who all work for the same master.

The master leaves on a journey but entrusts different amounts of silver to each of the three men before he departs. He distributes the silver based on each man's ability. The first man receives five bags of silver, the second, two bags, and the third, one bag. While the master is gone, the first and second men invest their silver, multiplying the amount they were given to profit their master. The third man, however, goes and buries his silver. When the master returns, the first two men give back double the amount of silver they were given. The third man gives back exactly what he was given.

As you might guess, the master is pleased with the work and faithfulness of the first two men – they're rewarded. The third man is called wicked, lazy, and worthless. He loses his job, was punished, and cast out of the master's presence.

In the Parable of the Talents, the money that was entrusted to each person was not theirs. The money was given to them for a certain amount of time and they were held accountable for their management of it.

It's a perfect example of how God entrusts us with money, property or other things of value during our time here on earth. We will be held accountable for how we have managed it, whether we have a lot or a little! We are not the owners of what we have. We are all temporary managers. We will be either faithful or unfaithful in how we manage it. Stewardship is not ordering your finances in a way that you can spend whatever you want. It's ordering your life in such a way that you are responsive to the opportunities to serve, give or invest as the Lord directs. Think about this: In a few years, everything you have will either be thrown away or belong to someone else. Everything. Your house, your car, all your clothing, your money, your most prized possessions. So instead of concerning yourself with the material things of this world, it would be better and more profitable for you to use your money and your time for the Lord and to focus on eternity.

In the Parable of the Talents, the faithfulness of the servants was measured when the master returned and they were either rewarded or punished based on their management. The same will be true of us when we visit the bema seat of heaven.

We only spend a few years here on earth, maybe 60 or 80 years, perhaps a little longer, but we will spend an eternity in heaven. All that we have here has been given to us by God (even if we think we "earned" it, it was God that gave us the skills and opportunity to earn it) and the way we manage what we have been given matters not just now, but more so in heaven. There will be those who multiplied what was given to them and are commended for their good work. They were the ones that used the resources given to them to help and bless others. Then there will be others that did not help and bless others. They are the ones Paul wrote about in First Timothy 5:8, where Paul wrote: *"But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."* As you make short-term and long-term plans, think of your family's future needs. Save for retirement, education, and plan your legacy. Learn to be more generous and less selfish.

Heaven is not a celestial vacation or fishing over the edge of a cloud. It is serving the Creator. The stewards that are faithful on Earth will be rewarded with being in charge of cities in Heaven! There, we will continue to work and serve as stewards of the Lord Almighty.

Yours truly,  
Jonathan S. Dean  
Stewardship Chairman

# *St. John Lutheran School - "Saints Corner"*

*"Pursuing academic excellence through the relational impact of Christ-centered learning"*

## ***Celebrating Progress: Our "Re new ed" Mission***

Every organization benefits from a well-constructed and easily recalled mission statement that provides clarity for their employees. A mission statement reflects an organization's most fundamental purpose for existing. It should be talked about always, hung in every office, classroom, and work space, and be at the center for organizational decision-making. In my short time at St. John, I realized that the previous long-standing mission statement of the school was a bit out of date and did not clearly reflect the fundamental purposes of the school. With that said, it led us to construct what I like to call a "Re new ed Mission Statement". After all, we are not radically altering what we have done pretty well for over 50 years, we are simply refining and refocusing our purpose using a new statement for our current staff and families. The resulting process ended with 10 words (yes, counting the hyphenated word as only one word), that we believe powerfully captures what St. John Lutheran School's purpose for keeping its doors open in Ocala, Florida.

"[Pursuing academic excellence](#) ..." describes our primary desire as a school to offer the best academic experience possible for all of our students. This premise has already directed us to implement a new student assessment tool called the "MAP" and has us already considering more effective structural changes for next year that would continue to improve student learning. The vehicle in which we communicate academic excellence is "[through the relational impact](#) " of our faculty and staff. It involves our faculty and staff investing in our students relationally beyond just a traditional teacher-student transactional relationship. At St. John Lutheran School, we seek to make a relational impact on every student that is transformative in nature. How can this teacher-student relationship move beyond the transactional to the transformative? This occurs when you couple faith and learning together in an environment that embraces one "[of Christ-centered learning](#)." These are the simple, but powerful words that we have chosen to define our "re new ed" mission with our students and families, both now, and into the future for St. John Lutheran School.

