

ATTENTION RECYCLERS

Since January we have taken in about 560 pounds of aluminum which brought in \$178. The collection can is in the kitchen. Keep up the good work. God's Work, Our Hands.
-Cliff & Linda Roessner

FAIR TRADE ITEMS

Fair trade coffee, olive oil, and chocolate are available for sale in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday's or anytime by contacting Mait Board.

DEADLINES

Please submit any announcements that you would like included in the weekly bulletin by Wednesday at Noon. The deadline for the January Herald is Friday, December 14th.

ATTENDANCE

Worship attendance on Sunday, November 25th was 124 and Wednesday, November 28th was 21.

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Saint John's Lutheran Church is called by God to be:

Centered in Word and Sacrament

Identifiably and theologically Lutheran

A multi/intergenerational congregation

An inviting congregation in which people are easily involved

Alive with responsive and creative programs that provide opportunity for people to grow in their faith.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1000 HELENA AVE., HELENA MT 59601 (406) 442-6270

www.helenastjohns.org saintjohns@helenastjohns.org

"Growing in Grace, Walking by Faith, Serving in Love"

Sunday, December 2nd, 2018--Advent I

Gathering Hymn: "People, Look East" #248

Hymn of the Day: "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" #241

Communion Hymn: "What Feast of Love" #487

Sermon: "Lift up your heads!"

Special Music

"Prepare!" by L. Larson

Rosemarie & Laura McDonald, percussion & St. John's Sanctuary Choir

Ministering in Worship

Preaching and Presiding	Pastor Bradley Ulgenes
Organist	Dodie Walsh
Choir Director	Connie Conley
Bell Choir Directors	Renee Slocum and Christina Tielking
Acolyte	Sam Fitterer and Jack Taylor
Lectors	Janice Larison
Advent Prayers	The Mundinger-Adsay Family
Greeters	Lee and Tami Rhodes
Communion Servers	Cliff and Linda Roessner Amy Smiedala, Elaine Ulgenes
Altar Guild	Danyel Bauer, Betty Dotson Nora Johnson, Betty Olaf
Ushers	Merwin Barrows and Karl Kallin
Bulletin Folders	Erma Polich and Mildred Twingley
Witness to the Gospel	Members of St. John's Lutheran Church

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING AT ST. JOHN'S

Our Social Ministry Committee has chosen 3 ways for you to help others this year, both here in the Helena area and around the world. We are asking that you have them returned to St. John's by Sunday, December 16th.

1. Look for the Florence Crittenton Giving Tree at St. John's

Florence Crittenton's Giving Tree project is a way for you to help young moms (who are really just kids themselves) and their children to experience Christmas and the joy of giving and receiving gifts. Many of the girls in the residential programs come from very difficult and traumatic pasts, never experiencing a true Christmas with gifts and family traditions. Bring the items unwrapped and Florence Crittenton will pick them up, wrap them, and deliver them to the Home.

2. Purchase Gift Cards for the Friendship Center

The Friendship Center is the only shelter in Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, and Broadwater Counties that provides a safe haven and a broad range of support services at no charge for anyone who has experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking. We are asking for Gift Cards. Grocery, gas, movie theater, restaurant, shopping cards are welcome. Place the gift cards in the offering plate and please be sure to mark the amount on the card before you bring it to church.

3. ELCA Good Gifts

Do your children have too many toys? Do your parents have too many knick-knacks? Here is an alternative: give them a Good Gift. Visit the tree in the church basement to choose a card or ornament and pick up an order form for the annual project to help people in the world to provide for themselves and their families. There is a wide range of prices and needs from which to choose, from \$10 for chickens to hundreds for a complete barnyard or helping refugee families. God is calling us into the world — together. With generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love.

YOPRO COOKIE PLATES NEEDED

We would like to distribute plates of cookies to our local YoPro college students before their final exams. Please contact the church office if you are willing to donate a dozen cookies. Deadline is Sunday, December 9th and we need at least 6 plates. Thank you!

COFFEE???

The Morning Circle ladies will meet for coffee and conversation on Tuesday, December 11 at 2:00 pm in the Super 1 Grocery Store Café. Mark it on your calendar NOW!!!!...It is a busy time of year!! If you are interested in joining Morning Circle in January come get acquainted.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING SUNDAY, DECMEBER 23RD

Join us on Sunday, December 23rd for an afternoon of merry making as we sing Christmas carols at various residential centers around Helena. We'll gather during the coffee hour following worship for treats and Christmas trivia and then singing groups will depart at 11:45 am from church to various locations. It'll be a great way to kick off Christmas week and to share the joy of Christmas. Wear something festive!

PASTORS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to Pastor's Discretionary Fund which is running low. Thank you!

THANK YOU ST. JOHN'S

Thank you for your generous Thankofferings for the Women of the ELCA. A total of \$871.57 was raised and all money goes directly to the churchwide Women of the ELCA to support their many ministries.

SEASONAL RINGERS NEEDED

This Christmas season, Westaff is helping recruit Seasonal Bell Ringers to raise money for Salvation Army. The position offers flexible hours as well as a fun way to give back to the community. To apply, interested applicants can walk into the Westaff office (210 E Lyndale Ave) during office hours, call 443-7169, or fill out an application at westaffmt.com.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES

Thank you to everyone who turned in their 2019 pledges. If you haven't had a chance to turn in your pledge there is still time! You may drop it off anytime at the office or place it in the offering plate.

