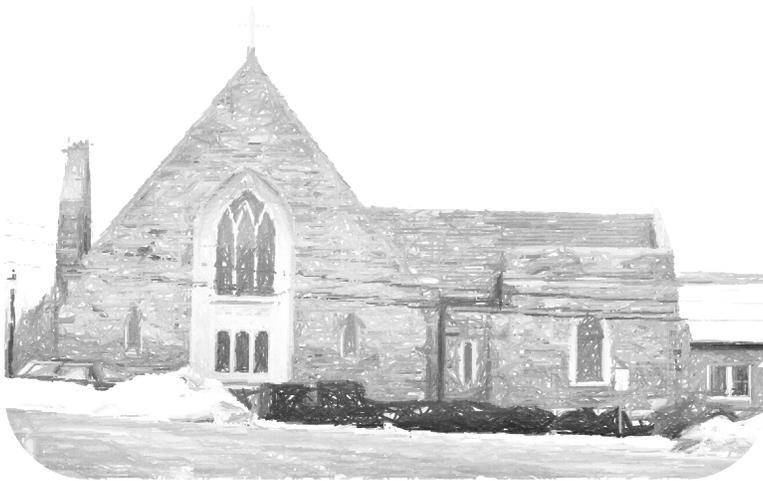


# St. John's HERALD

*Through the grace of God we D.A.R.E. to Hear the Story,  
Know the Story, Tell the Story, and Live the Story!*



## December 2014

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## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** **A Celebration of The Birth of Christ** **December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Festival Service of the Nativity - 11:00AM**

**Family Service - 4:00PM**  
with Children's Christmas Pageant

**Candlelight Service of  
the Nativity of Our Lord - 8:30PM**  
with Children's Message and Choir

**Candlelight Service of  
the Nativity of Our Lord - 11:00PM**  
with Adult Choir

\*All services include Holy Communion

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**8808 Harford Road**  
**Parkville, MD 21234**

Interim Pastor:

Rev. David Asplin

Secretary:

Carol Erpenstein

Director of Music:

Martha Requard

Preschool Director/Teacher:

Lisa Horst

Preschool Teacher's Aide:

Niki Thoeicht

Sexton:

Scott Becker

Pastor Emeritus:

The Rev. Richard Manning

## St. John's is...a Church with Many Gifts



In November, I met a young woman whose father's funeral had been held here several years ago. She told me how the people of St. John's cared for her and her mother so wonderfully: "I felt like I was a queen that day! That is a very loving church!" Jesus said that "the world will know you are my disciples if you have love for one another." John 13:35

One of the themes that our Transition Team has heard many times as they have surveyed and interviewed many people is that people find St. John's to be warm and welcoming. That in groups and circles and our youth group, people of many ages find an accepting and affirming and a caring atmosphere. In my years as a pastor, I cannot think of another quality that marks the essence of what the church is which is as important as such caring relationships.

In my visits with the homebound members of St. John's, over and over I hear stories from them about the visits made by members of their congregation to them regularly and frequently. Eucharistic ministers, and our Caring Friends, intentionally and with great care spend time with our folks who can no longer get out to church; they listen, they pray with these our senior members and they bring them Holy Communion. But they remember others who have come too. One 89 year old whose wife died this past year still remembers when our Youth Group came Christmas caroling nearly a year ago!

We have many gifts to share at St. John's. As Christmas approaches think about a friend you might invite to come to worship here on Christmas Eve. I look forward to being with you all that day!

In Christ's service,  
Pastor David Asplin, Interim Pastor

## Transition Updates

Greetings from the Transition Team! We would like to thank everyone who has participated in this process, whether by completing a survey, participating in an interview, or attending a town hall meeting. Your input is appreciated and essential for calling a new pastor. The more we know about ourselves, we will be better able to choose the best person for our congregation.

At the last Town Hall meeting, we discussed the community surrounding St. John's, as well as our congregation's strengths and needs. Through the demographic data, we confirmed that this is a stable, middle class, mainly Christian community. We also discussed our location as being an ideal spot to grow and serve all those who pass by on foot or by car. High visibility and our beautiful building makes us an important congregation within the synod.

We also discussed what we hoped for in a new pastor. While the list of traits is long, folks are mainly interested in someone who is comfortable with all different age groups, with a sense of humor and patience, and who can inspire through the Bible.