*- David McFalls, School Administrator*





## UPGRADED GOD PRESENCE PRAYER VIGIL

DECEMBER 5, 2019

December is the month of Advent/Christmas and can get quite busy. Is it just busy-ness or is there a better way? In Titus 2:11-14, Paul is mentoring Titus (and us too) with these words, "For the Grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."

If we first focus on the Grace of God and the salvation offered for all people, we will put the upgraded, over-reaching goal of putting Jesus first. Then we will focus on self-control, godly-led lives of spending time with Jesus in prayer to achieve the presence of God in our lives. (Please come and do that at St. John's Prayer Vigil away from all distractions.) We will be equipped and encouraged by the Words of reading the Bible and tune out the world's influence. We will be going to church, singing worship and praise songs to Him and hearing Christmas programs by kids and adults. We will hear about how Jesus is our Savior and has redeemed us from all lawlessness of sin and wrongdoing. We will become zealous for good works such as focusing on angel tree presents for kids who can't get any gift from a family member because he's in prison or focus on helping the people around us who are lonely, homeless or in nursing homes with no family. Then we will have the best Christmas ever because prioritized the most important reason for the season - JESUS!

The December St. John Prayer Vigil will be Dec. 5, 2019 from 7AM to 6PM with the location again back in the church sanctuary. It is so good to be back in our remodeled church home. Having the school children back in the church to pray is very uplifting. This peaceful setting will help us remove distractions and stay focused on Jesus and our praying. The theme will be to pray and do good works to grow closer to the presence of God.

Upgraded God presence involves talking to God and listening to God through prayers of praise, thanksgiving and heart-to-heart petitions for yourself and your family. Prayers for others can include St. John Lutheran church, Pastor Shanks and family, school, staff, members, visitors, children, parents and our missions. Please also pray for our sister church, Forest Lutheran, in their mission of helping the needy in the Ocala National Forest, the wellness of its members and Pastor Dexheimer. Look around for people who need good works and pray about what you can do to help. This will bring about God's presence closer than ever to you.

If you want immediate prayers you can always call Shelby Putansu (351-3877) to send the requests out on the LWML phone prayer chain. For the e-mail chain call Carole Mikler at 502-5877 or email Carole at ceemikres@yahoo.com. To have someone listed on the St. John church list, fill out a prayer card from the pews in church to be read by pastor or call the church office. If you have any questions, please call

Ruth Dexheimer at 351-8539 or e-mail Ruth at RADexh@aol.com.

### ST. JOHN PRAYER MINISTRY:

Serving in the Military: Erik J Crowder—US Navy; Kimberly Rath—US Air Force; Joe Glaub—US Air Force, [Ruth Dexheimer's nephew]; PFC Britney Lynne Cato—US Army @ Ft. Bragg, NC; Donald J Putansu—US Airforce in England/Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class—[Putansu's nephew]; Brian Kruchkow—Fighter Pilot/Texas—[Putansu's nephew]; Jeremiah Hodge—US Army in Afghanistan—[Putansu's nephew]; Victoria McKee

Special needs: Beth Biggers; Kylie Collins [Don Kaufman's granddaughter]; Zane & John Capazzi [Patty Kull Hertz's grandsons]; Anne Marie Singh; Karl, Kayla & Kyle—[Millie Crowder's grandchildren]; Harrison Dexheimer [Dexheimer's grandson];

Shut-ins @ home: Stacy Andersen; Joan Ciboock; Larry Cooper; Larry Faw; Cleo Kapilla, Ted Lineberger; Jean & Donna Owen; George Sinak; Ralph Jones;

Assisted Living/Rehab: Mildred Meunier @ The Lodge; Sharon Kress @ Avante of Ocala; Audrey Blom @ Brookdale-Memory Unit; Joyce Anthony @ The Windsor; Lynn Shanks @ Brookdale-Paddock;

