

# Connections

December 2018

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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.



## ADVENT

**First Sunday in Advent—Sunday December 2nd**  
worship at 9:30; brunch, Fair Trade items for sale, intergenerational wreath making activity follow worship

**Second Sunday in Advent—Sunday December 9th**  
worship at 9:30; Christmas Tree decoration with Chrismons.

**Christmas Caroling—Tuesday, December 12th**  
6:30—8:00 pm, Meet at St. John's

**Third Sunday in Advent—Sunday December 16th**  
worship at 9:30; brunch follows worship. Food Collections for local food pantries, serve evening meal at the men's shelter

**Fourth Sunday in Advent—Sunday December 23rd**  
worship at 9:30; brunch follows worship

## CHRISTMAS

**Christmas Eve—Monday, December 24th, 2018**  
**4:30 pm**—Candlelight Festival Service  
coffee and cookie fellowship between services

**6:30 pm**—Candlelight Contemplative Service

**Christmas Day—Monday December 25th, 2018**  
No service, Office and Building Closed

## NEW YEAR'S

**First Sunday after Christmas—Sunday December 30, 2019**  
worship at 9:30; brunch follows worship

**Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus—Sunday January 6, 2018**  
worship at 9:30; brunch follows worship

**St. John's Lutheran Church, 322 E. Washington Ave.**  
**Madison, WI 53703 (608) 256-2337**  
**Pastor: Peter R. Beeson (608) 256-2337**  
**Fax: (608) 256-9590**  
**e-mail: [peterb@stjohnsmadison.org](mailto:peterb@stjohnsmadison.org)**  
**Web site: [www.stjohnsmadison.org](http://www.stjohnsmadison.org)**  
**Congregational President: Victor Forberger Council Chair: Dick Severson**  
**Council Secretary: Teresa Wagner Treasurer: Alice Gould**  
**Director of Music: Kristie Halverson, [kristieh@stjohnsmadison.org](mailto:kristieh@stjohnsmadison.org)**  
**Emergency Fund Director: Hasan Mohr, [hmohr@porchlightinc.org](mailto:hmohr@porchlightinc.org)**  
**Bookkeeper: [bookkeeper@stjohnsmadison.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stjohnsmadison.org)**  
**Parish Secretary: Dick Gundlach, [dickg@stjohnsmadison.org](mailto:dickg@stjohnsmadison.org)**  
**Custodian: Steven McCarthy, [stevenm@stjohnsmadison.org](mailto:stevenm@stjohnsmadison.org)**  
**Worship with Holy Communion is at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Brunch follows the service at 10:45 a.m.**  
**Youth Forum, Confirmation, and Adult Forum at 10:45 a.m. (fall thru spring)**

