

Connections

December 2017

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We, the people of St. John's Lutheran Church, welcome everyone regardless of gender expression, sexual orientation, race, ability languages spoken, ethnicity or economic status.

We value each person's uniqueness and diversity.



ADVENT

First Sunday in Advent—Sunday December 3rd
worship at 9:30; brunch, Fair Trade coffee and chocolate sale, intergenerational wreath making activity follow worship

Second Sunday in Advent—Sunday December 10th
worship at 9:30; St. Nicholas Potluck Celebration, Christmas Tree decoration with Chrismons.

Third Sunday in Advent—Sunday December 17th
worship at 9:30; brunch follows worship. Food Collections for local food pantries

Fourth Sunday in Advent—Sunday December 24th
worship at 9:30; brunch follows worship

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve—Sunday, December 24th, 2016

4:30 pm—Candlelight Festival Service
coffee and cookie fellowship between services

6:30 pm—Candlelight Contemplative Service

Christmas Day—Monday December 25th, 2016

No service

NEW YEAR'S EVE

First Sunday after Christmas—Sunday December 31, 2017
worship at 9:30; brunch follows worship

Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus—Sunday January 7, 2018
worship at 9:30; brunch follows worship

St. John's Lutheran Church, 322 E. Washington Ave.

Madison, WI 53703 (608) 256-2337

Pastor: Rich Collier (608) 256-2337

Fax: (608) 256-9590

e-mail: revcollier@stjohnsmadison.org

Web site: www.stjohnsmadison.org

Congregational President: Tom Rivers Council Chair: Marc Williamson

Council Secretary: Victor Forberger Treasurer: Alice Gould

Director of Community Ministry: Jill Ness jilln@stjohnsmadison.org

Director of Music: Kristie Halverson [Kristie Halverson, kristieh@stjohnsmadison.org](mailto:Kristie.Halverson@stjohnsmadison.org)

Parish Bookkeeper: Debra Cook [Deb Cook, debc1@stjohnsmadison.org](mailto:Deb.Cook@stjohnsmadison.org)

Parish Secretary: Dick Gundlach [Dick Gundlach, dickg@stjohnsmadison.org](mailto:Dick.Gundlach@stjohnsmadison.org)

Emergency Fund Director: Hasan Mohr Custodian: Berhanu Edao

Worship with Holy Communion is at 9:30 a.m.

Brunch follows the service at 10:45 a.m.

Godly Play and Confirmation, Adult Forum at 10:45 a.m. (fall thru spring)

Women's Bible Study

November Council Minutes



The Women's Bible Study is the first Thursday of the month at the Prairie Rose Café at Oakwood East

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH — COUNCIL MEETING — 21 NOV. 2017

ATTENDANCE: Marc Williamson (chair), Alice Gould (treasurer), Victor Forberger (secretary), Jim Johnson, Barbara Meyer, Teena Wagner, Teresa Wagner, Tom Rivers, and Pastor Rich Collier.

DEVOTIONS: Alice

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER MEETING: Approved.

Reminders

FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH OCTOBER 2017

-----The third Sunday of each month we collect food items for area food pantries.

-----The third Sunday of each month we provide the evening meal for the homeless men's shelter at 7pm

-----Articles for the next month-*Connections* are due by noon on the third Friday of the current month.

Total YTD Actual income: \$256,226

Budgeted YTD: \$292,626

2016 YTD: \$306,390

Total YTD Actual Expenses: \$277,569

Budgeted YTD: \$311,960

2016 YTD: \$292,579

Offerings through October are \$175,708 compared to \$229,053 for the same period in 2016 and a budgeted amount of \$220,483 (note that in September 2016 there was a single large donation). We have transferred a total of \$55,000 from the reserve fund so far in 2017. Facility Usage is about \$1,000 less than budgeted and when compared to last year's numbers. The council approved suspending rent payments from LIRS (\$455/month) for four months. These rent payments resumed in August.

Memorials

No Memorials received in November

Expenses under Building Repairs are for a new sensor in the front vestibule and for repairs to a roof-top A/C unit.

Building Cleaning expenses are unusually large as they cover both August and September and include two additional days of cleaning per week in lieu of not having a janitor on staff during these months.

The balance in the building fund at the end of October is \$42,029, of which \$32,000 is designated for landscaping, outside signage, and other building repairs. This month we added a "Reconciling in Christ" insert to the front sign and had the bike rack installed.