Prayers from the altar: Ann Hamilton; Sandy & Dick Rath, Susan Reese, Celeste Stadler, Fred Ganglehoff, Darian Hayhurst, Reagan Cutich; Henry Alberts; Bryan Competiello; Barb & Dave Gray; Doug Niessen; Joyce Magamoll, Carlton Hauser; Carol Annis; Jane Schamens; Sandy Kimpel; Michael Pindell; Linnea Saputo; Beth Houtz;

We pray for Friends, Relatives & Neighbors: Jamie (Amy Foley's older sister); Evelyn (Cathy Burnside's friend); Kathy Lindgren (Liz Weiss' sister); Laura Moore O'Connell Hawie; Roman & Maxine Dotson (Danielle Disimile's mom & step father); Babs [Robin MacBlane's friend]; Rachel Barkley (a St. John Alumni); Bob Fosler (Barbara's husband); Dylan (Suzette Brower's cousin); Lindsey (Dennis & Connie Dail's granddaughter); Lew & Sharon Besch (Stephen Hickman's mom); David & his Mom (Lilly Yocum's nephew & sister); Dora (Lilly Yocum's friend); Barbara (Rebecca Reines' sister); Melody Stofel (MaryJane Stofel's niece); Scott (Cathy Burnside's son); David (Lilly Yocum's nephew); Kimary (Linda Bartilomi's friend); Evelyn Diaz (Cathy Burnside's friend); Gail (Lilly Yocum's neighbor); Jim George (friend of Robin MacBlane); Pastor Jeff Moore; Stan & Vi Schank's granddaughter; Lou Neallis' brother; Cindy Lynn Tomich's sister; Asher Cox born premature; Midge & Wendy battling cancer; Tambry Green's husband; Teresa & Caroline (sisters-neighbors of Shelby); Celeste Stadler; Mike Pindell; Lee Saputo; Kim Dianne Wakeland's daughter; Judy Smith -Kris Strouse relative; Debbie Thompson; Maureen—Liz Weiss' friend; Robbie—Bev Seipp's son; Don & Linda S. members at Forest Lutheran; Alexis, 21;

### For those families who have lost a loved one:

- Family of Sally Rodgers who went home 11/07
- Family of Evelyn Howell who went home 11/11

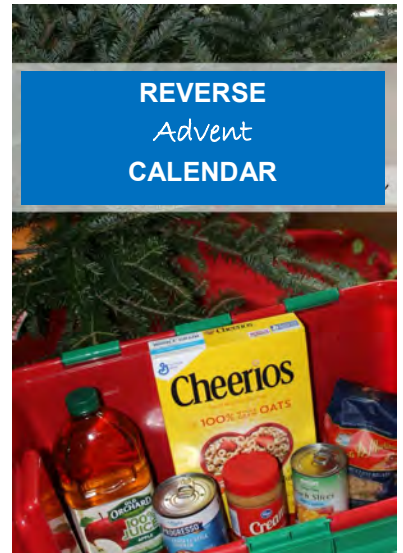


## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CAMELOT RESIDENTS

We will once again provide Christmas gifts for the residents of Camelot Chateau (next to church) who don't have family or friends to share gifts with them. The first weekend in December there will be tags for 35 residents on the angel tree. Take a tag and be sure to give your name and the resident's information to Anette. Thank you for adding joy to the residents who otherwise would not receive a Christmas gift. Wrapped gifts need to be returned ***no later than Wednesday, December 11.***

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day of advent, collect the item listed on the calendar in this newsletter. It is listed in red on the bottom of each date. **Bring them in weekly** to the service you normally attend. We will have a friendly competition between the three different services. The food will then be donated to local food banks. The real winners are those who need the food banks to provide nourishment to them and their families, especially during this Christmas season.



***"We saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Matthew 2: 2b***

**December 2019**

Who or what did you follow to find Jesus and worship Him? Some of us raised in church were led and mentored by our parents, pastors, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, and friends. Others who came to Christ separate from a church experience came because someone shared the Good News with them and lived out their lives like Christ's example. The Magi followed the Star in the East. The shepherds were told the Good News by angels. In so many ways, the Word of God, Jesus Christ was introduced to God's people everywhere and the church began. We, too, are to share the Good News and there is no better time than Christmas.

