



Messenger

February 2016

St. Johns Lutheran Church
3738 Morgan Ford Rd
St. Louis, MO 63116
314-773-0126
stjohnslcstl@gmail.com
stjohnslutheranstlouis.org

From the Pastor's Desk *The Dance of Giving*

If you ever have a chance to visit our African and Nepalese worship groups on Sundays you will be met with friendly faces and cheerful bodies. They like to move in the service. Especially during the offering, the plate doesn't come to them, they go to the plate. The Africans dances past the offering plate to drop money in it. The Nepalese worship team sings joyful, upbeat songs as the group puts their money in the plate. They are delighted to present their offering to God in such a festive atmosphere. Now I can't see us dancing in the aisles (especially our cane ladies) but I can't help believe we could have a level of joy when it comes to giving our time, talents and treasures. What is our attitude? At what joy level is our giving? Is it with



Continued on page 2



**Service
Time
Change!**

Beginning March 13

Sunday Worship

9:00AM

Bible Class

10:30AM

February Memorized Word

...we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8:16b-17

a dance in our step, eager to show God what we have brought Him with thanksgiving? Or is it with reluctance we grudgingly place the envelope in the plate, which we can't escape as the usher shoves it in our face? (I'm glad I'm by the altar they don't pass the plate that far forward.) Cathy and I received our offering statements this week and sat down and compared it with our W-2 forms. Why? First, it gives us a time to thank the Lord for his blessings, and how we have been a blessing to the church and it's ministries. Secondly, it also gives us a moment to prayerfully consider adjusting our giving accordingly to his promises and word. Thirdly, we make a pledge to God this year to joyfully work together with Him for the mission of the church.

I dance at the giving of time many of you spend here at church sometimes at any given Sunday it may be as many as 3 or 4 hours.

I want to publicly thank those who have been faithful with the stewardship of their time in worship. It is a little hard to calculate, because there is a margin of error when someone forgets to sign the attendance card, or forgets to send us confirmation that they were at a different church. But here are the people according to our records with perfect attendance: Karl Frerichs, Sandy Gerber, Irene Hurst, Donald Osiek, Karen Vineyard. Honorable mentions: Melba Fanger, Cindy Geiger, Ray Glusenkamp, Ethelmae Leuther, Debra Meyer, Gretchen Meyer, Maureen and Bob Rehmer, Sharon Sieber, Diane Schwab, Ruth Trauth. This is based on 53 Sundays as well as Advent and Lenten worship last year. Thank the Lord, sing His praise, let others know what He has done.

The dance may be beyond some of us but the purpose of our giving, time and treasures is to offer ourselves body and soul as a living sacrifice.

Pastor Tanny

*Join us for **The Body of Christ** a series of Lenten Services that takes the time to consider seriously our Lord's humanity, the human body in which he wrought our salvation.*

*Each Wednesday beginning February 17,
Lenten services will focus on:*

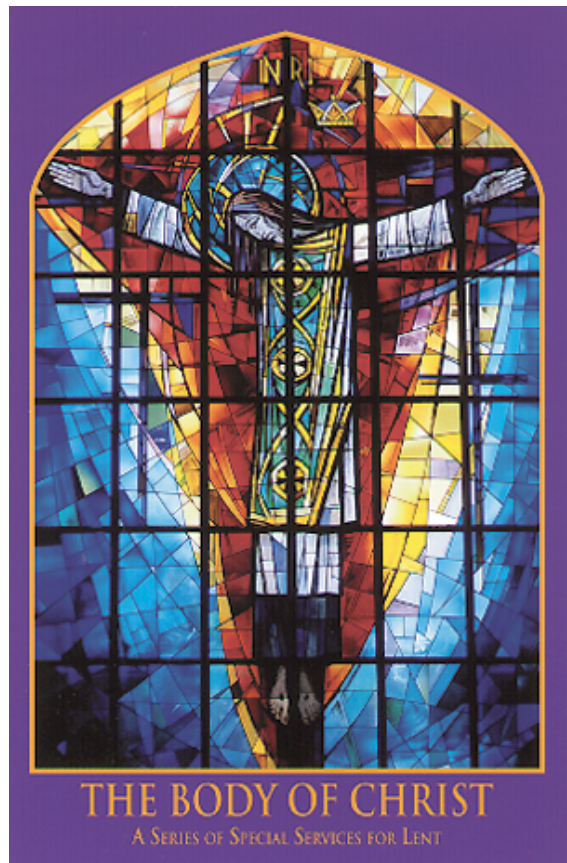
** the feet of Christ * the eyes of Christ * the hands of Christ *
*the mouth of Christ * the ears of Christ**



"Brother Helvey is here with the black box from last night's sermon to see if we can find out what went wrong."

Religion is, at its heart, a way of denying the authority of the rest of the world.

—Stephen Carter



Parish Health

HEART CARE

February hosts both Valentine's Day, and American Heart month.

As we begin our Lenten Journey we can use this time to reflect upon our hearts...physically, emotionally and spiritually. The following suggestions for our physical hearts are adapted from the American Heart Association's pamphlet, "Heart Health Education".

