

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 5



Messenger

Celebrating 150
Years!

St. Johns Lutheran Church
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St. Louis, MO 63116
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stjohnslutheranstlouis.org



*Fieldworkers: Mark Harris, Justin
Kumfer & Jordan Tomesch*

**We continue to Pray for the Nations
each week in December. Follow us on
our blog weekly and in Sunday Worship.**



*Go and Make Disciples of ALL
Nations: Then, Now and For
Eternity!*

From the Pastor's Desk Our Story...His Song

It was a nice blessing to have all the boys back in town with their wives and two in the oven for Thanksgiving. (I'm not talking turkeys!) Some of the fondest moments are when we are sitting around the dinning room table reliving the stories. It is funny and sometimes conflicting in the retelling what we remember. The stories are told and retold and sometimes corrected by other members of the family, at least that's what happens when one sees himself the victim, treated unfairly, misunderstood etc.

We all have stories to tell, which shape and mold our character and behavior. Some positive, which we hold on to and others negative which we learn from. I can't wait to see what kind of parents my kids are going to be.

One thing I've notice is that many times in the re-telling of the stories we forget the one who holds our stories in his hands. The one who was present among our story, dwelt with us through the anger, grieving, crying, stress, abuse and depression. The list can be endless. Yet if there is no hope, comfort, encouragement, support, faith, love, or forgiveness in telling our story we most likely leave out God our Father and his Son Jesus Christ in our story.

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Advent and Christmas this year is based on the theme "This is my Story, This is His Song." There are people in the Advent and Christmas story that will tell their stories and then realize they were part of a greater story, the greatest story ever told.



My prayer is that here at St. Johns during our advent preparations we get to tell our story by word and example and in the re-telling it, those who see and hear it will see Jesus in the midst of it.

The world wants to tell a conflicting story about God and you, making you feel like the victim. It will be only by the grace of God that we can re-read the story from the perspective from what was written down for us to read and hear. His story can make our story a song that will inspire others for a lifetime.

Pastor Tanne

"Stories have to be told or they die, and when they die, we can't remember who we are or why we're here."

— *Sue Monk Kidd, The Secret Life of Bees:*

"It's like everyone tells a story about themselves inside their own head. Always. All the time. That story makes you what you are. We build ourselves out of that story."

— *Patrick Rothfuss, The Name of the Wind*



December Memorized WORD

*"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN,
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN;
AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL
BE UPON HIS SHOULDER. AND HIS NAME
WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL
COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD,
EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE."*
ISAIAH 9:6



Evangelism

Busy, busy, busy. At this time of year everyone is busy. You are out buying presents, wrapping presents, baking cookies, decorating the tree and the house. There are Christmas parties, Christmas caroling and Christmas church services to attend. All this on top of the normal busy lives we all have! So when it comes to donating to outreach programs and being a good evangelist at this time of the year, often the response is I'm too busy right now, catch me later. What if God took that approach?

Imagine a conversation between God and the angel Gabriel. "Huh, God, there is a stack of prayers to be answered over there on the heavenly table."

And God's reply might be, "I'm a little busy here right now. I'm getting ready to send my Son and I need to find him a good set of parents in the house and lineage of David. I have to set everything in motion because this is something I want people to understand and remember for always. I will get to them later."

Now this scenario obviously doesn't match what we believe about our Heavenly Father. Our sinful nature just laughs and says, God wouldn't do that he always listens to prayers. We don't get the correlation between the scenario and ourselves. We don't understand that we can be the answers to someone's prayer. That bag of food for the food pantry or that gift we purchase off of the Giving Tree in the back of church may be God's way of using us to answer someone's prayer. So during the hustle and bustle of this very busy time of year, buy an extra gift, give an extra smile, invite an extra person to church and don't forget to send an extra prayer to God to thank him for never being too busy to listen to our prayers.



Social Ministry

Thanks to everyone who contributed for the Thanksgiving food drive. It is needed and appreciated.



Eagle students held a food drive for the food pantry.