As North Marion Ministries shares food and gifts with our families and individuals, we will be sharing the Good News of Christ's birth and death and resurrection. Please pray for us as we minister. Pray for open hearts and souls. Pray for our families as they struggle to survive daily. Pray that as Paul tells us in Ephesians, we "may declare it fearlessly" as we should.

May God bless you and yours this holiday season. You are such a blessing to us and to NMM. Our St. John family is always there for us and for our flock. Your generosity is a result of God's love shining through you and blessing His needy children. May your hearts be moved and lifted up! May God's grace fill you with His joy and love! God bless and keep you always. You are so dear to us.

Much love in Christ,

Howard and Deb Heath and NMM

**NORTH MARION** Ministries

P.O. Box 12, Orange Lake, FL 32681  
(352) 591-3695 [nmarionmin@gmail.com](mailto:nmarionmin@gmail.com)





## CHRISTMAS CAROLING FOR ALL!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> - 3:15 p.m. – Camelot Chateau (next to St. John)

Come bring family and friends to join in singing classic Christmas carols... lyrics provided. We'll sing for the residents in the dining room for 30 minutes and then back to St. John for the congregational dinner! A mini bus will leave St. John at 3:00 for those who don't want to walk or park next door. *Please sign up in the narthex so enough song sheets can be printed.*



*St. John*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH OCALA

**Concert Sunday December 8th 6:00pm**

1915 SOUTHEAST LAKE WEIR AVE. OCALA FL

352-622-5564

## ANGEL TREE

Thank you for sharing your Christmas Joy with the angel tree children. Please have the wrapped gift returned to the church by Dec. 9. Just peel off the back of the angel and affix it to the gift. This ensures the tag won't fall off. Thank you for your generosity.



We are having our Angel Tree Party for 60 children in Grace Place on December 14, starting at 10:00 and ending at 1:00. We'll be hosting our children for a celebration of puppets, food, song and of course the giving of the gifts you're so generously providing.

We need volunteers Friday, December 13 at 3:00 to help set up presents in Grace Place. Also, helpers are needed at the party December 14 at 9:00am. Call Shelby Putansu at 352-351-3877 to volunteer. Thank you for making these parties possible.

~Bev Serridge



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you for your support of Operation Christmas Child this past year. We will again be collecting different items each month of the coming year. Now is a good time to watch for those "WOW" items - something that when they open the the box they go "WOW". Some suggestions are: doll, toy truck, stuffed animal, soccer ball (be sure to include a manual air pump), musical instrument (such as recorder or harmonica), jump rope, etc. Just remember they must fit in the shoebox. You can start bringing your "WOW" items in January. You can go to the Operation Christmas Child website for more suggestions. There are also many suggestions on Pinterest for gift ideas.





# ***“Congregational Christmas Dinner”***

## ***Sunday, December 8th - 4:00 PM***

**Hosted by the LLL, LWML, and Fellowship Committee**



**Meat and drinks to be provided**

**Veggie, Salad, Desserts - sign up to bring your favorites**

**Sign-up required in advance**

**Bring your gift of non-perishables for our food drive.**

*(requested—2 items per person attending—gift cards also welcome)*

**Christmas Concert - Eirinn Abu -  
in the Sanctuary after dinner at 6:00 pm**

Saxophonist, Eirinn Abu (formerly of the Miami Sound Machine) shares the joyful songs of the season. There will be a love offering. Invite your friends to join you.

**Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex and Grace Place**

**Food Drive will help replenish North Marion Ministries food pantry**

### **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT MEETINGS**



The Ministry Council has made the final revisions to the Constitution. Pursuant to the Constitution, the document was mailed to every household of the congregation. The schedule of congregational meetings for discussion of the draft are as follows:

Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary

Sunday, January 5, 2020 at 12:00 pm in the sanctuary

Voting on the amendments will be held at a congregational meeting set for Sunday, January 12, 2020 in between the two services in the sanctuary. Passage of the proposal will require approval of 2/3 of the voter's present at the meeting. A quorum consisting of 25% of voting members must be present at this meeting. Sunday, February 2, 2020 is set for the election and semiannual meeting of the congregation.