Welcome and God's peace be with you. We are thankful you are here and pray that you will experience the presence of Christ in this congregation.

- * Individual listening aids are available from the ushers.
- * Children are always welcome to worship at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Please ask one of our ushers or greeters for a Children's Worship Bulletin and activity bag.
- * All who are baptized are welcome to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.
- * Please join us in the fellowship hall downstairs following the service for a time of fellowship. All are welcome!

In Our Prayers This Week

For Healing: for the state of California and those battling wildfires, the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and all victims of hate crimes, Holly Morgan-Fitterer, Willie Langdji, Anne Kania, Dustin Michelle, Dwight Crawford (*recovering from surgery, brother of Linda Wollitz and son of Irene Crawford*), Dorothy Bird, Karen Larsen, Joanne Larsen, June Stanley, Jeanette Mattfeldt, Steve Tielking, Violet Kerr, Randy Holmes, Debbie Grebenc, Dave Hanson (*Mildred Twingley's Son-in-Law*), Lester Anderson, the children at Intermountain, for those who are alone, for those who suffer from depression, and for all who seek health and wholeness

For The Family And Friends Of Those Who Mourn:

Ed Stremcha, Doris Guidi, Jean Buckingham, Plato Marshall Kinley (*Teresa Kinley's father*), Helen Moze, Jim Moe, and all the Saints in heaven

For Those In Residential Living Centers, Extended Care Or Homebound:

Marilyn Metropolis, Mary Phelan, Pat Tyanich, Esther Fuehrer, Bob Hanson, Evelyn Whitesitt, Ken Bolland, Sally Miller, Annie Stegmann, Jean E. Munding, Ada Harlen, Maury Knutson, Marge Mihelish, Audrey Anderson, Irene Crawford, Dan Brosten (*in Columbia Falls*), Phillip Kerr, Doris Crider

Missionaries: Willie, Anne, and Micah Langdji in Cameroon
Mark and Marina Dotson in Russia

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
(Romans 12:12)*

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 2nd:

9:30 am-Worship with Holy Communion
10:45 am-Adult Forum: Bruce Day from Helena Food Share
10:45 am-Sunday School: Pageant Rehearsal in Sanctuary
3:00 pm & 6:00 pm-Gretchen Munding Studio Recitals

Monday, December 3rd:

6:00 pm-Venture Scouts
6:00 pm-Bells

Tuesday, December 4th:

10:30 am-Staff Meeting
5:15 pm-Evangelism Committee
7:00 pm-4H in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 5th:

9:00 am-Quilters
10:30 am-Pastor Brad at Touchmark

Midweek Connection

5:30 pm-Dinner: Taco Soup
6:30 pm-Worship
7:00 pm-Study for All Ages

Thursday, December 6th:

6:30 pm-Family Promise Volunteer Coordinator Meeting in Guild Room
7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 7th:

5:00 pm-HS Youth Group Night *shopping for homeless kits & dinner*

Saturday, December 8th:

8:00 am-Therapy Dog Training & Testing in Fellowship Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, December 9th:

4:00 pm-4H Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 11th:

Noon-Finance Committee
Noon-WOSJ's Lunch Meeting
7:00 pm-John Floridis Christmas Concert for Family Promise at St. Paul's

Saturday, December 15th:

10:00 am-1:00 pm-Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, December 16th:

9:30 am-Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 23rd:

11:45 am-Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 24th:

6:30 pm & 9:00 pm-Christmas Eve Worship Service with Holy Communion ***new times***

PURCHASE CHRISTMAS CARDS TODAY!!!

Special hand-crafted cards are available in packages of 15 for \$5. Packages provide a broad assortment of themes.....all proceeds from CARDS 4 KIDS go toward our various Youth Ministries here at St. John's. This winter some of our senior youth will be visiting and working at Rocky Boy Reservation....you can help offset some of the expenses involved.

I also have a box of BIRTHDAY CARDS that will be available for sale individually for 50cents apiece. I have had many requests for birthday cards so now is your chance to "stock up" for next year!!

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND BIRTHDAY CARDS will be sold also on December 9 and December 16. I will have a small box of Christmas card packages in the office during the week as well. Thanks so much for your continued support of this ministry through card donations, stickers and envelopes!!!

Janice Larison 443-6451

CARDS 4 KIDS

CHECK OUT THESE AMAZING KIDS!

Come take a look at the Bulletin Board downstairs and read about our younger Youth!! Recently they have completed a paper detailing who they are and what they like.....and pictures too!! Our Sunday School kids all wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!!

SOCIAL MINISTRY DESIGNATED OFFERING FOR DECEMBER

We strive to live out the St. John's Mission Motto Statement "Growing in Grace, Walking by Faith, Serving in Love" and it has become apparent that our friends across the street at HMS need help supplementing Bob's Pantry. The sad reality is that there is a large and growing number of kids who need assistance and if it weren't for the caring staff many of them would fall through the cracks. We can help make a difference! There are a few ways you can help: between now and Dec. 9th we are collecting the following, desperately needed items for their pantry: Feminine hygiene products, new socks, new underwear, gloves, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, face wash, gas cards (used for parents who can't afford gas but who are trying to come in for school meetings, etc.), grab & go snacks (granola bars, apple sauce, nut packets). A generous Thrivent Action Grant will also be used to help stuff the boxes with supplies. Collection boxes will be in the narthex. You can also place an offering in the pew envelopes and check the Social Ministry Committee box.