



The Messenger

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Happy Epiphany! Happy New Year! In January we have much to celebrate the Magi arrive from the East. Two years after Jesus divine Birth. The Baptism of our Lord on the following Sunday. We flip our calendars to a new year which many of us aptly see as a chance for new beginnings. We have 365 new opportunities to do things better than we did last year. Many of us make a variety of resolutions or promises to improve our lives, health, finances, relationships or some other important facet of our lives.

This January, in particular, we take a few moments to reflect upon many things in the life of St. John's. We give thanks to our out going, President Paul Kowalczyk. He has done a good job often going above and beyond the duties of President and serving as Trustee, maintenance man and assistant grounds keeper to John Chladon. So as Paul prepares to pass the baton to Dan Starry. We say thank you to Paul for the multitude of things you have done to serve your Lord and Savior. Not the least of which is being part of the call committee and administrative process to bring St. John's its newest Pastor in a string of nearly a dozen pastors in the life of St. John's. Scripture has a few words about the carrying out of One's duties.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

So we give thanks as Paul has set the example and fulfilled these words from Colossians Chapter Three.

In Christ's service to you his beloved Children,
Pastor Joe

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Off

Tuesday-8:30-5:00

Wednesday-8:30-5:00

Thursday-8:30-5:00

Friday-By Appointment

Saturday-9:00-3:00

Sunday-8:00-12:00

Pastor will be available for emergencies
as needed.

LYDIA SOCIETY

The Lydia Society led by President, Sylvia Wargo, will be meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00pm. The January meeting will be on January 9 due to the Holiday schedule. A hoagie sale is planned for January 17. In the future we will be holding a hoagie sale for the benefit of the youth group convention, and ideas were presented to help with the sidewalk project. All women are welcome to join. A special thank you to Sherry Wargo for her help with the Angel Tree and Christmas Candy.

PEW SISTERS

Pew Sisters will meet at church on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00pm. We are doing a study of the Ten Commandments. We will meet on January 9. We will be doing Commandment 5, *Do Not Kill*. There is always room for more if you would like to attend. Gertie Ann Mandak is the leader.

YOUTH NEWS

REAL. Happy New Year from the youth and children at St. John's. 2019 will be an exciting year for the youth heading to the **PRESENT.** LCMS Youth Gathering, July 11-15, 2019 in Minneapolis. **GOD.**

We will be continuing to do fundraisers to help us on our way to Minnesota and for the events our youth would like to participate in. Thank you to our congregation for all the support you always show us. We will keep everyone updated on all the exciting things we have coming up as we plan.

- Jolene Evancho

CHRISTMAS TREE

Bob Mandak would like to thank Chuck Zschunke and Don Gipson for getting the tree for the sanctuary, Stephanie Dice for the new ornaments, Lucille Adamoyurka, Nancy Trovitch, Gayle Leech, Gertie Ann Mandak and Bob Mandak for making the Chrismons, and Jolene Evancho and the youth with Nancy and Dave Trovitch for decorating. The result was just beautiful!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A New Year With The Lord— M.S.Lowndes

A new year is about to unfold
 With new opportunities to explore
 Doors will open for new experiences
 New adventures with the Lord
 Remember not the former things
 The things of this past year
 The Lord will do new things in us
 Much more than we are aware
 For He will make a way for us
 As we put our trust in Him
 And He will guide our every step
 By His presence we have within
 What God has placed within our hearts
 We find we'll be able to do
 If we look for the opportunities
 We'll see the door to go through
 We mustn't let anything hold us back
 But rise up and take our place
 And be all that God wants us to be
 With a fresh touch of His grace!

DISASTER UPDATE—Karen Ann Kowalczyk



As we look over the past year, I want to thank St. John's congregation for all the support they have given to the projects of Orphan Grain. You don't know how the items you have brought in have made a difference in many lives in those effected by the recent hurricanes. Maryland Orphan Grain Train had two trucks of supplies that went to the Carolinas and one truck left after Thanksgiving for Panama City FL. May God Bless those who have shared their blessings with those less fortunate.

Paul & I will be visiting the Panhandle of Florida, one of the places where Michael hit in February, so look for a report in the March

newsletter. Right now, I can tell you things in Panama City, FL are not very good. As of December 13th, people are still homeless sleeping in tents in one church backyard; one man was even sleeping in the cemetery. They recently had rain and wind which ripped the tarps off the roofs that were secured several weeks before. Please pray for these people as the agencies are trying to help with housing and helping to get things back to "normal".

Blessings to All in 2019,
Karen Ann Kowalczyk
Maryland Orphan Grain Train
Coordinator of Disaster Relief

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

We pray Jesus' hand would rest on **Peter Panco, Anna Belko, Bob Gould, Jack Ross, MaryAnne and Frank Gilham, Alma Yale, Anne Goranitis, Gertie and Bob Mandak, Bob Onder, Pauline Onder, Meralea Oberto, Bill and Lorraine (Onder) Ray, Megan Crume's mother, Patty** and all in need of His physical, emotional and spiritual care. If you have a prayer chain request, please call Gertie Ann Mandak, (570) 497-9361.



If Pastoral Care is required, please call Pastor Joe (570-459-6423) and the necessary arrangements will be made.

St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church

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Rev Joseph L Leech, pastor
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Website: stjohshazleton.org



Our Mission and Vision Statement:

"We are to be growing people in our faith and helping others to come to faith and grow in it."

ANNUAL REPORTS

The target date for 2018 annual reports is January 15. Please leave reports on the secretary's desk. Than you.

new year
new beginnings

COMMUNITY
LUNCHEONS

A Community Luncheon will be held on Saturday, January 26. It will begin with worship at 10:30 followed by the meal at 11am.

We are looking for Thrivent members to apply for an Action Grant to sponsor the luncheons. See Nancy if you want to help out.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER—Daniel Starry

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and enjoyed time with family and friends. In addition, I would like to wish each of you a happy and healthy New Year. With the start of 2019, St. John's enters into its 98th year of ministry. This would not be possible without the dedication and support of our members and of course, the grace of God.

I would like to take a moment to thank Paul Kowalczyk for serving as our Congregation President for the last four years. Despite numerous challenges, St. John's saw a number of improvements under Paul's tenure as President, including the calling and installation of Pastor Leech in June 2017.

I would also like to thank all those serving on Council for 2019. With the exception of myself as President, Don Roegge as Vice President, and the addition of Barry Gangwer as an elder, all other Council members retained their positions for the upcoming year and bring their wealth of experience to the table. Installation of officers will be conducted during the normal service on January 13th. The Council is dedicated to St. John's and all its members, and I ask for your prayers and support for the upcoming year as we work to continue to sustain and grow St. John's.

As the New Year begins, many people are making New Year's Resolutions in order to improve their lives. Have you made any resolutions? Do any of them include your faith or your Church? There are a number of opportunities here at St. John's for any age, any background, and any schedule. If you would like to volunteer but don't know how to get started, please see myself, Pastor, or any other council member, and we will be happy to help you find an opportunity that fits your talents and schedule. We're also happy to hear about new ideas that you may have to showcase your talents. One area where we will be looking for volunteers in the near future is to form a committee to begin planning St. John's Centennial Celebration. I encourage you to make 2019 the year to get involved. For all those that donate their time, gifts, and talents already, it does not go unnoticed, and it is much appreciated.