



The Herald

January 2018

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

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

THE HEAD OF LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE TO SPEAK AT ST. JOHN'S

Linda Hartke, the CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, will speak here at St. John's at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, January 2nd. She will talk about our refugee ministry we have in the ELCA and issues pertaining to immigration. Linda Hartke will be in Helena for the swearing in of Wilmot Collins as Mayor of Helena. Mr. Collins was a Liberian refugee and national board member of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Come and hear about the amazing immigration ministry that we sponsor!

BEAT THE JANUARY BLAHS WITH BUNCO!

It's Bunco time! Save the date—Sunday, January 21st at 4:00 pm. Bring some white elephant gifts for prizes—something old, something new, something throwaway, candy/crackers, etc. Stay for a chili supper and fellowship. If you have an extra card table please contact the office.



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

St. John's will be having a new member orientation class for those wishing to transfer their membership from another Lutheran Church. The class will be held Sunday, January 21 at 3:00 PM in the Guild room downstairs. Contact Pastor Brad or Gretchen if you'd like to become a member. (442-6270) Following the class people may stay for the Bunco Party starting at 4:00 PM. We will receive New Members at the worship service on February 4. Welcome New Members!

MARK DOTSON ART SHOW

In the spirit of the Tentmaking tradition, Mark Dotson will be showing and selling his original artwork Friday, December 29th from 5:00 pm-9:00 pm at Perkins Restaurant in the back room.

**REMINDER: ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH AT 10:30 AM**



In This Issue

Message from Pastor Brad	2
Message from the Bishop	2
WOSJ's	3
News Around SJLC & The Synod	3
January Calendar	4-5
Youth and Family	6
Family Promise News	6
Thank You	6
Prayer Concerns	7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRAD: NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

I'm not into making New Year's Resolutions, but the practice has been around a long time. I read that four thousand years ago the ancient Babylonians were the first to make resolutions. They made them not in January but mid-march when crops were planted. During the twelve day festivals they reaffirmed their loyalty to their king. They also made promises to the gods to pay their debts and returned any objects borrowed. If the Babylonians kept their word, the gods would bestow favors on them for the coming year; if no, they would fall out of favor. Today 45% of Americans make resolutions, but only 8% are successful in keeping their resolutions.

In 1740 John Wesley, founder of Methodism, created the Covenant Renewal Service, most commonly held on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Also known as watch night services, they included readings from Scriptures and hymn singing, and served as a spiritual alternative to the wild New Year's Eve celebrations.

The start of the new year can be a time to recommit ourselves to God and make promises. But I'm thankful that God has resolved to love us even when we don't keep our promises to God or ourselves. Paul says in 2 Corinthians, "If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation, everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" In Christ every day can be a New Year.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Brad

WORDS FROM THE BISHOP: GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

The angel has it right. Jesus is THE GOOD NEWS. Period. Born homeless. Driven into hiding as a refugee in a strange land. Brought up in humble surroundings. Had a short-lived career. Resisted the devil. Healed the sick. Associated with outcasts. Fed the hungry. Defied the empire. Spent a night on death row, after which he was executed. And through all that, he overcame death, redeemed suffering, and reaffirmed new life for all.

On Christmas we celebrate the beginning, the birth of Jesus. All kinds of other things have been added to that celebration—extravagant giving of gifts, parties and feasts, unrealistic expectations. These are not what the Incarnation is about. Yes, it is lovely to give and receive gifts. Yes, it is delightful to party and feast. Yes, it is wonderful to reconnect with scattered friends and family. But you don't have to be Christian to engage in any of those things.

There are Christians who frown on the celebration of Christmas, precisely because of the incorporation of pagan traditions (such as evergreens and mistletoe, etc.) as well as the bloated over-commercialization that equates "a good Christmas" with one in which sales are high. As Lutheran Christians we do not frown on celebration. And we welcome the incorporation of traditions into the celebration of Christmas—whether northern European or native Hawaiian, American Indian or African.

Jesus is good news for the angels, and good news for the shepherds. Jesus is good news for the people of Palestine, his neighbors and co-religionists, and good news for the gentiles. Jesus is good news for northern Europeans, and native Hawaiians, for American Indians and for people in Africa.

Jesus is good news for the homeless, and for those who are refugees. Jesus is good news for those in humble surroundings, and for those who are unemployed. Jesus is good news for those who are faced with evil, and for those who are sick and hungry. Jesus is good news for those who resist oppression. Jesus is good news for the imprisoned, even those on death row. Jesus is good news for the children, and for the elderly.

Jesus is good news for you, and Jesus is good news for me. Period. Amen.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

ST JOHN'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS

Women Meet on January 9

After decompressing from a very successful Festival of Angels followed by the busyness of Christmas and the New Year, the women will gather at noon for their general meeting on Tuesday, January 9.

