



PASTOR JOHN'S JOTS

Glad Tidings

The song of the angels when Jesus was born conveys a sense of extravagant joy. "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth, peace with whom God is pleased."

To the casual observer there may be confusion about why the fuss? After all, this is a night like any other. People go to bed early to save on oil in the lamps. Bodies are tired, life is short and often tragic. The night is deep and dark and things are the way they are.

Suddenly, the surprise. A vision of brilliant light to common shepherds. A song of God's upset for the pride and power invested in the way things are in this world. The angels sing a song of good news for all, a savior born in a barn. Shepherds visit to see a tiny, vulnerable baby and return to their everyday lives, "praising God for all that they had seen and heard."

The seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany present the themes of God at loose in the world. What else can we do except sing the song of the angels and entertain extravagant joy.

A Blessed Christmas to All,

Pastor John

Mission Message

We have all recently sat at heavy-laden Thanksgiving tables. In a few weeks we will repeat the scene at Christmas dinner. How many people in the world don't have enough to eat, and what can we do about it?

ELCA World Hunger responds to hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world by addressing root causes. Through a comprehensive program of relief, development, education, and advocacy, people are connected to the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Between 70-75 percent of ELCA World Hunger funds are spent internationally, and 20-25 percent are spent domestically.

Find offering envelopes, coin boxes, brochures, videos, curricula and more -- for free! Browse the ELCA Resource Catalog and find the best resources to encourage congregational support of ELCA World Hunger and other important ministries. See www.elca.org/resources.

Thanks for your support!

God's work, our hands.

St. John's Pictorial Directory

St. John's has contracted with "Lifetouch" to produce an up-to-date pictorial directory. Photos were taken during October and November and the directory will be available for distribution sometime around Easter 2012. The plan is to focus on the transition from our old church building to the construction and dedication of our new sanctuary. **A big THANK YOU to all who participated. 176 family photos were taken** at St. John's which qualified us for an additional two pages in the directory. If for some reason you were not able to have your photo taken and would like to be part of the directory and montage, please call Nancy Kessler at 674-7950 or 997-6012 ASAP. Arrangements can be made to have your photo taken at another local church during December.

EPIPHANY –

CELEBRATING JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

There are people in our community who may not have light bulbs or are not able to afford them. We are asking for donations of energy efficient light bulbs to be brought to church on the weekend of 1/7/12 & 1/8/12 which is Epiphany Sunday.

These bulbs will be blessed at all worship services and given to the West Seneca Food Pantry so that others may see with the light we provide through God's goodness to us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to write for the 2012 Lenten Devotional

A committee is working to establish this year's theme and to identify significant Bible verses appropriate to the theme. The devotional will be a cooperative effort among Grace Lutheran, St. David's Episcopal and St. John's Lutheran.

Please consider contributing to the 2012 Lenten Devotional. Forty writers are needed as well as an artist to draw illustrations for the overall theme and weekly topics. If you are interested, please call the church office at 668-2152; contact Nancy Kessler at church or by calling her at 674-7950. Details will be available early December. Meditations will be due the second week of January.

It is the sharing of personal experiences and thoughts about faith that has, over the years, made this booklet very meaningful for the parishioners at St. John's and other congregations.

Fund Raising Report on the Tool Raffle

Our first annual tool raffle on October 23 at Vigilant Fire Co. Hall was a huge success. Almost \$6,000 was added to the building fund account.

Thanks to all who contributed their time and energy to sell tickets, to all who purchased tickets, to set up on Sunday morning and who stayed to help clean up the hall after the event.

Special thanks to my "cooking side kicks" who helped to make 475+ BBQ hamburgers—Joyce Brown, Kim Crooks, Renee Then, Sharon Tyler and Carol Boeck. They were so helpful in anything I needed throughout this event.

Melissa & Rob Germano donated the pulled pork, Dessert Deli for the wonderful fancy "brownies", Zasada's catering for the slaw, beans, and potato salad, Troyer Farms for the chips and pretzels and Rick and Pat Lipka for always helping in all areas of fund raising.