| Women's Bible Study  | October Council Minutes   |
|--|---|
| <p>The Women's Bible Study is the first Thursday of the month at the Prairie Rose Café at Oakwood East</p>   | <p><b>ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – COUNCIL MEETING – 16 OCTOBER 2018</b><br/> Attendance: Dick Severson (chair), Alice Gould (treasurer), Teresa Wagner (secretary), Teena Wagner, Barb Meyer, Carol Buchsteiner, Barb Pietz., Victor Forberger, Jim Johnson, Pastor Peter Beeson, Marc Williamson,<br/> <b>Devotions:</b> Dick Severson</p>   |
| <b>Reminders</b>   | <p>Minutes from the September Meeting: Approved<br/> <b>Financial Summary through September 2018</b></p>  |
| <p>-----The third Sunday of each month we collect food items for area food pantries.<br/> -----The third Sunday of each month we provide the evening meal for the homeless men's shelter at 7pm<br/> -----Articles for the next month <i>Connections</i> are due by noon on the third Friday of the current month.</p> | <p><b>Income:</b><br/> Total YTD Actual income:     \$247,197<br/> Budgeted YTD:                     \$275,455<br/> 2017 YTD:                         \$243,215</p> <p><b>Expenses:</b><br/> Total YTD Actual Expenses:   \$253,767<br/> Budgeted YTD:                    \$289,338<br/> 2017 YTD:                         \$253,048</p> <p>Offerings through September total \$169,282 compared to \$164,772 for the same period in 2017 and the budget of \$205,705. In September, we transferred \$20,000 from the reserve fund for a YTD total of \$55,000.</p> <p>At our March meeting, the council voted to reduce the rent for LIRS by half for the current year and the near future. Rent for Off the Square Club is to be reduced by \$600 per month for May through October. There was a mix-up with LSS on the new payment schedule. But this was resolved in July. We received the September payment of \$1,065 from Off the Square Club on August 31. LIRS will not owe any rent through December which meets the intentions of the council.</p> <p>A few expense items to note: Guest Musician/Pastor \$633 for supply pastors in September to bridge from Pastor Rich's last day at the end of August to Pastor Peter's first day in October. All benevolences were paid in September. Salaries and Benefits are only \$5,517 because we had no pastor on staff and Hasan Mohr was on vacation. Call Committee expenses reflect a member gift designated to cover some of the moving expenses for Pastor Peter. I expect these expenses to be paid in October. Accounting Services of \$1,629 covers accounting services for August and payroll services for September. Insurance Expense of \$4,428 includes the annual premium for Umbrella Liability and semi-annual premium for Multi-Peril coverage.</p> <p>The balance in the building fund at the end of September is \$41,722. At the direction of the council, this money will be available to the Building Maintenance Committee.</p> <p><b>Announcements:</b> Dick received some thank you letters for our donations.<br/> <b>Pastor Support Group for Pr Peter:</b> A first meeting is set for Thursday, October 16th.</p> |
| <b>Memorials</b>   |   |
| No Memorials Received  | <b>Minutes cont'd on p. 6</b>   |

## LIFE TOGETHER—News and Events

-----**Sunday, November 4th, was All Saints Sunday.** During the prayers, we remembered the members of St. John's who died this past year: **Ron Caucutt, Luverne Rosenbaum, Lorraine Aldahl, Fritz Steinhauer and Marcia Buss.**

-----**Thanksgiving Eve service** was a prayer service held here at St. John's at 7:00pm. **A pie social followed the service.**

-----**If you are interested in working** on a new photo directory, express your interest to **Victor Forberger.**

-----**Cottage Gatherings,** attended by 8 to 12 members have been held in host member's homes over the past few weeks. The purpose was to tell our story and listen to others tell stories of how God has been present for people at St. John's, to share stories of a time God has been active in your life and how share you see God at work in this community. Thank you to **Pr. Peter** for leading the gatherings and to the hosts: **Jill Ness and Peter Rafferty; Winnie and Dick Severson; Don Clevon; Dee and Merle Zimmerman; Miriam and Rob Mueller-Owens; Tim Asplund and Barbie Pietz.**

-----**Thankoffering Sundays this year were November 11th and November 18th.** Donations went to three purposes; **Katies Fund, efforts to prevent human trafficking and education and other assistance to help get women back in the workforce** after incarceration, family breakup, etc. **Dee Zimmerman**

-----**Thank you to all of the members of St. John's who attended and donated** to the Benefit Concert for the Backyard Women's Mosaic Project last Sunday. **Thanks also for those who brought refreshments, staffed the donation table, and did set up and clean up. Thanks to the Raging Grannies of Madison, Clare Norelle, and Julia Weaver and participants in the Mosaic Project for a great program.** We raised \$810 dollars! **Bonnie Block.**

-----A **Spring Retreat at Bethel Horizons** is being planned. All are welcome. This is a multi-generational event. More details will be shared as plans are finalized. If you are interested in planning, contact **Stephanie Schauer.**

-----**Do you want a stocking stuffer or a Christmas gift for someone special in your life?** Do you want to support organic farming and help offer workers a living wage? If so, come to the **Outreach Committee's annual Fair Trade Sale.** We will have fair trade coffee, chocolate, olive oil and more. Our sale stars Sunday, December 2nd, and will continue until we have sold the items purchased. **Miriam**

-----**Spring Retreat at Bethel Horizons—**A Bethel Horizons retreat **is being planned for the weekend of April 5-7th, 2019.** While the youth will take the lead in planning many of the activities, this is a intergenerational event. All are invited to spend the weekend (or part of the weekend) enjoying the center and its environment, which is located near Governor Dodge state park. Accommodations will be in the converted barn building, and are dorm style (4 beds/room) and shared (indoor) bathrooms. If you are interested in joining, please sign up at the Welcome Center, or let **Stephanie Schauer know (sschauer@myfastmail.com), preferably by December 2nd.** Final costs (which are on a per person basis) to be determined.