### **BLESSED AND GRATEFUL!**

Dear fellow St John members, THANK YOU! For your support with this year's craft show. With your help it was a great success. Our customers had a great time walking around shopping and visiting. Our crafters spent the day with big smiles on their faces. Those who stopped at the Craft Cafe were able to taste the delicious chicken salad sandwich or Chicago hot dog. Bake sale shoppers left with yummy treats.

We are so very proud of our success and hope to be able to serve you once again next year, November 7th. Want to join our group, just ask any one of our many crafters or call me Cathy Burnside, 954 410-9746 (cell). We would love for you to be a part of this wonderful project.

PS - Be sure to mark down on your calendar, **May 2nd, 2020** ; Our next endeavor is **"Dazzle, Divas, and Desserts"**, a pre-loved jewelry party. Hope to see you there!

God Bless all,  
Cathy Burnside, Craft Show Chairman



SAT.	USHERS	READERS	SUN.	USHERS	READERS
11/30	Goheen Family	Sally Niessen	12/1	Janet Trexler, Bob Wagner, Phil Roth	Tom Hamilton
12/7	Weiss Family	David Goheen	12/8	Barb Fosler, Dan & Cathy Burnside	Sally Mennicke
12/14	Freeman & Zeedyk		12/15	Goodson Family	David & Judy Wright
12/21	Strouse Family	Jon Dean & Sarah Rummel	12/22	Tom & Sue Olson, Strange Family	Linda Bertolami
12/28	Gunn Family	Larry & Ruth Dexheimer	12/29	9:30am Combined Service	Bob Mikler

## December Altar Guild Volunteers:

Dianne Wakeland  
Becky Reines  
Sue Dean

	SERVICE	USHERS	READERS
12/24	5:30pm Christmas Eve	Tom & Sue Olson, Ann Schiff, Claudia Katko	
12/24	7:00pm Christmas Eve	Zellak Family	
12/25	9:00am Christmas Day		Sally Mennicke

## CHURCH DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

On Wednesday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> we emailed a Compressed PDF document (St. John Lutheran Church Directory - with family pictures - *if we have one*) to all those households and spouses with an email address on file. The purpose is for each family to review the information that we have compiled in order to give every family an opportunity to update their family information (best email addresses, updated cell phone numbers, new or very recent family photo of entire family, wedding anniversary dates, etc.).



We previously emailed out this directory and have since updated a number of families. Now, we would like to have every family double check your information to make sure we have the latest correct information. Also, we have now **compressed** the file so that most everyone can receive the PDF document since the size has been reduced by more than 2/3 the size of the original file. Also, if you do not already have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer you are able to download a **FREE** copy by going to this link: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

If you still have questions or concerns about this document, you are welcome to call the church office for assistance. We want everyone to know that this document is for our personal use as a family directory – not a business contact list.

So, why are we sending the directory out in a digital format? The answer is that we are trying to be good stewards of our resources since a paper copy is 15 pages and in color toner which would **significantly** increase our printing budget (290 + households). Therefore, please save this document to your home computer so you can refer to it when trying to communicate with other members of our church family.

Finally, we will continue to update and share as the updated information comes in, at least once a quarter throughout the calendar year.

### December Birthdays

12/01 Mr. Carl Hauser  
12/01 Mrs. Bobbi Lockley  
12/02 Lilly Fontaine  
12/02 Mr. David Singh  
12/04 Mr. Ralph Jones  
12/05 Mrs. Judy Meunier  
12/07 Lainey Greene  
12/09 Cash Liles  
12/10 DVM Aric Adams  
12/10 Mrs. Karla Cavalier  
12/11 Miss Bella Cole  
12/11 Mr. Wally Quinones  
12/11 Mrs. Katie Werneth  
12/11 Mrs. Dottie Williams  
12/14 Cody Cooper

12/14 Mrs. Kitty Janousky  
12/14 Mrs. Nicole Anderson  
12/16 Mr. Bill Yocum  
12/17 Mr. Robert Harrison  
12/17 Mrs. Lou Nealis  
12/17 Mr. Landon Pindell  
12/20 Ms. Claudia Katko  
12/20 Ms. Candy Permann  
12/21 Mrs. Judy Wright  
12/22 Mr. Eddie Todd  
12/23 Mrs. Susan Liebelt  
12/23 Meliah Quinones  
12/23 Anderson Strange  
12/25 Grace Adams  
12/25 Ms. Marguerite Baxter  
12/27 Mrs. Carole Mikler

