

Saint John's

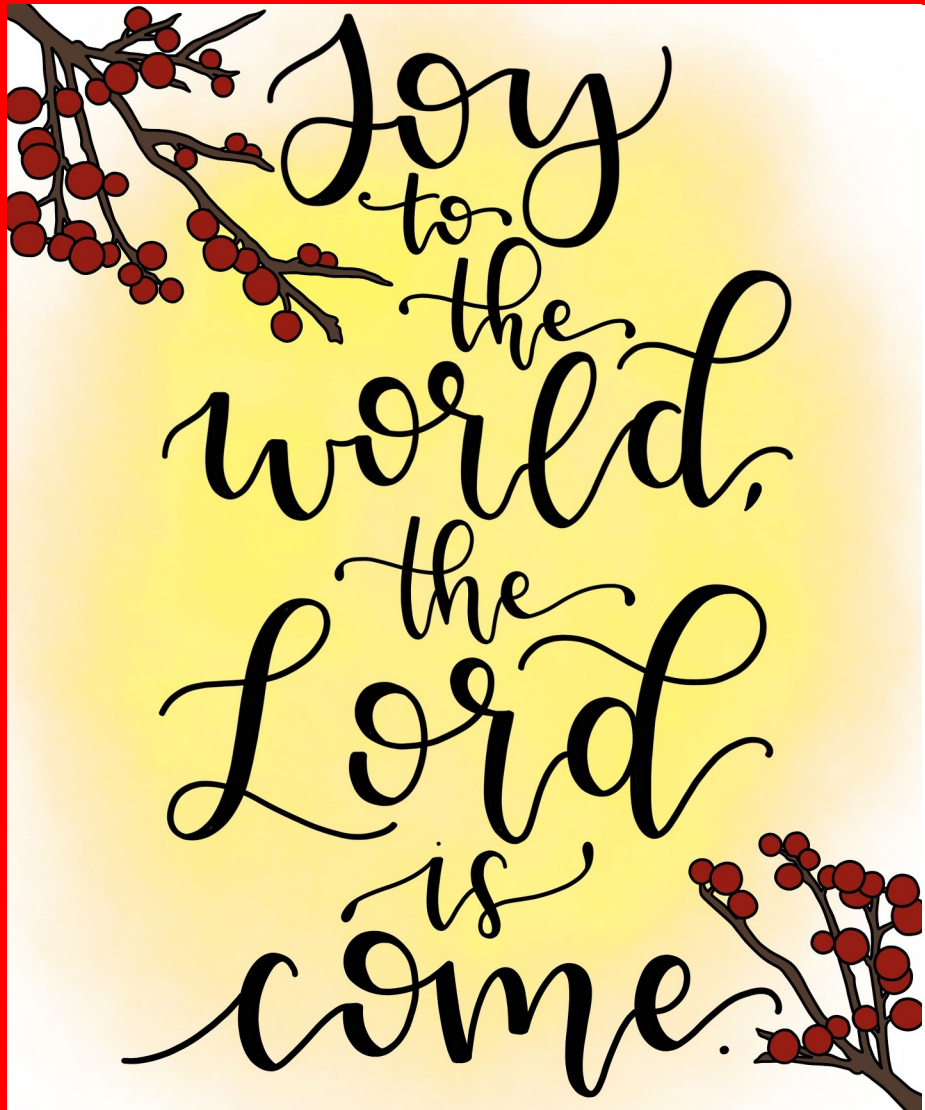
Lutheran Church

THE EAGLE

In this Issue

Table of Contents

Pastor 's Greeting	2
Up Coming Events	3
Kids Ministry	4
Youth Group	5
Poinsettias	6
Advent Night	7
December Worship	8
Ouimette Birthday Party	9
Christmas Alternative ..	10
Make a Difference	11
Dress a Girl	12
Contributions by Text...	13
Women's Ministry	14
Spirited 50's	14
Church Highlights	15
Birthdays & Anniv	16
Prayers	16
Staff	17



Pastor's Page

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

How's the shopping going? Did you brave the Black Friday madness? Did you spend like crazy online? I know you're above all that.

It's funny how Christmas gifts change over the course of our lives. As kids, we're so focused on presents. Where are they? What's in them? Then later, if we have children of our own, we're putting presents together. At some point we wonder what do we get for people who have everything? The older I get, the less presents seem to matter. Has that been your experience as well?

There's a great truth that flows from the Christmas story each year. God doesn't just send a gift, he sends his son. The relationship is what matters to God. My prayer for us this season is that we can focus on what matters most. God's love is pure and we're invited to share that love all around.