The Oak Bank loan balance is \$38,008. The foundation has approved a \$15,000 grant to match donations to the building fund between September and the end of the year with the goal of paying off the loan by the end of January 2018. To date, we have collected over \$9,000.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Outreach: Morning forums are set for Advent, but openings are available starting in January. A fair trade sale is set for Dec. 3rd.

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Minutes continued from p. 2

Personnel: Bernahu wants to return to Madison, but his responsibilities in caring for the parent-less child are open-ended. Temporary replacement options include the SALE services connected to Oakwood West, a temp service of some kind, or a job posting. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for a temporary replacement to be hired.

Community Ministry: Jill Ness explained that she has been compiling budget and activity reports for the Siebert grant. There are also plans being developed for updating St. John's social media presence. Proposed changes to St. John's website and its social media presence may be ready by February 2018.

Finance: The 2018 budget is in place.

Worship Planning: New candles are in, and worship plans for the holidays are almost complete.

Building Fund: See above regarding the fund's status. At the quarterly meeting, congregation members raised questions about the status of this fund and its committee after the mortgage is paid off. Alice suggested that (1) responsibility for the remaining monies in the fund be transferred to the Maintenance Committee, (2) the council treasurer formally serve as a member of the maintenance committee, and (3) the maintenance committee manage the fund to cover maintenance costs at St. John's. No action needs to be taken now, so this suggestion will be considered at some future date.

Maintenance (was Building Vision): Besides what is noted above, minor repairs on the organ are complete, and a full report on the organ is due in January.

Senior Care Team: More folks need visitation, including Joe Diemer and Pastor Al Wahl (broken ankle).

Call: Meeting regularly to complete the preliminary information gathering stage of the call process.

PASTORAL REFLECTION

None this month.

NEW AND OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

The stewardship letter is almost complete.

Security: After contacting JBM, the security contractor, security checks are now occurring -- as intended -- much later in the evening.

Keys and space forms: Plans are still being developed.

Defibrillator: A foundation request has been approved.

Brokerage services: Nothing to report at the moment.

December meal: Barb is coordinating, and current council members should bring desserts.

PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT (next meeting on December 19th at 6pm, an hour earlier than usual)

LIFE TOGETHER—News and Events

-----**Retired Pastor Al Wahl** is recuperating from a broken ankle at Capital Lakes.

-----**Retired Pastor Joel Diemer** is at St. Mary's Hospital, recovering from heart issues.

-----**@ the Welcome Center** - there is a signup sheet at the Welcome Center for volunteers who would like to bring cookies to share between the 4:30 and 6:30 Christmas Eve Services.

-----**Annual Fair Trade Sale from the Outreach Committee.** Sunday December 3rd there will be a fair trade sale at St. Johns after church. There will be fair trade chocolate and coffee for purchase. These make great holiday treats or stocking stuffers! Items that are not sold that day will be available for purchase on subsequent Sundays. The congregation is also invited to an intergenerational event- to make advent wreaths on Sunday December 3rd, after church. Bring your wreath form (or something similar) to fill with fresh evergreen branches. Advent candles will be available for each family. (If you need a form, please speak with **Alice Gould** or **Stephanie Schauer**, as there may be one or two extra; alternately, they may be purchased at local craft stores.) Stephanie

-----**On Sunday, December 10 please join us for a potluck** to celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas after worship. Please bring a dish to pass, maybe a favorite Christmas dish. Afterward the youth will be decorating the Christmas trees with Chrismons. Anyone else is welcome to decorate if they would like.

-----**Coffee Fellowship between services on Christmas Eve:** If you would like to bring cookies or help serve, please sign up at the Welcome Desk. It would make it easier if you would bring your cookies already arranged on a plate or basket and ready to serve. Thanks!


-----**ELCA Draft Statement on Women and Justice—** A yet to be scheduled Adult Forum next year will provide opportunities to discuss the document and provide feedback on the topic to the National Church. If you would like to get a head-start on reading this draft, it is available online at <http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice/Draft>.