-----**MOSES Fundraiser—“Transformation Celebration”** at Brassworks, the new facility across from the Goodman Community Center. We will be honoring three individuals who were previously incarcerated, but overcame hardships and surmounted obstacles to return to the community to be a source of light for others. As you listen to their stories and honor their achievements, you will be inspired. To add to the fun there will be a small raffle for a few lucky winners. After the program, the band will play music that will make you want to move. There are two dance floors to make that possible. The link for tickets is: <http://mosesmadison.org/gala/> Saturday, December 15, 6:30 - 10:45; Goodman Center Brassworks; 214 Waubesa Way, Madison

## FROM THE PASTOR

“Children of God, come with joy, draw water from the well of salvation.” Begins the forgiveness part of the corporate confession we are using for Advent. This baptismal imagery repeats in the proclamation:

Remember the gift of baptism:

your sin is washed away in the name of Jesus;

you belong to Christ;

you are anointed to serve.

Stand up and raise your heads!

The reign of God is near.

With these bold decisive words we are reminded God has wiped our sin away and calls us to proclaim Good News to the world.

**From the Pastor** cont'd on p.6

## December 2018

| Sunday                                      | Monday                                 | Tuesday                       | Wednesday                              | Thursday             | Friday   | Saturday                       |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|--------------------------------|
|   |  |                               |  |                      |  | <b>1</b><br>8pm Men's Shelter  |
| <b>2</b><br>8:15am Choir Rehearses          | <b>3</b><br>10am Emergency Assistance  | <b>4</b><br>9am Staff Meeting | <b>5</b><br>10am Emergency Assistance  | <b>6</b><br>12pm OA  | <b>7</b><br>10am Emergency Assistance                  | <b>8</b><br>8pm Men's Shelter  |
| 9:30am Worship                              | 12pm OA                                | 12pm Alanon                   | 12pm Backyard Music                    | 8pm Men's Shelter    | 12pm Alanon  |                                |
| 10:45am Brunch                              | 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearses            | 6pm Outreach Committee        | 8pm Men's Shelter                      |                      | 8pm Men's Shelter                                      |                                |
| 10:45am Youth Forum                         | 8pm Men's Shelter                      | 8pm Men's Shelter             |  |                      |  |                                |
| 8pm Men's Shelter                           |  |                               |  |                      |  |                                |
| <b>9</b><br>8:15am Choir Rehearses          | <b>10</b><br>10am Emergency Assistance | <b>11</b><br>12pm Alanon      | <b>12</b><br>9am Blanket Workshop      | <b>13</b><br>12pm OA | <b>14</b><br>10am Emergency Assistance                 | <b>15</b><br>8pm Men's Shelter |
| 9:30am Worship                              | 12pm OA                                | 8pm Men's Shelter             | 10am Emergency Assistance              | 8pm Men's Shelter    | 11am Oakwood Communion Service                         |                                |
| 10:45am Brunch                              | 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearses            |                               | 12pm Backyard Music                    |                      | 12pm Alanon  |                                |
| 10:45am Youth Forum                         | 8pm Men's Shelter                      |                               | 8pm Men's Shelter                      |                      | 8pm Men's Shelter                                      |                                |
| 8pm Men's Shelter                           |  |                               |  |                      |  |                                |
| <b>16</b><br>8:15am Choir Rehearses         | <b>17</b><br>10am Emergency Assistance | <b>18</b><br>12pm Alanon      | <b>19</b><br>10am Emergency Assistance | <b>20</b><br>12pm OA | <b>21</b> Winter Solstice<br>10am Emergency Assistance | <b>22</b><br>8pm Men's Shelter |
| 9am Food Collection for local food pantries | 12pm OA                                | 7pm Council                   | 12pm Backyard Music                    | 8pm Men's Shelter    | 12pm Alanon  |                                |