I hope you'll be a part of the Christmas fun around Saint John's. We've got Advent Night on Dec. 2nd. The children will share the story of the Manger on Dec. 9th. The music of Christmas will inspire you on Dec. 16th. Then, Christmas Eve, we'll gather around candlelight at 4pm & 6pm to open God's great gift once more. This month is filled with great times to be together as a family. Who are you inviting in?

God's Peace
Greg



Don't Forget!

Budget Forum

Sunday, December 9th after the Kid's Program



Congregational Meeting, Part 1

Congregational Budget Meeting

Sunday, December 16th

After the Cantata

Up Coming Events



Advent Night

Sunday December 2nd 5-7 pm

Fun for all ages! Join us for potluck, making advent wreaths & care packages, plus decorating and singing around the Christmas tree.

First Friday Bonfires Continue! Join us at the end of Grand Avenue on Friday, December 7th at 5 pm.

Children's Christmas Play!

Manger Tales Christmas coming Sunday, December 9th One Service at 10:00 am
Budget Forum at 11:15

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 16, One Service at 10:00 am
Annual Congregational Mtg. Part 1 at 11:15 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

4:00 PM Candlelight Worship
6:00 PM Candlelight Worship

Christmas

Sunday, December 30th, 11:30-1:30

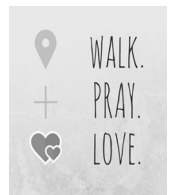
Worship Carol Sing, One Service at 10:00 am
Scarf Distribution & Lunch at 11:30 am

Prayer Matters

Prayer Walk and Talk @ the Beach

Thursdays 8:30-9:30 am

Prayer is one of the most important aspects of living as authentic followers of Jesus. Through prayer we have the privilege to communicate directly with our awesome God and other believers! Join us any Thursday for a time of prayer, conversation, and a bit of exercise.



Kids Up and Coming News



Children's Christmas Play!

Manger Tales Christmas coming Sunday, December 9th One Gathering at 10:00 am

Everyone should have a part and a script by now. Please keep reading through and practicing your lines. Group practice for kids in 1st grade and up will be held on December 1st and December 8th from 9:30-11:00 am at Saint John's. Younger kids are welcome to come to rehearsal if accompanied by an adult for assistance. The songs are available on a link on the church website. If you have a child who does not yet have a part or a script and wants one, please contact Cindi ASAP!

Advent Night - Sunday December 2nd 5-7 pm

Fun for all ages! Join us for pot luck dinner, advent wreath making, 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 7** for more details.



Cookies for Kids & Prayer Partners

Join us for a special time of cookies, hot cocoa and fellowship following the Kids annual Christmas Play on Sunday, **December 9th**. If you haven't had a chance to meet your prayer partner yet, this will be a chance to put faces with names. This is a fellowship time for kids, their families, our faithful prayer partners and the whole congregation to celebrate the kids. Please see Cindi Wallace or Louise Frye if you are able to bring two dozen cookies.



First Friday Bonfires Continue! Join us at the end of Grand Avenue on Friday, December 7th at 5 pm.

Sunday, December 30th is once again 5th Serve Sunday! Don't miss KidsChurch this week as we focus on a service project around caring for animals.

Kids and parents (or grandparents!) are invited to join us for **Scarf distribution on Sunday, December 30th following worship**. Kids 5th grade and younger need an adult present for this outing. Please see details on the youth page.



Youth Group News



Sunday, December 16th 6-8 pm. Open to 6th-12th graders. Join us for pizza, fun and games. **Zany Gift Exchange theme**, White Elephant style, bring a wrapped gift, \$5.00 or under and bring a friend!

No Sunday Night Youth Group, December 23 - we'll see you for worship on Christmas Eve!

Sunday, December 30th Scarf Distribution & Lunch

No Youth Group that evening, please join us from 11:30-1:30

It's getting cold outside! All year long many of our women and children have been working hard knitting scarves to be distributed to local homeless or those who just happen to be a bit down on their luck. Join us as we head to local bus stops, beaches and parks to tie scarves and leave them as gifts to be found. We'll share in fellowship and lunch following our time of serving others. Bring cash for lunch, \$10-15.



Hume Lake Winter Camp

When: March 1-3

Grades: 6-12

Cost: Cash for fast food lunch on Sunday and spending money for snacks at the camp store. Estimate \$30. You may want additional money for Hume apparel and other souvenirs.



Get ready for: Snow. Bobsled Blitz. Monster Tube Run. Broom Hockey. Great music. Messages geared for teens. Friendships that last a lifetime. **Note: Students will need to take a minimum day from school on Friday.** Please eat lunch ahead of time and meet at church at 1 pm.