At our last meeting on November 17, our discussions centered on the 5 major developmental tasks of a church: worship and hospitality; prayer and Bible study; evangelism and outreach; stewardship; and leadership development. We talked about specific measurable goals for each area.

## Transition Updates (continued)

For worship and hospitality we realize that we need to increase attendance which might require some changes or additions to our existing programs. It was suggested that we reinstitute the Red Cross blood drive with some parishioners acting as hosts who would do some evangelism. Also in the area of evangelism and outreach, using social media and additional signage to attract people. The message that we inferred through our discussions was that we need to be willing to try some new strategies whether they are easy or hard in order to assure the health and well being of our congregation. Our next and last meeting is Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted by Donna McDonough for the Transition Team

A tentative timeline for the process is provided below. While the timeline is not set in stone, it does serve as a guide for what will happen and a relative time frame for the transition process.

Remember this is a tentative schedule. Things may move faster or slower. But always remember to **PRAY**

<b>Month, Year</b>	<b>St. John's Leadership</b>	<b>People of St. John's</b>	<b>DE-MD Synod Bishop's Office</b>
<b>December 2014</b>	Ministry Site Profile is completed; approved by Council for submission	<b>PRAY</b>	Meets with Call Committee to train on interview process
<b>January 2015</b>	Call Committee prepares for interview process	<b>PRAY</b>	<b>PRAY</b>
<b>February 2015</b>	Call Committee begins interviews	<b>PRAY</b>	<b>PRAY</b>
<b>April 2015</b>	Call Committee finishes interviews; recommends candidate to Council	<b>PRAY</b>	<b>PRAY</b>
<b>May 2015</b>	Council meets to call a congregational meeting and approve the compensation package	<b>PRAY</b>	<b>PRAY</b>
<b>June 2015</b>	<b>PRAY</b>	Meet and greet with primary pastoral candidate; call vote	Representation at the call vote
<b>July/August 2015</b>	New Pastor begins		

## Worship and Music



**December 7<sup>th</sup>  
Youth-Led Service  
10:00 A.M.  
followed by  
Congregational  
Meeting &  
Potluck Lunch**

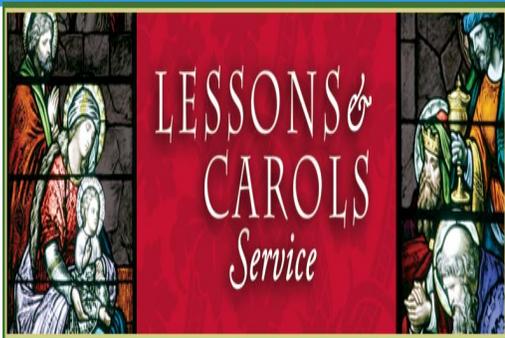
St. John's will have one service on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M., so please make sure to note this change as we won't be holding services at 8:15 A.M. or 11 A.M. Our Youth will lead worship and much of the message of the day centers around their Mission trip this past summer.

Our **Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting** follows at 11:15AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will affirm a congregational budget – which is a faith spending plan - for the year 2015 as well as elect 4 members to serve three year terms on the Church Council. Nominees are Donna McDonough, Lee Smith, Bonnie Spellman, and Kathleen Wiles.

Finally, we'll gather around shared food at a congregational Pot-Luck Luncheon. YOU are an important part of this day. Please plan to be here for all or part of it. Everything begins at 10:00AM!

### SEARCHING FOR A CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE?

Since St. John's does not offer a Christmas Day service we wanted to give folks a few other churches close by that do offer a Christmas Day service. Grace Lutheran Church, 5201-05 Harford Road, 21214 and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8212 Philadelphia Road, 21237. Both services are at 10:00 a.m. and they both offer communion.



**Save the Date:**  
Sunday,  
December 28<sup>th</sup>

One Service  
Sunday at 10 a.m.

### Wondering 'weather' or not there's church?

In case of bad weather or poor road conditions, the postponement of St. John's Sunday services or other congregational activities will be available on the church voicemail, (410) 665-1234, and also on our website, [www.stjohnsparkville.org](http://www.stjohnsparkville.org).

God Bless and Be Safe!

### Ushers for December

8:15 a.m.

Lisa and Keith Duerling;  
David Kogan

11:00 a.m.

