

❖ St. John Newsletter ❖

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December 2011
Schaumburg, IL

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

“Transforming This Christmas” is the theme of this year’s personal home meditations that can be picked up in the narthex. They are intended to appeal to those hearts who have asked such questions as, “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if this Christmas we could rise above the turmoil of our lives? Wouldn’t it be great if you could really find joy and peace despite all the burdens you carry and the mad, hectic preparations for Christmas?” The Lutheran Hour Ministries uses a daily reading and text from God’s Word, with a spiritual message written by Rev. Wayne Palmer, that intends to let God’s promises incarnate in the newborn child of Bethlehem raise you above the worldly problems and earthly stresses, as He transforms this Christmas for you.



CHOIR CONCERT 12/4—3:00 p.m.

The adult choir hopes you can reserve an afternoon from your holiday schedule to enjoy music of praise and of the season again this year. This will again replace our house to house caroling, but we hope you enjoy singing along with us in a “warm” and comfortable location. Light refreshments will be served, and a free will offering will benefit the food pantry at St. John. You have plenty of time to think of your favorite hymn to request during the hymn sing portion. Request forms will be in the bulletin again, and the basket to deposit them is on the Usher’s Table. Requests are limited to the hymnal, so all can join in.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES



“Christmas Without Shepherds is Like...” will be the main point of this years Midweek Vespers on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. While everyone individual is encouraged to take up the discipline of personal meditations, this set of 3 evening services offers an opportunity to sharing Christian fellowship singing, praying and hearing God’s Word. By this blessed means He tie our hearts more closely to the promise of Jesus’ birth, and binds us more strongly to the one another as the family of faith whose Heavenly Father’s grace and mercy equips and inspires us to be gracious and merciful brothers and sisters to one another. Here’s hoping the theme and titles not only pique you curiosity, but also help your hearts prepare to rejoice that much more in the gift of Christ child.

Date	Christmas Without Shepherds would be like....	Supper Hosted by:	Menu
Nov. 30 th	Setting a wakeup call, without any alarm	Seniors	Ham
Dec. 7 th	Getting invited to a party, but never bothering to show up.	Service Guild	Chili & Sandwiches
Dec. 14	Mail carriers who think all the letters in their bags, are addressed to them.	Stewardship	Pasta

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Because Christmas and New Year are both on the weekend, the following special times for worship were set, in order to accommodate as many personal to-do lists and anticipate family schedules as possible.

CHRISTMAS EVE – DEC. 24TH – SATURDAY - 2 SERVICES

Children's Christmas Program	3 p.m.	
Communion, Candlelight and Carols	10 p.m.	<i>PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE OF TIME. ONE HOUR EARLIER THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS</i>

CHRISTMAS DAY – DEC. 25TH - SUNDAY

Nativity of our Lord	9 a.m.	ONLY <u>ONE</u> WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THIS SUNDAY, AND <u>NO</u> SUNDAY SCHOOL
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NEW YEARS EVE- DEC. 31ST – SATURDAY

Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus	7:30 p.m.	
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NEW YEAR'S DAY- JAN. 1ST - SUNDAY

1 ST Sunday after Christmas	9 a.m.	ONLY <u>ONE</u> WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THIS SUNDAY, AND <u>NO</u> SUNDAY SCHOOL
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CHILDREN'S PROGRAM PRACTICE

One hour rehearsals for the Sunday School Christmas program starts Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m., December 3, 10 & 17. We appreciate every parent's support by making sure every child can make these Saturday morning rehearsals, as well as helping with memory work, so children are ready to proclaim the true meaning of Christmas in their own joyous way.



POINTSETTIAS

The fiery red plants are a sharp contrast to the Christmas greens, accentuating the reminder to Christians of God's sacrificial love, witnessed in the outpouring of our infant Lord and King's person and work for us. If you would like to purchase a plant that would beautify the sanctuary in praise and honor of Christ's birth for Christmas, and then take it home as a living keepsake in the winter months, please use the sign up sheet on the narthex bulleting board. We thank the Altar Guild and Florist for offering these fine plants at \$11 each. Thank you for your order.

NOVEMBER VOTERS ASSEMBLY DECISIONS

ELECTIONS - We give thanks to our God for those who have answered His call to be our congregation's elected servants during the coming 2012.

Paul Bobby – Pres.

Ed Piepenbrink – Vice Pres.

Henry Unrath – Rec. Sec.

Karen Lasock - Fin. Sec.

Elders – Al Bobby, Rich Keylard, Mark Hager,
Herb Hardt and Bill Reichel

Bd. of Christian Ed. – Denise Piepenbrink and
Joanne Unrath, (2 appointments needed)

Bd. of Properties – Ed Fondel, Betty Northcutt,
Marilyn Wille, John Lasocki, Erwin
Tonn, and Mel Wille

Bd. of Stewardship – Lynn Bobby, Sue Lewis,
Beth McGonagle and Laura Sutherland

Bd. of Evangelism – Margaret Fondel
(2 appointments needed)

All such servants will be so installed and recognized at either worship they attend on December 11th. Please keep these fellow Christians by whose gifts of leadership service, time and talents God has blessed St. John to work out a new year of mission and ministry.

BUDGET REFINANCING – 5.5% for 15 years offered by Thrivent Financial was accepted as the best option for our current needs. The Voters asked that a Standing Committee study the possibility of a Demand Note program. Right now the plan is to evaluate different models and present findings.