|   |                             |                     |                           |                               |                           |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 9:30am Worship                          | 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearses | 8pm Men's Shelter   | 8pm Men's Shelter         | 12pm Connections Articles Due |                           |
| 10:45am Brunch                          | 8pm Men's Shelter           |                     |                           | 8pm Men's Shelter             |                           |
| 10:45am Youth Forum                     |                             |                     |                           |                               |                           |
| 5pm Serve Evening Meal at Men's Shelter |                             |                     |                           |                               |                           |
| 8pm Men's Shelter                       |                             |                     |                           |                               |                           |
| <b>23</b>                               | <b>24</b>                   | <b>25</b> Christmas | <b>26</b>                 | <b>27</b>                     | <b>28</b>                 |
| 8:15am Choir Rehearses                  | Christmas Eve               | Christmas Day       | 9am Blanket Workshop      | 12pm OA                       | 10am Emergency Assistance |
| 9:30am Worship                          | 10am Emergency Assistance   | 12pm Alanon         | 10am Emergency Assistance | 8pm Men's Shelter             | 12pm Alanon               |
| 10:45am Brunch                          | 12pm OA                     | 8pm Men's Shelter   | 12pm Backyard Mo-saic     | 8pm Men's Shelter             |                           |
| 10:45am Youth Forum                     | 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearses |                     | 8pm Men's Shelter         |                               |                           |
| 8pm Men's Shelter                       | 8pm Men's Shelter           |                     |                           |                               |                           |
| <b>30</b>                               | <b>31</b>                   | Notes:              |                           |                               |                           |
| 8:15am Choir Rehearses                  | New Year's Eve              |                     |                           |                               |                           |
| 9:30am Worship                          | 10am Emergency Assistance   |                     |                           |                               |                           |
| 10:45am Brunch                          | 12pm OA                     |                     |                           |                               |                           |
| 10:45am Youth Forum                     | 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearses |                     |                           |                               |                           |
| 8pm Men's Shelter                       | 8pm Men's Shelter           |                     |                           |                               |                           |

Minutes cont'd from p. 2

**Outreach Committee:** Name tags will be worn during Sunday services until the annual meeting on November 18th.

**Personnel Committee:** There was a recommendation to give Kristie Halverson and Dick Gundlach a bonus. After motion, second, and discussion, council approved the bonuses.

**Budget:** Tom Rivers presented the budget to the council. Council approved recommending the proposed budget to the congregation.

**Building Maintenance:** Dick Severson shared a list of projects that will need to be done. In the next year or so. These projects include a new roof.

**Senior Care Team:** Barb Meyer has set up a meeting with Pastor Peter on November 4th.

**Pastoral reflection:** Peter attended this Bishop's Convocation Sunday evening, October 7<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to Jill Ness for organizing St. John's first entry into the 2018 Trick or Trot 5K on Sunday, October 14, which is an annual fundraiser for GSafe, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making schools safer for LGBTQIA+ youth.

**Worship planning team:** Plans for the installation service are underway. Pastor Steve Kottke will be presiding, and Dick Severson will represent St. John's.

**New Business:** There was a discussion about improving access to the information presented at the quarterly meeting for those who cannot attend. The solution for now is to repeat some of the information being present at the annual meeting.

**Photo directory:** Pastor Peter asked about a photo directory and asked if we could get one set up. Victor will work with staff and volunteers about organizing one.

Prayers and adjournment (next meeting on November 20th)

From the Pastor cont'd from p.3

To physically remember the gift of baptism – a gift for most of us given years ago – we are including a practice called “aspersion” in the liturgy. This is an ancient practice of gently splashing or sprinkling people with water from the baptismal font as a reminder of our baptism. During the opening song the assisting minister and I will process down the aisle. I will carry a bowl with water from the baptismal font and an evergreen branch, gently splashing drops of water on each of you as a tangible reminder of baptism.

