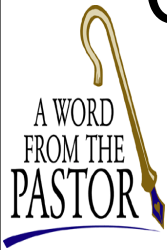
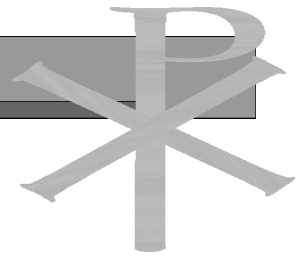


CHI RHO January, 2019



The **Chi Rho** is published monthly by St. John.

Submissions are requested by the **19th** of the month preceding publication.

Pastor's Page

A few years ago I spent New Year's Eve with a friend and her family. Their tradition was to look back over their calendars and remember together all the events of the past year. Each year brings lots of events. Fun celebrations. Maybe a trip or two. Picnics, parties, routine weeks of work, school, volunteering, gathering for prayer, attending Bible study, gathering for worship.

Here at St. John this past year brought a change in pastoral leadership. Pastor Joe retired and I came to serve as the interim/transitional pastor. Part of my work is very practical in tending to the tasks of ministry. Another part is being the one to listen and care for all the anticipated and common kinds of feelings expressed: sadness, joy, relief, renewal, concern, weariness. It's amazing to look back and see all the places where God has blessed you as a congregation. And, it is exciting to wonder and explore where God is leading in these next months and years. People retire, but God does not.

Tending to our spiritual health and wholeness is very important to me. I appreciate hearing where God is at work in your life, what calms you and encourages you. Also, what wakes you up and challenges you. I would like to challenge you to take up the practice of dwelling in the word. There are websites and books dedicated to teaching about this practice. But what I am suggesting is quite simple. In addition to your daily devotional life, I suggest that you pick a piece of scripture that you dwell with or live with for days or weeks or maybe even months. Commit the passage to memory so that when you wake up you can mentally turn to it and keep returning to it throughout the day. How does the passage speak to you, call you and lead you?

Here are a few possibilities for you to look up and ponder:

Jeremiah 29:11 -- Philipians 4:4-7 -- Psalm 118:24 -- Psalm 23 --
2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Peace,
Pastor Becky Sogge

St John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

November 19, 2018

The Meeting was called to order by Duane Kurtin. A devotional and prayer was given by Gayle Bielss.

Members present: Duane Kurtin, Ronnie Persky, Pastor Sogge, Frank Smalley, Justin Young, Darrell Marek, Gayle Bielss, Pat Stroud, Imogene Morris, and Donna Dawson. Absent: Ricky Ramthun, Lenard Steglich, Kristi Dague.

Secretary Report: The minutes from the Oct 15, 2018 council meeting were reviewed by the church council. Darrell Marek made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Pat Stroud seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer Report: The report from Oct was presented and discussed. Imogene Morris made a motion to accept the report as presented. Gayle Bielss seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Pastor Report: Pastor Sogge reported on visiting Will O Bell, getting to know church members, helping with the Christmas program and attending the HOT deanery meeting. She will be on vacation Jan 7-13 and will need coverage. She discussed the Tri-Synod meeting which she will attend. She also brought up possibly doing a new church directory to help her as well as the new pastor when here. Frank Smalley made a motion to accept the report as presented. Darrell Marek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Duane Kurtin introduced the guests: Shirley Fischer, Linda Ferguson and Janice Atchison. The group discussed the upcoming 135th anniversary which will be Dec 16, 2018. The invitations have been sent out, SPJST in Holland will provide the brisket for the meal and Sharon Kurtin will provide the cake. Duties and expectations for the council and pastor were discussed.

Property Committee: Ronnie Persky discussed needing Christmas tree put up before the children's Christmas program which will Dec. 9. Pat Stroud to follow up about tree and church decorating.

Youth Committee: no report

Stewardship Committee: Pat Stroud made a trip to Family Promise today and took the many donated supplies.

Membership Committee: Imogene Morris stated no report

Worship Committee: Gayle Bielss stated more acolytes needed, there will be a new group to start after the holidays. There will be advent services in the TRC. Pastor Sogge had questions about the advent wreath and it was discussed.

Parish Ed Committee: Frank Smalley stated children's Christmas program will be Dec. 9.

