



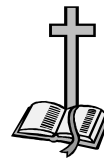
Happy Birthday

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| 3 | Bonnie Dittmar
Olivia Williams
Jamie Melville | 13 | Bill Eaton
Merle Heimerdinger
Katelyn Koch
Vi Martin
Katie Quittschreiber |
| 4 | Linda Lawfer
Steve Miller
Brent Schneider | 16 | Ronald Melville |
| 5 | Dorothy Whitson
Zxandyr Klatt | 18 | Kayla Albrecht |
| 6 | Pat Randerson
Benjamin Blackmore | 19 | Austin Little |
| 7 | Tom Smargiassi | 22 | Marsha Butson |
| 8 | Dorothy Eden
Sara Gray | 23 | Carrie Boop
Kayle Niehaus |
| 10 | Gerald Brinkmeier
Aaron Eaton | 24 | Earl Heimerdinger |
| 11 | Jace Kempel | 25 | MacKenzee Bentz |
| 12 | Doris Kness
Ryan Stager | 26 | Lauren Spain |
| | | 27 | Bradlee Blackmore
Corey Gustafson
Todd Hershey |

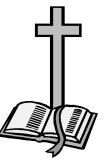
If we missed your birthday, please call the church office 443-2215

2011 Congregational Resourcing Event

The 2011 **Congregational Resourcing Event** will be *Saturday, March 19, 2011* at Kishwaukee Community College in Malta, IL. Keynote speaker will be The Rev. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission, ELCA. Mark your calendars now and watch for more information.



January/February Newsletter



St. John's Lutheran (E.L.C.A.)
229 S. First St. P.O. Box 234
Pearl City, IL 61062
815/443-2215

*Pat Esker, Pastor E-Mail: pastoresker@gmail.com
stjohnspearlcity.org*

Worship Services at St. John's Sundays at 9 a.m.
Sunday School at 10 a.m.

January 2

Holy Communion and the Installation of Rotations Sunday School Teachers

January 9

Holy Communion and the Chancel Choir

January 16

Holy Communion, the Joy Choir, the World Hunger Collection and the Sending of Communion Ministers

12pm- Grace Meal

January 23-Healing Service

Holy Communion and the Chancel Choir

January 30

Holy Communion and the Joy Choir

February 6

Holy Communion, the Chancel Choir and the Installation of Rotation Sunday School Teachers

February 13

Holy Communion and the Joy Choir

February 20

Holy Communion, the Chancel Choir, the World Hunger Collection and the Sending of Communion Ministers

12pm- Grace Meal

February 27

Holy Communion and the Joy Choir

From the Pastor's Study...

Colossians 1:11 May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Several days before Christmas I was grocery shopping and standing in the frozen food section trying to decide which bag of frozen green beans to place in my cart-- French cut green beans or normal cut green beans (honestly I continue to be baffled by the existence of differing cuts of green beans...truly in the end, do they really TASTE any different??). While pondering this seemingly monumental choice, I overheard two women behind me discussing New Year's Eve. This stuck me as odd since we had not even celebrated Christmas yet! In addition, the conversation centered on their top picks for New Year's resolutions. I nearly groaned out loud.

Every year I am frequently privy to people's resolutions for themselves and they are often resolutions that have at their center a way to make themselves or their lives better. In general I am not opposed to being intentional about how one goes through life and being attentive to the ways in which our actions and words might affect that life. I think that is a very good thing. But I am often left wondering if perhaps with most resolutions what lies behind them is more an issue of a feeling of 'being less' or not quite 'up to being what one ought to be' and so some self-improvement is in order--that there is this deep seeded feeling that we need to shore up what we believe to be faulty. That makes me feel horribly sad. It has as its core a need for being perfect rather than a need for going through life whole, authentically, and with a sense of integrity. By integrity I mean being true to who we really are, including our brokenness and imperfections. Not hiding who we really are behind a cleverly constructed façade we have designed for the world to see. So many resolutions I fear are meant to shore that façade up because we believe ourselves to be so horribly imperfect, that we not acceptable and must hide our true selves.



