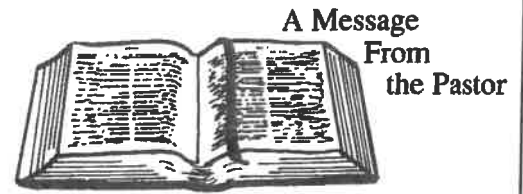




'Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love'



CHRISTMAS LOVE

Let us imagine that a mother named Amy is telling us this story...

"Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on massive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Ryan, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a five-year-old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." But I didn't have the heart to tell him that his school pageant was just one more thing to do, that I would rather not have to do at this busy time of the year. And that feeling only made me feel guilty and more depressed.

The night had come for the performance. Ryan and I walked into his school, and he dashed off to meet with his class as I found a seat near the front of the stage. Other parents and grandparents also took their seats as the room started to fill.

Nearing time for the pageant to begin, each class of students, accompanied by their teacher entered the room and sat off to the side. Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as Christmas, I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment... songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer.

One by one, each class, with their teacher, rose from their seats and walked up the few steps onto the stage to perform their song. When it was time for my son's class, their teacher announced that they would sing the song: "Christmas Love". I was slightly taken aback by its title.

Ryan was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row-center stage... held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song.

As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion would present the complete message: "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until we noticed a small, quiet, girl in the front row was holding the letter "M" upside down... totally unaware that her letter "M" ... appeared as a "W."

The audience filled with young children began to snicker at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W." Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter increased until the last letter was raised... and we all saw it together.

A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, many realized the reason we were there that night; and why we celebrated the holiday in the first place. Why, even in all the busy chaos of the season, there was a purpose for our festivities. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

"CHRIST WAS LOVE".

And we believe those words to be true. The birth of Jesus Christ long ago in Bethlehem was all about love... "For God so loved the world, that He sent His only begotten, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

On that first Christmas... Christ was love. And He still is. And every Christmas as we again hear that wondrous story of His birth... we are amazed by His presence... and humbled by His love.

May each of us again this Christmas reflect on the love of the Babe of Bethlehem, God's Son, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.


Pastor Jeff G. Gavin

PERSONAL PRAYER TIME

During our Sunday worship time of prayer, we offer a time for personal prayer. Each Sunday your Pastor leads you in prayer for various issues and people; but there are issues and people in your personal life which need prayer. So... we will include a time for silent prayer for any and all personal issues, concerns or burdens you may have; or your prayers for family, friends, home, church, nation or world, which may be on your heart and mind, so that you can bring these to your Lord in prayer.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Along with "Birthday Greetings", we also wish a "Happy Anniversary" to those couples who were married during each month by printing their marriage date.



If you are unsure if we might have a record of your wedding date... please contact the church office (847-593-7670, ext 1) with this information. We would like to include all of our married couples and wish to them... **"Happy Anniversary"**:

Tom & Marjorie Hames
John & Jacqueline Ambrus

December 26
December 27



We hope you will come and join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM** for our **ADULT Sunday Bible Class** in the lower level of the school building . . . **open question forum with refreshments and sweets - every week.**

Please join us for our **Mid-Week Bible Class** on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the lower level of the school building.

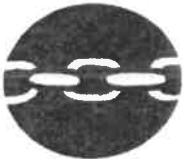
All children in Preschool and up are invited to join us for **Sunday School for ALL AGES** on **Sundays at 9:15 AM** in the lower level of the school building.

ALTAR FLOWERS . . .

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar, (or confirm your "standing order") please contact **Ellen Gehrke** at (847) 220-1709 **NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE PRIOR TUESDAY!**



ALTAR FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS CAN COST AS LITTLE AS \$15! Please Note: When you donate flowers for our worship services, you are welcome to bring the flowers home after the 10:30 service.



Prayer Chain

If you would like a prayer for a need for yourself or someone you know . . . allow members of your St. John Family to offer prayer for this need. Primary contact people for the Prayer Chain are Darlene Bergstrom (847-259-0084) or Pastor (847-593-7670, ext. 1). Please call and give them your prayer request.

