

Saint John's

Lutheran Church

THE EAGLE

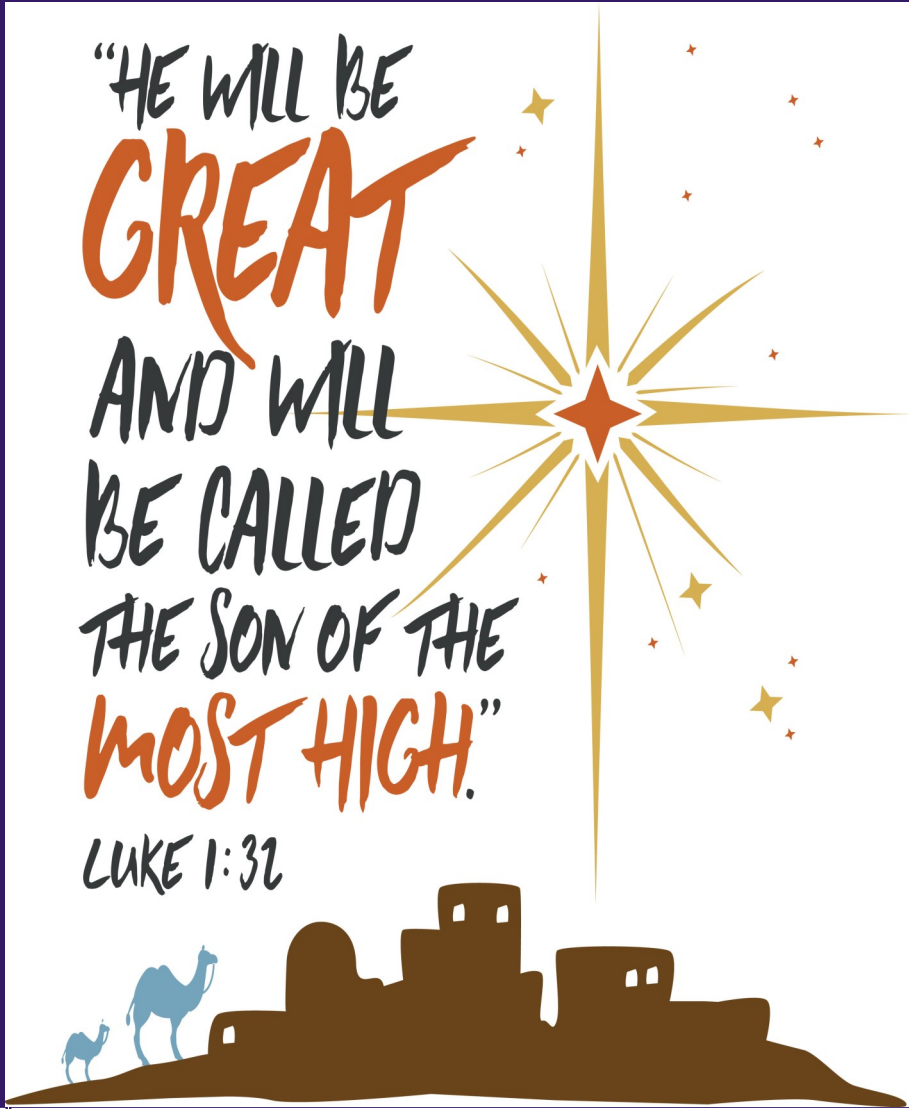
December 2017

In this Issue

Table of Contents

Pastor 's Greeting	2
Up Coming Events	3
Children's Ministry	4
Youth Group	5
Holiday Deadline.....	6
Worship Schedule	6
Poinsettiasd.....	7
Alternative Giving.....	8
Make a Difference.....	9
Coastal Thrivers.....	10
Working Together.....	11
Spirited 50's.....	12
Women's Ministry	13
Council President.....	14
Church Highlights	15
Birthdays & Anniv.....	16
Prayers.....	16
Staff.....	17

"HE WILL BE
GREAT
AND WILL
BE CALLED
THE SON OF THE
MOST HIGH."
LUKE 1:32



Pastor's Page

Greeting Favored Ones, the Lord is with you!

