



The Herald

February 2025

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Helena, Montana

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



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Worship Services

Sunday 9:30 am

In-person and online via our Facebook page

Services uploaded to YouTube

Touchmark Service: Second Thursday at 2:00

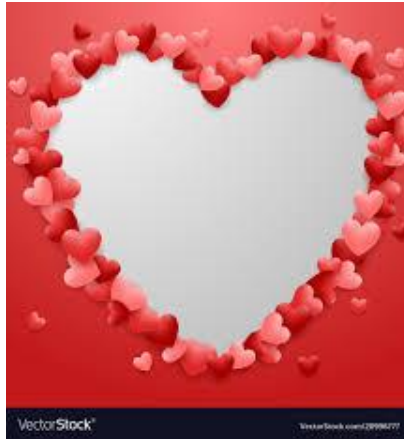
Midweek Gathering:

Community Meal at 6:30 on first Wednesday

Worship w/Holy Communion at 6:30

Fellowship at 7:00

The story of St. Valentine is a popular legend about a Roman priest who secretly married couples against the wishes of Emperor Claudius II during the 3rd century.



The legend says Claudius banned marriage because he thought married men were bad soldiers. Valentine, a Christian priest, felt this was unfair and continued to marry couples in secret. When Claudius discovered Valentine's actions, he was imprisoned and sentenced to death.

While in prison, Valentine fell in love with the jailer's blind daughter and healed her. Before his execution on February 14, he wrote her a love letter signed "from your Valentine". The Catholic Church granted Valentine sainthood and chose February 14th to honor him with a feast. Valentine's Day only became associated with love in the late Middle Ages, thanks to the English poet, Geoffrey Chaucer.

Although history has more than one story about Valentine, today we observe his feast day as a romantic celebration with hearts, chocolate and flowers.

Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!

*From Hands on Global for supporting Helena Area Refugee Resettlement Team
From Good Samaritan Ministries and support for Our Place, Street Outreach
and Ruth's Place*

From God's Love Inc. for the Christmas Gift

Bible Trivia

1: What did Jacob give Joseph that sparked jealousy from his siblings?

2: What did the woman pour on Jesus' head at the home of Simon the Leper?

3: Who was the first Christian convert in Europe?

Answers on page 4

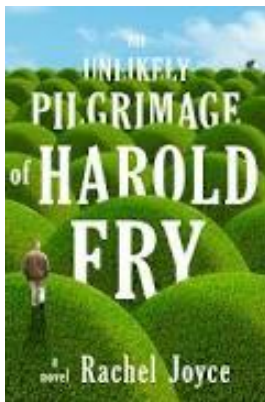
“I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.” ~ [Jeremiah 17:10](#)

Thanks for supporting Fair Trade!

Your contributions to the basket by the coffee urn make it possible to support growers in developing countries get a fairer price for their coffee, tea, and chocolate. A new order of whole bean Congo coffee for individual sale has arrived and for each bag purchased \$1 will go to the Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Thank you for putting in your dollars so we can continue to serve fair trade coffee and come and check out the coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate bars that are available for individual sales. www.info.equalexchange.coop/articles/congo-coffee-project



The Women's book club will read *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce for our meeting on February 13 at 12:00. Harold Fry leads a quiet life as a recent retiree in a small English village until a letter arrives one day that launches Harold on an unexpected six hundred mile journey undertaken by foot.



Meet in the Guild Room

Thursday, February 13 at noon

Books are available from Kendra Wilde.

We keep conversations to an hour
and welcome new members

Midweek Connection and Sunday School

Midweek Connection is Wednesday evenings, beginning at 6:30 PM for worship and 7:00 PM for Faith Formation. (We have changed our format this year. On the first Wednesday of the month, we will have a potluck and a birthday celebration beginning at 6:30 PM followed by Community Life together down in the Fellowship Hall. The rest of the month we will have worship with Holy Communion at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary followed by Faith Formation for all ages at 7:00 PM.)

Gretchen Munding, Director of Youth and Family **Ministry**



QUILTING EACH WEDNESDAY

9 AM— NOON

Choir Rehearsal Thursdays, 7 pm

Warm ups - Sundays at 9 am

“February is a time to let go of the old and create space for new beginnings.”