COFFEE BREAK FELLOWSHIP

Please note the sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex to volunteer to help serve this gathering on the third Sunday of the month. ***We need your help. Thank You!***



P.A.B. (Pay A Bill)

P.A.B. enables interested St. John Families to directly aid the ministries of their church by paying a current bill. This is designed as an opportunity for an **"Over-and-Above"** gift, beyond the Sunday offering envelope.

Pay-A-Bill as of 10/30/2018: \$6,288.48

Please take note of the slips of paper posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Each slip contains the source of a bill and the amount. If you wish to pay that bill, please remove the slip of paper and a small envelope, enclose your check (**make checks payable to "St. John Lutheran Church"**), and place it in the offering plate. ***THANK YOU!***

Gifts for the King

"As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare;

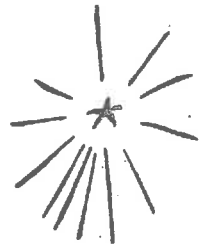
So may WE with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,

All OUR costliest treasures bring,
Christ to Thee, our heavenly King.

(From the Hymn TLH #127
"As With Gladriess Men Of Old")

We all have gifts that we may bring.
We all have songs that we may sing.
We all have kind words we may say.
We all have prayers that we may pray.

We all have love and joy to give.
And what a joy life is to live
If we just scatter everywhere
The things God's given us to share.



If you have a gift—bring it
If you have a song—sing it
If you have a talent—use it
If you have love—diffuse it

If you have gladness—share it
If you have happiness—give it
If you have religion—live it
If you have a prayer—pray it

**AS YOUR GOD HAS GENEROUSLY GIVEN COUNTLESS GIFTS TO YOU...
MAY YOU GENEROUSLY GIVE GOD YOUR GIFTS, THROUGH HIS CHURCH.**

*Please remember your Lord Jesus and His church this Holiday Season...
after all, without Him, there would be no Christmas!*

+++++

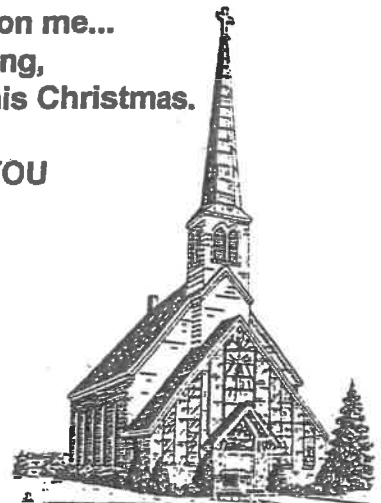
"I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS..."



"I'll be home for Christmas, you can count on me...
lyrics from an old, familiar Christmas song,
which many of us will fulfill as we journey home this Christmas.

This Christmas, may your Lord be able to count on YOU
to journey to your spiritual home this Christmas.

**JOURNEY HOME THIS CHRISTMAS...
AND VISIT YOUR LORD JESUS.**



ALTAR FLOWERS . . . To the honor and glory of God

It is always a privilege to remember a loved one or a special event in our life as a blessing from our Lord and give Him honor and glory.



Think about all the occasions YOU could place flowers on the altar of your Lord. We are always appreciative of your flower donation. Let's continue to have flowers on our altar every Sunday.

If you would like to donate flowers . . . please contact **ELLEN GEHRKE** at **(847) 220-1709**.

PROPERTY SALE UPDATE

The appearance before the Mount Prospect Village Trustees was November 7. This was to be the first of two appearances, with the final reading and approval scheduled for later in November. - The Village instead decided to waive the second reading and voted unanimous approval of the project. Various details must still be completed for the Village, County and State, prior to the actual closing.

Great thanks to Dennis Ehrman for all his assistance to us in this process.

ADVENT OFFERING FOLDERS

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son..." (John 3:16) - God gave the gift of His Son to us when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. That's what Christmas is all about ... God giving to us His great love. Again this year you can give your love to Your Lord God by your gift to the ministry of our St. John Church through this Advent Folder.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR FOLDER WITH YOUR DONATION. THANK YOU!