LIFE TOGETHER continued on p.7

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10am Emergency Assistance 12pm Alanon 8pm Men's Shelter	2 8pm Men's Shelter
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:15am Choir Rehearses	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm Alanon	10am Emergency Assistance	9:30am Women's Group	10am Emergency Assistance	8pm Men's Shelter
9:30am Worship	11am OTSC Book Club	8pm Men's Shelter	11am OTSC Book Group	12pm OA	11am Oakwood Community Service	
10:45am Adult Forum	12pm OA		12pm Backyard Musical	8pm Men's Shelter	12pm Alanon	
10:45am Brunch	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal		8pm Men's Shelter		8pm Men's Shelter	
10:45am Youth Forum	8pm Men's Shelter					
8pm Men's Shelter						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:15am Choir Rehearses	10am Emergency Assistance	10am Staff Meeting	9am Blanket Workshop	12pm OA	10am Emergency Assistance	8pm Men's Shelter
9:30am Worship	11am OTSC Book Club	12pm Alanon	10am Emergency Assistance	8pm Men's Shelter	12pm Alanon	
10:45am Adult Forum	12pm OA	6:30pm Safe Space Restorative Circle	11am OTSC Book Group		12pm Connections Articles Due	
10:45am Brunch	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	8pm Men's Shelter	12pm Backyard Musical		8pm Men's Shelter	
10:45am Youth Forum	8pm Men's Shelter		8pm Men's Shelter			
8pm Men's Shelter						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:15am Choir Rehearses	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm Alanon	10am Emergency Assistance	21 Winter Solstice 9:30am Synod Clergy Meeting 12pm OA	10am Emergency Assistance	8pm Men's Shelter
9am Food Collection for local food pantries	11am OTSC Book Club	2pm Pr. Rich at Synod Interim Mtg.	11am OTSC Book Group		12pm Alanon	

9:30am Worship	12pm OA	7pm Council	12pm Backyard Mo- saic	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter
10:45am Adult Forum	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter			
10:45am Brunch	8pm Men's Shelter					
10:45am Confirmation Mentoring						
10:45am Youth Forum						
5pm Serve Evening Meal at Men's Shelter						
8pm Men's Shelter						
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	10am Staff Meeting	9am Blanket Work- shop	12pm OA	10am Emergency As- sistance	8pm Men's Shelter
8:15am Choir Rehearses	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm Alanon	10am Emergency As- sistance	8pm Men's Shelter	12pm Alanon	
9:30am Worship	11am OTSC Book Club	8pm Men's Shelter	11am OTSC Book Group		8pm Men's Shelter	
10:45am Adult Forum	12pm OA		12pm Backyard Mo- saic			
10:45am Brunch	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal		8pm Men's Shelter			
10:45am Youth Forum	8pm Men's Shelter					
8pm Men's Shelter						
31	Notes:					
New Year's Eve						
8:15am Choir Rehearses						
9:30am Worship						
10:45am Adult Forum						
10:45am Brunch						
10:45am Youth Forum						
8pm Men's Shelter						

December			
12/02	Karen Reiner Gary Pettey	12/12	Sherill Tripp Beverly Homburg
12/03	Dan Radke Tim Asplund	12/13	Gilbert Splett Zane McConkey
12/05	Marcia Williamson David Henning	12/14	Darlene Kochanowski Richard Burdick Ron Hyslop Ann Milne
12/05	Kimberlee Thomas	12/15	Alice Duessler
12/06	Jeffrey Edge	12/16	Alice Gould Jessica Johnson Patrick Grover
12/07	Nancy Mortenson	12/16	Dylan Perez
12/08	Steven Williamson	12/17	John Schwenn Carla Ziegler Heather Reinke
12/09	Dana DiSalvo		Emily Conley
12/09	Thomas Williamson	12/19	Ronald Garske
12/10	Brittney Rector	12/19	Truman Rafferty
12/11	Riley Miller		
		12/20	Judith Pence June Goglio Wallace Wilson Tanner Sorum
		12/21	Shirley Sundquist Dory Germann Linda Wendt Ryan Clayton
		12/25	Martha Albertson Denise Watson Christopher Ebbe
		12/26	Gary Stebnitz
		12/27	Sheryl Steinhauer Kalec Halvorsen Elsa Forberger
		12/28	David Bentz Tammi Bourne-Upright Taylor Sorum
		12/30	Patty Knudtson
		12/31	Fred Schnurbusch