The "Giving Tree" will be in the narthex of the church until December 13th. Please take an ornament off the tree with a suggested gift to buy. After buying the gift, place the ornament on the gift and return. These gifts will go to families who would have a bleak Christmas without us.

May God bless you this holiday season as you have blessed those in need.

Stewardship

Notes and Quotes



HOW DO YOU USE YOUR TIME AT CHRISTMAS?

Now that a new Christmas is coming all of us try to get into the Christmas spirit- whatever that is. Do you have a sense that you might use your time more wisely? Won't you be wise at Christmas time? That is what the wise men did. Won't you be wise at Christmas time because it really is God's time. He gave it to us at birth, and He will take it back from us at death. Come worship the King of Kings.

Parish Health

SAFETY RULES TO LIVE BY

Trauma injuries are usually caused by events or violence that could have been prevented. The devastating impact of trauma can be curbed through prevention efforts.

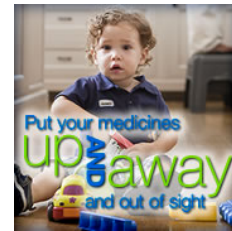
THE FIVE MOST CRUCIAL SAFETY INJURIES ARE BASIC, BUT OFTEN OVERLOOKED, TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURIES:

1. Buckle up in the car, even for the shortest trips and be sure your passengers do too. Avoid allowing children under 12 to sit in the front, especially if air bags are installed.
2. If you've been drinking, don't drive, swim or dive, climb ladders, use power tools or do anything else that requires sharp skills and a clear head.
3. Always note the nearest emergency exit whenever you enter a building, bus plane or train.
4. Keep guns unloaded and locked away, store ammunition in a separate place.
5. Store all medicines out of reach of children. That includes vitamins, which can be poisonous in large doses.

Have a safe holiday by doing the above.

If you have any medical problems or questions, call the church office or Maureen Rehmer at 352-6266.

God is always beside us in all of our troubles and ailments. Joshua 1:5 "I will be with you, I will not



Preparing for Winter Weather

Winter's coming, and there's no better time than right now to make sure your heater is in working order. Dust and dirt in your furnace's heating coil can impair its ability to keep you warm. So change your air filter and think about calling in a technician to make sure you're in good shape this season. (And for more Aging

Answers, visit www.LSSLiving.org today!)

Makes a great Christmas gift!!



WOW 150th Anniversary Cookbook

\$10 each!
*Please see Melba
Fanger before
Sunday Worship
or contact the
church office,
314-773-0126*



*Shop & Save Gift Cards
are available for purchase
in the Church Office.
See Cheryl or Karl*

***They make great
Christmas Gifts!!!!***



*Poinsettias are available to
purchase for \$10 each.
Contact the church office or
Ruth Evers at 314-306-5887
by December 20.*

LIVE NATIVITY

"For Unto Us a Child Is Born..."
- Isaiah 9:6

See the Christmas story come to life with carolers, live animals,
wise men, shepherds, angels, Mary & Joseph, and the baby Jesus,
December 19th from 5:00pm - 9:00pm.

Follow the search light to Ascension Lutheran Church!
5347 Donovan Ave., St. Louis MO 63109

AscensionSTL.com | (314) 832-5600

"LHSS Choirs Christmas Concert"

All are cordially invited to enjoy seasonal choral music presented by the LHSS Choirs in their annual Christmas Concert at 7:30 pm on Sunday, December 13. The concert will be performed in the historic sanctuary of Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood. Participating will be the Mixed Chorus, Concert Choir, and varsity Lancer Singers, along with the middle school Junior Singers. The LHSS Choirs are under the direction of Greg Gastler.

