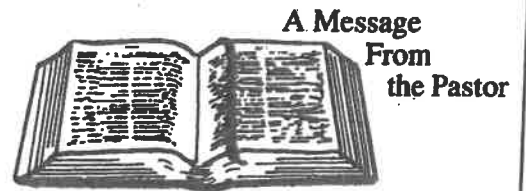




'Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love'



A SEASON AND A REASON

Someone once observed that a wasted life is really nothing more than a collection of wasted days. As God gives us life, each one of us starts the New Year with the same number of opportunities, 365 of them. We can choose to either use and invest them in eternal things; or allow them to drift by without taking advantage of the gift we have been given.

Each year is a gift from our Lord God. Each season of the year is also His gift to us, in which we are promised: *To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.* (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

"To everything there is a season..." A season has a beginning place and an ending place, which are not always easily perceived. Especially in Chicago-land, where our winters last well into spring, and summer slides quickly into fall. So there are days when we are not sure which season it is.

Yet change occurs and the new season comes. You can't stop it, because God has ordained it. You can bemoan it, fret about it, get angry at it...but you cannot stop it. Everything has a season. Some seasons are easier to love than others, but all have their highs and lows. And every season in the life of a believer in Christ will ultimately be made beautiful by the love and blessings of our Lord.

Spring brings to us new life; as the grass begins to turn green, leaves return to the trees and buds and flowers again appear. All a reminder to us of the Easter message of new life, and forever life we have through our risen and living Savior, Jesus.

Like many of you...I love summer. That's when I enjoy walking outdoors, when I take day trips and a vacation. I love daylight lasting past 8:00 in the evenings. I love all the activities and events and opportunities for rest, relaxation and refreshment that come with summer.

I feel a regret having to yield to fall. I may appreciate the coming of fall, yet it is hard to turn loose of summer. But then God so beautifully paints the trees, orange, yellow, red, and brown. And Thanksgiving comes with the fall harvest; and we can remember to thank our generous Lord for all that we receive.

Also like many of you...I hate when the fall season ends and bitter old winter comes. But winter has its moments. Like when God covers over the ground and decorates

the tree branches with that first white blanket of snow. (Which after that...I hope He gives us no more.) But in winter God brings us Christmas, and the joys of our yearly celebration of the birth of the Christ child; and the beginning of God's mission for our salvation.

As our Lord works in the seasons of our world...so He seeks to work in the seasons of our lives. To every season...there is a reason...*"a time to every purpose under heaven"*.

Our Lord God knows where we are, what we are going through, and He has a design for our lives. It is a comfort to consider that even in times when we do not see God's plan, or what His purpose is, God does know...and we can be assured it is for our good. The Bible tells us, *"The steps of a good person are ordered by the Lord: and he delights in His way."* (Psalm 37:23) - *"A person's heart plans his way; but the Lord directs his steps."* (Proverbs 16:9)

Each of us will face difficult circumstances for reasons that are not apparent to us. This is the harsh winter season of our life. But so too will come the promises of spring and the summer warmth of His love. God has a purpose for the season in which you find yourself...and a purpose and reason for it. And in faith and trust we know that the seasons of our life, rest in His hands, according to His will.

To everything there is a season...and for everything there is a reason. As this New Year of 2019 will bring us the seasons of nature, it will also bring us the seasons of our lives. And the opportunities for you to consider them bitter...or to trust that in God, He will make them better.

A new year is dawning. Dear Lord let it be, another year...with Thee.



Pastor Jeff G. Gavin

ATTENTION ALL THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS

If you wish to name St. John as your choice for your Thrivent Choice dollars, please call: 800-847-4836.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have previously named St. John as your choice... you must do so **every** year.

◁ ▷ ◁ ▷ ◁ ▷ ◁ ▷ ◁ ▷ **COMMITMENT** ▷ ◁ ▷ ◁ ▷ ◁ ▷

I AM YOUR CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPE

- * I would like to talk with you,
for I am part of your faith life.
- * I may not be familiar to you,
but I can help you be a better Christian.
- * I like to go to church every Sunday,
for I help you to be a partner with Christ.
- * I am very small, but I am vital to the
ministry of your church.

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JAN 6 2019



Our St. John Lutheran Church

1100 Linneman • Mt. Prospect, Illinois

CURRENT EXPENSES . . . \$ _____
MISSIONS and SYNOD . . . \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
Name _____ \$ _____

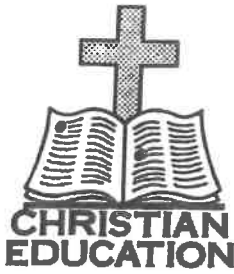
Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all. -- Proverbs 22:2 NIV
God loves a cheerful giver.

C.P.H. St. Louis, MO Made in U.S.A.