REMEMBER YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS

LISTED BELOW ARE ST. JOHN FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE: SHUT-IN'S, HAVE HEALTH ISSUES OR HAVE DIFFICULTY ATTENDING CHURCH IN INCLEMENT WEATHER.

IF YOU DON'T SEE THESE PEOPLE IN WORSHIP . . . PLEASE REMEMBER THEM WITH A PHONE CALL, A CARD OR A VISIT. *THEY WILL APPRECIATE IT!*

HAMES, Tom & Marge

PLEASE REMEMBER TO HELP OTHERS

The St. John Fellowship Club is continuing their food drive for distribution to people who reside in the Northwest suburbs who are less fortunate than ourselves. All non-perishable food items will be taken to the Mount Prospect Food Pantry. Remember also that paper & soap products (shampoo, etc.) are not included in food stamps.



A "deposit box" is located **in the Cloak Room**. If you have any questions, please call Luther & Jill Legg (847) 593-6335.

ST. JOHN CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday December 9, 2018

5 PM

Sponsored by the St. John Fellowship Club

Toscana Italian American Restaurant
1859 West Central Road, Arlington Heights
(next to Sam's of Arlington Restaurant)

MENU:

House Salad with Italian Dressing

**Choice of 1 selection of the following
ordered at the table:**

Cheese Lasagna; Rolled Eggplant; Veal Marsala;
Gnocchi Carbonara with Crispy Chicken;
Pepper Steak; Rigatoni Vodka Chicken;
Crusted Barramundi (fish) & Chicken Parmigiana

Coffee service & Cash Bar

\$24.00 per person (includes tip)

Please RSVP to George Schubkegel

(with Cash or Check to: George Schubkegel)

Before December 1st @ 847-506-9633

IT'S ADVENT . . .



TIME FOR ADVENT MID-WEEK WORSHIP

Our mid-week Advent services starts with our first Advent Service on **Wednesday, December 5 at 7:00 PM** - **"CHRISTMAS" SHEPHERDS - Abraham.**

Our second Advent Service was held on **Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 PM** - **"CHRISTMAS" SHEPHERDS - David.**

Our third Advent Service will be held on **Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00 PM** - **"CHRISTMAS" SHEPHERDS - Of Bethlehem.**

GIVE A SPECIAL GIFT

Christmas is the time for giving gifts.



Again this year Advent Offering Folders (and boxes) are being given to our St. John Families (in the back of the Church). Please use this Folder to give a special GIFT to your Lord Jesus on His birthday, to help do His work at St. John. *Thank You.*

NOTE: Please return folders with your donations.

OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God grant you peace at Christmas,
and fill your heart with cheer;
God grant you health and happiness
throughout the coming year.
God guide you with His wisdom
and keep you in His care;
This is our special wish for you . . .
This is our Christmas prayer.

May the peace and joy of the Christ Child
be with you now and always, and grant
you a most blessed Merry Christmas



Pastor Jeff & Lynn

Come let us
Adore
Him



***It's the Holiday Season ...
a time for Special Worship Services***

Advent Service of Carols & Readings

Sunday, December 2 - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

A special service, sung to the tunes of your favorite Advent carols

Mid-Week Advent Worship I - "CHRISTMAS" SHEPHERDS - Abraham

Wednesday, December 5 - 7:00 p.m.

Worship Service of Carols with Communion

Sunday, December 9 - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

A special worship service, sung to the tunes of familiar Christmas carols

Mid-Week Advent Worship II - "CHRISTMAS" SHEPHERDS - David

Wednesday, December 12 - 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Praise

Sunday, December 16 - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

A Service of Praise with carols and music often overlooked.

Mid-Week Advent Worship III - "CHRISTMAS" SHEPHERDS - Of Bethlehem

Wednesday, December 19 - 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Family Worship with Communion

Monday, December 24 - 6:00 p.m.

Gifts for the Children

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Communion

Monday, December 24 - **10:00** p.m.

A service of Choir and instrumental music,
carols and candle-lighting

Christmas Worship with Communion

Tuesday, December 25 - 10:00 a.m.

