



The Herald

December 2018

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church~Helena, Montana

"Growing in grace, walking in faith, serving in love"

Festival of Angels-Saturday, December 1st

Scandinavian Bake Sale 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Swedish Meatball Luncheon 11:15 am-12:45 pm

Proceeds will be split between The Village Education Project in the Central African Republic & The Friendship Center in Helena

Grandma's Attic 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Proceeds will help offset costs for the youth to attend the MT Synod Youth Mission Trip to Rocky Boy Reservation in February.



Celebrate Christmas at St. John's Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 16th, Christmas Pageant & Youth Led Service

9:30 am service and special fellowship hour with treats at 10:30 am

Sunday, December 23rd, Spread Christmas Cheer! Christmas Caroling!

11:45 am-assemble and depart from Fellowship Hall to various residential living centers around Helena. Open to all!

Monday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

6:30 pm and 9:00 pm, both with Holy Communion ***note new times***



John Floridis Seasonal Benefit Concert for Family Promise

Tuesday, December 11th, 7:00pm

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

512 Logan Street, Helena



Poinsettia Dedication

If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia-used to decorate the sanctuary Christmas Eve-in honor of the memory of a loved one please contact the church office or fill out a dedication form (found in the church narthex) by Sunday, December 16th. Plants are \$10 each.

*Looking for a ways to give back this
Christmas season??*

*Turn to page six for ideas from our
Social Ministry Committee!*

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRAD: PUTTING THE ADVENTS BACK IN ADVENT

Professor Mary Jane Haeming of Luther Seminary used the above title for an article in the Lutheran Forum, a journal for pastors. She begins her article by saying, "A serious misconception concerning Advent has taken hold among Lutherans. This misconception insists on seeing Advent as a season of preparation. In many churches we hear what we are supposed to do during Advent, rather than what God does for us in the past, present, and future advents (arrivals or comings) of Christ. Human actions have become the focal point."

She goes on to say, "God comes to us and does His work on us, without any merit, worthiness, or preparation on our part. When properly understood, Advent is a surprise and relief—Christ comes without our preparation, in the midst of our unreadiness. It is time for Lutherans once again to use the Advent season as the Lutheran Reformers did and reject recent moves that focus on human activity during this season."

She closes with these words, " Instead of focusing narrowly on preparation or waiting for Christmas or on the final judgment, Advent is an opportunity to give a wider sense of time and to proclaim the God Who came for us in the past, comes for us in the present, and will come again for us in the future. It invites us to think broadly of God's work in all dimensions of time. Let us put down our works of preparation and instead hear the good news of the God Who comes to us. He doesn't wait until Christmas to come; neither should we wait until Christmas to hear, contemplate, and celebrate His coming."

(Read the full article at www.lutheranforum.com/blog/putting-the-advents-back-into-advent?)

There's lots to think about in this article as we prepare for Christmas.

Rejoicing with you in this season of Advent,

Pastor Brad

FINANCIAL UPDATES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

	2018 <i>(through October)</i>	2017 <i>(through October)</i>
General Fund Contributions	\$178,324	\$186,406
General Fund Expenses	\$189,640	\$184,672

Through October, year-to-date general fund contributions are \$178,324 and expenses are \$189,640. Relative to the 2018 budgeted expenditures, general fund giving is 76.7% and expenses are 81.6%, with 83.3% of the year completed.

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS

Women Elect Officers for 2019

At the November general meeting, Women of St. John's elected the following slate of officers for next year:

President: Barb Muir Vice President: Rebekah French

Secretary: Shirley Hautzinger Treasurer: Gayle Grimsrud

Thank you for your willingness to serve our Women of the ELCA unit. Also, a big thank you to the officers who have served for the past few years: Co-Presidents Alta Jensen and Mait Board, Secretary Linda Roessner and Treasurer Laura Nachtsheim.

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.

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.

