

OUR LIFE TOGETHER FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2011

SUN.	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:15 AM	Learning Hour-Children/Adult
	4:00 PM	Children's Christmas Program
MON.		Visionotes Due
TUES.	8:00 AM	Men's Group/Quilting Ladies
	7:00 PM	AA
WED.	8:00 AM	Bible Study at St. John's Chapel
	2:45 PM	Birthday Bingo at the Manor
	6:00 PM	Confirmation
	7:00 PM	Advent Midweek Worship and Healing Service
	7:30 PM	Sweet Wednesdays for High School Youth
THURS.	2:30 PM	Girl Scout Troop 3385
FRI.	9:00 AM	Wedding Rehearsal
	5:00 PM	Wedding (Elmer & Sherman)
SAT.	3:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
	8:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
SUN.	9:00 AM	Christmas Day Festival Worship

**Parish Office**  
608.882.4044  
Monday thru Thursday  
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Saint John's Lutheran Church**  
*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*  
312 S. Third Street, Evansville, Wisconsin 53536

<p><b>Congregation Council</b></p> <p><b>Ken Reese, President</b>  <b>Steve Ver Kuilen, Vice-President, Life and Growth</b>  <b>Julie Creek-Hessler, Treasurer, Parish Education</b>  <b>Eileen Meredith, Secretary, Memorials</b>  <b>Bob Johnson, Building &amp; Grounds</b>  <b>Andy Lehman, Youth Ministry</b>  <b>Kristian Finfrock, Stewardship</b>  <b>David Stadt, Fellowship</b>  <b>Ken Johnson, Social Concerns</b>  <b>Janice Schuh, Mutual Ministry</b>  <b>Vonnie Hatlen, Music &amp; Worship</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parish Staff</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Matthew Pooch</b> <i>Pastor</i> pastor@stjohns-lc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Deborah Fredendall</b> <i>Parish Secretary</i> secretary@stjohns-lc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shelly Andrew</b> <i>Financial Director</i> finances@stjohns-lc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Judy Bratzke</b> <i>Visionotes Editor</i> jbratzke@charter.net</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Peck and Joan Sperry</b> <i>Custodians</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Raquel Michel</b> <i>Sunday School Supt</i></p>
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**SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

EVANSVILLE, WI

The Epistle



*"Epistle" from the Greek: a message or letter, especially concerning matters of faith.*

The Weekly Parish Announcements

December 17 & 18, 2011

*Saint John's Lutheran Church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ gathering:  
To reach up in worship, To reach out in evangelism, and  
To reach within for spiritual growth.*

**Welcome, Guests, to  
St. John's Lutheran Church!**

We rejoice in your presence with us for worship and hope the experience is meaningful for you. **Help us to remember your visit by completing the black registration book at the end of your pew.** We also have a "guest book" in the narthex that we'd appreciate you signing. Please share your name with those around you and with the pastor. Whether you are here for only one service or are seeking a permanent place to worship, please feel at home among us!

*Children are encouraged to participate in worship. Should the need arise, there is a **nursery** room off the fellowship hall that is available for parents and children. Volunteers also help to staff the nursery during 9am Sunday worship. Activity Bags are available in the narthex (the gathering area) on the coat rack.*

**Children's Bulletins** are available from ushers.

**Restrooms** are located in the hallway next to the kitchen. An accessible restroom is located in the nursery just off of Fellowship Hall.

**Holy Communion**

We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, and he invites all people to his table to join the feast together. **Christ is the host of this meal, and all are welcome.** White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available on request for those who prefer. Those not prepared to receive the Sacrament may come forward for a blessing from the pastor or communion assistant. *Indicate a desire for a blessing by crossing the arms over the chest.*

In the Lutheran tradition, Holy Communion is known by many names. Among them include Sacrament of the Altar, The Eucharist, The Lord's Supper, and the Holy Meal. By whatever name is used, we believe that in this sacrament God renews our faith, forgives our sins, and fills us with the hope of life everlasting.

For news, pictures, sermons, articles, and more information, visit us online at

**www.stjohns-lc.org**

**Epistle Deadline: 8:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.**

## TODAY

### **FOURTH WEEKEND OF ADVENT**

Our four week journey of waiting and preparing for Christ's coming nears its completion as we light **four** candles on the Advent wreath. On Christmas Eve we will light the fifth candle on the wreath—the Christ candle.

### **LEARNING HOUR FOR ALL AGES —**

After sharing a time of fellowship on Sunday mornings, we jump into learning about faith and life from 10:15 to 11:15am:

- Sunday School for K-5th graders.
- Youth Group for 6th-12th graders meets in the main floor “choir room”.
- Adult Education meets in the library lounge to look at the beginning of the Gospel of Luke, and what it means for us.

\*Please note there will be no Learning Hour on December 25 and January 1. Classes will resume on January 8.

**FLOWERS BENEATH THE CROSS** are given this weekend by Barbara Adamany in memory of her husband Nimmer. Thank you for sharing his memory with your church family.

