



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

"All God's Children Joyfully Celebrating God's Transforming Grace"

Established 1852

915 Federal Av. Saginaw, MI 48607

989.754.0489

SPIRIT NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2016

Issue 113

Vol. 01

Dear Friends in Christ:

In grateful reflection on the year past and looking forward in confidence to the New Year . . . words of hymns come to mind.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

In contemplating the past and dreaming of the future, I particularly like a new hymn to some set to the tune of the Irish "O Danny Boy." It is entitled "O Christ the Same", ELW#760.

O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
Our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
Eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
Unchanging still amid the passing years:
O Living Word, the source of all creation,
Who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
We bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.

As I reflect, I give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve with the fine folks at St. John. You inspire me! Your faithfulness in worship, your commitment to be Christ's arms and legs in service to the neighbor, and your prayers for others, St. John and the congregations of the Saginaw and NWLM Synod churches, and your prayers for me brighten my day!

I will resume leading Bible Study on Wednesdays, January 13th through February 3rd at the Parsonage at 7:00 p.m. and at the church at 1:30 p.m.

Lent begins very early this year. **Ash Wednesday worship will be at 7:00 p.m. on February 10th. It will be preceded by a light supper at 6:00 p.m. We will be hosting Resurrection, Our Saviour, and Zion on the five subsequent Wednesdays, with a light supper at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend.**

And in closing words from a favorite Epiphany hymn, or at any time! I hope you let the words of the hymns touch your heart. They are a great blessing and inspiration to me!

Christ, Be Our Light

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.



Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.



3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Signs of your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

In Christ's Light,

Pr. Connie Sassanella



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
 915 Federal Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48607
Pr. Connie Sassanella
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 a.m.
PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS
 Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
PASTOR'S TELEPHONE
Preferred (c) 330-692-6194 (h) 989-401-2283
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
 Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Secretary: Barb Socia
CHURCH'S TELEPHONE
 Office: 989-754-0489
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 Office: sjc915@sbcglobal.net
 Pastor: csassanella@yahoo.com
WEBSITE
 StJohnLutheranELCASaginaw.weebly.com
FACEBOOK
 St John Lutheran ELCA Saginaw
NEWSLETTER
Deadline: 20th day of the previous month



Church Updates

Donations: Roger & Pauline Winterstein (Summer Day Camp).

Memorials: In memory of **Bill Schuetter**, given by Lillian Connors (General Fund). In memory of **Katheryn Menapace** (Altar Guild), **Jenny Deindorfer** (Choir), **Steven Weiland** (Camp Lu-Wix-E), and **Brian Smith** (Camp Lu-Wix-E), all given by Daniel & Nancy Menapace. In memory of **Kathryn Menapace**, given by Steven & Kathleen Schou (General Fund). In memory of **Jack Deisig**, given by Becky Petty (Breakfast for the Hungry). "This memorial to the Sound Board Fund is in memory of all those members of St. John's, past and present, who have passed away," given by Eugene Miller. "This memorial given to the Heating Fund, in memory of Ralph J. and Amanda E. Miller by their son Eugene H. Miller." In memory of **Jack Deisig**, given by Buena Vista Township Planning Committee (Breakfast for the Hungry).

Hospitalized Since Last Month: Melvin Gay, Sue Kaminski, Sarah Laskey, Larry Lemmer, Jaleesa Parker, Ruth Sharper, Duncan Junior Shaw.

Please Remember Care Facility Members:

Please Remember At Home Members:

They would love a card or visit from you!



Design Team Meeting

Sunday, January 17th

11:00 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church



Please pray for the Design Team progress. The four churches participating in the Design process are Our Saviour, Resurrection, St. John, and Zion (Saginaw).



A New Year's Prayer

Dear Lord,

As a new year begins,

We come to you and ask for your blessing.

We pray that you would give us joy to fill our days,

Peace to fill our hearts, and love to fill our lives.

Thank you for the plans you have for us in this New Year.

We wait in anticipation to see all you will do!

Thanking God for you and praying your

New Year is blessed in every way.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,

"Plans to prosper you and not to harm you,

Plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29: 11

Amen.



St. John Lutheran Numbers

Date	Attend.	Deposit
11/29/15	51	\$1,662.25
12/6/15	51	\$6,889.80
12/13/15	63	\$2,235.70
12/20/15 & 12/24/15	58 & 91	\$4,166.75
12/27/15	Not recorded	\$2,658.75

Memorials/Gifts Received

January 1 – December 27, 2015

General Fund	\$ 4,357.00
Altar Flowers	\$ 387.50
Music & Organ	\$ 650.00
Breakfast for the Hungry	\$ 2,475.00
Summer Day Camp Gifts	\$ 9,455.20
Summer Day Camp Grants	\$ 27,923.99
Camp Lu-Wix-E Gifts	\$ 254.14
Congregational Life	\$ 202.75
Luther League	\$ 574.00
Heating Fund	\$ 525.00
Stamps	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 46,804.58

Evangelism Board News



Our next project will be our "Hats and Gloves Giveaway" during November, December, and January. If you would like to donate new or gently used hats, gloves, socks, or blankets, they would greatly be appreciated! Drop off donations at the church office. Contact Marcy Andersen at 989-791-3657 for further information or with questions.

January Birthdays

January 1 Scott Robinson, Matthew Specht
 January 3 Brandy Blohm
 January 5 Charles Reed
 January 11 Eveline Gatzsche, Stan Marino
 January 14 Cindy Talbot
 January 15 Kelsey Crane
 January 17 Sandra Johnson
 January 19 Jacquelyn Albosta
 January 25 Betty Perry
 January 27 Nicholas Hoffman
 January 30 Ellen Schulz



January Anniversaries

none

If you don't see your birthday or anniversary listed, please inform the church office so our records can be updated.



SMM Food Pantry

The Saginaw Metro Ministries Food Pantry is in need of your help with unloading the food from trucks and stocking shelves here at St. John. Truck unloads are at 7:00 a.m. every two weeks. The next unload days are Wednesday, Jan. 6th and Jan. 20th. There are jobs for everyone to do and it's not hard work! Please contact Dewey Burke at 989-971-4316 or at dewburke@hotmail.com.



Free Community Dinners

Our Free Community Dinners are (usually) on the second Thursday of each month, with dinner served from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Our next dinner is on January 7th (note date change). There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office for workers to setup, cook, and cleanup. Contributions to fund the Free Community Dinners here at St. John can be made with checks payable to: Messiah Lutheran Church, "St. John Evening Dinners" and we can forward your check to them. If you have any questions about the dinners, please contact Dewey Burke at 989-971-4316 or at dewburke@hotmail.com. Thank you for your help in providing for those less fortunate and your generous donations!

Lent and Easter at St. John - 2016

Come Worship with Us All Are Welcome to Get Ready for Easter!

February 10th (Ash Wednesday)
 Light Supper at 6:00 p.m.
 Worship 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Wednesdays – Feb. 17th, Feb. 24th, Mar. 2nd, Mar. 9th, & Mar. 16th

Light Supper at 6:00 p.m.
 Worship at 7:00 p.m.

March 24th (Maundy Thursday)
 Worship at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



March 25th (Good Friday)
 Worship at 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.



March 27th (Easter)
 Worship at 9:30 a.m.