Join us for the annual Lutheran South
CRAFT FAIR
Saturday, December 12, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



More than 150 booths
Unique Gifts
Food & Fun
No Admission Fee

Lutheran South
HIGH SCHOOL
Building Community, Building Christ

8515 Tesson Ferry Road, St. Louis, MO 63133 • 314-681-1000 • lhssd.org



12/2 Eileen Wehrheim
 12/5 Shayna Pribble
 12/9 Barb Jackson
 12/14 Tamara Bohannon
 12/20 Jennifer Brevard
 12/21 Ameilia Largent
 12/24 Steven Schmaltz
 12/27 Kathlyne Holdenried
 12/31 Donald Meyer

John & Carmen Hobson
 Provision Living of Godfrey
 1373 D'Adrian Professional Park
 Godfrey, IL 62035

Dennis Solomon
 Woodland Nursing Home
 100 Woodland Ct. Rm 203
 Arnold, MO 63010

Upcoming Board Meetings

Voters

December 13

Executive Council

December 13

If you would like to send Christmas blessings to our homebound members addresses are below.

Bobbie Kepford
 Avalon Gardens
 4359 Taft Ave.
 St. Louis, MO 63116

Mel Frentzel
 6900 Lake Park Circle
 St. Louis, MO 63123-1600

Diana Carter
 4023 Winnebago
 St. Louis, MO 63116

Jeanette Creamer
 3629 Oak Hill
 St. Louis, MO 63116

Charlene Guttman
 3524 St. Francis Dr.
 Arnold, Mo 63010-3977

George & Virginia Turner
 400 S. Station Rd., Rm 502
 Glen Carbon, IL 62034

December 2015							January 2016 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 1:30PM Home Bible Study 3:30PM Compass	2 10:00AM Advent Worship: Song of Zechariah 3:30PM Compass 6:00PM Soup Supper 6:30 & 8:00PM Choir 7:00PM Advent Worship: Song of Zechariah	3 10:30AM Preschool Chapel 2:00PM Home Bible Study 2:30PM Home Bible Study 3:30PM Compass	4 8:00AM Bible Study	5 8:00AM Social Ministry 8:30AM Food Pantry 7:00PM Messiah Concert w/ St. Johns Choir	
6 Second Sunday in Advent 8:30AM Bible Study 10:00AM Worship	7 3:30PM Compass 7:00PM Elders	8 1:30PM Home Bible Study 3:30PM Compass	9 10:00AM Advent Worship: Song of Mary 3:30PM Compass 6:00PM Soup Supper 6:30 & 8:00PM Choir 7:00PM Advent Worship: Song of Mary	10 10:30AM Preschool Chapel 2:00PM Home Bible Study 2:30PM Home Bible Study 3:30PM Compass	11 8:00AM Bible Study 11:30AM Church Office Christmas Lunch	12 8:30AM Food Pantry	
13 Third Sunday in Advent 8:30AM Bible Study 10:00AM Worship w/ Communion 11:00AM Executive Council 11:30AM Voters	14 3:30PM Compass 7:00PM WOW Christmas Party	15 1:30PM Home Bible Study 3:30PM Compass	16 10:00AM Advent Worship: Song of the Angels 3:30PM Compass 6:00PM Soup Supper 6:30 & 8:00PM Choir 7:00PM Compass Children's Christmas Service	17 10:30AM Preschool Chapel 2:00PM Home Bible Study 2:30PM Home Bible Study 3:30PM Compass	18 8:00AM Bible Study Eagle Last Day of Classes	19 8:30AM Food Pantry	
20 Fourth Sunday in Advent 8:30AM Bible Study 9:15AM Blood Pressure Check 10:00AM Worship	21 6:30PM Evangelism Eagle Closed	22 1:30PM Home Bible Study Eagle Closed	23 Eagle Closed	24 5:00PM Christmas Eve Worship: Song of the Shepherds	25 9:00AM Christmas Day Worship: Song of Simeon	26 Food Pantry Closed	
27 Fifth Sunday in Advent 8:30AM Bible Study 10:00AM Worship w/ Communion	28 7:00PM Ushers Eagle Closed	29 1:30PM Home Bible Study Eagle Closed	30 Eagle Closed 6:00PM Choir	31 New Years Eve Eagle Closed	New Year's Day Worship Friday, January 1, 2016 9:00AM		

Please join us for
Midweek Advent Services
10:00am & 7:00pm
Soup Supper 6:00pm





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