Join us as we make plans for what we will be doing in the new year. The 2018 booklet should be available. Karen Tobel is the hostess. Bring a salad to share. Working women need not bring a salad, just yourselves. All women are welcome. Please join us.

“Multiple meanings: Learning from other interpretations”

The Morning and Evening Circles will meet on January 23 to begin the first of a four-session, exciting Bible study by Mark Allen Powell entitled Multiple meanings: Learning from other interpretations. We will be exploring what Biblical stories mean to people around the world.

Powell, a professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, has taught at seminaries in Estonia, Russia and Tanzania. He edited the HarperCollins Bible Dictionary and has written more than 100 articles and 25 books on the Bible and religion.

Session one: Washing hands with distant hearts (Mark 7:1-12)

When we read or listen to Scripture, we identify with different characters in the Biblical story to discern what the story means to us. In this session, we explore this phenomenon, as well as Mark 7:1-12, which some people interpret from the perspective of the disciples, some from the perspective of the Pharisees and others from the perspective of Jesus.

The Morning Circle meets at Touchmark at 9:30. Elaine Hanpa and Linda Wollitz are the hostesses and Marilyn Schendel is the study leader. The Evening Circle meets at 7:00 at the church and Elaine Ulgenes is the hostess. Again, all women are welcome and encouraged to come to either Circle.

Great Divide Cluster Retreat for Women of the ELCA

Join us for a time of faith and fellowship on Saturday, January 27 beginning at 8 am. The morning will feature “What’s Your Story: Telling Stories of Life and Faith” with Pastor Kendra Wilde, a study of the life of Katie von Bora Luther by Kari Ceacovschi and lunch. In the afternoon, the fun will continue at the Painted Pot in downtown Helena. The morning session and lunch will be held at Saint John's Lutheran Church in Helena (1000 Helena Ave), and child care will be available. For more information contact Rebekah French at 495-9336 or by email at frenchrj@yahoo.com.

If you are planning to attend, please send Rebekah an email at frenchrj@yahoo.com by January 21 with the following information:

1. Your name and home church
2. Names and ages of any children who will need child care
3. Whether you plan to attend the afternoon session at the Painted Pot

JANUARY NEWS AROUND ST. JOHN'S AND THE SYNOD CANS

To those of you who separate the steel cans from the aluminum cans...thank you! It is a real time saver. Just place them in the barrel by the kitchen door or beside the barrel if it is full. Thank you—*Cliff & Linda Roessner*

ST. JOHN'S BOOK CLUB

The St. John's Book Club will meet on January 17th from 1:30 pm-2:30 pm at the Lewis & Clark Public Library in the small conference room. We will be discussing *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	We
	1 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 10:30 am-Staff Meeting 2:00 pm-LIRS Presentation 5:15 pm-Evangelism Committee 7:00 pm-4H Meeting in Fellowship Hall	3 9:00 am-Noon-Qu MIDWEEK CONN 5:30 pm-Commun 6:25 pm-Worship 7:00 pm-Bible Stud
7 9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Social Ministry 10:30 am-Sunday School, Adult Forum, Fellowship	8 6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:30 pm-Bells Rehearsal	9 10:30 am-Staff Meeting Noon-Finance Committee Noon-WOSJ's	10 9:00 am-Noon-Qu 1:30 pm-Executive MIDWEEK CONN 5:30 pm-Commun 6:25 pm-Worship 7:00 pm-Bible Stud
14 FAMILY PROMISE SUNDAY 9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Sunday School, Adult Forum, Fellowship	15 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:00 pm-Men's Group 6:30 pm-Bells Rehearsal	16 10:30 am-Staff Meeting 6:30 pm-Church Council	17 9:00 am-Noon-Qu MIDWEEK CONN 1:30 pm-Book Club 5:30 pm-Commun 6:25 pm-Worship 7:00 pm-Bible Stud
21 9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Sunday School, Adult Forum, Fellowship 3:00 pm-New Member Orientation 4:00 pm-Bunco Party!	22 6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:30 pm-Bells Rehearsal	23 8:00 am-5:00 pm-AERO Workshop in Fellowship Hall 9:30 am-Circle at Touchmark 10:30 am-Staff Meeting 7:00 pm-Evening Circle	24 9:00 am-Noon-Qu MIDWEEK CONN 5:30 pm-Commun 6:25 pm-Worship 7:00 pm-Bible Stud
28 9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Annual Meeting	29	30 10:30 am-Staff Meeting	31 9:00 am-Noon-Qu MIDWEEK CONN 5:30 pm-Commun 6:25 pm-Worship 7:00 pm-Bible Stud