The angel Gabriel gave this greeting to Mary with the big news of her new addition. Talk about massive change! He called her, "favored one." That's certainly what we are too. God's favor is poured out on us with the birth of Jesus. The good news of this great joy that is for all the people.

Christmas is a special time of year. You'll see in the rest of this month's newsletter, that we have a lot of joyful happenings going on. I hope you'll put on your jingle bells and ugly Christmas sweaters and join in.

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, so you can sleep in and join us for one of two Christmas Eve Worship Gatherings. At 4pm, the band will lead us in Christmas carols. The Bells will ring. This upbeat gathering will be great for kids of all ages. At 6pm, we'll enjoy organ led carols and our Chancel Choir. We'll have candlelight communion at both gatherings. It will be a special night.

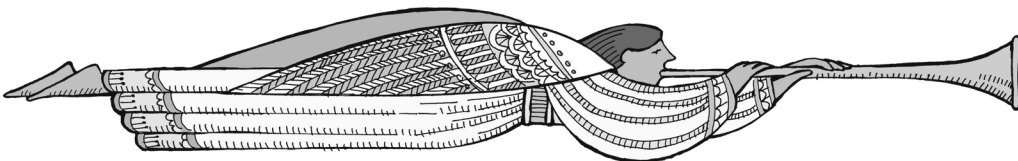
Christmas Eve is also a great time to invite a friend or neighbor or coworker. Will you begin praying about who you might share these special gatherings with? This time of year, people seem more open to God and his church. Let's welcome some new folks into the Family. We'll have a special postcard you can use.

You'll note there's a bunch of combined Sunday gatherings at 10 am. We've got the KidsChurch Emoji Christmas on the 10th, then the Choir Cantata on the 17th. These single service times are a great way to connect with people you don't often see. Speaking of connecting, don't miss our Advent Night on Sunday, December 3rd. It's going to be a joy to eat together and make crafts for our homebound members with a special time of singing around the Christmas tree in the Commons.

Finally, don't miss our December 17th Congregational Meeting. We'll sort out the 2018 budget. The week before, on December 10th, we'll have Budget forum if you have any questions. The proposed budget will be available on Sunday, December 3rd.

It's a packed month. So glad we get to be family. God is good.

Merry Christmas,
Greg



Up Coming Events

Come One, Come All to Advent Night

Sunday, December 3rd

5:00-7:00 p.m. Ouimette Hall

(3:00 pm come early and help decorate the Commons)

Dinner starts at 5:00 p.m.

Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Country Beans, Coleslaw & Caesar Salad

Advent Workshop Stations

Wooden Crate building for Shut-in Boxes

Cookie Baking in the Kitchen

Beaded Ornaments for Shut-in Boxes

Card Making for Shut-in Boxes

Traditional Lefse and Krumkake

Christmas Carol Singing in the Commons

Decorate our Family Christmas Tree, so bring a family ornament

Hot Cocoa, Hot Apple Cider and Cookies



KidsChurch



Emoji Christmas coming Sunday, December 10th
Kids in 1st-6th grade (along with our secondary helpers!) we only have two rehearsals to go **Saturday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am Dec 2, and Dec 9.** Please have long black pants and a long sleeve black shirt to wear under your costume.

Beanie Baby Delivery - Saturday, December 2nd

Thank you so much for your donations of beanie babies. If you would like to help us with delivery, please join us for a quick trip to A.G. Hospital following play rehearsal on Saturday December 2nd. We'll head over after rehearsal and should be done by 11:15 am. Because it is a hospital, we need at least one parent from each family to help chaperone and please make sure you and your child are in good health so we keep the germs out! A special thanks to Thrivent for helping us live generously and reach even more kids!

Advent Night - Sunday December 3rd 5-7 pm

Fun for the whole family! Join us for dinner, crafts, putting care packages together for our homebound members, and singing around the Christmas tree. Sign up in the commons to help and be sure to see the full article on page 3 for more details.