Diane and Bill Carroll; Janet Roth;  
Sue Rowe; Kathleen Wiles; Carl Greensfelder



### December Donut Schedule

December 7

Bonnie Spellman  
Audrey Lentz  
Mary Lynn Lentz  
Sue Addison

December 14

Bonnie Spellman  
Audrey Lentz  
Mary Lynn Lentz



## Worship and Music (continued)

### First Communion Preparation

by Pastor David Asplin

As Lutheran Christians we believe that we all come to Holy Communion because Jesus invites us to join Him at his table. We don't earn our place there; like Baptism the gift of being invited, of belonging, is just that, a gift! And we believe that to keep our children away from that gift is wrong. Jesus loved and included children. So we will provide a brief preparation experience for children and their families in December. Normally children come to Holy Communion for the first time on Christmas Eve. I look forward to sharing this process with you all.

Here is the plan:

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 A.M. Part 1: **From Passover to the Last Supper** (before the one service of the day at 10AM) Education Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 A.M. Part 2: **The Meaning of the Meal of Holy Communion** (Saturday AM before Breakfast with Santa) Education Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 A.M. Part 3: **Living the Forgiven Life** Education Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor AND in the Sanctuary

Dec. 21: 9:30AM Part 4: **"Holding Your Family Together": An introduction to the "Faith Five"** (A nightly bedtime ritual for parents and kids: sharing highs and lows, reading a Bible verse, talking together, praying for each other, blessing one another).

This last session will be done at the Adult Forum with the children and parents present as well as other families and adults in order to share the concept with as many people as possible.

**Note:** While First Communion classes at St. John's are generally offered to children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or older, if you have a younger child who has been asking to receive communion, please contact Pr. David. Please call the church office, (410) 665-1234, to indicate your desire to participate.

### Baptismal Anniversaries— December

- 12/1 Andrea Nufea
- 12/4 Devin Hyman  
Erin Hyman
- 12/8 Charles Baxter
- 12/9 Kevin Addison  
Haley Murnane  
Andrew Klinedinst  
Alec Brock
- 12/10 Emily Pickett
- 12/11 Timothy Hurn
- 12/13 Steven Lott  
Jacob Cloman
- 12/16 Allie Nordan
- 12/20 Mark Fitch
- 12/29 John Winebrenner



### Prayer for December

*Each month we are asking that every gathering of St. John's people begin with the prayer below. Why not include the prayer in your personal devotions as well?*

#### *Let us pray:*

Gracious God, there are times when we feel lost - in a dark place, separated from your love. Help us to trust that you are there with us even in those dark times, and help us find you in the care of others, in the kind word of a stranger, in the healing breath of your Spirit in the wind. Remind us that you are our God and we are your beloved children. May we find joy in being *found*, and share the joy of your love with others, so they too may find you. Amen.

*Taken from Stepping Stones of a Steward by Ron Vallet (Eerdsmans Publishing; Grand Rapids, MI © 1989*

## Worship and Music (Continued)

### *Notes from the Organ Bench*

December is upon us and all of us are beginning preparations for the season that is Christmas. What a busy time! Though Thanksgiving is my favorite celebration, Christmas is a close second. I love the sights, smells and of course, the music. This is a good thing since I spend most of Christmas Eve in church! Of all the hymns I think the one that I find running through my mind most often asks, "What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet, what can I give Him? I'll give my heart."

So, what are you going to give Him this Christmas? Are you going to support the Salvation Army and purchase an Angel Tree gift? Are you going to donate money to your favorite charities? Are you going to donate things for the Shoebox ministry? Or are you looking for something that doesn't cost anything?

If this is where you are leaning, I would again like to invite you to join one of the choirs this Christmas. The Children and Tweens (rehearsals Wed. evening 6-7:00) are preparing for the 4:00 Christmas Eve service. We can always use another singing and speaking "animal". Oh, I always have a young person who will be playing her instrument at this service. The Handbell Choir (rehearsals 9:45 – 10:30 Sundays) is preparing music for the 8:30 and 11:00 PM services. The Adult Choir (cantata rehearsals Wed. 8:15 – 9:00) is preparing their cantata for the 11:00 AM service on December 21, in addition to music (rehearsals Wed. 7:30 – 8:15) for the Christmas Eve Candlelight services.