### **WORLD HUNGER OFFERING THIS WEEKEND**

Consider sharing a financial gift with those in need. Hunger is the world's No. 1 health risk, killing more people every year than other diseases combined. Thanks for your thoughtful generosity!

## SERVING US IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

<b>Accompanists:</b>	Melanie Greenleaf, Sharon Magee
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Stephanie Kvalheim
<b>Readers:</b>	Cheryl Hanson, Carol Buss
<b>Communion Servers:</b>	Nicole Forster, Eric Peterson
<b>Greeters:</b>	Pam and Tonto Abey, Gene and Sue Miller
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Celine Carlson, Aleeyah Gober
<b>Usher Team:</b>	Gary Hoff's Team
<b>Sound:</b>	Steve VerKuilen
<b>Projectionist:</b>	Dan Drake
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Sue Miller, Boni Paugel
<b>Worship Steward:</b>	Carolyn Butts
<b>Nursery:</b>	Rachael Bennett, Logan Wardwell
<b>Advent Lighting:</b>	Jeff and Sue Farnsworth, Kevin and Raquel Michel and family

## THIS WEEK

### **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**December 24— 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.**  
Candlelight Service with children's message at all.  
**December 25—9:00 am** Festival Christmas Day Service with special Cantata Choir.

### **ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

On Sunday, December 18 at 4:00pm, the children will present their annual Christmas Program in the sanctuary. The whole community is invited. Plan to stay for refreshments after the program. Come hear the sacred story and enjoy the music of our youngest saints.

### **MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP 7:00PM**

This is a perfect time to be still and breathe deeply, to pray and to sing. Join in for a half hour worship and healing service at 7:00pm on December 21. Advent is a time of preparing for the coming of Christ. We'll light candles and wait for Christ together.

### **VISIONOTES DUE DECEMBER 19**

Articles for the January Visionotes newsletter are due to the church office on Monday. Thank you!

### **CHRIST IN OUR HOME**

This daily devotional resource is a great way to read the Scriptures and grow in faith. The new edition is available for you at the welcome station in the gathering area. Whether by yourself during a quiet moment or for use with your family, let these one-page readings be a guide for our prayer and reflection.

## LIFE TOGETHER

### **YOUTH SPONSORSHIPS TO NEW ORLEANS**

Eleven youth and two adults are attending the National Youth Gathering in July 2012! You are invited to partner with and sponsor the youth with prayers and finances. Together let's walk alongside our youth as they prepare to serve and grow in faith. See the welcome desk for forms or talk to Becca Pook.

### **BIRTHDAY BINGO AT MANOR DECEMBER 21**

Spread holiday cheer with our community's elderly residents at the manor. St. John's needs to supply four cakes, one angel food cake, and one decorated cake. Please call the church office if you can supply at least one of the cakes or help the day of the party.

### **BAKERS AND HOSTS NEEDED**

Every Sunday morning after worship we enjoy a time of conversation over refreshments. This fellowship fuels our bodies and our spirits. Please consider signing up for one Sunday to donate pastries and serve. We would like a team of three for each Sunday. If you add your name, we'll help recruit your team and give you a reminder. See the calendars posted on the kiosk in the narthex (gathering area).

### **SKAALEN NORWEIGN PASTRIES**

Donations of home-made Norwegian pastries are needed for their special Christmas Eve dinner. Pastries are needed at Skaalen by December 23.

**Thank you to St. John's family and friends** for remembering us with cards, good wishes, and gifts upon the celebration of our 50th Wedding anniversary. God has been very good to us all these years and we count our many blessings. The good people at St. John's only strengthen our faith that when God is in our lives, life is good.  
Darlene and Maynerd Rauk

## IN OUR PRAYERS

### **HOSPITAL VISIT AND PRAYER LIST**

If you or your family member is in the hospital, or planning to be in the hospital, please notify the church office. Let us know also if you or someone you know is especially in need of prayer.

### **St. John's Members**

Ron Carlsen Al Hipke

### **Friends**

Neil Kuenzli Julee Devlin  
Claire Renz David Steifner  
Lori Mortensen Orlo Espelend  
Randy Rinehart Pat Schmidt  
Bennett Barelmann Jim Jones  
Esther Brodsky Mutter Pat Johnson  
Larry Wickersham Gorden Whipple

### **Serving Our Country**

Jesse Rice, Curtis Langer, Joe Hunt,  
JJ Boley, Holdin Worley, Eric Carlson,  
John Garbrecht, Jake Reynolds

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**Attendance:** December 10 & 11 = 312

### **STEWARDSHIP FOCUS**

Consider sharing your financial offering to St. John's through electronic funds transfer Simply Giving. It's easy to set up, and it helps keep your commitment to generosity. Forms are in the wall display case.

### **ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING**

Buy a pig for \$30, or something else...for someone who really needs it. The ELCA Good Gifts catalog offers this and many gift opportunities that make a big difference. It's a creative way to give in someone's honor. Pick up your catalog in the gathering area.

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY** is coming to St. John's. Thursday, January 19, 2012, 7:00 pm will be a free preview night to this life-changing 13-week course.