1	Frank Martin		
		21	Deaken Hofmaster Brandon Block
3	Sarah Hass Rose Kruse	22	Cherri Block Tom Ruhberg Lincoln Voss
4	Lee Block Claire Brinkmeier	23	Sarah Jane Myers
5	Jan Voss Angie Stichter	25	Nicole Lawler
9	Austin Block	26	Alex Brinkmeier
10	Vernon Wilhelm	27	Lane Kempel
11	Verlin Richtemeyer Jodi Revels	28	Laura Gray
13	Linda Erbsen	29	Jed Kempel Benjamin Hershey Myles Freedlund Sawyer Williams
18	Brogan Kuhlmeier		
19	Richard Brinkmeier		If we missed your birthday, please call the church office 443-2215
20	Stuart Hershey		

High School Hour

All high school students are welcome! Thank you to Theresa Albers, Mike Queckboerner, and Dr. Alan Esker for their leadership.

Jan 2	Eric	synago lesson
Jan 9	Theresa	practice skit
Jan 16	Mike	food pantry
Jan 23	Theresa	practice skit
Jan 30		annual meeting
Feb 6	Eric	synago lesson

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
November 17, 2010
7 pm Luther Hall**

Council members present included Lee Harbison, Todd Fransen, April Eberle, Theresa Koch, Larry Albrecht, Treasea Perdue and Pastor Pat Esker.

Treasea Perdue led the Evening Prayer, lit the candle and led the Prayer of the Day.

We did not have enough for a quorum

Jordy McPeek presented information to the Council members present about utilizing Gmail for better communication in the church. She also presented an electronic newsletter and the Callfire system we will be using for reminders and emergencies.

The members present decided to start the December 15, 2010 Council meeting at 6pm in the Luther Hall closet.

Calling System

As I am sure you have noticed we are now using a calling system in case of cancellations etc. here at St. John's. We used this system on December 12th when worship was cancelled.

If you did not receive the message or would like to receive it at a different number please call the office and let me know of the change.

443-2215

Thanks!

Jordy

Of course that understanding is extremely contrary to God's intention for us. We were made in God's image and proclaimed good. We have been baptized and have been claimed by God and called God's children, inheritors of God's kingdom. Nothing could be clearer about how God see us—we are beloved! God is fully aware of who we really are—imperfections and all and loves us still.

I think our children have a good sense of this. Have you ever noticed how open they are and free they are about how they feel and what they are thinking? There is no guess work! I think we could learn a few things by observing them—perhaps even pick up a resolution or two! I certainly know that I did when I walked into Yellow Creek Restaurant this week to take the staff for a Christmas lunch and came upon Ella Williams. She was there having lunch with her family and when she saw me come into the room she jumped up from her chair flung open her arms and hugged me. All the while with the most beautiful smile and tender expression of love I have ever had the honor of seeing, let alone receiving! She touched me to the core and gave to me, in that short minute, one of the best Christmas presents of the season.

Ella was real and did not hide who she was or how she was feeling—she had integrity. Because of that she extended a gift to me. Had she not had integrity, we both would have suffered a loss that day. She taught me something important about trying to be more intentional about remembering my own belovedness and going through life with integrity and authentically....whole as God intends for us to be—imperfections and all. Sound like a resolution?? I think so, and I think it is a good one!!

New Year's Blessings,

Pastor Pat

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to:

Shirley Potter, David Wright, Bill Kehl, Doug Klatt, Scott Diffenderfer, Jane Charles, Mike Block, Louise Cuccio, Rojean Albrecht, Fred Quinn, Lyle Schneider, Rick Giovacchini and the family and friends of Eric Emil, Charlotte, Neisman, Raynor Mosher, Robert Olsen, Erina Toelke, Roger Cain & Evelyn Osimowicz.

Thank You!