	Thu	Fri	Sat
ilters SECTION ity Meal w/communion ly (all ages)	<i>4</i> 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 8:30 am-Scouts CPR Training in the Fellowship Hall
ilters Committee SECTION ity Meal w/communion ly (all ages)	<i>11</i> 1:30 pm-Music & Worship 2:30 pm-Memorial Committee 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<i>12</i> 3:00 pm-Communion Service at Masonic Home	<i>13</i>
ilters SECTION b ity Meal w/communion ly (all ages)	<i>18</i> 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
ilters SECTION ity Meal w/communion ly (all ages)	<i>25</i> 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 8:00 am-WELCA Winter Retreat
ilters SECTION ity Meal w/communion ly (all ages)			

YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

Midweek Connection January Menu

Midweek Connection is “A place of grace open to all that serves as a bridge between Sundays.” EVERYONE is welcome to join us at anytime. We’d love to see you! The evening begins with a shared meal at 5:30 pm (*suggested \$3 donation*), worship with holy communion at 6:25 pm, and study for all ages at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday, January 3: Taco Night

Wednesday, January 10: Spaghetti Night

Wednesday, January 17: Ham Night

Wednesday, January 24: Pizza Night

Wednesday, January 31: Potluck Night—bring a dish to share!

THANK YOU!

Grandma’s Attic was a rip-roaring success this year...THANK YOU! All of the money raised will help offset the cost of our upcoming trip to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. Unofficially we raised close to \$1000 and we are incredibly grateful for your generous support and donations. A special thank you to Merwin Barrows, Marvin & Betty Olaf, Jennifer Wintersteen, Onder Adsay, and Paul Evanson for setting up our shop. Thank you to Ron and Deanne Stegmann and Thurston and Betty Dotson for your generous contributions

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS

January 14 has been declared “Family Promise Day” at Saint John’s. A special offering will be collected during the service, and coffee hour will be hosted by Saint John’s “Comfort Food Challenge” co-captains: Betty Olaf, Linda Roessner and Mildred Twingley. Mary Larsen, a member of the Board of Directors for Family Promise of Greater Helena will make a short presentation about what is happening with Family Promise and answer your questions during coffee hour. This will also be your chance to purchase tickets to the Comfort Food Challenge, which is scheduled for February 11.

If you have questions about Family Promise, please call one of the St. John’s Family Promise Volunteer Coordinators, listed below:

Paula Blessinger: 449-7516 (dinner host coordinator)

Rebekah French: 495-9336 (laundry coordinator)

Bill Harant: 208-3944 (set-up/take down coordinator)

Neal Ruedisili: 459-7671 (overnight host coordinator)

THANK YOU

THANKS to all who came to our 60th Wedding Anniversary party. You made our day special with all of your greetings, hugs, and cards. — Thurston & Betty Dotson

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

For Healing:

For those suffering devastation from hurricanes, earthquakes, forest fires, and violence, Joe Munzenrider, Tom Morrow, Debbie (*Barb Muir's daughter*), Doug and Beccki Watkins, Jim Kembel, Jim Moe, Dave Hanson (*Mildred Twingley's Son-in-Law*), Zoe B., Barb Knutson, Kris Olson, Lester Anderson, Luke Almas, 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:

Karen Sloan, Laurie Skillman, Mike Meyer, Jim Lioutza, Doug Brekke, Laura Erwin, Ione Kinkaid

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

Pat Tyanich, Bob Hanson, Dr. Bob & Evelyn Whitesitt, Ken Bolland, Annie Stegmann, Jean E. Munding, Ada Harlen, Maury Knutson, Marge Mihelish, Audrey Anderson, Irene Crawford, Donna Muffick, and Dan Brosten (in Columbia Falls), Phillip Kerr

Missionaries: Willie, Anne, and Micah Langdji in Cameroon;

Mark and Marina Dotson in Russia

January Birthdays

1	Lauren Eckdahl	29	Troy Humphrey
	Dean Felber	30	Jerry Grebenc
	Derinda Gurley	31	Halley Grebenc
	Kylie Hanson		
2	Norah Eckdahl		
	Keith Swenson		
4	Cody Humphrey		
5	Alaine Field		
	Christopher Shields		
6	Steve Adsem		
7	Carl Mattfeldt		
8	Allison Tetrault		
9	Marlys Mattfeldt		
	Travis Vincent		
10	Rita DeMars		
11	Daniel Lieberg		
12	Camdyn Bokzyl		
	Mark Slocum		
14	Evangeline Heisel		
	Jan Homquist		
15	Barbara Beeman		
18	Jackson Keller		
20	Susan Watne		
21	Rachel Harant		
22	Neal Ruedisili		
24	Erika Gibbs		
26	Danielle Ulberg		



January Anniversaries

14 John & Raquel Hicks

Happy Anniversary

The Herald-January 2018
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1000 Helena Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #46
Helena, MT
59601



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

1000 Helena Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-6270
www.helenastjohns.org
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-Sunday School, Adult Forum, Fellowship

Wednesday

5:30 pm-Dinner in the Fellowship Hall
6:25 pm-Worship with Holy Communion
7:00 pm-Bible Studies 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

*The Special Monthly Offering in January
will go towards the ELCA World Hunger Appeal*