Save the Date for WOSJ's Noon Luncheon on Tuesday, January 8th, 2019-Special Guest Charlotte Neill

Charlotte Neill grew up in Helena. After graduating from Helena High School she left Helena and returns five years ago. Charlotte and her family were active members of St. John's Lutheran Church where she and two of

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS, *cont.*

her siblings were confirmed. Charlotte spent most of her working life in advertising and financial services. She returned to school in 2001 and earned a Master's Degree in Islamic Studies from Luther Seminary in St. Paul Minnesota in 2004. She also studied Islam at Hartford Seminary in Hartford CT from 2010-2012. Her interest in Islam is the result of spending time in Egypt with her Egyptian-American family. Her teaching experience includes an adjunct teaching position at Waldorf University in Forest City, Iowa where she taught an introductory course on Islam, World Religions, and Introduction to the Bible. She also taught classes on Islam for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Minnesota. Charlotte recently taught a six-week continuing education class called "Understanding Islam" at Helena College.

NEWS AROUND ST. JOHN'S

THANK YOU KARL KALLIN

Thank you to Karl Kallin for all of your behind-the-scenes work to keep our old boiler up and running! Karl puts in many volunteer hours to make sure we are warm throughout the winter season. Thank you for your generous service-we appreciate it!

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE HERE

Come support our youth at St. John's with a purchase of a packet of 15 Christmas cards!! All packets are an assortment of themes and this year will come with complementary Gift Tags. Cards will be sold in the narthex and downstairs during the Adult Forum starting December 2nd, 9th, and 16th. If you have questions please call Janice Larison at 443-6451. Thanks again for all donated cards, envelopes, stickers etc for this ministry!!!

CHECK OUT OUR YOUTH BOARD

Take a look at the downstairs big bulletin board and read what the St. John's Youth have to say!! They took home a large paper and filled out information about themselves with pictures!

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES

We would like to send some Christmas mail to your college students! Please email the office with your students address. Thank you!

COOKIES NEEDED-DEADLINE 12/9

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!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING SUNDAY, DECMEBER 23RD

Join us on Sunday, December 23rd for an afternoon of merrymaking 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. It'll be a great way to kick off Christmas week and to share the joy of Christmas. Wear something festive!

THANK YOU FOR THE TURKEYS

Dear Church Members: Thank you so very much for the extremely generous donation of turkeys for our Thanksgiving meal baskets. With your donations, we are able to supply meals to more families in need than ever before...Thank you for being a partner in our community and helping us help our students.
Cal Boyle, HMS Principal and Pam Campbell, HMS Counselor

SAVE THE DATE-ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 27, 2019 following the worship service at 10:45 am.

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	We
<p>2</p> <p>9:30 am-Worship 10:45 am-Adult Forum: Bruce Day from Helena Food Share 10:45 am-Sunday School pageant rehearsal 3:00 pm & 6:00 pm-Munding Studio Recitals</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:30 pm-Bells</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30 am-Staff Meeting 5:15 pm-Evangelism 7:00 pm-4H in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 am-Quilters MIDWEEK CONN 5:30 pm-Dinner: Ta 6:30 pm-Worship 7:00 pm-Study for A</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30 am-Worship 10:45 am-Adult Forum: Sunday Lectionary 10:45 am-Sunday School pageant rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:30 pm-Bells</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30 am-Staff Meeting Noon-Finance Committee Noon-WOSJ'S Lunch Meeting 2:00 pm-Morning Circle @ Super 1 Grocery Store Café 7:00 pm-John Floridis concert for Family Promise @ St. Paul's</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 am-Quilters MIDWEEK CONN 5:30 pm-Dinner: Ch 6:30 pm-Worship 7:00 pm-Study for A</p>
<p>16</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT 9:30 am-Worship & pageant 10:45 am-Special Coffee Hour & Fellowship Time 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm-Walsh & Conley Studio Recitals</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:00 pm-Men's Group 6:30 pm-Bells</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30 am-Staff Meeting 6:30 pm-Church Council</p>	<p>19</p> <p>No Quilters MIDWEEK CONN 5:30 pm-Dinner: Po 6:30 pm-Worship: F 7:00 pm-Study for A</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30 am-Worship 10:45 am-Fellowship 11:45 am-Christmas Caroling</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 pm-Christmas Eve Worship 9:00 pm-Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED <i>MERRY CHRISTMAS!!</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED No Quilters</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:30 am-Worship 10:45 am-Fellowship</p>	<p>31</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>1</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR!!</i></p>	