Louise Hay, *You Can Heal Your Life* (1984)

Celebration Ringers practice on Mondays at 6 pm

Bells of St Johns practice on Wednesdays at 5:15 pm

Bible Trivia Answers

Answer1 : A coat of many colors Gen 37:3

Answer:2 Jar of expensive perfume Mark 14:3-9

Answer:3 Lydia Acts 16:14



Pray for one another

In our prayers:

Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Ken Downing, Rosita Moe, Bruce Gottwig, Bob Sorensen, Deb Berg, Meg Biggs and family, Richard Bomar, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Randy Holmes, Kamila Ruth Baker, Vicki Alpiner, Brent Bushnell, Tom Andersen, Sally Indreland, Jana Clark, Dan Jacobson

For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care: All the Saints in Heaven

For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound: Mary Marty, Rev. Wayne Olsen, Rosita Moe, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Jimmie McGee

For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy: Evan Ceaicovschi, Raffy Suchikul, Maggie Smiedala

Missionaries: Missionaries around the world; Willie Langdji in Cameroon



New Testament Bible Study

With the start of the new academic year, ***New Testament Bible Study will continue on Sundays at 10:45 am following worship and Tuesdays at noon. Classes will gather in the Guild room.*** We will once again be exploring the historical content, original sources, and the materials used in the writings that formed the New Testament Canon. Through a chronological reading, we will experience the timeline within the New Testament. This will be an opportunity to encounter the contents of each book, discuss the historical background, author, context, audience, and purpose (who, where, when, why). We will discover themes and messages within each of the Gospels, Pauline Epistles, Acts, and Revelation.

It is not required, but I do suggest having a good Study Bible. If you have one already, wonderful. If you are interested in getting a new one, I recommend either *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha 5th Edition NRSV* or the *Lutheran Study Bible* in the NRSV translation.

Social Ministry in February

1. Given the disastrous fires across Los Angeles County, our February "cause" will be **Lutheran Disaster Response** (LDR). LDR is one way tht our church responds quietly to communities experiencing not only fires, but also hurricanes, war, and famine. Use the pew envelopes for your money gifts to LDR.



2. What happens on Sunday, February 9?

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

Who is the big winner that day? HELENA FOOD SHARE and food banks nation-wide. What can you do? Put money gifts in the soup kettle. Bring practical food items for the Helena Food Share. Thank God for the opportunity to give.



Lutheran World Relief

God's Love in Action for 80 years

Look back on 2024:

Crisis /urgent care and response:

South Sudan in times of extreme flooding and violence

Liberia after fuel tanker explosion

Lebanon during the war with Israel

Quilts and Kits

Earthquake in Turkey-

Maryland US Francis Scott Key bridge collapse

Long term help

Nepal help with farming skills

Ukraine assessing for land mines, restoration of farm land

Visit lwr.org/80 to watch and share a video about the 80th anniversary of Lutheran World Relief

The Hospitality Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 5:15 p.m.

“True hospitality consists of giving the best of
yourself to your guests”

Eleanor Roosevelt

Five Women Nominated for St. John's Bold Woman of 2025

Connie Conley has been our choir director for 20 years as well as pianist, organist, percussion and rhythm inspiration and a music teacher and a leader of the Helena Teachers Association. She gives us great inspiration with her spirituals and upbeat musical presentations. She is always giving and inspires us spiritually with her songs and giving spirit. She is also an excellent baker who shares her goodies and recipes.

Angela Conley: Not only as a great soloist and accomplished pianist, Angela has led us in our audio/video presentations. She assists with Sunday School and with our youth program. She is always ready to assist when asked. She is truly dedicated in her faith.

Connie and Angela nominated by Barb Muir

K'Lynn Harris – K'Lynn is a very active parent of three children and works for the Montana legislative services. She is active in Kiwanis and Girl Scouts. At St. John's K'Lynn serves on the Tech/IT Committee and assists with technology for services and streaming in rotation with others. K'Lynn currently serves on the Church Council and assisted with our Constitution update in 2023/2024. K'Lynn volunteers as Parliamentarian for the Montana/N WY Synod every June and the Synodical Women's Org (SWO) in the fall. K'Lynn is a vibrant member of St. John's and deserves to be recognized as a Bold Woman of Faith and Action.

Amy Smiedala – Amy shares her time and talents with St. John's and the community of Helena. Amy is a long-time volunteer with the Florence Crittenton organization locally. Amy has served on the Church Council and currently is the Chair of the Social Ministry Committee. Amy helps teach Sunday school on Wednesday nights and always is a loving presence to youth and adults alike in our congregation. Amy is a strong woman of Faith and she deserves the Bold Woman recognition.

K'Lynn and Amy nominated by Jennifer Wintersteen

Jennifer Wintersteen is a woman who has, and is, acting boldly on her faith. She is currently serving as the president of our WELCA unit. She will continue in that capacity for the third year in 2025. Before that she was the secretary. Jennifer regularly attends and/or leads the monthly evening Bible study. She is currently a member of the church council. She sings in the choir and is a member of the bell ringers. She also has represented our WELCA unit at synodical meetings and gatherings, both in state and at the national level. Never one to say no, she serves in many other little ways. Jennifer Wintersteen has been bold in her service to the church and community. She exemplifies the purpose statement of the Women of the ELCA by growing in faith, engaging in ministry and action.

