



Our Mission Statement:
Living in Service to Christ

The Messenger

at St. John Lutheran Church

146 6th Avenue West, Dickinson, ND ~ (701) 225-6747 ~ FAX (701) 225-3069 ~ www.stjohnelc.org

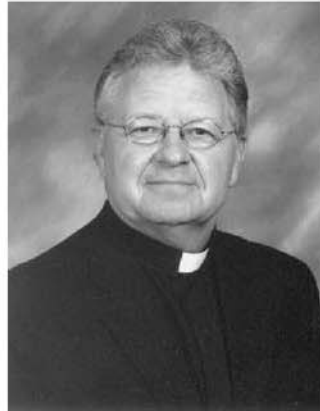


JANUARY 2012



Welcome Pastor Cal & Virginia

The New Year means new leadership for St. John Lutheran Church! Pastor Calvin Oraw will begin serving as Senior Pastor on January 1, 2012. Pastor Cal comes to us from Zion Lutheran Church in Fairview, Montana. He and his wife Virginia have ties to the area as she is a native of New England and a DSU Alumni who attended St. John when living in Dickinson. Pastor Cal and his wife have two grown children, Holly, living in Des Moines, IA, and Joel who resides in Minneapolis, MN.



Senior Pastor Calvin Oraw begins Sunday, January 1, 2012.

Join us for a reception
to welcome Pastor Cal and Virginia,

**Sunday, January 1, 2012,
in the 1st Floor Fellowship Room
following 10:00 a.m. Worship**

His installation will be held Sun., Jan 8, 2012, at the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship services, and there will be a lunch following in the church basement. Please begin praying for our new pastor and family. Be prepared to introduce yourself and remember, you have one name to learn, Pastor Cal has many names to learn. You are welcome to send cards of welcome and encouragement as he joins us in ministry. Welcoming a new pastor in genuine and effective ways lays the ground work for a healthy and vital relationship and the development of stable, long-term ministries together.



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold its

Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 12, 2012
at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.



All congregation members are asked to attend.

Cross-Generational Event Baptism Birthday Recognition - Sunday, January 8

On **January 8 at 9:15 a.m.**, we will celebrate all of our baptismal birthdays with a Cross-Generational Event. There will not be regular Church School or Adult Sunday School class on this date. Together, we will remember how baptism shapes into a child of God, and decorate baptismal birthday cupcakes!

Too often, we think of baptism as an event, rather than a way of living one's life. Baptism is the beginning of a lifelong faith journey and this milestone reminds everyone that living our baptism is a lifelong journey, and one needs to be prepared to live and walk wet!

At both the **8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services**, we will recognize those who were baptized in 2011, along with families and sponsors. Parents will also receive a Children's Bible from the congregation to help parents share God's story in the Bible with their children.



Church School Offering

In December, our Church School offering went to Lutheran Disaster Response. In January, our offering will go to the AMEN Food Pantry. We'll also do a food collection, so bring your non-perishable pantry items and let's see how much of the upstairs stage (and the AMEN Food Pantry shelves) we can fill! Collection baskets will also be at the doors of the sanctuary for the congregation to fill.



Confirmation Information

Junior High Confirmation

The Lord's Prayer classes will be held on **Wednesday, January 11, 18, 25 & February 1 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.** Students should bring the Bibles to all of the classes. The list of students who need to attend are listed on the confirmation bulletin board.

Mentor Groups

Mentor groups will meet on **Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m.** All confirmation students are expected to attend. Students will have a chance to meet Pastor Cal.



Church School

We'll be ready to go right after New Year's this year, Wednesday Church School resumes on Wednesday, January 4. All families are invited to our Cross-Generational Event celebrating baptism on Sunday, January 8, there will NOT be class upstairs that day! Our regular Sunday classes will resume on Sunday, January 15. There are still openings for leaders so check the calendars to see when you can help.



A Note from Susan...

Thank you to all of the wonderful children who participated in our Christmas Program "Tell Me a Christmas Story" on December 18! It is a blessing to have our children share this story with us every year.

A big thank you to all of the parents for their assistance!

Susan Moberg,
Church School Director

2011 Church School Christmas Program



Two Summer Serving Opportunities

It's January, so let's think about summer!

Beat the winter blues by attending one of two meetings scheduled to learn about summer serving opportunities. You will hear about serving opportunities and trips that are being planned for the congregation and for senior high youth. The same informational meeting will be held for anyone interested in these serving opportunities on both **Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, January 22 at 9:15 a.m.** We will be taking the church out of the building again this summer to serve our community and our world as we join the generations and practice our faith together. Gifts of all shapes and sizes are welcome.

Senior High Movie Day

**It's movies. It's food.
It's in the Youth Room.**

Senior high students are welcome to spend the first day of the new year lounging, eating, and watching movies in the Youth Room on **Sunday, Jan. 1, beginning at 11:00 a.m.** Bring some treats and movies!