The 240+ left over hamburgers, rolls, snacks and salads went to Renaissance House and I thank Sue & Bernie Springer for this delivery service. Even the staff raved about this delicious donation.

Endless THANK YOUs TO THE REST OF OUR TEAM—Bob & Gayle Ward, Don Denzel, Lowell & Karen Rothenberger, Maxine & Jim Steiner, Carol Boeck & John, Renee & Russ Then, John & Jess Cronenberger, Roger & Judy McGill, Joyce Brown, Danese Dick, Kim Crooks, Sharon Tyler and, last but not least, my husband Art for his caring support of me.

Here is a brief report of our expenses:

Postage & posters \$152, Vigilant rental \$300, \$4477.94 Phillips Brothers tools, beer & pop \$430, bartenders \$120, Costanzo rolls \$127, alcohol permit \$36, beef & related food products \$320.

Donations besides the pork, desserts & other food I thank Bob & Gayle—paper products, John & Jessica—lawn sign, and the extra large tools of a tile cutter saw & a Dewalt drill combo from Jim Bammel & Lehigh Construction.

The winners of the 50/50's Kyle Whelan and Mark Koeppel who used his winnings to purchase chili dinner supplies.

Big tool winners were (last name only) Cacciamise, A. Woodard, B. Pajak, L. Delecki, J. Bedard, R. Monin, S. Surdej, E. Dwyer, T. Regan, R. Kibler, A. Haase, D. Haase, R. Lipka, J. Brown, W. Koeppel, M. Pikula, C. Kedron & Borczynski. Wheelbarrow Full of Cheer—Paul Napier, Pie a month—John Kwiecinski, Vera Bradley combo—Carrie Brooks.

We also had an early bird drawing for ticket sales—\$100 to W. Orchal and the seller—Don Denzel \$100—Don very graciously donated his \$100 back to the building fund.

This event was fun filled and we look forward to another one next year. Our committee is taking a rest until our next event—Take Out Fish Dinner February 24. More information in February.

Submitted by Sandy Haase

THE CHOIRS OF ST. JOHN'S

Adult Choir: rehearses on Thursdays from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Nick Barnhard is directing the Choir as we work on anthems for Advent and Christmas. This choir will be singing at the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Youth Choir: rehearses on Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

This Choir is for children in the 3rd through 6th grades and will be singing at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service. Nick Barnhard will accompany this Choir with Carolly Huth directing.

Cherub Choir: rehearses on Sundays during Sunday Church School.

Bell Choir: is inactive at this time. We have bell ringers but we need someone to direct this Choir.

It is with regrets that the Church Council accepted Bonnie Klatt's resignation as our organist due to our Austin organ being in storage until our new church is completed. We thank you, Bonnie, for sharing your talents with us and keeping the organ sounds alive.

Carolly Huth, Worship & Music Chairman



Sabbatical for St. John's?

There has been rumor about something happening at St. John's involving the term "sabbatical." The Sabbatical Committee would like to offer a definition and a view of how the concept may be part of our mission and ministry in 2012.

First of all, the members of the Sabbatical Committee are: Karen Rothenberger, Roger McGill, Nancy Kessler, Carrie Brooks and Paul Napier along with Pastor John. The committee has been meeting since last summer to begin planning for a time of renewal, review, and being energized by God for the future. In the Scriptures, the concept of sabbatical is grounded in the need for a time of rest. "The word sabbatical comes from the word Sabbath, meaning to "close or rest" – exactly what God did after six days of creation. Based on God's example and command, regular periods of rest and reflection were a community experience. God's people were called to dedicate the seventh day of the week for worship and rest (Ex. 20:8-11). Farmers were to leave their fields uncultivated, to allow it rest, every seventh year. As Eugene Peterson noted, 'Sabbatical years are the biblically based provision for restoration.' Jesus affirmed the human need for rest by his frequent habit of withdrawing to a quiet place to meditate, pray, and be renewed for ministry." (excerpt taken from the website, www.wheatridge.org.)