Jennifer nominated by Susan Hammell and Deanne Stegmann

Voting for Bold Women is open until February 11. All are invited to vote. Ballots and ballot box are at the rear of the church.



Caring Friends

Caring Friends is a small but mighty ministry within St. Johns. Our mission is to provide love, support and fellowship to congregants and community members by way of in person visitation, phone calls and or e-mails. We visit receptive home bound, senior living, and assisted living residents as well as hospital patients and serve the sacrament of communion when desired or requested. We are reaching out to the congregation to request any referrals you may know of that may appreciate what we have to offer. Also, any St. John's members that may be interested in joining our ranks are asked to call Greg at 406-439-4505 or 406-266-4464. As a group, we meet every 1st Tuesday each month for a one hour, very informal get together at the church at 12:00 noon. We share fellowship, prayer and updates on our "visitees" and any new prospects to visit. If you're interested in a great way to enhance your faith journey in a fun and rewarding way, please check us out.

"Falling Upward" by Richard Rohr

Are you living and loving your golden years, or maybe not? The 2nd half of life is more than getting old, health issues, loss. We'll be offering insights in a six-week discussion based on Richard Rohr's book, "Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life". Our first gathering is on Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30-8:00 pm at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, 3580 Benton Ave. We'll have 6 gatherings, finishing on April 15. Facilitators are Father Dan Shea and Charlotte Neill. The book is available on Amazon. Both 2011 and 2023 editions, new or used are appropriate. A head count will be helpful.

Father Dan: 406-422-6674/ text; dshea@carroll.edu/e-mail or 406-449-2521/voicemail

Charlotte Neill: 651-587-8083/text/voicemail or cneill@luthersem.edu/e-mail.

Funny Church Signs:

We are not Dairy Queen, but we do have great Sundays!

Birthdays in February

Sara Conley 2/5

Greg Field 2/5

Angela Conley 2/7

Thurston Dotson 2/8

Erin Ford 2/9

Mait Board 2/10

Kristi Skaalure 2/10

Norah Eckdahl 2/12

Jocelyn Pritchard 2/14

Ron Stegmann 2/14

Linda Roessner 2/16

Mike Kieckbusch 2/21

Laura McDonald 2/23



Anniversaries

Pat and Laurie DeLong 2/14



New Option for Online Giving

Please use the code here for a mobile device
online

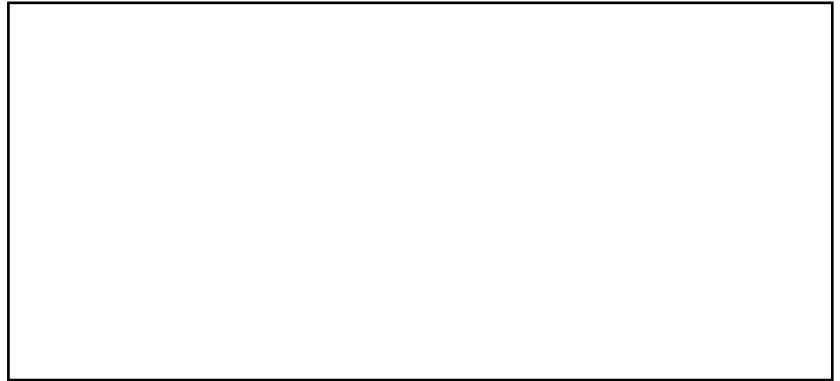
giving option.

Questions on how this works? Please contact
the church office.

Return Service Requested

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

1000 Helena Avenue
Helena, MT 59601



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

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

Worship Services

Sunday 9:30 am

Fellowship 10:30 am

New Testament Bible Study 10:45 am

In-person and online via our Facebook page

Services uploaded to YouTube

Office Hours

9:00 am-1:00 pm

Monday-Thursday

Office Closed on Friday

**Ministering at
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Witness to the Gospel
Pastor
Choir Director
Worship Musicians

Members of SJLC
Pastor Keith Weatherford
Connie Conley
Connie Conley
Gretchen Mundinger

**Director of Youth &
Family Ministries**
Office Administrator
Audio and Video
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Sexton
Church Council

Gretchen Mundinger
Bonnie Stevens
Angela Conley
Karen Hicks
Randy Rake
Pat Gober
Gail Vennes, President
Paul Hilchen, Vice President
Jennifer Wintersteen, Secretary
Bing Crosby, Kari Ceaicovschi, Brian Tetrault
Lee Rhodes, K'Lynn Sloan-Harris, Teresa Kinley

Submission Deadlines: For Bulletin- Wednesday by noon

For the Herald - 25th of each month