January Milestone Ministry Events



4th Grade Students:

Sunday, January 15, 22 & 29 at 9:15 a.m.: Baptism Remembrance - main basement area

Many Lutherans cannot remember their baptism because they were baptized as infants. Families will learn about the lifelong journey of baptism and how we are shared by the waters and the Word to live as a Child of God. Students who attend **both Sunday and Wednesday church school classes** are invited to attend this milestone ministry event along with a parent or other significant adult.

Faith Chests for Kindergartners ~ 6th Graders

All students in Kindergarten through 6th Grade are invited to pick up a Faith Chest if you do not already have one. A Faith Chest begins as a cardboard box and can be decorated at home by a student with an adult. The Faith Chest is intended to hold items that relate to a student's faith, such as a baptismal candle, and all of the materials from Milestone Ministry Events. Faith Chests can be picked up in Jodeen and Susan's office, or at the top of the stairs on the second floor of the church, anytime in January.

Thank You Wade Messer & Angie Shilman

By Pastor Lisa

Senior High Youth Group was led by Wade Messer from September through December. The council had hired Wade to serve as an Interim Youth Director until the end of 2011, providing programming for senior high students on Sunday nights. Angie Shilman also worked with the senior high youth, continuing to build relationships with them throughout the transition. Thank you to both Wade and Angie for the time and conversations they shared with the senior high.

Currently, the council continues to work with David Anderson of Vibrant Faith Ministries to determine how to effectively provide ministry to all generations, including senior high youth. The council believes a lasting faith is created among youth when the church partners with the home, and when generations are joined together throughout the congregation.

In January, Youth Group will continue to meet on Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m.



Wade Messer



Angie Shilman

DECEMBER
AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH

FUNERALS:

DEC. 5 NOAH MEDLAR
DEC. 10 CORA GILSDORF

TANGEN BOOK

Sunday Sermons for Everyday Saints, written by Steven D. Tangen, has **SOLD OUT!** Thanks to those who purchased the book for supporting the ministry of the Trust Fund.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Member contribution statements can be picked up in the Commons Area. Please help us save mailing expenses by picking up your statement.

NOON BIBLE STUDY

The noon Bible study will meet Wed., Jan. 4 and Wed., Jan. 18, from 12:10 - 12:50 p.m. in the 1st Floor Fellowship Room. We will be studying the Book of Faith material and lessons that are a part of the ELCA initiative to dig deeper into our book of faith, the Bible. Bring a sack lunch if you'd like and join us! If you have any questions, contact Jodeen Myers at 225-6747.

AMEN FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The congregation is invited to contribute nonperishable food for the AMEN Food Pantry. Items can be dropped off in the white baskets at the church entrance and in the commons area. **This collection will run through Sunday, January 29, 2012.**

Gifts in Action

- November outreach:
 - WND Synod/ELCA ~ \$2,100.18
 - St Lukes ~ \$1,734.08
 - Badlands Ministries ~ \$ 750.07
 - Church School ~ \$ 137.98 went to ELCA World Hunger
 - WELCA Thankoffering ~ \$1,537.00
 - Thanksgiving Offering ~ \$1,077.00 went to ELCA World Hunger
 - Badlands Ministries ~ \$ 20.00
- Thank you Marcy Decker and Lyndsay Raymond for coordinating the Angel Tree distributions.
- Thank you to those who helped bake or bring treats for the Mentor Fun Night.
- A big thank you to the Altar Guild for decorating the church for Christmas.

St. John Website

St. John's website was created by St. John member, Lisa Vance. For several years, Lisa has volunteered many, many hours of her time to manage the website. The council has now approved compensating her for her time, as it is proposed in the 2012 budget. Thank you, Lisa, for the gifts you share through the website. It is a ministry of hospitality and outreach, providing those who are interested in worshipping at St. John with the information they need, as well as keeping current St. John members informed.

Church School Survey

By Pastor Lisa

Will you help improve Church School ministry?

Our congregation has spent four months in a new format of Sunday School. It was renamed Church School because this ministry is now offered on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Throughout the past four months, it has been exciting to see some of the changes. There has been excellent attendance on Wednesday nights. Students have sung in worship each month. And parents have taken the lead as teachers for each and every Church School class.

Of course, this has not been an easy transition. For some parents, teaching a class is incredibly uncomfortable and intimidating. Our curriculum is brand new, and even though it is simple to use, all parents and staff are still getting used to it. In place of Family Sunday School, we periodically hold Cross-Generational Events to include all of the congregation. This, too, has required some adjusting.

In February, every parent of a child who is registered for Church School will receive an email asking you to participate in a survey. The Education Committee will craft the survey in January, basing its questions on comments we have heard throughout the year. Please share your thoughts and concerns by participating in the survey. It will be one way for you to help improve St. John's Church School ministry.

Fund Gifts Received

The St. John Lutheran Church Trust Fund is grateful for recent gifts given to the Trust Fund to support the ministries of this congregation in memory or in honor of loved ones.