A service of JOY with Choir, Handbells,
instrumental music and carols for all

**Join us in the celebration
of the birth of our
Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ.**





Poinsettias

*If you would like to order a **Poinsettia** to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas, please fill in the order form below. These beautiful 6" potted plants have 4-5 large blooms each. They are available in **red only**, and sell for **\$13.50 each**, cash or check (payable to "BUSSE FLOWERS"). Please return your order sheet with payment to Pastor or to the Church Office no later than Sunday, December 9th. Thank You!*

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE # (_____) _____

How many Poinsettias? _____ x \$13.50 = \$ _____

You may pick up your plants after the Christmas Day worship service. If you need to make other arrangements for picking up your plants, or if you have any questions, please contact the Church Office (847) 593-7670, extension 1.

I **WILL BE** taking my plant(s) home: YES _____ NO _____ *

***As we only have a limited number of shut-in's, we ask that you please contact the Church Office if you wish to donate your plants! Thank You. (If you do not check "Yes" or "No", we will assume that you ARE taking your plant(s) home and will not be donating it.)**



Sean Cooke	December 1	Julie Klatka	December 15
Jill Brockie	December 1	Jonathan Graves	December 15
James Gajewski	December 4	Randy Fiorito	December 18
Sara Roediger	December 5	Abigail Imburgia	December 20
Heidi Tabib	December 6	John Pass	December 27
Ron Busse Sr.	December 8	Peter Nagunwa	December 29
Sean Brockie	December 8	Caleb Cooke	December 29
Jon Christensen	December 13	Kelly Clesi	December 30
William Evers	December 14	Chuck Schrum	December 31

If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the Church office for a correction... Thank You!

May God Bless You on Your Birthday

DECEMBER - JANUARY 2018 2019



DEC: Jan Anderko
JAN: Jackie Koeppen & Jerry Guanci

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>
Dec. 2	8:00 AM	George Jensen	El-Roy Schoo	Pastor
	10:30 AM	Jon Tertel	Trudy Klein	Stasia White & Phyllis Betts
Dec. 5	7:00 PM	Curt Gerlitz	Dwayne Mueller	
Mid-Week Advent Service				
Dec. 9*	8:00 AM	Ron Leaf	Wayne Limpinsel Arnie Johansen	Alice Mueller
	10:30 AM	Marius Hetrea	Jon Tertel Andrew Tertel	Jon Tertel & Art Schiemann
Dec. 12	7:00 PM	Ron Leaf	George Jensen	
Mid-Week Advent Service				
Dec. 16	8:00 AM	Fred Hug	Debbie Hug	Betty Roediger
	10:30 AM	Youssef Tabib	Heidi Tabib	Youssef Tabib & Heidi Tabib
Dec. 19	7:00 PM	Dwayne Mueller	Wayne Limpinsel	
Mid-Week Advent Service				
Dec. 23*	8:00 AM	Curt Gerlitz	Ron Leaf Arnie Johansen	Ron Leaf
	10:30 AM	Jon Tertel	Marius Hetrea Andrew Tertel	Jon Tertel & Tracy Galla
Dec. 24*	6:00 PM	Youssef Tabib	Raouf Tabib Arnie Johansen	
Christmas Eve Worship				
Dec. 24*	10:00 PM	Jon Tertel	Ron Busse George Jensen	
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship				
Dec. 25*	10:00 AM	George Jensen	Ron Leaf Arnie Johansen	
Christmas Day Worship				
Dec. 30	8:00 AM	Fred Hug	Debbie Hug	Sara Roediger
	10:30 AM	Marius Hetrea	Trudy Klein	Youssef Tabib & Heidi Tabib
Jan. 6	8:00 AM	Dwayne Mueller	Arnie Johansen	Alice Mueller
	10:30 AM	Marius Hetrea	Ron Busse	Jon Tertel & Art Schiemann

(* Communion)

ELDER FOR THE MONTH:

DEC: Youssef Tabib

JAN: Ron Leaf

NOTE: If you are unable to serve your Lord at a scheduled worship service, your own replacement must be secured.