We are past the deadline to guarantee a spot for Winter Camp. If you have not turned in your student trips and retreat sign up sheet (mailed in September), please email or text Cindi right away to see if we can add your spot.

♦ **Winter Camp March 1st-3rd for grades 6-12.**



**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. 9th, 2018

Your name _____



★ Come One, Come All to ★ **FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT**

Sunday, December 2nd
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Ouimette Hall



POTLUCK DINNER at 5:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite Main Dish, Side Dish, Salad or Dessert

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Craft an Advent Wreath for your family or our homebound
Decorate sugar cookies
Traditional Scandinavian Treats

CAROLING IN THE COMMONS

A special time together in the Commons
Bring a tree ornament from your family
Decorate our Church Family Christmas Tree
Hot Cocoa, Hot Apple Cider and Cookies

December Worship Schedule

Dec. 2 9:30 am Contemporary – 11:00 a.m. Traditional ~Holy Communion

**Dec. 9 one Gathering at 10:00 am KidsChurch Christmas Pageant
Budget Forum following Worship**

**Dec. 16 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. 30 - one Gathering at 10:00 a.m. Annual Carol Sing Traditional



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ♦ January Newsletter Deadline | December 10 8:30am |
| ♦ Annual Report Deadline | December 17 |
| ♦ Christmas Eve Bulletin Information | December 18 8:30 am |
| ♦ December 30 Bulletin Information | December 19 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 21– January 2, 2018**

Just a reminder that the Annual Report Deadline is sneaking up on us. This year's deadline is December 17, 2018. Please keep your article to 1 page. (Type-written if possible or you can email your report to office@saintjohnsag.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.



**Come celebrate
Pastor Randy and Patty Ouimette's
70th birthdays with an open house party!
All are invited!**

When: Thursday, December 27th, 2018.
Open house from 2 pm-4pm. Program at 2:30 pm.
Where: Saint John's Commons

No gifts, please.
Come as you are to celebrate!

Christmas Gift Giving Alternative

December 2

An Alternative Gift Giving for Christmas Fair is being offered in the Commons area on Sunday, December 2, at St. John's between 8:30 am and 12:30 pm. So many of us have people on our Christmas lists that are difficult to shop for because they already have most of what they need or want. This Christmas Fair is your chance to support a charitable cause in honor of those on your Christmas list. WHAT AN AMAZING WAY TO SPREAD GOD'S LOVE TO THOSE IN NEED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHILE HONORING OUR LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS by making a donation in their honor!!!



At our Alternative Gift Giving for Christmas Fair, we will be featuring several charitable organizations including:

- (a) **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL** – donations in the name of someone on your Christmas list for the purchase of farm animals to sustain small farms in Africa.
- (b) **ZOZU PROJECT** – donations support this locally based non-profit organization that supports Solid Rock Christian School in Arua, Uganda. Donations can be made for school supplies and physical education equipment; for the planning of the construction of a high school; or to sponsor a child. In addition beaded boxes, eyeglass keepers, beaded jewelry and Christmas garlands will be available for a donation.
- (c) **HOMELESS COALITION SHOWERS FOR THE PEOPLE PROJECT** – donations will cover the cost of rental showers and water for the homeless in our community who do not have access to showers.
- (d) **FEED OUR PEOPLE PROJECT** – donations cover the cost of food and supplies for the project offered by Iglesia Luterana (the Hispanic church in Santa Maria started by Pastor Pat Muran) . This project offers weekly lunch and prayer conducted by Pastor Estovan and his wife, Angie, for the field workers in the Santa Maria produce fields.

Each of these non-profits will be available for you to make a Christmas gift donation in the name of a loved one. All donations are tax deductible.

This event is sponsored by the Social Outreach Services team. We hope you will come and support our efforts to share in the true spirit of Christmas by giving meaningful gifts to our loved ones and at the same time helping those who need our help the most.

Remember to bring your cash or checkbooks!!

Text payments and Debit/Credit cards also excepted.

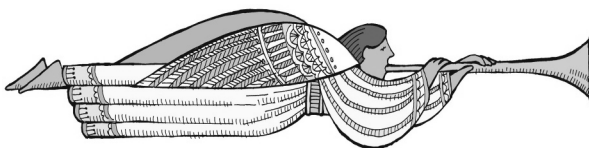
Make a Difference

People's Kitchen

Every day at noon, a meal is served indoors at 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.