In memory of
Arvin Guenther

Vaile A. Pender
Bob Zander
Glenn Nickel
Arvin Guenther
Dale Luhman
Ethelyn Martin
Kornard Burkle

In honor of
Marcus and Pastor Lisa

From
Laurine Engel
Del & Joyce Gab
Janet G. Pender
Mary Zander
Rose Nickel
Dorothea Ziegler
Del & Joyce Gab
Del & Joyce Gab
Del & Joyce Gab

From
Roger & Peggy Fadness

2011 Trust Fund Grants Given

Did you know that your contributions to the Trust Fund provide for annual grants that significantly enhance programs, ministries and missions in the church and throughout the community?

Grants given in 2011 include:

Bible Camp Scholarships \$1,780	St. John Senior High Mission Trip \$3,000
St John Quilters \$250	Youthquake \$1,500
Best Friends Mentoring \$1,600	LYO \$850
Faith in Action t-shirts \$321	LWR - Project Comfort \$250
AMEN Food Pantry \$1,200	Richard's Place (new copier) \$1,200
Vibrant Faith Event \$1,940	Organ Renovation \$5,000
Sanctuary Renovation Loan Payment \$8,000	
Mentor Group Service Projects \$300	
Mission Trip grants: S. Dvorak, J. Jung, A. Simonieg \$4,300	

Thank you for your generous support of the Trust Fund Ministry.

Trust Fund News

One of the items of business at the February annual meeting of the congregation is to adopt revisions to the Trust Fund language within the constitution and continuing resolutions. These revisions do not change the work of the Trust Fund ministry but rather bring the documents up to date with current practices. A copy of St. John's constitution and continuing resolutions, which shows all the proposed changes, can be obtained in the church office.



St. John members
with last names
Erickson through
Gerving

will be called and asked to
furnish bars if there is a funeral
during the month
of January.

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

The Lutheran Magazine features stories of God's people living their faith and connects us to the global Christian movement. These monthly magazines are available to anyone and are located in the magazine racks in the Narthex and Commons Area. You will notice a special contribution envelope in May for *The Lutheran*

magazine. Consider contributing to this outreach tool in sharing faith issues with others.



Birthdays

St. John members who
are 90+ years old and
celebrating a birthday in
January include:

Kenneth Lundebly
who will be
94 years old on
Jan. 16

2011 Outreach ~ Renovating our relationship with others...

By Pam Weidner, Finance Secretary

We are a congregation ready to step up and renovate our relationship with God, with others, and to offer our church home as a welcome place to the community and beyond. St. John contributors amaze me with their willingness to share their financial resources and their time to help others in need. Programs which have been strengthened by your generosity in 2011 include:

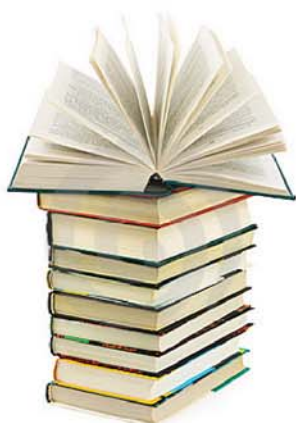
- Western ND Synod
- St. Luke's Home
- DVRCC
- Badlands Ministries
- Heartland Hospice
- The Welcome Table
- World Hunger
- Lutheran Social Services
- Women of the ELCA
- AMEN Food Pantry
- Lutheran World Relief
- Operation Christmas Child
- Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry
- ND Lutheran Campus Ministry
- Great Plains Food Bank
- Flood of Love
- Food for the Poor

Sometimes you may wonder if purchasing a butter braid, attending a Lenten supper, or participating in other fundraisers really makes a difference. Ask Bible campers about their experience at camp and how it affected their faith life. Talk with a mission trip participant and discover how reaching out to others has given so much more back to them. Hear the stories of the agencies and programs in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, that were blessed with St. John Mission Trip participants and the difference they made to others. Every *thing* we do makes a difference - whether it is a financial contribution, helping hands or even just being there for someone who needs a listening ear. We will continue to "step up" in 2012 so watch for information on how you can be involved!



Book Exchange Continues

Do you love reading? Come check out the books in our book exchange located in the Commons Area. The books are for anyone to take, read and return when finished. There is NO check out system - just return the book when finished.



Do you have books to add? Most types of books such as non-fiction, Christian fiction, self-help, are accepted. Please do not bring books of questionable content such as romance novels, etc.

If you have any questions, please contact Jodeen Myers at 225-6747.

9th Annual
Friends of the Fund
Celebration

Monday, February 6,
2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Dickinson Elks Lodge

Featured Speaker: Jen Jung
Mission Trip Memories



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TIME VALUE

This is a dated newsletter; it is valueless if delayed.



Don't Forget...



**Welcome Reception
 for Pastor Cal & Virginia**
 Sunday, January 1, 2012
 following 10:00 a.m. Worship
 1st Floor Fellowship Room



A Celebration of Friends of the Fund
 Monday, February 6, 2012
 At 7:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge



St. John Lutheran Church will hold its
Annual Meeting
 Sunday, February 12, 2012
 at 11:30 a.m.

How to Contact Us...



Phone ~ (701) 225-6747
FAX ~ (701) 225-3069
www.stjohnelc.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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