In August, the church council was notified of a request for a time of sabbatical – suggested for the months of August, September and October in 2012. Since then the council has granted a provisional approval, dependent on securing grant funding to pay for expenses that would be incurred.

Continued on page 7.

Sabbatical for St. John's? continued

The expenses would come about in providing for pastoral care and the services of a consultant to work with members of the congregation. There would also be expenses incurred by Pastor John as he spends time in reflecting on his call, rest and renewal. Both he and the congregation would be working separately but at the same time to answer the question, "what next?" The purpose of this sabbatical is to benefit both the congregation and the pastor in seeking renewal and redirection for God's work.

The time and effort dedicated in the last three years to coming up a plan to achieve the new church building will be coming to a completion in February of 2012. Once our beautiful new building is completed, the next challenge will be how to redirect our efforts to our basic call to mission and witness in our community. The question about our sense of call to be about God's work is the question that members of the congregation will be working on during the sabbatical time. A paid consultant will be available to assist with this discernment. At the same time, Pastor John will be asking the same kind of questions and seeking God's direction.

The sabbatical time is not vacation for Pastor John or a time for him to seek another call. In fact, part of the basic understandings about the sabbatical is that Pastor John agrees to stay in ministry at St. John's for at least one year after the sabbatical time is completed. The committee should know by mid December about whether the first of three grants applied for have been approved or not. The funding will be the deciding issue as to the question of if the sabbatical will happen or not. Please ask any questions of members of the committee.



Pantry Needs

Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry

Items needed for December and January are cake mixes, dessert mixes, jello, peanut butter and jelly.

Angel Tree

We will again be sponsoring Gateway-Longview and adopting the United Methodist Church on Seneca/Babcock After School Program this year. The tree will go up the weekend of November 19-20th. The gifts for Gateway-Longview will be due December 11th. We will also accept unwrapped toys-these will find a home as well.

The items for the United Methodist Church will be due on January 15th.

Thank you for your continued support!
The Social Ministry Committee



Crossbeam Deadline

Articles for the **February** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **January 8th**. Please e-mail your articles to Sue Koeppel (skoeppel@roadrunner.com) or leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office. Electronic articles are preferred, if at all possible.

LOST & FOUND

Due to our construction, there is no designated place for lost & found items. If you find something, please place it in the Worship & Music or Cemetery mailboxes between the Church Offices and Fellowship Room.

If it is too large for that, please contact Carolly Huth at 826-0506. Items of value are kept in the church office.

LOOKING FOR THE OWNERS OF:

MAN'S GLOVES: Redish Brown, suede

VARIOUS: pierced earrings – See Carolly

LOOKING FOR A LOST ITEM:

ABERCROMBE ZIP-UP JACKET WITH HOOD – navy blue with gray lining, kids size XL

Left in the Acolyte robing room by one of our Acolytes. The jacket was gone when he went back to get it.

St. John's Donates Nine Flood Buckets!

THANK YOU to everyone who donated items for flood buckets during the months of September and October. Nine complete buckets were assembled and delivered to families in the eastern part of New York State. They are being used to remove mud, debris, and mold left in the wake of severe flooding caused by Hurricane Irene.

MEMORIALS & SPECIAL GIFTS BOOKLET

The Memorial Committee has published a booklet listing the items in our new church building that can be donated as memorials to loved ones, in honor of loved ones, groups, special occasions, pets or in thanksgiving for the gifts God has given us.

This booklet may be picked up in church, mailed to you by calling the church office or by going on line to www.saintjohnsws.org.

There is a form to fill out in the booklet and on the web site. Please put it and your donation in a Building Fund envelope, mark the envelope Special Gifts and place the envelope in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Should you have any questions regarding this booklet, please call Rick Lipka at 675-8158 or Carolly Huth at 826-0506.

Confirmation Class

Recently in Confirmation class we have been focusing on God's covenants and favorites in the bible. We have learned the specific details about His covenant with Noah and Abraham and Sarah. The past couple of weeks we focused mainly on Sarah and Abraham and how God fulfilled his covenant to them very late in their lives. We are just now starting to learn about the family tree that came after Abraham and Sarah had Isaac. To incorporate all these concepts into our lives we draw our interpretation of them on paper and they are then hung around the room. After starting a biblical family tree we drew our own personal family trees. As the year progresses we will add more posters to the wall and continue adding to our biblical family trees.