**THE NEXT VOTERS ASSEMBLY
MEETING WILL BE
JANUARY 10TH, 2012 AT 7:30 P.M.**

SCRIPT SAVER

The Stewardship Committee appreciates all your support in using the “Script Saver” program as possible Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers for friends and family. Last minute requests need to be in as quickly as possible so processing the order does not delay putting the cards into your care before Christmas. Please fill out the order forms available on the ushers desk, and place them with your check in an envelope, marked ‘Script Saver Order’, hand them to Pastor or leave them on Mrs. Bobby’s desk in the Church Secretary’s office by December 4. Again, thank you for your help.

SANCTUARY DECORATING PARTY



Following 10:30 a.m. worship on December 18th, every member is invited to participate in the ‘greening’ of the sanctuary. We pull out all the stops, using trees, lights, ornaments, wreaths, statues and poinsettias so the chancel and nave sparkle with our joyous anticipation of Jesus’ birth and the 12 days of Christmas celebration that follow. Whether you are comfortable on a ladder, or prefer your decorating more ‘down to earth’ keeping both feet on the ground, all are welcome.

We usually labor for while, and then take a break for some pizza and pop before getting back to work and finishing up, usually around 3:00 p.m. Some times earlier and other times later, depending on how many helping hands can make it. If you can volunteer a few hours on that Sunday afternoon before Christmas, it will certainly be appreciated. Please help plan the numbers of pizza pies needed by signing up your intention to offer your time and talent on the narthex bulletin board.

HARVEST DAYS “THANKS”

The crafters would like to thank all the people that helped to make the Harvest Fest such a big success!! What ever you did— help set up and take down, peel apples, roll pie crust, shred beef, bake a pie, or a batch of cookies. Maybe you came and bought lunch or took home food for supper; it all helped reach a net profit of \$3,630.00. The money will be split among several projects here at St. John and other outside missions of the Service Guild.

We are always looking for new ideas, please let us know if you have any and feel free to join us any Wednesday morning after the first of the year when we start making quilts for Hospice and world missions.

GIFT TO DEBT REDUCTION

An offering of \$552 has been given to the glory of God for additional prepayment of the principal on the mortgage by the Flaxman family and members of the Monday evening Craft Group, whose talents and skills were on display at the Wood Table Crafts participating in the 2011 annual Harvest Days event.

SERVICE GUILD

Please note ladies that Service Guild will be meeting on the 5th Tuesday of the month, Nov. 29th. We will be hosting another service project for the ladies of St. John. We will be making festive bookmarks for The Voice of Hope Ministry at Stateville. Lori Wilbur said the last bookmarks sent were a huge hit!!! Join us for a night of fun beginning at 7 PM. Questions? Contact LeeAnn Himley @ 847-285-1215.

PROJECT COMPASSION—Men’s clothes are in urgent need for the men at Abington House for Bingo prizes. Our next Bingo Night is Tuesday 12/6 at 7 PM. Items can be dropped off in the narthex collection cabinet. We also welcome volunteers to socialize with and help the Seniors play bingo and right now we are short handed. Questions? Contact Peggy Fondel @ (630) 372-8563.

THE MITTEN &/or CAP TREE



This annual collection helps children fight the cold Chicago winter, making them not only more comfortable, but also safer. As you get a head start on your Christmas shopping, please pick up a couple pair of mittens or a stocking cap to hang on our Mitten Tree.



ST. JOHN FOOD PANTRY

Our community cupboard is still providing area families with the household provisions and groceries they need to get along in these difficult times. We certainly appreciate Mrs. Hinz and our Preschool families whose generosity for “feeding the turkey” has stocked the stuffing out of our pantry shelves.

All items are welcome such as canned goods and cereal, and especially personal hygiene stuff (toothpaste, paper goods, soap, shampoo, etc.) Thank you for your generous hearts and charitable spirits.

COOKIE SALE

Sunday Dec. 11 is our annual cookie sale after both services in the church narthex. Stop by for some sweets and holiday treats. Cookie bakers can drop off cookies not later than 9 a.m. Saturday December 10, when we will be plating up delicious and scrumptious cookies. Any questions please call Karen Lasocki @ 847-895-6670.

SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE IN WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

ELDERS:

8:00 a.m.— Herb Hardt
10:30 a.m.— Matt Stearns

12/7—7:30 p.m.— Rich Keylard
12/14—9:00 a.m.—Paul Bobby
12/24—3:00 p.m.—Herb Hardt
10:00 p.m.— Matt Stearns
12/25—9:00 a.m.—Bill Reichel
12/31—7:30 p.m.—Mark Hager

USHERS:

8:00 a.m.— Herb Hardt
Rheine Grischow
10:30 a.m.—John Darrow
Ed Fondel

12/7—7:30 p.m.—Al Bobby
Bill Himley
Bill Reichel

12/14—7:30 p.m.—Al Bobby
John Lasocki
Rheine Grischow
12/24—3:00 p.m.—Herb Hardt
Rheine Grischow
12/24—10:00 p.m.—Bill Scholinsky
David Schroeder
John Darrow
12/25—9:00 a.m.—Mel Wille
Steve Jones
Bill Himley
12/31—7:30 p.m.—Ed Piepenbrink
John Lasocki
David Lasocki

ACOLYTES:

12/4— 8:00 a.m.— Samantha Reptowski
10:30 a.m. -
12/7—7:30 p.m.—
12/11—8:00 a.m.— Andrew Hardt
10:30 a.m.— Michael McVay
12/14—7:30 p.m.— Danielle Reptowski
12/18—8:00 a.m.— Conor McGonagle
10:30 p.m.—Annalies Bugajny
12/24—3:00 p.m.—Kelly Bierer
Kyle Bruns
10:00 p.m.—Peter Barts
12/31—7:30 p.m.—

ALTAR GUILD:

Lynn Bobby
Dorie Heine