With these drops of water we remember God’s control over all things – rain, floods, our lives, and all of creation. We stand with shoulders back and heads uplifted, witnessing to the God of grace, the God who came to reconcile all of creation into God’s embrace.

May you have a blessed Advent, waiting for the fullness of God while at the same time knowing God is already present.

PS. Where do you see God in the world? Tweet, Facebook, Instagram using the #Godsightings hashtag. Tag St. Johns at @stjohnsmadison on Twitter and Facebook.

Pastor Peter

Orders for **POINSETTIAS** to decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve are now being taken. Forms must be received by **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>** 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 TUESDAY DECEMBER 18<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Payments need to be received with this form.**

Given by : \_\_\_\_\_

In memory / honor of (choose one): \_\_\_\_\_



## December

12/1 Debra Pellett  
Ethan Smith  
12/2 Karen Reiner  
Gary Pettey  
12/3 Dan Radke  
Tim Asplund  
12/5 Marcia Williamson  
David Henning  
Kimberlee Thomas  
12/6 Jeffrey Edge  
12/7 Nancy Mortenson  
12/8 Steven Williamson  
12/9 Dana DiSalvo  
Thomas Williamson  
12/10 Brittney Rector  
12/11 Riley Miller

12/12 Sherill Tripp  
12/12 Beverly Homburg  
12/13 Gilbert Splett  
Zane McConkey  
12/14 Darlene Kochanowski  
Richard Burdick  
Ron Hyslop  
Ann Milne  
Janis Borhardt  
Natalie Fischer  
12/15 Alice Duessler  
12/16 Alice Gould  
Jessica Johnson  
Patrick Grover  
Dylan Perez  
12/17 John Schwenn  
Carla Ziegler  
12/18 Heather Reinke  
Emily Conley  
12/19 Ronald Garske  
Truman Rafferty

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          | 2-Dec-2018                       | 9-Dec-2018                           | 16-Dec-2018                      | 23-Dec-2018                      | 30-Dec-2018                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Greeters</b>             | Elaine Mittelsteadt              | Pat Biba                             | Ronda Collins                    | Dee and Merle Zimmerman          | Charlene Caucutt                 |
| <b>Acolytes</b>             | Micah Asplund                    | Anja Forberger                       | Annika Mueller-Owens             | Truman Rafferty                  | Caden Collins                    |
| <b>Assisting Minister</b>   | Barbie Pietz                     | Dave Vogel                           | Karl Gutknecht                   | Shari Stephenson                 | Craig Collins                    |
| <b>Lector</b>               | Erna Stephenson                  | Victor Forberger                     | Gary Stebnitz                    | Jill Ness                        | Tom Hilger                       |
| <b>Communion Assistants</b> | Barb Meyer and Dick Gundlach     | Tom and Carol Rivers                 | Bob and Bonnie Block             | Dick and Winnie Severson         | Teena and Teresa Wagner          |
| <b>Ushers</b>               | Team #1 - Dick Paulson           | Team #2 - Marcia and Marc Williamson | Team #3 - Jim Johnson            | Team #4 - Asplund/Pietz Family   | Team #5 - Linda and Mike Puls    |
| <b>Altar</b>                | Team #1 - Niki and Kelsey Wagner | Team #1 - Niki and Kelsey Wagner     | Team #1 - Niki and Kelsey Wagner | Team #1 - Niki and Kelsey Wagner | Team #1 - Niki and Kelsey Wagner |
| <b>Welcome Center</b>       | Pat Biba                         | Marcia Williamson                    | Charlene Caucutt                 | Ronda Collins                    | Elaine Mittelsteadt              |
| <b>Brunch</b>               | Carole Buchsteiner               | Dory and Bob Germann                 | Elaine Meyer and Dee Zimmerman   | Phyllis and Marty Micke          | Bonnie and Bob Block             |
| <b>Adult Forum</b>          | Advent Wreath Making             | Christmas Tree Decoating             | None Scheduled                   | None Scheduled                   | None Scheduled                   |

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

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DECEMBER