Rachael Ruhland (gr.8)

Kid's Church

| DATE | LITURGICAL WEEK | LEADER | YOUTH HELPER |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| December 4 | Year B/Advent 2 The King is Coming | Nadine Brown | Amanda Altman |
| December 11 | Year B/Advent 3 The Greatest | Lynn Karp | Devan Brady |
| December 18 | Year B/Advent 4 Call His Name Jesus | Linda Altman | Amanda Schack |
| December 25 | Year B/1 st of Christmas Don't Miss Christmas! | Felicia Kline | Anna Deveso |
| January 1 | Year B/2 nd of Christmas Our God is Faithful, 100% | Julie Storch | Amanda Wolf |
| January 8 | Year B/Baptism of Lord Make Your Father Proud | Amy Whelan | Samantha Godus |
| January 15 | Year B/2 nd Epiph Come and See | Sylvia Delaney | Amanda Altman |
| January 22 | Year B/3 rd Epiph Following the Leader | Joyce Brown | Devan Brady |
| January 29 | Year B/4 th Epiph Who Made Up the Rules? | Christine Mallon Ursula VanGorder | Amanda Schack |

ST JOHN'S FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

IS SPONSORING AN ONGOING PRECIOUS METALS COLLECTION

WHAT BETTER TIME TO SORT OUT THOSE ITEMS THAT YOU NO LONGER USE: Rings, necklaces, earrings, tea sets (sterling silver).

All you have to do is collect items that you want to donate and place them in a plastic bag (with your name on it) and bring them to church. We will have them appraised and the money will go to the Building Fund.

If you have any questions, please see Sandy Haase, Renee Then, Kim Crooks, Carol Boeck, Sharon Tyler or Joyce Brown.

News From the Pews



In The Hospital

Ted Sloma

Baptism

11/6—Michael William Patronaggio, son of Vincent & Jolynn Patronaggio

For All the Saints

We give thanks to God for all the saints who have gone to their eternal home in the church triumphant since last All Saint's Day

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| William Luderman | November 12, 2010 |
| Marion Borchert | November 28, 2010 |
| Calvin Bommer | November 30, 2010 |
| Raymond Lang | December 11, 2010 |
| Shirley Sparer | January 31, 2011 |
| William Sarver | February 20, 2011 |
| Janice Borchert | March 17, 2011 |
| Jean Cerullo | June 26, 2011 |
| Carmen Orser | June 28, 2011 |
| Genevieve Vogel | August 10, 2011 |
| Helen Everett | October 13, 2011 |

Ladies Aid

The spirit of caring and sharing was alive and well at our last meeting as we selected the recipients of our Christmas donations.

We will be remembering Harvest House, Meals on Wheels, The West Seneca Food Pantry, West Seneca Cares for Kids, and our Building Fund. Also, the Crop Walk received the monies from our Mystery Pound Sale. We are thankful to be able to share what we can with those organizations who put their time and efforts into helping others.

When the Crossbeam is published again, we will have recuperated from our Christmas party and all of the other gatherings that keep many of us busy this time of year ever mindful of the real reason we have so much to celebrate. Not everyone can get out this time of year so keep them in mind with a card, phone call or even a small gift and always a prayer.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.



Women of the ELCA

Our Thankoffering Service is always a meaningful time to begin the season of holidays. Gathering together for a church service with lovely music and a special message with our church friends is a wonderful way to count our blessings before the hustle and bustle of December. It would be great if you could join us for this next year too.

Speaking of joining us, why not come to our Christmas celebration on Tuesday, December 13 at 7pm. We will be presenting a program titled "The Colors of Christmas". Do you know where and when your traditions began and what is behind the meaning of some of them? Did you know that the Christmas tree can be an expression of faith which began in the 7th century with a Monk? What about the candles and different colors that we use this time of year? Learn all about these interesting things and sing some Christmas songs this evening. It will be followed by some light refreshments and lively fellowship. We look forward to seeing you and any of your friends or family that would like to come! A free will offering will be taken which will be given to the ELCA Malaria Campaign. We look forward to seeing you there.