I wish to extend to everyone at St John's my sincere gratitude for the generous Christmas gift. Alan and I have over the past couple of years been saving to purchase a TV for the confirmation room in the lower level and we were able to do that during the Christmas sales. With your wonderful gift this year, we hope to be able now to work toward purchasing a cart to place the tv on that it might be utilized in other areas in the lower level! I am very excited and thank you from the bottom of my heart. It will make teaching confirmation a lot easier and a lot more fun for the students!

Blessings,
Pastor Pat

Thank You!

Thanks for all the prayers, calls, visits, cards, gifts and food brought in since my surgery. Your words of encouragement helped a lot.

Also thanks to the prayer shawl ministry for the prayer quilt. I feel blessed by your friendship.

Janis Kampmeier

Visiting another Church

- ◆ Kathy Larson visited Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Naperville, IL on December 26, 2010 & October 24, 2010.
- ◆ Jodi Revels worshiped at the Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin on November 21, 2010.
- ◆ Jack & Jodi Revels attended Love of Christ Lutheran Church in Weslaco, TX on December 19, 2010.
- ◆ Nancy Boop visited the United Methodist Church in Lena, IL on September 12, 2010 for the Baptism of great-niece Katelynn Rose Phillips.
- ◆ Gerald & Peg Woker worshiped at the 1st Ev. Lutheran Church in Chadwick, IL on November 14.
- ◆ Erica Albrecht & Karen Bremmer (Erica's Confirmation Mentor) attended St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lena, IL on Saturday, October 30, 2010.

Women's Ministries

Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

is the theme of
WELCA's Eighth Triennial Gathering

July 14-17, 2011 * Spokane, Wash.

Financial assistance is available
to Women of St. John's.

For more information
please contact Kathy Hillmer or Lynda Palmer.

Triennial info: www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial8
(WELCA – Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church)

Prayer Shawl Ministry

There will be gatherings at the church to crochet, knit and sew Prayer Shawls and Quilts on the following dates. This will be a group effort.

1st Wednesday of every month...9am-12pm and 6-8:30pm.
4th Monday of every month same times...

For more information please contact
Lynda Palmer 443-2688.



St. John's Annual Meeting

St. John's will be holding their Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 30th. After the 9am worship service rolls, coffee, and juice will be served with the meeting following. The Fellowship club will be hosting this event.

Council Meeting

St. John's Council will meet Wednesday,
January 19 at 7pm in Luther Hall.

Council Meeting

St. John's Council will meet Wednesday,
February 16 at 7pm in Luther Hall.

Healing Service

January 23rd

On January 23rd St. John's will be incorporating a rite of healing into the regular 9am worship service. The rite of healing is a long standing part of the church's ministry and has its foundation in the prayer of the worshipping community. The anointing and laying of the hands done with the service is by invitation-participation is not required. In addition to this you will be offered the chance to light a candle and offer a moment of silent prayer of behalf of the people you care and have concerns for who are in need of healing. We will have a letter and a memento which you may give to the person you were praying for so that they are aware that you remembered them in prayer.

It is officially 2011. That means that the National Youth Gathering is in full swing. Below are the theme verses for the Gathering:

"For He is our peace; in His flesh He has made both groups into one and had broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through Him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God" – Ephesians 2:14-19

How wonderful it is to imagine the boundaries and barriers that will be broken as our students meet thousands of youth from all across the country! What's better is that our students will have that opportunity even before the gathering. I have been in communication with two other youth directors that I have befriended through my time at Wartburg Seminary for Certification School. The three of us have decided to hold a joint Pre-Youth Gathering Lock-In to get our students PUMPED for what is to come.

I cannot even begin to explain the excitement, not only from myself, but from the students that is surrounding this trip! It seems as though no matter what we might be doing the conversation always turns to the National Youth Gathering; what fundraisers are next; when will the joint lock-in be; and much, much more.