Christmas Caroling - Sunday December 10th @ 5 pm

Kids, parents, youth, friends and neighbors meet at Wyndham Residence retirement home: 222 S. Elm Street in A.G.

After caroling join us at The Slice Pizza for fellowship and dinner. Please bring money for dinner. It will be a pizza upon pizza kind of day!



Kids Church Families, You're Invited!

Ms. Dawn and Ms. Rena's last KidsChurch lesson of the Pizza Party theme will be on **Sunday, December 10th.** It happens to fall on the same day as the KidsChurch Christmas Program. Since there will not be class that day we thought that we could have the **Pizza Party following the Children's Program.** We hope that you and your child can stay after to enjoy some Pizza and Fellowship!.



Blessings,
Ms. Dawn and Ms. Rena

A friend loves at all times, They are there to help when trouble comes....Proverbs 17:17

Youth Group News

College Night

Every Monday 6 pm - 9 pm

6 pm - 7 pm: Dinner

7 pm - 9 pm: Bible Study & Games

Youth Night

Every Sunday 6 pm - 8 pm

6 pm - 7 pm: Dinner

7 pm - 8 pm: Bible Study & Games

December is almost upon us, so that means 2017 is nearly over, but we have several events at Saint John's before we can welcome the New Year.

Make sure **Advent Night December 3rd 5pm-7pm** and the **Children's Emoji Christmas Play on December 10th at 10am** are on your calendars.

On December 10th our Youth and Families have the opportunity to go **Caroling at Wyndham Residence at 5pm**. After we make a joyful noise everyone is invited to have dinner together at The Slice Pizza and Games on Grand Ave next to Smart & Final.

Our next **Game Night** is on **December 8th from 6-9 pm**. These are tons of fun and open to everyone from 7th grade up to college.

Our teens and college students will have their own **Christmas Party on Sunday December 17th** at our normal Youth Night time. We'll do a White Elephant Gift Exchange and celebrate Christmas together.

To RSVP, Volunteer or Ask Questions for any Youth Event
Contact Rob Mees at rob@saintjohnsag.com



December Worship Schedule

Dec. 3 9:30 am Contemporary – 11:00 a.m. Traditional ~Holy Communion
Budgets available in Commons

Dec. 10 one Gathering at 10:00 am KidsChurch Emoji Christmas Pageant
Congregational Budget Forum after Worship

Dec. 17 one Gathering at 10:00 am Holy Communion
Combined Choirs Christmas Cantata
All-Congregational Meeting following Worship

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
4:00 pm – Contemporary
6:00 pm – Traditional

Dec. 25 Christmas Day – No Worship Gathering

Dec. 31 - one Gathering at 10:00 a.m. Annual Carol Sing Traditional



Holiday Deadlines

- ♦ January Newsletter Deadline December 14 8:30am
- ♦ Annual Report Deadline December 15
- ♦ Christmas Eve Bulletin Information December 18 8:30 am
- ♦ December 31 Bulletin Information December 18 8:30 am
- ♦ Please try to get your information & articles in early; Due to our holiday schedule we are unable to make exceptions.

Office Closed For Holidays
December 22– January 1, 2017

Just a reminder that the Annual Report Deadline is sneaking up on us. This year's deadline is December 15, 2017. Please keep your article to 1 page. (Type-written if possible or you can email your report to saintjohnsag@hotmail.com) We have extra copies of last year's Annual Report in the office in case you would like a copy to help you prepare this year's report. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email.



**POINSETTIAS
FOR THE SANCTUARY DURING
THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

Please help decorate the Sanctuary during our Christmas Season by donating:
(check one)

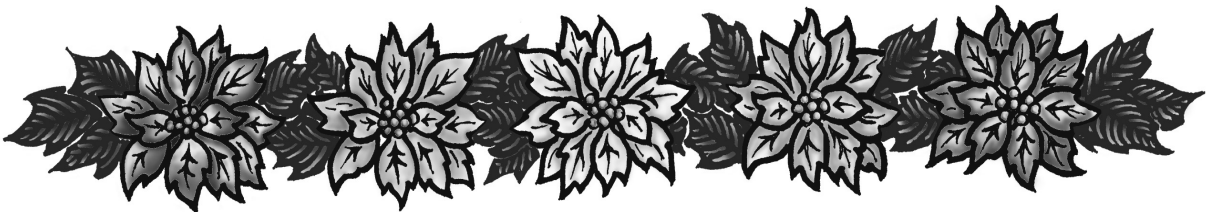
- ☐ In Memory of a loved one
- ☐ Celebrating
- ☐ In Honor of a Special Person

Name _____

We will print the names on an insert in the December 24th Bulletin.