I hope that you will consider accepting one of my offers. Active participation in worship gives the worshipper a more meaningful experience. And giving from the heart makes worship better for everyone. So, what will you give this Christmas? However you share your heart, keep

Making a joyful noise, Martha Requard, Director of Music



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

### **Lutheran Disaster Response-EBOLA**

*taken from [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)*

In the last several months, the Ebola outbreak has claimed thousands of lives. The virus has spread rapidly and the World Health Organization is now calling it "one of the world's most lethal diseases." Ebola has spread to multiple countries, the hardest hit being Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. In addition to health care, one of the most urgent needs is food. As people in affected areas are quarantined to their homes, towns are being shut down and people are not able to work, harvest crops or purchase food. Food shipments have stopped because people fear contracting the virus.

You can help. **Your gifts to the Ebola Outbreak Response will be used – 100 percent – to assist those impacted by this crisis.** Our partners and companion churches have requested our help in responding to the outbreak with food distributions, shipment of personal protective equipment, training health workers, outreach through education about prevention, and construction of an isolation unit at Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing in Liberia.

The ELCA and its predecessor church have walked with the people of Liberia for more than 150 years. Our long-standing relationship with our companions in Liberia and Sierra Leone provides a strong foundation to respond holistically to the needs of those who are suffering and living with the threat of Ebola.

Donate today at [www.ELCA.org/disaster](http://www.ELCA.org/disaster).

For more information about Ebola, go to the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>.

## Congregation Council News

The church Council met on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, to discuss congregational needs and ministry team reports. The meeting began with prayer and the approval of the September 2014 Council meeting minutes.

Pastor David Asplin was present and led the Council in the evening's devotions.

### **Correspondence:**

An invitation was received from Bishop Herz-Lane to attend an open house on November 10<sup>th</sup> to learn about the Synod's prison ministry, St. Dymas.

### **Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Asplin's report was received and filed.

### **Executive Committee Report:**

The report of the Executive Committee was received and filed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The report of the Treasurer was received and filed.

### **Ministry Team Reports:**

Reports were received and filed from the **Property, Worship and Music, Memorial, and Stewardship Committees.**

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Shirley Snyder, nominating committee chairman, reported that four persons have agreed to be nominated to fill the four vacant places on the 2015 Church Council. It was motioned and approved that the names of Donna McDonough, Lee Smith, Bonnie Spellman, and Kathleen Wiles be placed in nomination for election to the 2015 Church Council.
2. Discussion of the Child Protection Policy continued again this month. The possibility of using a private company to keep track of fingerprinting, etc. was discussed. The chairman of the Personnel Committee, Charles Bender, will gather information concerning the cost, etc. of using a private company. The matter was tabled again until the November Council meeting.
3. Lee Smith, Finance team chairman, presented the proposed draft of the 2015 Budget to the Council. After discussion, it was motioned and approved that the proposed 2015 Budget be presented to the congregation for discussion at the Budget Review meeting during the Forum time on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business:**

1. A new custodian, Scott Becker, has been hired. He will be working Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. He is on a six month probationary period.

There being no further business to come before the Church Council, a **motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.** This motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. with all present praying the Lord's Prayer.

## Congregation Council News

### 2014 Congregational Council Members

Tony Jasinski, President  
 Lee Smith, Vice President  
 Shirley Snyder, Secretary  
 Chris Hills, Treasurer  
 Cindy Weeks, Financial Secretary  
 Sue Addison



Charlie Bender  
 Keith Duerling  
 David R. Evans  
 Lee Kreiger  
 Scott Miller  
 Bonnie Spellman

### 2015 Church Council Nominations

There are four nominees for the four vacant positions on the 2015 Church Council. The election will be held during the Congregational meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The four nominees are:

**Donna McDonough** I have been an active member of St. John's for about 30 years. My family and I joined after we moved into the Parkville area from Baltimore City where we were members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in east Baltimore. I have been a choir member for most of my time here, and have served on the Worship and Music committee, Intern committee and now the Transition team. I am an Assisting Minister and have also been involved with VBS. I am married to Mike McDonough, who is a past president of the congregation, and have two married sons, both of whom were confirmed here. I retired as a full time teacher in June in order to have more time for my family and myself, although I still substitute several days a week. I am interested in serving on the council as we transition to a new Pastor.