12/28 Mr. Aaron Strange  
12/29 Mr. Frank Brennan  
12/29 Mrs. Ginny Faw  
12/29 Mr. Dave Goheen  
12/29 Mr. Ted Lineberger  
12/31 Henry Galavis

### December Anniversaries

12/10 Mr./Mrs. Brett Higginbotham  
12/11 Mr./Mrs. Aaron Levy  
12/17 Mr./Mrs. Stan Schank  
12/20 Mr./Mrs. Jon Dean  
12/27 Mr./Mrs. Larry Dexheimer  
12/28 Mr./Mrs. Brian Smallwood  
12/30 Mr./Mrs. Bryan Baker  
12/30 Mr./Mrs. Brent Griffin  
12/31 Mr./Mrs. Wally Quinones



# St. John Lutheran Church and School Activities

## December 2019

**BLUE**—GRACE PLACE, **BLUE**—COC—Rm. 24, **ORANGE**—CLASSROOMS,  
**PURPLE**— GYMNASIUM, **GREEN**—OFF CAMPUS, **PINK**—AFTERCARE BLDG., **BROWN**—FAMILY LIFE CENTER (FLC),  
**RED**—SANCTUARY (**BLACK** times are before noon & **RED** times are afternoon)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 0830 Blended Worship 0945 SS/YUP/ABC Hour 1045 The Table Worship w/Comm.  <b>BOX OF CEREAL</b>	<b>2</b> 0630 Men's Bible Study 1030 Bible Study 0245 Mission Possible  <b>PEANUT BUTTER</b>	<b>3</b> 0630 Men's Bible Class 1230 Worship Planning 0500 Handbell Practice 0530 Elders Meeting 0700 Choir Practice 0700 Women Bible Study  <b>STUFFING MIX</b>	<b>4</b> 0400 Advent Worship 0500 Soup Supper 0630 Advent Concert - St. John Middle School 0730 The Table Practice  <b>BOXED POTATOES</b>	<b>5</b> PRAYER VIGIL 0430 Women's Bible Study 0630 ABC—N. Marion  <b>MACARONI AND CHEESE</b>	<b>6</b>      <b>CANNED FRUIT</b>	<b>7</b> 0500 Bible Study 0600 Blended Worship w/Comm.  <b>CANNED TOMATOES</b>
<b>8</b> 0830 Blended Worship w/C 0945 SS/YUP/ABC Hour 1045 The Table Worship 0300 Congregational Mtg. 0315 Caroling @ Camelot 0400 Congregational Dinner 0600 Elfrinn Abu Concert <b>CANNED TUNA</b>	<b>9</b> 0630 Men's Bible Study 1030 Bible Study  <b>DESSERT MIX</b>	<b>10</b> 0630 Men's Bible Class 1230 Worship Planning 0500 Handbell Practice 0700 Choir Practice 0700 Women's Bible Study  <b>JAR OF APPLESAUCE</b>	<b>11</b> 0400 Advent Worship 0500 Soup Supper 0630 Advent Concert - St. John Elementary School 0730 The Table Practice  <b>CANNED SWEET POTATOES</b>	<b>12</b> 0430 Women's Bible Study 0630 ABC—N. Marion 0630 Women's Advent Event with Wendysue Fluegge  <b>CRANBERRY SAUCE</b>	<b>13</b> 0630 4th & 5th grade Christmas Party  <b>CANNED BEANS</b>	<b>14</b> 1000 Angel Tree Party 0500 Bible Study 0600 Blended Worship  <b>BOX OF CRACKERS</b>
<b>15</b> 0830 Blended Worship 0945 SS/YUP/ABC Hour 1045 The Table Service w/Comm. 11:45 Youth Christmas Party 0500 Interfaith Meal <b>PACKAGE OF RICE</b>	<b>16</b> 0630 Men's Bible Study 1030 Bible Study 0630 Ministry Council  <b>PACKAGE OF OATMEAL</b>	<b>17</b> 0630 Men's Bible Class. 1230 Worship Planning 0500 Handbell Practice 0700 Choir Practice 0700 Women's Bible Study  <b>PACKAGE PASTA</b>	<b>18</b> 0400 Advent Worship 0500 Soup Supper 0630 Advent Concert - St. John Choir, Handbells, and Praise Group 0730 The Table Practice  <b>SPAGHETTI SAUCE</b>	<b>19</b> 0430 Women's Study 0630 ABC—N. Marion  <b>CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP</b>	<b>20</b>      <b>TOMATO SOUP</b>	<b>21</b> 0500 Bible Study 0600 Blended Worship w/Comm.  <b>CAN CORN</b>
<b>22</b> 0830 Blended Worship w/Comm. 0945 SS/YUP/ABC Hour 1045 Jingle Jam Family Interactive Service  <b>CAN MIXED VEGETABLES</b>	<b>23</b>     <b>CAN CARROTS</b>	<b>24</b> 0400 Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service 0630 Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service  <b>CAN GREEN BEANS</b>	<b>25</b> 0900 Christmas Day Service w/Comm.   	<b>26</b> 0430 Women's Study 0630 ABC—N. Marion  	<b>27</b>     	<b>28</b> 0500 Bible Study 0600 Blended Worship 
<b>29</b> 0930 Combined Worship 1045 Fellowship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 0630 New Year's Eve Worship	<b>REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR:</b> Bring the item in red at the bottom of each date weekly to the service you attend. There will be a friendly competition between services! Food will be donated to area food banks.			