Fill in the blanks below and include with your special offering of \$7.00 marked
"Poinsettias." Contribution # _____

Please return by Sunday, Dec. 10th, 2017



Alternative Gift Giving

Alternative gift giving for Christmas is coming to Saint John's on Sunday December 3rd. Bring Cash, Bring your checkbooks, Be Ready.

Want a great Christmas Gift treat that will also help your loved ones to think beyond their own Christmas tree this year? At the Alternative Gift Giving Fair which will be held before, after, and between our two gatherings on December 3rd, you will have a chance to purchase such a meaningful gift. Donate to a non-profit in the name of someone on your Christmas list in lieu of a more traditional gift.

Who and What Are The Non-Profits That Will Be Represented

Heifer International This organization has worked to bring help, healing, and hope to millions of impoverished families worldwide. With help from donors, Heifer International has worked directly and indirectly in more than 30 countries where hunger and despair once prevailed. What could be a better gift than to donate a chick, or a goat to feed a family? How about a dairy cow which can produce up to 4 gallons of milk a day---enough for a family to drink and share with their neighbors.

Zozu Project Our local non-profit started by Mick and Elaine Lebens to end poverty in the village of Arua, Uganda. Starting with a bore hole water well and furnishings for Solid Rock Christian School, Saint John's has partnered with Zozu to provide clean water, and an education for the children in this small African community. The word "Zozu" means thrive in the local tribal language and we have been instrumental in helping these children thrive through our donations and student sponsorship program which pays for all school expenses including 2 meals a day for just \$35.00/month. Classroom furniture and sponsorships are needed to be ready for the start of the new school year in February, 2018.

Homeless Coalition's Showers for the People Program The Homeless Coalition is partnering with Lifepoint Church and Arroyo Grande Hospital to restore dignity and hope to the homeless in our County by providing portable showers and clean clothing. This project has been on our local KSBY news lately and in so many cases it restores the hope of those people who find themselves without a place to live.

Lutheran World Relief We are focusing on their irrigation project that assists farmers and farm communities in investigating and analyzing the water sources which are available to them and the capacity of these sources to provide water for irrigation over an extended period of time.

All donations to these non-profits are tax deductible, and certificates are available to indicate the name of our loved one and what is being donated in their name. Who wouldn't be excited to have a beautiful Ugandan necklace with the proceeds going to the Zozu project or the opportunity to sponsor a child for \$35.00 a month? What a joy to give an animal and provide food or milk for a community or to restore dignity to our homeless friends! Please join us on December 3rd in the commons area and do your Christmas shopping early!

Make a Difference



Five Cities Food Ministry

Bring your Contributions to the wagon in the Commons that is waiting to be filled. Call Joanne, Food Coordinator for Five Cities Food Ministry, 270-4218.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you: To Saint John's

Congregation for its support of Five Cities Christian Women's food Pantry. The final count on the canned food drive is 247 cans. Just a reminder that you do not have to wait for a special drive to help, as our food wagon is always in the commons. Thanks to Sandy Lebens, Kerry Wood and Jerry DeVos for counting and special thank you to Jerry, who delivered the cans.



People's Kitchen

Every day at noon, a meal is served indoors at Pacific Life Point Church in Grover Beach. The host church leads a worship time before the meal. Saint John's serves the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Call Linda McNair or Peggy Droste for more information.