Old Business:

The proposed 2019 budget was presented by Darrell Marek to the council and it was discussed. Gayle Bielss made a motion to present the proposed budget to the congregation at the Dec. 9 congregational meeting. Frank Smalley seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Duane Kurtin presented the information that there is usually a bonus presented to organist, secretary, pastor and cemetery caretaker in Dec. Justin Young made a motion to give the bonuses of \$250 per person. Pat Stroud seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Duane Kurtin stated the nomination committee of Lauren Patterson and Sharon Randig will have the names of the nominees for the 3 vacant seats by the Dec. 9 congregational meeting.

Ronnie Persky recommended the organ dedication be Jan. 20, 2019 at 3 pm. There will be a guest organist and the offering will go to the organ fund.

Council discussed the bids for the air conditioning for replacement in TRC. Darrell Marek made a motion the bid given by Shepherd a/c will be presented at congregational meeting and we will suggest both units be replaced at this time. Imogene Morris seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Duane Kurtin stated date needed to be set for the Jan congregational meeting. The new council members will be installed in Jan before the first council meeting. Darrell Marek made a motion to set the congregational meeting for Jan 27, 2019. Justin Young seconded the motion and the motion carried.

New Business:

Frank Smalley stated Colin Randig would like to build an outdoor sanctuary for his Eagle Scout project. It was decided we would invite him to the Dec council meeting to discuss with him.

The council discussed organ renovation ideas. Pat Stroud suggested a fund raiser where individuals can purchase a "pipe" for a set amount, "adopt a pipe program". We could possibly launch this at the organ donation service.

Pat Stroud made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gayle Bielss seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted.

Donna Dawson, St John Lutheran Church Council Secretary

St John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

November 28, 2018

President Duane Kurtin called the meeting to order. This was a called meeting to discuss health insurance for our interim pastor. Members present: Duane Kurtin, Kristi Dague, Lenard Steglich, Pat Stroud, Imogen Morris, Ronnie Persky, Darrell Marek, Justin Young, Frank Smalley, Gayle Bielss, and Donna Dawson.

There was discussion about the amount that had been presented for Pastor Sogge and her family. After speaking with the pastor it was decided Jill Marwitz would verify with Portico Insurance regarding this plan and other policies.

Kristi Dague made a motion to adjust the budget on health insurance for pastor to \$15,500 per year. This would be an increase of \$10,000. Frank Smalley seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Lenard Steglich made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat Stroud seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Dawson, St John Lutheran Church Council Secretary

30650 State Hwy 95
P.O. Box 70
Bartlett, TX 76511
Phone 254-527-3341
Fax 254-527-4522

1 mile north of
Bartlett on State Highway 95
Office Hours:
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. M-Th

Email st.john.bartlett@gmail.com
Web www.stjohnbartlett.org

STAFF:

Pastor	Becky Sogge	612-718-9151	beckysogge@yahoo.com
Organist	Debra Caldwell	254-760-8692	1021stretch@centurylink.net
Secretary	Glena Hood	254-718-7340	st.john.bartlett@gmail.com

COUNCIL OFFICERS:

		Home	Cell	E-mail
President	Duane Kurtin	527-3898		dkurtin@gmail.com
Vice President/Property	Ronnie Persky	527-4344	231-5302	persky848@aol.com
Secretary	Donna Dawson	657-3048	913-8783	donnadawson@embarqmail.com
Treasurer	Darrell Marek	527-4521	760-8329	aprildarrell1987@att.net
Financial Secretary	Sharon Koonsen	657-2568		sharonkoonsen@earthlink.net

ACTION TEAM LEADERS:

		Home	Cell	E-mail
Property	Lenard Steglich	527-3632	512-461-1983	lenard.steglich@yahoo.com
Property	Justin Young		718-9680	catfish9680@gmail.com
Property	Frank Smalley		493-7987	Franklin.Smalley@bswhealth.org
Worship/Music	Gayle Biels	527-4424	718-5390	newslady01@sbcglobal.net
Parish Education	Ricky Ramthun		254-493-8615	ramthun61888@centurylink.net
Membership/Fellowship	Imogene Morris	657-2280		imogene.morris@tisd.org
Youth	Kristi Dague	254-642-0318	913-1072	UT1990@hotmail.com
Stewardship/ PR	Pat Stroud		254-541-4389	pastored@yahoo.com
W-ELCA	Rachel Burklow		512-352-3197	
W-ELCA	Debra Caldwell	947-0647	760-8692	

OFFERINGS FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER

Date	Attendance	Offering
Dec 2nd	94	\$5,082
Dec 9th	125	\$4,156
Dec 16th	208	\$9,643
Dec 23rd	78	\$2,842
Dec 24th	220	\$3,386
Dec 25th	35	841
Year to Date Totals		\$ 155,208





WELCA at work!