HOW TO REDUCE YOUR RISK OF HEART DISEASE:

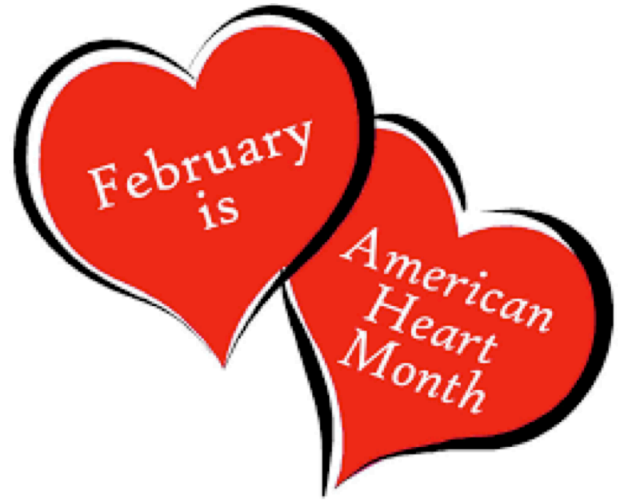
- Quit smoking permanently
- Control your blood pressure and have it checked regularly
- Exercise at least three times a week
- Eat a balanced diet reduced in fat, cholesterol and salt

Love and affirmation in our relationships help us to care for our emotional hearts. Learning about all of our emotions assists us in experiencing harmony and wholeness in our lives.

We share the good news that it is the Lord who created purity and wholeness in hearts. At the same time, we understand our need to nourish our spirits. We can care for our spiritual hearts by setting aside a regular time in our schedules for Worship, Bible study, devotions, prayer, and celebration of the Lord's Supper.

We pray that this month provides an opportunity for you to experience heart healing peace. *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.* (Ps. 51:10).

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



Social Ministry



(Jesus) said to His disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on." Luke 12:22. Whenever we are concerned about the shortage in our food pantry, God always provides us with what is needed for us to continue to serve the community. All of your support is definitely the reason we can continue serving the people in need.

"Souper Bowl of Caring" is a nationwide day to fight hunger. On February 7th, Super Bowl Sunday, there will be a door collection. All the money collected will go to the food pantry funds. Your support will be appreciated.

May God continue to bless each of you and the "out reach" to unchurched families in our community.

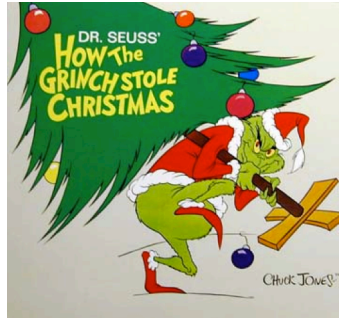
Evangelism

Let Your Light Shine

The following article is a partial reprint from “Lutheran Hour Daily Devotions” January 14, 2016.

Most of you have seen the TV show, How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

Many of you may not be aware of the story, which this devotion has dubbed, “How the Grinch Tried to Steal Christmas from Wadena, Minnesota.” That story begins with a large plaster Nativity set, which had for many years been set up in the city park by the town council. Then the Grinch showed up in the form of a threatened lawsuit. The Grinch said, “No public group can put up a religious symbol in a public place.” With reluctance the city fathers sold the crèche to a group of ministers who moved the display on to private property.



It seemed as if the Grinch had won.

If so, the Grinch underestimated the people of Wadena, Minnesota. Those folks thought the Grinch can steal a public Nativity, but he can't steal mine. Soon Nativities started to show up where Nativities had never been before.



They appeared on front lawns and in storefront windows. From all over the country they showed up on the “Wadena Nativity Display” Facebook page, which the community set up.

Although nobody did a Nativity head count, it almost seemed as if there were more nativities than there were people in this small town.

A son of the community, a man who had moved away years before, did a study of the community's laws. He realized that the Nativity-less city park didn't have to stay that way. Wadena's bylaws allowed for individual

residents to rent the town band shell for a day.

Soooooooooooo. . . the band shell got booked by the community members. Every day the people who made those reservations came in and set up a *great, big Nativity*, and every night they took it down and delivered it to the folks who were scheduled to set it up the next day.

Mayor Deiss, who has “eight or nine” Nativities set up in his own home, has said, “I'm really proud of my town. I'm hoping we lit a little spark and the rest of the nation will catch on.”

I am sharing this with you to encourage you to use the same motivation and “LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE” (“display your nativity set”) for Friendship Sunday. Wouldn't it please God if we all showed our faith by inviting someone to attend Friendship Sunday Celebration on March 20 at 9:00am !!!!



FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

MARCH 20

9:00AM

150th Anniversary Letter

January 14, 2016

Dear Rev. Tanney,

I guess it's not right to start out a letter explaining why I'm late with writing it, but that's what I'm going to do!

I found the notice last year in the "Lutheran Witness" about the 150th Anniversary of St. John's and had intended to write a letter in time for your celebration. Somehow, November stuck in my head (and I'm late for that, as well!), but have recently found a note where I copied the info and it said, to my horror, July 12--I truly am very late! But, I shall go on.