Thrivent Action Team Grants

Do you have still a Thrivent Action Team Grant to use in 2017? If you are a Thrivent member, would you check and see if you've used all of your \$250 Action Team Grants. These little gift cards make a huge difference around Saint John's. We use them for youth and children's ministry, outreach, new members and so much more. If you would like to share one for the ministry here at Saint John's, please talk to Pastor Greg or Rob Mees. They can help you apply. It's so easy to do.

Lay Staff Christmas Bonus

Would you like to give a gift to our hard working staff? These are the people that keep our church on track and running. They all go above and beyond for our church. It would be so wonderful for us to do the same for them. Please join with me and take a pew envelope and enclose a check, some cash, some spare change... Let us show our love to them. Merry Christmas to you all!



Coastal Thrivers

*Recreational Peer Network for Altruistic Survivors:
Child Sexual Abuse & Sexual Assault*

*You Are Invited to
Coastal Thrivers 4th Benefit Dinner.*

SATURDAY, January 27th, 2017

*An Evening of Entertainment,
Information, and Fellowship*

Evening begins with a silent auction to help raise funds for Next Year's Benefit 5K Fun Run and Survivors Awareness Event in honor of Child Abuse Awareness Month. Funds raised during this dinner will cover the cost of the events: facilitating the altruistic survivor programs, recreational activities, training, and scholarships for higher learning. *This is a call to serve.* We need volunteers to help organize and serve. Please prayerfully consider sharing your gifts and talents. For more info. contact Theresa Wolfe at 805.458.6385

Website: CoastalThrivers.org Email: CoastalThrivers@gmail.com

Working Together

Dress A Girl Workshop — Our “How to Make a Dress” workshop was a success! We had 15 people show up ready to learn the process of making a dress as well as help with non-sewing jobs. There were 7 people who actually made dresses or helped to complete dresses that were in progress. Altogether we finished the day with 20 dresses! These 20 dresses will be the first group of dresses that we will be putting towards a goal of 200 dresses by June for the Zozu Project. In June, the Lebens’ will be making a trip to Uganda and will take the dresses with them. That being said, I would challenge all the folks who sew here at Saint John’s, particularly if you sponsor a child with Zozu, to make at least one dress per month for the next 6 months! The goal of 200 dresses is do-able if we all pitch in. Wouldn’t you like to see a dress that you have made on one of the girls at Solid Rock School? What a blessing that would be to both you and to the girl. Questions about this ministry? Email Pam Glenn at dressagirlagca@gmail.com . I have step by step instructions for the dress and will make sure you have the Dress A Girl Guidelines. Thanks to Cindi Wallace and Janice Goodwin for helping out.



Knit a Scarf — On Wed. Dec. 13th from 8:30 to 11:30 am, we invite knitters & those who want to learn (needles available) to come join us for a one-time annual event. We will all knit scarves for homeless folks or those just needing some extra warmth. This will be a simple garter stitch scarf. Bernat Blanket yarn is suggested and size 13 needles. The scarf should be approximately 6 inches wide and 50-60 inches long. If you are unable to come, please feel free to make a scarf or two and drop them off at the Church Office. Contact Pamela Glenn pamelaglenn@hotmail.com or Cindi Wallace cindi@saintjohnsag.com for more info. Afterwards, we will join the Women’s Ministry Luncheon at Spyglass Inn; carpooling available. Once the scarves are done, we will distribute them around town with a note card attached that says: If you are cold, Please be bold –Take this scarf; It was made just for you. Like salvation, it’s free – No strings attached. Accept it & be blessed

Spirited 50's

Saturday, December 16, 2017 6:00 pm

We thank our hosts for the November evening: the Dybdahls and Frank Drake. Anna prepared a delicious apple nut cake, and Frank furnished vanilla ice cream, and as you know the cakes coming out of Anna's kitchen are very delicious. We were also fortunate to have the Sweet Adeline Chorus group sing for us celebrating Veteran's day. What an enjoyable evening we had.