2018 St. John Lutheran Church WELCA Quarterly Activity Directors

Winter (January-March): Cynthia Gersbach, LaVelle Glaser and Sharon Kurtin

Looking Ahead

January 15th Ladies Bible Study @ 9:00 am in TRC

January 19th Girlfriends in Christ Bible Study @ 10:00 am in TRC

* * * * *

Ladies' Morning Bible Study for January

The Women's Morning Bible Study will be held on January 15th in the TRC, hosted by Debra Caldwell and Linda Ferguson. Fellowship will begin at 9:00 am, followed by the first of four lessons based on the Gospel of John.

Debra will give an enlightening report on her trip to Africa in 2018.

Ladies of St. John and visitors are invited to attend.

* * * * *

Girlfriends in Christ Bible Study

Girlfriends in Christ is a group of ladies that love studying the Word of God. We meet on the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 am in the TRC building.

If you are looking for fellowship and a support group of Christian ladies, we would love for you to join us. We welcome all ladies 13 to 99 to join us.

WELCA

AT

WORK!



**Letters from past St. John Ministers in response to their invitation to the
135th Anniversary celebration.**

December 3, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

We were, in turn, excited and happy to receive the invitation to become a part of your 135 Anniversary celebration planned for December 16th. While we regret our non-attendance at that special time, we recall the privilege and honor to have been repeated visitors with you through the decades since my 1939-1951 membership with you.

I was both confirmed and ordained before your altar. I spent grades 1 through 7 as a part of the German-English school, roller-skated in your basement ({}), helped to tend the church and school and cemetery grounds. At times during those almost 12 years, I didn't leave the seven acres because I didn't need to! Most important, in retrospect, were the friendships built and the love and kindnesses we were able to share together – connections sustained with some through the years.

I want to recognize and congratulate your Anniversary Steering Committee for the careful and thoughtful work they have done to plan a grand festivity. Recognizing members of select Confirmation classes, inviting even the ordained children of your former pastors to process, fashioning memorabilia stations, and securing your Bishop Erik Gronberg to bring the message are all ways to give a distinctive touch to your celebration of God's goodness through the decades.

May the Lord of the Church continue to keep you both patient and vigorous as you faithfully press forward with your witness to yet more years of Grace through Faith.

We love you. God bless, sustain, and guide you in your continuing discipleship.

Gratefully yours,


Allan and Erine Sager


(905 Valleyview Dr., Westerville, Ohio, 43081; ahsager@columbus.rr.com)

December 9, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of St. John:

What a blessing to celebrate with you in Spirit the joyous event of the 135 Anniversary of St. John Lutheran Church. God's grace and mercy has lead you all the way. I well recall the efforts you put into the celebration of the 100th. God's Grace will be with you now and the years to come.

Sincerely,


Pastor Clarence Rose

135th Anniversary Celebration

Thank You, Thank you!

John 5:14 “This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, he hears us.”

Wow! We believe that we prayed for our 135th Anniversary to be pleasing in His sight! We, also believe, that ACCORDING TO HIS WILL it was pleasing in His sight. God blessed us and our guests on Sunday, December 16, 2018, as we celebrated 135 years at St John Lutheran, Bartlett, Texas.

It never ceases to amaze us that you are so generous and willing to help. Jobs were done whether large or small. Food, food and more food was brought by you. To all of you who worked before, during and after the event, we express our sincere gratitude! There are so many of you who served in many, many ways. You know the old saying “it takes a village.” It is so true. We came together to work and worship. He is counting on us to continue to spread His Word! May God continue to bless us and St. John.

