

PASTORS DISCRETIONARY FUND

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

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.

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, December 2nd was 167 and Wednesday, December 6th was 22.

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 9th, 2018--Advent II

Gathering Hymn: "Prepare The Royal Highway" #264

Hymn of the Day: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" #249

Communion Hymn: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" #256

Special Music

"Keep Silence" arr. J. Helgen

Sandy Rolan, oboe

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	Honora Tetrault
Lectors	Jolene Hendrix
Advent Prayers	The Eckdahl Family
Greeters	Erma Polich and Mildred Twingley
Communion Servers	Thurston and Betty Dotson Pete and Marilyn Schendel
Altar Guild	Danyel Bauer, Betty Dotson Nora Johnson, Betty Olaf
Ushers	Paul Evanson and Jens Jensen
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.

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!

THANK YOU ST. JOHN'S

Thank you for all of your generous contributions of items for Grandma's Attic this year as well as your purchases. To date we have raised over \$852 and all of the money will be used to send our youth on a mini-mission trip to Rocky Boy in February with the Montana Synod. A special thank you to Merwin Barrows for helping to organize our "shop" again this year. Grandma's Attic is still open so feel free to continue browsing.

Festival of Angels was wildly successful and to-date \$5894.50 was raised! The proceeds will be split between The Friendship Center in Helena and The Village Education Project in the Central African Republic.

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.

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

In Our Prayers This Week

For Healing: for the state of California and those suffering from the aftermath of natural disasters, the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and all victims of hate crimes, Amy Wolgamott, 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, 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:

June Stanley, Ed Stremcha, Doris Guidi, Jean Buckingham, Plato Marshall Kinley (*Teresa Kinley's father*), 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 9th:

- 9:30 am-Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:45 am-Adult Forum: Sunday Lectionary
- 10:45 am-Sunday School: Pageant Rehearsal in Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm-Musikanten Montana Advent Lessons & Carols at St. Helena Cathedral
- 4:00 pm-4H Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 10th:

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

Tuesday, December 11th:

- 10:30 am-Staff Meeting
- Noon-Finance Committee
- 2:00 pm-Morning Circle at Super 1 Grocery Store Café
- 7:00 pm-John Floridis Concert for Family Promise at St. Paul's

Wednesday, December 12th:

- 9:00 am-Quilters

Midweek Connection

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

Thursday, December 13th:

- 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 14th:

- 2:30 pm-Rehearsals for Walsh & Conley Studio Recitals
- 3:00 pm-Communion at Masonic Home

Saturday, December 15th:

- 10:00 am-Pageant Rehearsal, crafts, and pizza lunch

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, December 16th:

- 9:30 am-Christmas Pageant
- 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm-Walsh and Conley Studio Recitals
- 3:00 pm-Mass of Brass at Covenant United Methodist Church

Monday, December 17th:

- 6:00 pm-Men's Group

Tuesday, December 18th:

- 6:30 pm-Church Council

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!!!

PURCHASE CHRISTMAS CARDS TODAY!! You can help our Youth Ministry with your support for CARDS 4 KIDS.....card packages of 15 are only \$5. I have made a general assortment to include secular and religious cards for you to choose from. I also have birthday cards for 50cents apiece as well. Come by the table in the narthex and downstairs at the coffee hour. After the holidays you may recycle your used Christmas cards by putting them in the box in the narthex as you come into church. I use cards with the picture side unwritten on.....other holiday cards/greeting cards are appreciated as well. Many thanks for stickers and envelopes!!

Janice Larison

CARDS 4 KIDS

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC OFFERINGS

MUSIKANTEN MONTANA LESSONS AND CAROLS

Musikanten Montana will present the Traditional Festival of Nine Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 9th at 4:00 PM at the Cathedral of St. Helena. Listen to readings from the fall of Adam to Gabriel's message to Mary. Hear (and sing) some of the great music composed for this season of waiting and hope. Kerry Krebill conducts the combined voices of the Carroll College Choirs, Cathedral Choir and Musikanten Montana, with Cathedral organist Jason Phillips.

JOHN FLORIDIS WINTER CONCERT

John Floridis, Missoula guitarist and singer-songwriter, will perform a benefit concert for Family Promise of Greater Helena on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 512 Logan St. Floridis will be performing an evening of acoustic guitar carols and seasonal material from Songs of Darkness and Light, featuring his finger-style acoustic guitar arrangements as well as original compositions. There is no cost for admission. Monetary contributions will be gratefully accepted at the performance.

MASS OF BRASS

The South Hills Brass Quintet and the Continental Divide Tuba Society proudly present their third annual joint Christmas concert, A Mass of Brass for Christmas. The concert will feature a variety of music from traditional carols and classical works to modern Christmas favorites. This free concert will take place on Sunday, December 16th, at 3:00 pm at the Covenant United Methodist Church. We hope to see you there!