Be sure to check out the thought for the month insert on Jesus' Birthday.

Blessings come in many shapes and sizes and can be given in so many ways to others. This holiday season and every other day of the new year we wish you all the joy and comfort one can get from giving or receiving these blessings since we have all received the greatest gift of all.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

ST. JOHN'S DINING OUT CLUB

We invite you to join us:

WHEN: DECEMBER 4 – Sunday - 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: TONY ROME'S A PLACE FOR RIBS
MENU: SALADS, RIBS, CHICKEN, BEEF, ITALIAN
PRICES: \$ 9.00 & UP
DIRECTIONS: 1537 UNION RD. ACROSS FROM RTE.
400 ENTRANCE

AND:

WHEN: JANUARY 25 – Wednesday – 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: THE RED LOBSTER
MENU: EQUIVALENT TO OLIVE GARDEN
PRICES: \$ 8.00 AND UP
DIRECTIONS: MCKINLEY MALL – CORNER OF
MILESTRIP & MCKINLEY PKWY.

WE WILL CAR POOL FROM CHURCH AT 5:30 p.m.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE DUE TO THE SIZE OF OUR GROUP. PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN UP ON THE POSTER IN THE KITCHEN.

RESTAURANT REVIEW:

Bravo: 23 of us dined at this small but cozy restaurant. It was a bit noisy but we had a good time. The place was packed, the food delicious, home made, the portions were a good size and the wait staff was friendly and accommodating.

How will we choose the next restaurant? We now have a list of prospective restaurants and, at each dinner, everyone places an "X" next to their choice. The restaurant with the most "X"s is the one we dine at next.

During the nice weather, we will try those restaurants farther away and during the winter months, we will stay closer to home. Here is your chance to try new restaurants, visit your old favorites, meet new people and enjoy good company. All members of St. John's, your family and friends are welcome.

Sunday Church School

The November 6th Intergenerational Event, "GIVING THANKS", was very well received by both the Sunday School children and the congregation. .It was planned and executed by Nancy Kessler with the help of Diane McMahon, Dawn Corliss and Diane Molnar. The beginning and closing of the event, in the church, seemed to set the theme for the program.

Our teachers/staff meeting on November 6 was very well attended. Teachers were advised that a letter would be going home with each child, from Pastor John, regarding the break-in at our church. The purpose is to keep everyone appraised of what's happening in their church. Teachers and staff will meet on December 4 at 9 am.

The Sunday Church School Christmas program will take place Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 pm. Your cooperation will be appreciated in preparing the children for their part in this program.

Sunday School offering envelopes for 2012 will be distributed before Christmas. Please destroy all 2011 envelopes.

Keep in mind there will be no Sunday School classes on December 25 and January 1. Classes will resume on January 8, 2012.

Dates to remember.....

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Teachers and staff meeting | - December 4, 9 am |
| Children's Christmas Program | - December 18, 3 pm |
| CHRISTMAS DAY | NO CLASSES |
| NEW YEAR'S DAY | NO CLASSES |
| Classes resume | - January 8 |

Submitted by Danese Dick

Campbell's Labels for Education

Preschool is collecting Campbell's Labels for Education to help fund their activities. The collection container is also located in the parish hall foyer.

The Labels for Education program is proud to welcome Post Cereal! Now, there are over 2,300 participating Labels for Education products. It's easier than ever to reach your school's collection goal and earn free resources like basketballs, computers or musical instruments!



Perpetual Fundraising Activity



PENNIES
From Heaven

Sunday School's Pennies from Heaven Jug is on the kitchen window counter. Remember these pennies will be used for the construction of our new church building. Your support is appreciated.