## *Saint John - "Words in Action" —St. John Lutheran Church & School*

*1915 SE Lake Weir Ave, Ocala, FL 34471*

*'Shepherding Individuals into the Family of Christ where each will embrace the Spirit of our Risen Lord, and grow into the fullness of Christ through Word and Sacrament, fellowship, education and service.'*



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**Vanessa Baxley—Admissions/Relations**  
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**Rev. Jeff Shanks - Sr. Pastor**  
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**Jim Webb — Care & Outreach Dir.**  
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**Tim Handrick - DCE-Youth**  
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**Anette Shanks — Family Life Dir.**  
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**Elizabeth Smallwood — Music Dir.**  
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**Christina Asleson — Choir Dir.**  
[christy.asleson@stjohnocala.org](mailto:christy.asleson@stjohnocala.org)

### **Ministry Council**

Mr. Eric Williams (Pres.)	(352) 266-3354
Mr. Aaron Levy (V. Pres.)	(352) 299-6465
Mrs. Sue Dean (Sec.)	(352) 351-9656
Mr. John Cutich (Treas.)	(239) 565-6737
Mrs. Lindsey Myers (Christ. Ed.)	(954) 655-0838
Mr. Bob Mikler (Spirit Life/Wshp)	(352) 694-1514
Mr. Jim Cato (Phy./Prop.)	(352) 362-8507
Mr. Mark Asleson (Ad Hoc)	(352) 598-7764
Mrs. Melissa Goodson (Ad Hoc)	(352) 537-9581

### **Elders**

Mr. Henry Alberts	854-5507
Mr. Justin Cavalier	895-3071
Mr. Dennis Dail	566-6732
Mr. Don Kaufman	286-9516
Mr. Steve Mennicke (Chair.)	620-4733
Mr. Bob Mikler	875-8809
Mr. Bill Reese	895-1910
Mr. Jeff Reines (Sec.)	622-7092
Mr. Ed Todd	789-4447
Mr. John Westol	216-3836

*Our monthly Newsletter deadline is 4:00 pm on the Wednesday after the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please submit your article (s) in Microsoft WORD, on a CD or media stick; or E-mail your article to [church.office@stjohnocala.org](mailto:church.office@stjohnocala.org)*

### **Monthly News Letter in *Living Color*:**

We include our Newsletter on our St. John Lutheran Website: [www.stjohnocalachurch.org](http://www.stjohnocalachurch.org) for all to view. Simply log on the internet and go to our website, click on the church button, then the Member button which opens the page to show top line —Newsletter. Now you can read or print any page you choose.