Now for December we will be meeting one week later than we normally do on **December 16 Starting at 6:00 P.M.** Our hosts for the evening will be Carolyn and Ralph Miner and Delene and Stan Keck. Louise Frye will be playing the piano and furnishing Christmas songs for back ground and to sing along with. As in the past we will play our Christmas present exchange game. So bring a \$10-\$15 gift to exchange. If you have any canned goods you would like to donate you can bring them for the pantry wagon. Please sign the sign-up sheet so our hosts can plan accordingly for the dessert. If you forget to sign the sign-up sheet please call Carolyn or Delene to let them know you are coming.

We need hosts for the months **starting in January for the year 2018.** Please let me know if you are able to host.

If You Can Host Please Let Me Know. I know you want to meet and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Christian brothers and sisters. So step forward and be a host/ hostess. Without your help we won't meet. Please think about hosting so we don't miss our opportunities to gather. The host sign-up sheet for 2018 is posted on the bulletin board, and is located adjacent to the phone in the entrance hall to the Ouimette Hall. Please either sign the Host sign up sheet or call Frank Drake . Please consider hosting twice a year, and try to limit hosts to two couples, or 4-5 people, so we'll have plenty of hosts to share the fun time.

We have posted several suggested activities on the bulletin board so the hosts would have some type of activity to choose from if they did not have one they would like to present. You'll find the suggested activity list posted in our area. If you cannot make a decision as to what the program will be, ask Frank Drake for help.

Remember, there really isn't anyone too young or too old to join us and enjoy the fellowship period we have together. If you have not attended our gatherings you do not know what you have missed. It's light and fun time. Come and find out for yourself.

In HIS Service, FRANK DRAKE



Women's Ministry



MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Women's Ministry
of Saint John's Lutheran Church.

Please join the ladies for our fun and traditional luncheon at the Spy Glass Restaurant in Shell Beach at 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, December 13. We will have a couple of games preceding the Lunch.

Musical entertainment will feature the Celebration Chorus, arranged by member Shar TerBorch. The cost is \$22.00 per person, including the tax and gratuity.

Menu items include Cobb salad, Lobster-shrimp Tacos (gluten free), Chicken Quesadilla, and a Club Sandwich (new item). Cookies and beverages are included.

Look for the sign-up sheets in the Sunday bulletins. You may also call Louise or Rena .

Thank you from the Board of Directors:
Louise Frye, Ethel Lenz, Roseann Carroll, and Rena Weiger

Message From The Council President

SERVICE AND OWNERSHIP

We are coming to the end of another year. Many if not all of you will be thinking of the upcoming holiday season both with your immediate family and your church family. It is what we as families do during this joyous celebration of Christ's birth. Also coming up at this time is our congregational meeting. The first half concerns approving a budget for fiscal year 2018. This meeting will occur in December. The second half will occur in January. At this second half of the meeting we have the reports of the various standing committees and select slates of candidates to serve on council and the nominating committee.

I would first like to discuss the purpose of the first session which is the approval of an operating budget. A budget is nothing more than an agreed upon guide as to how we allocate our financial resources. Because the budget affects all members of the congregation, it must be approved by the congregation. There have been years when we have agreed to a budget that is balanced, i.e. expected income meets expected expenses. Other years we have budgets that have a built in deficit i.e. challenge factor. Either type has its advantages and disadvantages. However, once we approve a budget, it is our responsibility to make sure we meet the goals it outlines. That means we all take possession of the budget and make sure it succeeds. The budget that will be presented to us this year will be challenging but realistic. It will be our budget, and we will be responsible for making sure it succeeds. It is, therefore, incumbent on us as members of this congregation to make a real effort to block out enough time to study it **AND** attend the meeting to vote on it. It is not a done deal until we vote it so.

The second part of the meeting that occurs in January is no less important to the health of our congregation. We review the reports of the standing committees. We elect council members and a nominating committee from those who have agreed to serve. It is to this latter detail that I wish to address you. This is my third stint as a council member. I cannot say all those years were fun. But, they all were satisfying. I daresay that if you ask most who have served in this position how they felt about their service they would say it was gratifying. It is important that all aspects of the congregation be represented (young, old, single, married, male and female.) At this point in my essay I would have a tendency to be somewhat of a scold because historically so many have said no to service on council. I will resist that tendency. Serving on council is a team effort. It is the place where direction is given to meet God's will for our church. There is no pre-requisite in giving input and sharing ideas. The only requirement is about one hour a month. The nominating committee will call some of you at the end of this year and ask if you would be willing to serve on council. I would ask that you be willing, yes even enthusiastic, to have your name added to the slate.