But what brings the most joy for me is the knowledge that through our journey toward New Orleans in 2012 we will be citizens among you, the saints here at St. John's. Through your constant support and love we are able to do the things that we do. Through your constant support and love we WILL be able to afford the cost for EVERY student and parent that will be attending the gathering. And for that support and love I am forever grateful.

So keep in mind and always remember that to all of us here involved in SPLAT, you, the members of St. John's are no longer strangers or aliens, but instead you are among us citizens as saints and members of the household of God!



Rotation Sunday School



Rejoicing in our citizenship!

Eric Stibbe



Help build our youth program by participating in the SCRIP Program!

February 2011 Schedule

<u>Workshop</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>12th</u>	<u>19th</u>
Crafts	PreK	2nd-4th	x
Storytelling	K-1st	PreK	x
Cooking	2nd-4th	K-1st	x
F. Hall	x	x	Drama

"Spirit Day" Sunday Feb 27

Thank you to Deb Bremmer, Theresa Koch, Kris Eden & the 7th & 8th grade class for teaching in January

If you would like to volunteer contact Stacey Block.
blocks4@verizon.net or home ph 815-443-2606.

SCRIP Update

As of 12/7/2010

TOTAL in SCRIP Purchases: **\$37,594.79**

TOTAL amount RAISED: **\$1,287.77**

TOTAL to be given to St. John's: **\$643.88**

TOTAL # of Families Invested: **55**

Help us reach our goal of 100 families!

And remember to keep supporting!

SCRIP Reminder!

Please take a SCRIP Order Form from the table in the Narthex if you are interested in ordering!



**CHECK US OUT
ON THE WEB!**

www.stjohnspearlcity.org



Rotation Sunday School



“Spirit Day” Sunday Jan 23!

January 2011 Schedule

<u>Workshop</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>12th</u>	<u>19th</u>
Crafts	PreK	2nd-4th	x
Games	K-1st	PreK	x
Cooking	2nd-4th	K-1st	x
F. Hall	x	x	Drama

No Sunday School Jan 30th

Sunday School
 Teachers Installation
 January Teachers-January 2nd
 February Teachers-February 6th

Thank You

Thank you to Karen Bremmer, DJ Scott,
 Jane Boop & the 7th & 8th grade class for
 teaching in December

January Events



Saturday, January 22, 2011
 See Eric for Permission forms and information!

The Northern Illinois Synod's Annual



SKI TRIP

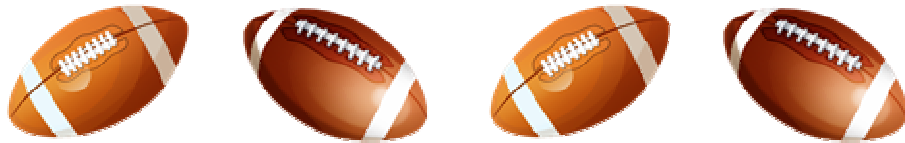
WHEN: Monday, January 17, 2011
**WHERE: Chestnut Mountain Resort,
 Galena, IL**
**COST: \$25.00/Lift Only \$45.00/Lift,
 Lesson, Rental \$8.00/Meal Plan**

February Events



**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 6,
2011**

Help support a great cause of fighting hunger!



SUPER BOWL PARTY



For all SPLAT members and their families!

Sunday,
February 6,
2011
Place TBD



Please bring a snack to pass and your own beverages.

The 2012 National Youth Gathering Attendees Present a...

Chili Cook-Off!



Sunday, February 27, 2011

Ticket prices and time TBD

Deadline to sign up for making Chili:
Sunday, January 30, 2011

All proceeds benefit the cost to go to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. Contact any on the committee to sign up!
Leann Heimerdinger, Beth Schneider, & Rhonda Brudi



Office Hours

Eric will be in the office on Tuesday from 10:30am to 2:30pm, Thursdays from 11am to 3pm and on Sundays after worship.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS

Looking for a way to be involved? Come be a part of the Parent Ministry Team!
The Parent Ministry Team Meets every 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:00 am
See you there!