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	3-Dec-2017	10-Dec-2017	17-Dec-2017	24-Dec-2017	31-Dec-2017	7-Jan-2018
Greeters	Elaine Mittelsteadt	Pat Biba	Ronda Collins	Dee and Merle Zimmerman		
Acolytes	Anja Forberger	Annika Mueller-Owens	Truman Rafferty	Annika Mueller-Owens	Micah Asplund	Anja Forberger
Assisting Minister	Dick Severson	Karl Gutknecht	Shari Stephenson	Craig Collins	Tim Asplund	Bonnie Blick
Lector	Elsa Forberger	Gary Stebnitz	Jill Ness	Tom Hilger	Barbie Pietz	Ken Groehler
Communion Assistants	Bob and Bonnie Block	Tom and Carol Rivers	Dick and Winnie Severson	Teena and Teresa Wagner	Dick Gundlach and Dee Zimmerman	Marty Micke and Shari Stephenson
Ushers	Team #1 - Dick Paulson	Team # 2 - Marcia and Marc Williamson	Team # 3 - Jim Johnson	Team # 4 - Asplund/Pietz Family	Team #5 - Teresa and Randy Halvorsen	Team #1 - Dick Paulson
Altar	Team #1 - Nikki and Sheila Wagner	Team #1 - Nikki and Sheila Wagner	Team #1 - Nikki and Sheila Wagner	Team #1 - Nikki and Sheila Wagner	Team #1 - Nikki and Sheila Wagner	
Welcome Center	Pat Biba	Marcia Williamson	Pat Biba	Marcia Williamson	Elaine Mittelsteadt	
Brunch	Barb Jull and Matt Rolfsmeyer	Winnie and Dick Severson	Bonnie and Bob Block	Worship Committee	Carol and Tom Rivers	
Adult Forum	Fair Trade Sale and intergenerational Wreath Making	Potluck Brunch and Sanctuary Decorating	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled

-----Upcoming Adult Forums:

12-3—Fair Trade Sale

12-10 Wreath Making and Christmas Tree Decorating

-----CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE—First, thanks to everyone who participated in our October effort to get input for our “Mission Site Profile” (MSP) that we send to the Synod and which is used to help find a new pastor for St. John’s. We have been reviewing what was said in answer to the four questions and at the two gatherings held October 14 and 24. We found several themes from those of you participating that will be used when we synthesize all of the thoughts from members, staff, partner’s sharing our building, and our youth and shut-ins and complete the 15-page MPS.

First, you thought the top three tasks for a new pastor were: 1. Preaching and Worship, 2. Administration, and 3. Social Ministry/Outreach.

Second, the top five gifts and skills you wanted in a new pastor were: 1. To be an effective communicator, 2. Be able to share leadership and work in a team, 3. Be able to use technology and media, 4. Be an effective administrator. 5. Provide care and nurture.

The three top things you said the congregation would do to support the new pastor were: 1. Help the pastor (and family) settle into Madison, 2. teach him/her about our congregation’s history, mission, and hopes for the future. 3. Increase lay participation to help carry the workload.

The Call Committee also has to provide information about demographics, references, available reports, and congregational history. Then our Church Council will review the final draft of the MPS and decide on the compensation package we will offer. Our plan is to have the MSP to the Synod in mid-January after which we will meet with Rev. Steve Kotter, the Synod staff person assigned to us. The Synod will then put out the word and eventually provide us with possible candidates to interview. **Please feel free to contact any of us if you have further thoughts or concerns or questions.**

Orders for **POINSETTIAS** to decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve are now being taken. Forms must be received by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th** for inclusion in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. Cost is \$15.00 per plant. Please use the form below to order your poinsettias, and place in the offering plate, mail, or bring to the church office. **Payments need to be received with the order form.**

Given by: _____

In memory / honor of (please circle one): _____

of plants ordered: _____

Total Amount @ \$15.00 each: _____ **Please make checks payable for exact amount to St. John’s Lutheran Church.**

EMERGENCY FUND DONATIONS are a fitting way to share the Christmas spirit at St. John’s. Please use the form below and place in the offering plate, mail, or bring to the church office. **Forms must be in the office by SUNDAY DECEMBER 17TH for inclusion in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Payments need to be received with this form.**

Given by : _____

In memory / honor of (choose one): _____

Amount of gift to Emergency Fund: _____ **Please make checks payable to St. John’s Lutheran Church**

St. John's Lutheran Church
322 E. Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 922

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER

«MAILING LABEL»
«ADDRESS1»
«ADDRESS2»
«CITY STATE» «ZIP CODE»