This is your church. Study and approve a budget you can support. When called to service prayerfully consider, and then you might just stand up and enthusiastically say "Yes, I will!"

Godspeed, Tim

Church Highlights



Budget Meeting

Annual Congregational Meeting Part 1 December 17 After 10:00 am Worship

Caught Serving!

Our thanks go out to Betty Hanson once again for her beautiful artwork depicting the theme for the third year in a row for our Stewardship Program. For 2016, Saint John's 50th Jubilee Bridge or to the Future" was so poignant. Now this year with the country church and tree "Rooted & Grounded in Love" is another right-on presentation. Thank You, Ralph Miner and Stewardship Committee

Blessing and Celebration Fund

Blessings and Celebration Fund. Know what this is? Well, it's a means to pass on our blessings in a monetary way to share God's love. Years ago, Lois and Bob Hoffman, long-time members of Saint Johns, were missed when they moved to be near family when Bob's health was failing. After Bob's death, Lois started this fund in his honor, in gratefulness for their blessings and love for Saint Johns. Congregation members could contribute money to this fund in thankfulness for blessings (births, birthdays, memorials, anniversaries, return to health, family love, etc). Social Outreach Service has used this money to help persons in need of food, shelter, education. Any time you feel thankful, and want others to feel, blessed, too, you can write a check to Saint Johns, marked 'Blessings and Celebration Fund' in memo line, and use a pew envelope. Thanks to all who have expressed thankfulness by giving to this fund through the years.



ATTENDANCE

<u>Income/Expenses:</u>	October, 2017	YTD		
*Income	41,781	383,543		
Expenses	45,885	397,224		
	(4,104)	(13,681)		
Nov 5	<u>140</u>	Nov. 12	<u>139</u>	Nov 19
KidsChurch Family Sunday		<u>22</u>	na	<u>158</u>
				Nov 26
				na



December

2 BORJA, JANICE

5 ARMAND SCHWIND

7 NOELLE HERNANDEZ,
ZACKERY ROBERTS,
CAL WOOD

8 IRENE RODIN

10 BRIAN BELDEN

11 GABRIELA SILVERSTONE

12 ANDY DODDS,
MIKE EBERSOLE,
CANDY KASEMAN,
BOB WEIGER

13 TYLER HUFF,

15 PRISCILLA THOMAS

16 JANEY HARSCH

18 TERRY FIBICH

22 VALERIE REILLY,
SCOTT TAYLOR

23 FRANK DRAKE

24 TIM MYER

26 RON WERNER

28 STAN KECK

24 CHUCK & DARLENE LACUGNA

29 KURTIS & DEAN LIMBO



Prayer Ministry

Our friends & family: **Jeff, Pam, Marie, Tom, Steve, Flo, Shari, Sharline, Dakota, Susan, Jim, Paul, Teri, Emma, Wana, Wanita, Rilla, Johna, & all those in need of healing and lifted spirits.**

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.

Psalm 46:1

January Newsletter

Deadline is December 15th

Thanks to all the volunteers who have been such a blessing to the office. It would be impossible without you!

CONTACT information



STAFF

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Cindi Wallace, Children's Ministry Dir	cindi@saintjohnsag.com
Tim Myer, Council President	foxyrph@gmail.com

Church Website www.saintjohnsag.com

Office Assistant	Pam Glenn
Bookkeeper	Cheryl Apfel
Coord. Music Ministry	Shari Bowman
Chancel Choir Director	Janice Goodwin
Handbells Director	Shari Bowman
Songfest Co-Directors	Cal Wood & Myron Bowman
Choir Accompanist	Shari Bowman
Organist	Dawn Russ
Custodian	Janet Forsha
Nursery Attendant	Brenda Critzer
Financial Secretary	Kerry Wood

2017 Church Council

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Saint John's

The Eagle

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