Sincerely in Christ,

The 135th Anniversary Committee

Janice Atchison

Linda Ferguson

Shirley Fischer

Organ Dedication

St. John Lutheran Church will host a dedicatory recital and worship service on Sunday, January 20th at 3:00 pm, to dedicate the congregation’s new Viscount digital organ console to the Glory of God. Guest organ soloist, Ken Mowell, of Killeen and flutist, Sheryl Goodnight, of Little River will provide special music. Mowell is organist at First Presbyterian Church in Lampasas and owns a business in organ repair and sales. Goodnight is on the adjunct faculty at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and a member of the Temple Symphony Orchestra. The new digital console will help bring the best of the future to St, John’s music and eventually tie into the best of the past as going forward we renovate our existing historic pipe organ, and then connect the two together. A fund-raising effort will give interested individuals the opportunity to adopt a pipe to help make the pipe organ renovation possible.

Following the dedication service, a reception will be held in the TRC. Church members and community are invited.

NOTE: Council members are asked to bring 2 dozen cookies for refreshments after the program.

JANUARY, 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 HOLIDAY	2	3	4	5
6 Sunday School 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Installation of new council members	7 Pastor Becky on Vacation thru the 13th	8	9 7:30 am Men's Bible Study in TRC	10 PieceMakers 1:00 pm	11	12
13 Sunday School 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Pastor Becky on vacation	14	15	16 7:30 am Men's Bible Study in TRC	17 PieceMakers 1:00 pm	18	19 10:00 am Girlfriends in Christ Bible Study
20 Sunday School 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am 3:00 pm Organ Dedication	21 6:00 pm Council Mtg	22 Ladies Bible Study 9:15 am in TRC	23 7:30 am Men's Bible Study in TRC	24 PieceMakers 1:00 pm	25	26
27 Sunday School 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Congregational Meeting	28 Pastor Becky @ Tri-Synodical Conference thru 1-30-19	29	30 7:30 am Men's Bible Study in TRC	31 PieceMakers 1:00 pm		

January, 2019 Assistant Schedule

	Jan. 6th	Jan. 13th	Jan. 20th	Jan. 27th	Feb. 3rd
Lector	Kolby Dague	Wayne Zieschang	Weldon Kurtz	Dotty Kneten	Jill Marwitz
Assistant	Weldon Kurtz		Celeste Gamrod		Jocelyn Ramthun
Communion Assistant	Harold Kurtz		Ronnie Persky		Hubert Wolbrueck
Acolyte	Huston Martin	Huston Martin	Emily Dague	Emily Dague	Collin Randig
Usher Captain	Alan Shepherd	Alan Shepherd	Michael Kurtz	Michael Kurtz	Tim Steglich
Ushers	Retha Shepherd, Rick & Pam Fleming, Lenard & Gloria Steglich	Retha Shepherd, Rick & Pam Fleming, Lenard & Gloria Steglich	Melinda, Jordan, Garrett Kurtz and Ricky Ramthun	Melinda, Jordan, Garrett Kurtz and Ricky Ramthun	Charles Gersbach, J.R. Gersbach, Justin Young, Michael, Joey & Travis Saverse
Greeters	Ruth & Ray Janke	Ruth & Ray Janke	Duane & Sharon Kurtin	Duane & Sharon Kurtin	Shirley Fischer & Janice Atchison
Altar Care	Lonnie & Marilyn Shepherd	Lonnie & Marilyn Shepherd	Donna Campbell & Daffney Pajestka	Donna Campbell & Daffney Pajestka	Betty Truelove & Joey Saverse
Teller Captain	Sharon Koonsen	Pam Fleming	Pam Fleming	Jill Marwitz	Jill Marwitz
Tellers	Cynthia & Charles Gersbach	Darrell & April Marek	Darrell & April Marek	Ruth & Ray Janke	Ruth & Ray Janke

If you cannot serve an assigned Sunday, please look ahead to find someone to switch with. It is your responsibility to find a replacement. Please notify the office of any switches so the information on Bulletins will be correct.

St John Lutheran Church
P O Box 70
Bartlett, TX 76511

OUR MISSION

- To Gather as God's People
- To Grow Spiritually
- To Go Empowered by the Holy Spirit



January, 2019



You're Always Welcome at St. John
Lutheran Church...



Sunday Mornings

Sunday School 9:15am

Worship 10:30am

Join Us and Bring a Friend!