First, Congratulations to you and your congregation on 150 years of the Lord's work in St. Louis. That's a remarkable milestone, dating back to the first preacher, who was selected by C.F.W. Walther!

St. John's, at Morganford and Chippewa, will be forever etched in my mind. Our family made a number of trips there during the years, while visiting my Great-Aunt and Uncle, who lived at 3827 Morganford Road. My Great-Uncle was Rev. Paul Hansen, who served St. John's from 1925-1962. He married Hedwig Paul, who was my Grandmother's sister.

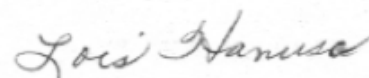
Great-Aunt Hedwig's father was Teacher Christian Paul, who taught at St. John's School from 1882-1932, 50 years. He and "Papa" Bartels are the only two in the LCMS who served together 50 years--Rev. Bartels served a total of 55 years at St. John's.

So, St. John's has always been dear to me and my family. My mother, Eunice Hanusa, donated some of the Paul belongings to the church's heritage room.

On another note, Rev. Tanney, you and I went to school together, graduating from Concordia Teachers' College in Seward, Nebraska, in 1971. I taught in Lutheran schools for 33 years, quitting my last call to take care of my mother so she could stay in her own home. When she died two years later, my position, of course, was no longer available. So, I subbed in public schools and later began taking care of other seniors in their home, which I still do, along with several tutoring and cleaning jobs. I also help home schoolers and teach the 5th & 6th grade Confirmation class at my church, St. Paul's Lutheran, in Council Bluffs.

And so, a long-overdue letter comes to an end. I'm hoping your celebration days were uplifting and wonderful. May God continue to bless St. John's congregation in the years ahead, as you proclaim the Gospel of Jesus!

Sincerely,



Lois Hanusa

February 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3:30PM Compass 7:00PM Elders	2 1:30PM Home Bible Study 3:30PM Compass 7:00PM Trustees	3 10:00AM Confirmation 3:30PM Compass	4 10:30AM Preschool Chapel 2:00PM Home Bible Study 2:30PM Nepalese Bible Study 3:30PM Compass	5 8:00AM Bible Study 1:00PM Compass	6 8:00AM Social Ministry 8:30AM Food Pantry
7 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:30 AM Bible Class 10:00AM Worship Lutheran Hour Ministry Sunday 11:00AM Exec Council	8 3:30PM Compass 7:00PM WOW	9 1:30PM Home Bible Study 3:30PM Compass	10 Ash Wednesday 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Bible Study at Avalon Nursing Home 3:30PM Compass 7:00PM Worship	11 10:30AM Preschool Chapel 2:00PM Home Bible Study 2:30PM Nepalese Bible Study 3:30PM Compass	12 8:00AM Bible Study 1:00PM Compass	13 8:30AM Food Pantry
14 First Sunday in Lent 8:30 AM Bible Class 10:00AM Worship w/ Communion	15 Eagle Closed 6:30PM Evangelism	16 1:30PM Home Bible Study 3:30PM Compass	17 10:00AM Lent Worship 11:00AM Confirmation 3:30PM Compass 6:00PM Soup Supper 7:00PM Lent Worship	18 10:30AM Preschool Chapel 2:00PM Home Bible Study 2:30PM Nepalese Bible Study 3:30PM Compass	19 8:00AM Bible Study 1:00PM Compass	20 8:30AM Food Pantry
21 Second Sunday in Lent 8:30 AM Bible Class 9:45AM Blood Pressure Check 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Voters	22 3:30PM Compass 7:00PM Ushers	23 1:30PM Home Bible Study 3:30PM Compass 6:00PM When God Left the Building (Film at Salem Lutheran)	24 10:00AM Lent Worship 11:00AM Confirmation 3:30PM Compass 6:00PM Soup Supper 7:00PM Lent Worship	25 10:30AM Preschool Chapel 2:00PM Home Bible Study 2:30PM Nepalese Bible Study 3:30PM Compass	26 Eagle Closed 8:00AM Bible Study 1:00PM Compass	27 8:30AM Food Pantry
28 Third Sunday in Lent 8:30 AM Bible Class 10:00AM Worship w/ Communion	29	Notes: Service time will change beginning March 13 Sunday Worship 9:00AM Bible Class 10:30AM				



February 2 **Earl Welch**
February 6 **Pastor Tanney**
February 7 **Tamarris Bohannon**
Jeanette Creamer
Carolyn Dickhoener
Melvin Frentzel

February 12 **Eunice Bain**
February 17 **Mabel Wilke**
February 20 **Debra Meyer**
February 21 **Russell Williams**
February 26 **Charlene Guttman**

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

Upcoming Board Meetings

Voters

February 21
 April 17
 June 26
 September 18
 November 20
 December 18

Executive Council

February 7
 March 13
 May 15
 October 16
 December 18

Budget

July 17

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

Messenger

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Save to Share, Called to Care

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