Capri Sun Drinks

Help St. John's Preschool save our landfills!! Capri Sun has a program that will pay us for recycling empty drink pouches. For each pouch we collect, we will be paid \$0.02. The more you drink, the more you help the environment, the more cash the school earns. Here is how you can help:

1. Purchase Capri Sun water or juice drinks pouches
2. Finish your drink
3. Remove the straw
4. Bring the empty pouch to school

There is no need to wash the pouch!! The company does that when we return them.

The empty pouches are then turned into bags, folders and pencil cases. Please help support our efforts in recycling!!

Festivals and Commemorations

December

- 3** Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, 1552
- 4** John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, c. 749
- 6** Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342
- 7** Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397
- 13** Lucy, martyr, 304
- 14** John of the Cross, renewer of the church, 1591
- 20** Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, 1552
- 26** Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
- 27** John, Apostle and Evangelist
- 28** The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

January

- 1** Name of Jesus
- 2** Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, 1872
- 15** Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, 1968
- 17** Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, c. 356
Pachomius, renewer of the church, 346
- 18** Confession of Peter
- 19** Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, 1156
- 21** Agnes, martyr, c. 304
- 25** Conversion of Paul
- 26** Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries
- 27** Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith
- 28** Thomas Aquinas, teacher, 1274

Worship & Music

Average attendance for October: 130

REFORMATION SUNDAY: 10/30 - we enjoyed the message brought to us by "Martin & Kate Luther". They shared with us thoughts about marriage and raising children...all 11 of them. Thank you Carrie Brooks, Sandra Gordon, Jon Grauer & Pastor for bring us this message.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY: 11/6 – during communion 160 names were read while members of the band played "When the Saints Go Marching In". Thank you for a very beautiful time for reflection.

THANKSGIVING: Tues. 11/22 - 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian. Our choir will be singing and refreshments will be served. Our altar will be decorated for Thanksgiving and we thank Lynn & John Boldt for doing that for us.

ADVENT: begins 11/27.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH: 12/4 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship. Please stay after service to help decorate our worship area if you are able. Thank you Haase family for donating our Christmas tree this year.

SCS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: 12/18 at the 3:00 p.m.

LONGEST NIGHT/BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP: Wed. 12/21 at 7:30 p.m. & Thurs. 12/22 at 11:00 a.m. followed by a pot luck luncheon. This service focuses on people experiencing grief and sadness during the holidays and is usually held close to the solstice (longest night of the year). It will be a service of communion, healing and candles. There will be a pot luck luncheon following the 11:00 a.m. service.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 12/24

4:00 p.m. Communion Family Service with youth involved in the liturgy, as Ushers and the Cherub & Youth Choirs singing.

7:00 p.m. Traditional Candle Light Communion Service

11:00 p.m. Traditional Candle Light Communion Service with our Band playing and the Adult Choir singing. There will be one-half hour of special music prior to this service.

CHRISTMAS DAY: 12/25 11:00 a.m. Communion Service.

NEW YEAR'S EVE: 12/31 at 9:00 p.m. Communion Service. Our Youth Group is sponsoring a pot luck supper, movies and game night prior to worship. All are welcome to attend.

NEW YEAR'S DAY: 1/1 - 11:00 a.m. Communion Service of scriptures and carols.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY: 1/8 celebrating the Baptism of Our Lord. At this service, we read the names of those who were baptized at St. John's during the past year and for all baptized..

OUR NEXT MEETINGS: DECEMBER 7 & JANUARY 4 AT 7:00 p.m. We hold an open meeting and all are welcome.

Carolly Huth, Chairman



Poinsettia Order Form

\$6.00 per plant

Number ordered _____

PLEASE PRINT

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given By _____

Please return to the church office by December 11th.

Checks made payable to St. John's Altar Guild



Esther Altar Guild

We welcomed Rick Lipka to our November meeting. We were pleased to learn more about the plans for our guild room in the new church. As we continue to see progress it's easy to get excited about our future. As I have mentioned many times in my article how we need new members, it was great to welcome 3 new members to our guild. Thank you to Jean Stankowski, Maxine Steiner and LouAnn Wendt, it's great to see new faces and get more involvement. This is a group of all ages. Many of us were young when we joined, but time marches on for us all. So please don't think that you are too young or too old, just come to a meeting sometime. We always seem to have a good laugh and delicious goodies.