#### **Lee Smith**

I am a lifelong Lutheran and previously was a member of Reformation Lutheran Church. I joined St. John's in 1980 and was married here to my wife, Renee, in 1983. We have two children who were baptized and confirmed here at St. John's. I am currently Vice President of the council and chairman of both the Finance committee and the Transition team. I am also an Assisting Minister, Lector, Communion Assistant, Lock-up captain and help set up coffee hour. Previously I have served four terms on the church council, including three years as council president. In the past, I headed the effort to update the Constitution and Bylaws, served on the Vision 2020 committee and was the Property committee chairman. I am concluding a three year term on the council and am eligible for reelection.

#### **Bonnie Spellman**

I became a member of St. John's 42 years ago by transfer from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 1972 after marrying my husband Bob Spellman. Our family includes daughters Melissa deWitt and her husband Matt and Julie Perzan and her husband Chris. Bob and I have 4 grandchildren: Ryan, Morgan, Brooke and Nathan. I have served as the Worship and Music chairman for over 15 years and also am the senior Wedding Coordinator here at St. John's. I also am a Lector, Communion Assistant, and am a member of an Ushering team. I organize the Crafter's Room at our annual Christmas Bazaar, enjoy playing the Handbells and helping when needed at our Preschool. I have committed to serving on the church council numerous times and respect the responsibility of this lay leadership role. I am concluding a three year term on the council and am eligible for reelection.

## Congregation Council News (continued)

### **Kathleen Wiles**

My family switched their membership in the late 1960's from Epiphany Lutheran Church in Overlea to St. John's. I attended Sunday School and was confirmed here. As a young adult I served the church as a regular Lector. Both of my children, Zach and Carlyn, were confirmed here and I have served as the middle school Sunday School teacher for the last 7 years. I have worked for the Baltimore County Public Schools as a teacher and librarian for the last 23 years. I am interested in continuing my service to St. John's as a member of the church council.

### Did You Know?

Council meeting minutes will be posted on the bulletin board directly outside of the church sanctuary. Make sure to check them out!

## Congregational Care

### **Please remember these individuals in your prayers:**



**For health and healing:** *Tom McDonough, Anne Blackburn Suznick, Joan Kraft, Midge Schaake, Linda Watts, Mark Vaught, Terri Murray, Lou Gerber, Clara Westphal, John McLaughlin, Carolyn Robey, Brenda Hedges, Dick Weger, Shirley Watkins, Pat Becker, Sheena Bittner, Mill Baxter*

**For family and friends:** *Stephen Schaefer, Ann Christensen, Stan Erdman, Richard Chenoweth, Danielle Woolery & Fam., David Kaplan, Rebecca Hoffman, Joe Janovec, John Kucharski, Jr., Laurie Reese, Mark Beichler, Jackie Marhefka, Lois Manning, Benjamin Parrish, John Schulze, Ruth Yingling, Henri Oscar Christensen, John Beilat, Charles Stroup, Raymond E. Miller, Sr.*

**For the military and their families:** *Warren Preston, Lt. Christopher H. Hall, Maria Burgos, Brian Hedges, Chaplain Chris Frigm ... and all those in*

*harm's way.*

**For those grieving—families and friends of** *Colleen MacKenzie, John Sperl, Shirley Parr, Bob Baxter, Lena Swank, and Ally Ash*

**For our homebound parishioners:** *Richard & Alma Arnold, Murhl & Evelyn Bauer, Mil Baxter, Alice Belth, Agatha Biensach-Daniels, George Cooper, Mary Curnoles, Carmen & Norma DeMarino, Lucille Dembeck, Ruth Derrickson, Georgia Franz, Ellie Fry, Mabel Gehring, Betty Glassband, Henry & Bernice Graf, Paul Huber, Paul Insley, Stew Jung, Eddie Kempske, Mildred Kempske, Bunny Kucharski, John Lotterer, Evelyn McGuire, Jerry Mead, Margaret Middleton, Eurith Morris, Edie Petr, Roland & Virginia Randall, Nancy Ritz, Carolyn Robey, Ruby Schaum, Elaine Schlicht, Bill & Midge Schaake, Mary Sigmon, Charles & Dot Stairs, Gerry Stipek, Edna Stratmeyer, Cass Tracey, Helen Trainor, Elaine Turek, Emma Volz, Dick Weger, Clara Westphal, Helen Wheeler, Phyllis Williams, John Winebrenner, Fran Wolinski*