- * I challenge you to be as kind to God as He has been to you.
- * I am only paper, but I carry the full gift of a generous heart.
- * I am the only "pocketbook" you need to take to church on Sunday.
- * I am not a burden, but the joy of the faithful believer.
- * I am your chance to preach, for I am a silent sermon of your devotion.
- * I am your way of a showing trust and love to your Lord.
- * I am . . . **YOUR CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPE.**

***** PLEASE REMEMBER . . .**

The surest and easiest way to solve any church financial situation is to . . .
Fill and bring YOUR Church Offering Envelope to worship . . . every Sunday!



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.

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 will now be wishing a "Happy Anniversary" to these 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"**:

Armando & Marsha Hernandez	January 6
John & Brittany Coleman	January 8
Santiago & Laurel Marin	January 14
David & Sharon Wille	January 26

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD - 2018

The Year In Review

It was indeed a "Year of our Lord" for St. John, as His presence was evident in so many ways.

2018 WAS FOR ST. JOHN, A YEAR OF:

- + Continuing to do our part toward Christian "Kingdom work", through the usage of our old school building for ministry and worship by Immanuel Presbyterian Bible Church (Korean)
- + After many years of usage of our lower level as a worship center for Maranatha Church (Hispanic); they chose to move to a different location at the end of October
- + Continued learning and fun in our Children's Sunday School
- + Full page color Easter ad with sister churches in the Daily Herald newspaper; which marked the end of Circuit support for these ads, twelve years after Pastor Gavin created this ministry
- + A constant variety of worship services, many unique to St John, each and every Sunday
- + Special and successful 'Food Drives' for those in need in Mt Prospect, and for our own members
- + A Recognition Dinner in January for Pastor's 35 years in the ministry and 25 years serving St John
- + The continued enjoyment of the St John Bowling League season
- + Informative and enjoyable Adult Bible Classes
- + Hosting the Junior Soccer League of the Chicago Fire professional soccer team
- + The celebration in September of the 170th Anniversary of St John; with an historical picture display at the church, a special worship service and a gift of our historical brochure for all, a noon luncheon with guest speaker Tim Hetzner, President of Lutheran Church Charities and the K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry, plus displays and artifacts for viewing
- + Various congregational fellowships and meals, enjoyable Fellowship Club activities and the annual Super Bowl Party
- + The continued hard work by our Board of Church Properties members
- + Increased ministry, counseling and aid given to needy members and non-members alike
- + Eleven days of conducted guided tours of our historical church and cemetery for several classes from District 57 Elementary Schools
- + The continuation of our 9:15 am Summer Worship Schedule during July and August
- + The presence in May of ISL-Ventures, seeking to purchase the southern portion of our school side property for a Senior Assisted Living and Memory Care Facility...resulting in a Letter of Intent for Purchase, followed by Contract for Purchase and congregational voters approval to sell, presentations to the Village of Mount Prospect and unanimous acceptance of the property and project by both the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Trustees in November... with closing and construction to come in 2019
- + The continued fine work of our Music Director, Choir, Hand-bell Choir, Praise Singers and Musicians
- + The continued fine work of our many Board and Committee members, Council members, Church Secretary and dedicated volunteers, for whom we can be so thankful!

It was a year of births and deaths, joys and sorrows, Bible classes, meetings, events, special worship services, visits, programs and ministries, numerous activities, fun fellowships and countless blessings for our St. John Family.

It was all of this and more, for 2018 was indeed a: "Year of our Lord" at our St. John.

2018 STATISTICS

Deaths: 1

Youth Confirmation: 3

Adult Baptism: 2

Adult Confirmation: 2

Removed: 5

Transfer In: 2

Transfer Out: 6

Membership

Baptized Souls: 422 / Communicants: 248



The Altar Guild is currently looking for additional volunteers who would enjoy preparing and maintaining the altar for worship at St. John. Volunteers are assigned to a rotating team committed to serve 2 months a year to set up for communion, change altar paraments, and to refill the altar candles as needed.



Another Year is Dawning

Another year is dawning,
Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year in progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving,
Thy presence in all the days.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness,
The glory of Thy face.

Another year of leaning
Upon Thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Father, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee.

A SPECIAL HOLIDAY THANK YOU . . .

To our Choir, Handbells, Praise Singers, and all who did so much to enhance our holiday worship service. Special Thanks to our Music Director, Jim Vyhanek for all of his fine work.

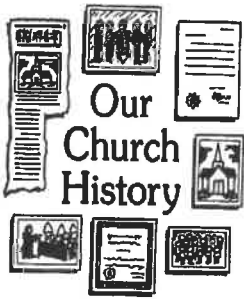
A Thank You also to those who work extra hard during the holiday season, but are often forgotten, our Secretary: Cathy Schubkegel and our ever loyal and dedicated volunteer Jerry Guanci.