Five Cities Food Ministry

Donations this month will go to Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz, our sister church in Santa Maria. The Fall season and weather changes bring the fieldwork to an end, resulting in lack of money to buy food. Contributions are counted on to keep the needy from hunger. There is great thankfulness for all donations, as we continue our long time support. Items needed are: rice, beans, and Masa Harina (corn meal).



Christmas Angel Project

It's that time of year again! We have the opportunity to share love through gift-giving to the children of Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz congregation in Santa Maria. The women of the Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study group hope that you will join them in this special project. On Sundays, you will see a little Christmas tree in the commons decorated with cards that have the name, age, and gift wishes of a child whose life will be brightened by your generosity. You may choose a card and add your name to the sign-up sheet next to that child's name. After you shop and gift wrap, just return the labeled gifts to church by noon on December 16th and they will be delivered to Santa Maria for you.

If you have any questions or would like to help with this project, please contact Julie Lebens. Thank you.

Dress a Girl

Dress A Girl and Duds for Dudes



Dress A Girl met for the last time in 2018 on November 10th. We were a group of almost 20 sew-ers and non- sew-ers, working together to make dress kits and shorts kits for the boys. We made sundresses, peasant dresses and shorts. Altogether it was a very productive workshop. There are at least 25-30 kits each of sundresses, peasant dresses and shorts for those of you who want to sew over the holidays. We won't meet in December but will resume our workshop in January 2019 on the 12th. A quick update on the dresses we sent to Myanmar- it was monsoon season when our friends who transported the dresses got home. The roads and bike paths into the village where the school is were all flooded but should soon be passable. The God moment in this story is that

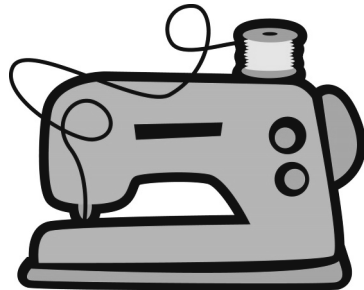
Marissa, the daughter of the friends who took the dresses was so touched by the idea behind Dress A Girl and the love that goes into each dress that she has made it her mission to personally deliver the dresses as soon as she can ride her bike to the school. We concentrated on blessing the young girls at the school - and I'm sure they will be - but God chose Marissa to receive His message and in turn deliver that message to the school.

The rest of the story is still to be told...

Next workshop Sat. Jan. 12, 2019, 10 am - 2 pm.

Pamela Glenn

Dress A Girl Coordinator for Saint John's and Dress A Girl Ambassador for the Central Coast



Contributions by Text

Saint John's Text Donation Number is (805) 250-4073

To register the first time....Enter text number, **(805) 250-4073**,
Enter **amount** of donation or type “**assist**”, **SEND** text.
Follow prompts to register

FAQs

How do members give by text message?

After members register, they will receive instructions on how to send donations by text message. Text donations are sent to a 10-digit number where they are received and processed by Vanco. Your organization is provided with a dedicated 10-digit number.

How will the church know when a text donation is made?

Text donations will appear on Vanco's standard processing reports along with all other transactions.

How do members know when their donations are processed?

Members receive immediate confirmation via text that their donation was received. After a text donation has been processed, it appears on the member's credit card statement.

How quickly are text donations deposited?

Text donations are electronically deposited into the church bank account within 2 to 4 business days for credit and debit card transactions.

Are all contributions set at a fixed dollar amount?

No. The member chooses the amount of the donation.

Are text donations ever charged to a member's mobile phone bill?

No. Donations are processed using the payment method specified in the member's online profile. Phone carriers handle only the text message, never any financial information.

What payment methods are available for giving by text?

Vanco Give+ Text supports donations via credit and debit cards.

Can members set up recurring donations by text?

Yes. Donors can text “Repeat” after they've made a donation to make it recurring. They can also text “Schedule” to set up a recurring donation.

Can members text donations to individual funds?

Yes, a special texting code must be included in the text message to assign the donation to a particular fund. Your church determines the Texting Code (e.g. “Haiti”) when setting up the fund with Vanco.

Women's Ministry



Women's Ministry sends Christmas Greetings. We are looking forward to the Annual Christmas Luncheon scheduled for Wednesday December 12 at Noon.

Location: Spy Glass Inn Restaurant, 2703 Spyglass Drive, Pismo Beach. Sign-ups in the bulletin will begin on Sunday November 25. Indicate your menu choice on the Welcome Card and be prepared to pay \$25.00 to either Rena or Louise.



DEADLINE DATE: DECEMBER 9

Menu choices include Club Sandwich, Chicken Quesadilla, Cobb Salad, & Lobster-Shrimp Tacos (Gluten Free).