d	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 FESTIVAL OF ANGELS 9:00 am-Doors Open 11:15 am-Lunch Service Begins</p>
<p>SECTION co Soup All</p>	<p>6 6:30 pm-Family Promise meeting in the Guild Room 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>7 5:00 pm-HS Youth Night <i>Shopping for homeless kits & dinner</i></p>	<p>8 8:00 am-Therapy Dog Training & Testing</p>
<p>SECTION inese All</p>	<p>13 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>14 2:30 pm-Rehearsals for Walsh & Conley Studio Recitals 3:00 pm-Communion at Masonic Home</p>	<p>15 10:00 am-1:00 pm Pageant Rehearsal, crafts, and pizza lunch</p>
<p>SECTION otluck Holden All</p>	<p>20 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
	<p>27</p>	<p>28 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>29</p>

NEWS FROM SOCIAL MINISTRY AT ST. JOHN'S OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING AT ST. JOHN'S

Our Social Ministry Committee has chosen various 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.

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 school 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. Thank you!



In Our Prayers...

For Healing: for the state of California and those battling wildfires, the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and all victims of hate crimes, 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

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.

December Birthdays

7 Maria Lee
8 Katie Jensen
Meghan Rake
9 Patrick Hicks
10 Mildred Twingley
12 Linda Mosness
13 Rachel Skaalure
14 Honora Tetrault
15 Rachelle Timmer
17 Lilyan Carlson
18 Ken Ludtke
Adeline Rasmussen
19 Ryan Berry
Chad Lee
20 Raquel Hicks
21 Gavin Carlson
Jimmie McGee
22 Joy Edgar
Jessica Tielking
Linda Wollitz
Koda McMillin-Mattfeldt
25 Robert Berry
26 Chris Boucher

27 Mary Ruedisili
29 Grayson Alm
30 Maggie Smiedala
31 Esther Fuehrer

December Anniversaries

20 Thurston and Betty Dotson
Mike and Dodie Walsh
30 Ron and Linda Mosness



Help us keep our records up-to-date! If you would like your Birthday or Anniversary listed or if you need to make a correction to what we have listed please contact the office. We would like to be able to celebrate your special day!

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1000 Helena Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

Return Service Requested

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

"Growing in grace, walking in faith, serving in love"

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email: saintjohns@helenastjohns.org
Pastor email: pastor@helenastjohns.org
Like us on Facebook!

Worship Services

Sunday

9:30 am-Worship with Holy Communion
10:30 am-Adult Forum and Fellowship

Midweek Connection-Wednesday

5:30 pm-Dinner
6:30 pm-Worship with Holy Communion
7:00 pm-Study for all ages

Office Hours

9:00 am-1:00 pm
Monday-Friday

Ministering at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Witness to the Gospel	Members of SJLC
Pastor	Brad Ulgenes
Organist	Dodie Walsh
Choir Director	Connie Conley
Bell Choir Directors	Renee Slocum Christina Tielking
Director of Youth & Family Ministries	
Office Manager	Gretchen Munding
Treasurer	Karen Hicks
Financial Secretary	Randy Rake
Missionaries	Anne & Willie Langdji, Cameroon Mark & Marina Dotson, Russia
Sexton	Pat Gober

*St. John's Social Ministry Outreach Offering
for December is Bob's Pantry at Helena Middle School.*