A PERSONAL THANK YOU:

"Lynn and I would like to express our deep appreciation for all the lovely cards, thoughtful gifts and good wishes which we have received from you . . . our St. John Family, during the past Christmas season.

May the Christ of Christmas remain with you throughout this year and continue to bless all aspects of your life.

Pastor Jeff & Lynn



Our Church History

Would a member of each Board, Committee, or Club kindly write a brief summary of their year's activities or meetings to be included in the Annual Historian's Report for 2018.

Please mail or give it to Dorothy Halvorsen or you can drop it off in the Historical Committee Mailbox in the Church Lounge, or in the Church Office **BY THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY!!**
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 end of 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!**

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!**



VOTER'S MEETING . . .

The next Voters' Meeting will be on **Monday, February 25 at 7:30 PM IN THE CHURCH.**

The Agenda for this Voters' Meeting will be:

Board and Committee Reports



FELLOWSHIP CLUB MEETING

The next Fellowship Club Meeting will be **Tuesday, February 26 at 7:30 PM** in the lower level of the school building.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

You are invited and encouraged to participate in the Family life at St. John.
The following opportunities for fellowship are available . . .

EVERYONE IN THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED!!!

**ST. JOHN SUPERBOWL
TAILGATE PARTY**

**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 3, 2019**

AT 4:30 PM
(Game kicks off at 5:00 PM)

in the School basement
with the
BIG SCREEN TV!!!

Home-made Pizza will be provided

Bring an appetizer or a dessert to pass
(& to enter into the contest)

BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES

Bring your own lawn chair
(or just use one of
our folding chairs)



COME FOR: - THE FELLOWSHIP

- THE FOOTBALL GAME

- THE COMMERCIALS

- THE FOOD

**- THE EXCITING CONTEST FOR BEST:
DESSERT, HOT APPETIZER AND
COLD APPETIZER**

**. . . this year's judges are: John Limberger,
Christel Limberger & Barbara Sullivan**

BRING YOUR FAMILY . . . INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

(COME WATCH THE GAME AND ROOT FOR YOUR TEAM ON OUR BIG SCREEN TV!!)

JANUARY



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Carmen Hetrea	January 1	Michael Koeppen	January 10
Nicole Roediger	January 1	Chuck Glen	January 10
Leslie Raygor	January 6	Ruby Franz	January 14
Thomas Kijak	January 6	Joyce Hayden	January 20
Suzanne Travis	January 8	Christopher Klatka	January 23
Ed Pfingsten	January 9	Kyah Stephey	January 24
Joe Nather	January 10	Curt Gerlitz	January 26

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

May God Bless You on your Birthday

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2019



JAN: Jackie Koeppen & Jerry Guanci
FEB: Heidi Tabib

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>
Jan. 6	8:00 AM	Dwayne Mueller	Arnie Johansen	Alice Mueller
	10:30 AM	Marius Hetrea	Ron Busse	Jon Tertel & Art Schiemann
Jan. 13*	8:00 AM	George Jensen	Ron Leaf Wayne Limpinsel	Ron Leaf
	10:30 AM	Youssef Tabib	Jon Tertel Andrew Tertel	Jon Tertel & Youssef Tabib
Jan. 20	8:00 AM	Fred Hug	Arnie Johansen	Sara Roediger
	10:30 AM	Jon Tertel	Trudy Klein	Heidi Tabib & Art Schiemann
Jan. 27*	8:00 AM	Ron Leaf	Betty Roediger Sara Roediger	Alice Mueller
	10:30 AM	Jon Tertel	Andrew Tertel Marius Hetrea	Jon Tertel & Phyllis Betts
Feb. 3	8:00 AM	Curt Gerlitz	Arnie Johansen	Curt Gerlitz
	10:30 AM	Jon Tertel	Trudy Klein	Art Schiemann & Tracy Galla
Feb. 10*	8:00 AM	George Jensen	Arnie Johansen Wayne Limpinsel	Betty Roediger
	10:30 AM	Youssef Tabib	Heidi Tabib Raouf Tabib	Youssef Tabib & Heidi Tabib
Feb. 17	8:00 AM	Fred Hug	Dwayne Mueller	Alice Mueller
	10:30 AM	Jon Tertel	Ron Busse	Stasia White & Jon Tertel
Feb. 24*	8:00 AM	Ron Leaf	George Jensen Arnie Johansen	Ron Leaf
	10:30 AM	Marius Hetrea	Youssef Tabib Heidi Tabib	Phyllis Betts & Jon Tertel

(* Communion)

ELDER FOR THE MONTH:

JAN: Ron Leaf
FEB: Curt Gerlitz

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