As the holidays are approaching, we want to remind you that the Altar Guild will be selling Poinsettias at a cost of \$6.00 each. Please look for the order forms in the bulletins on Sunday November 27th, December 4th and December 11th or you can cut out the one found in this Crossbeam and bring it in, or mail it to the church. Please make checks payable to St. John's Altar Guild.

The next meeting is not until February 19th. December altar is Connie and Charlie Arnold. January altar is Karen Maier and Kathy Moody. We wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and New Year!

Submitted by Nancy Weber

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center 2011-2012 Year-round ministry opportunities

Mark your calendars with the following programs at LCLC. For more information about any of the following please call 716-386-4125 or visit www.lclcenter.org. Dates are subject to change.

Senior High Winter Retreat

January 6-8, 2012

Hobby Retreat (Bring your own hobby retreat)

February 24-26, 2012

4th-8th grade Winter Retreat

March 2-4, 2012

Adopt-A-Project Work Day

April 28, 2012

Ride around the Lake

August 4, 2012

Summer Camping Season

July 1-August 10, 2012

ADULT GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Invites you to join us:

DECEMBER 10: Saturday - 8:00 p.m.

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Holiday Pops Concert with Debby Boone

COST: \$ 24.00 - tickets may still be available. Talk with Ron Wirth.

WE WILL CAR POOL FROM CHURCH AT 6:15 P.M. Parking - \$ 5.00

JANUARY 21: Saturday - 7:30 p.m.

Lancaster Opera House – “A Chorus Line”

COST: \$ 22.00 Adults, \$ 20.00 Seniors and students through High School.

WE WILL CAR POOL FROM CHURCH AT 6:30 P.M.

Please contact Carolly Huth 826-0506 for tickets.

Both of these activities require reserving seats and prepayment of tickets. We are on a deadline here so please don't wait too long if you want to attend one or both of these activities.

Future Activities:

FEBRUARY 5: Valentine's Dinner – Italian Village Restaurant

MARCH 10: Pot Luck Dinner & Planning Meeting

APRIL 14: Museums – Corning, NY

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ADULT GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Continued

11/12 – 9 of us visited the Jello and LeRoy House museums in LeRoy, NY. Very interesting. Did you know there was chocolate Jello? The collection of buggies, wagon & sleighs along with the 1908 Cadillac were fascinating and the LeRoy House held so many antiques that we lost count, two Steinway pianos and a working fireplace that they actually cook with. Dinner at the D. & R. Depot was a treat as all their food is home made and very good.

Look for a sign-up poster for each event in the Kitchen. Some activities may require pre-payment in order to receive group rates or the venues may need to know how many people are attending. We car pool to all activities scheduled off premises but you can meet us there if it is more convenient for you.

As always, our activities are open to all adults, young and old, singles and couples in our congregation. Your family and friends are always welcome and, if you feel your children are old enough to enjoy the activities we plan, please bring them with you.

Heartfelt Thanks

“The flowers on the altar on October 16 in honor of the 30th anniversary of my ordination were a very thoughtful and kind expression of good wishes.

Thank you and Blessings, Pastor John”

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Crop Walk. St. John’s raised **\$879**.

Thank you to everyone who made the chili dinner a success. We raised **\$1,510** for the building fund.



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| Altar Guild | 20, 21 |
| Confirmation Class | 10 |
| Dining Out Club | 15 |
| Festivals and Commemorations | 18 |
| Food Pantry | 8 |
| Fundraising | 4, 11 |
| Heartfelt Thanks | 23 |
| Kid's Church | 11 |
| Ladies Aid | 13 |
| Lenten Devotional | 3 |
| Lost and Found | 9 |
| News from the Pews | 12 |
| Pastor John's Jots | 1 |
| Social Ministry | 8 |
| Sunday Church School | 16 |
| WELCA | 14 |
| Worship & Music | 5, 19 |