Thank you to all who were able to come in November to hear the program provided by the Honor Flight Network. Thank you to Roseann Carroll who arranged for the speaker. We will greatly miss Betty Hanson, who attended Saint John's for 28 years and is relocating to San Diego to be close to her family.

The Board of Directors: Louise Frye, Sandra Kermoyan, Roseann Carroll, & Rena Weiger

Spirited 50's

SPIRITED 50'S

Saturday Dec 8, 2018 6: P.M.

Hi folks, We've gone several months without meeting and there are some that would like to meet again. So...We will meet to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Please save the second Saturday in December for our group meeting. Louise has offered to play the piano so we can sing some Christmas songs. The Miner's, Irene, & Irma have volunteered to provide some goodies for the evening. Plan on bringing a gift to exchange in our annual gift exchange game. The gift should be in the range of \$10-\$15.

LOOK FOR OUR SIGN UP SHEET SO WE'LL KNOW HOW MANY ARE COMING.

CHRIST'S SERVANT-----Frank Drake



Church Highlights

Council Highlights

- ◆ According to Treasurer's Report, as of October, 2018, Saint Johns' expenses surpass our income by \$31,779.
- ◆ Social Outreach will sponsor an "Alternative Christmas" between services on December 2nd
- ◆ Council passed a motion to approve the "Saint Johns' Director of Youth Ministries Job Description".
- ◆ Congregational Meeting for 2019 Budget approval is set for December 16, 2018.
- ◆ Patty Ouimette and Patti Roberts volunteered to serve on Nominating Committee as outgoing Council members.
- ◆ KC Siddle will be added to staff and serve as our new Nursery Attendant.
- ◆ Pastor Greg and family will be on vacation from November 19-26th.

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!

Greg



Bob & Marge Vahsholtz
1445 Park View Lane, Port Angeles, WA 98363

Betty Hanson
New Address 11588 Via Rancho San Diego #D1047, El Cajon, CA (619) 303-2706

Finance & Attendance

<u>Income/Expenses:</u>	Oct 2018	YTD
Income	45,171.	342,201.
Expenses	<u>36,772.</u> 8,399	<u>373,981.</u> (31,780.)

Nov. 4 139 (Family Sunday)	Nov. 11 180 includes 27 in Kids Church	Nov. 18 168 includes 12 in Kids Church	Nov. 25 NA includes in Kids Church
-----------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------



December

2 BORJA, JANICE
5 ARMAND SCHWIND
7 ROBERTS, CAL WOOD
8 IRENE RODIN
10 BRIAN BELDEN
11 GABRIELA SILVERSTONE
12 ANDY DODDS, MIKE EBERSOLE,
CANDY KASEMAN, BOB WEIGER
15 PRISCILLA THOMAS
16 JANEY HARSCH
18 TERRY FIBICH
22 VALERIE REILLY, SCOTT TAYLOR
23 FRANK DRAKE, GWEN MUNDEN
24 TIM MYER
26 RON WERNER



24 CHUCK & DARLENE LACUGNA
(Congratulations to Evan Mundahl who recently received his masters and teaching certificate from UCSB, and then in October married Alexis Ross. He began his teaching career in San Francisco. Evan is Chuck & Darlene's grandson).



Prayer Ministry

Our friends & family:
Erma, Irene, Barbara, Donna, Sandy,
Julie, Linnea, Mim, Karen, Shari,
Yvonne, Diane, Eric, Barry, Jim,
Roby, Marilyn, Frannie

January Newsletter

Deadline is DECEMBER 10th

NO EXCEPTIONS DUE TO HOLIDAYS

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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Tim Myer, Council President	foxyrph@gmail.com

Church Website www.saintjohnsag.com

Office Assistant	Pam Glenn
Bookkeeper	Cheryl Apfel
Chancel Choir Director	Janice Goodwin
Handbells Director	Shari Bowman
Songfest Director	Cal Wood
Choir Accompanist	Shari Bowman
Organist	Dawn Russ
Custodian	Janet Forsha
Nursery Attendant	KC Siddle
Financial Secretary	Kerry Wood

2018 Church Council

PRESIDENT

Tim Myer

VICE PRESIDENT

David Goodwin

TREASURER

Patti Roberts

SECRETARY

Cal Wood

Property

David Goodwin

Social Ministry

Sandy Lebens

Worship & Music

Cal Wood

Youth

Steve Kapka

Good News Team

Patty Ouimette

Women's Ministry

Roseann Carroll

Children's Ministry

Mark Ravera



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Saint John's

The Eagle

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