**How do I add someone to our congregation's prayer list?**

Write their name and information on the "Sunday Secretary" sheet in the narthex/lobby adjacent to the back doors of the Sanctuary

**OR** Email the church office at [office@stjohnsparkville.org](mailto:office@stjohnsparkville.org)

**Please note:** Names on the "family and friends" and "those grieving" lists are removed after six weeks unless you update the pastor or the church office. You may always request that someone's name be added if special prayers are needed. Please be sure to get permission from your family/friends to add their names. Remember that not everyone is comfortable sharing prayer concerns publicly. Thank you!

**December Congregational Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries**



**Birthdays:**

- 12/1** Linda Holland  
Barbara Hurn  
Bonnie Spellman
- 12/3** **Evelyn McGuire (Happy 95<sup>th</sup>!)**
- 12/4** Amanda Bender  
Jessica Collett  
Patricia Hurley
- 12/5** Nicole Francus  
Brandan Hartmann  
Taylor Seidel
- 12/6** Mildred Baxter
- 12/7** Mark Ehm  
Leonard Lynch  
Madelyn Wager
- 12/8** Emily Brock  
Mandy Gray  
Geraldine Stipek
- 12/9** Richard Hoerner
- 12/10** Savannah Pohlman
- 12/13** Sheila Dutcher  
Jaime McCracken  
Denise Nash
- 12/14** Elizabeth Glassband  
Elaine Reid
- 12/15** Andrew Marshall  
Thomas MDonough

- 12/16** Ronald Gibson  
Maxwell Kellner  
Robert Testudine
- 12/17** Lauren Butcher  
Joan Kraft
- 12/18** Robert White
- 12/19** Judy Zimmer
- 12/20** Joshua Hills  
Connor Magness
- 12/21** Lillian Abad  
Peyton Abad  
Leonard Ford  
Gordon Green  
Cathy Jacobs  
Joan Saby  
Karen Testudine
- 12/22** Dennis Anderson
- 12/24** Alayna Blazakis
- 12/25** Kelsi Kospelhorn  
Thomas Lenz
- 12/26** Katherine Barnes  
Everest Mehan  
Barbara Mueller  
Ardith Scarborough
- 12/27** Tracie Morgan  
Ellsworth Mehan
- 12/29** Brenda Hedges  
John Winebrenner
- 12/30** Doris Hammaker  
Roger Insley  
Patty Schwab  
**Ruth Skarda (Happy 85<sup>th</sup>!)**

- 12/31** Susan Evans  
Noah Gamber  
Deborah Haynes



**Wedding Anniversaries:**

- 12/4** Cathy & James Crites
- 12/12** Genoa & Brandan Hartmann
- 12/26** Nancy & Ed Ford
- 12/30** Terri & Doug Meekins
- 12/31** David M. & Susan Evans

**Did we miss your celebration?**

If so, please notify the church office at  
410-665-1234 or  
[office@stjohnsparkville.org](mailto:office@stjohnsparkville.org).

We appreciate your assistance!

Many blessings!

## Christian Education

### Sunday School News

Advent materials for families and adults are in the hallway on the third floor.

During December, Sunday School children in the nursery class through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be learning about events from the Christmas story as told by Luke in chapters 1 and 2. Make sure you ask them to tell you about these Bible events.



Please remember that there will be

## **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Congregational Life



Many, many thanks to everyone who attended and helped at our party and luncheon on Nov. 9th. Thank you for the beautiful cards and sentiments given to us. We are happy for your friendship.

The Bauer Family

Thanks again to the Men in Mission for distributing 2 more tons of dirt throughout our cemetery to improve our grounds. Also, the men straightened and raised sinking stones. Thank you guys for fixing the very large hold in the fence between the labyrinth and cemetery and also covering the bad art work on the back of the preschool playground shed. Thanks so much to a swell bunch of guys!

The Cemetery Committee and Chair

### **125th Anniversary Memorabilia-Sale Extended!**

A perfect holiday gift, 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorabilia will be available to purchase by contacting the church office during the week. Shirley Snyder will also be collecting sales on Sunday mornings.

The prices are as follows:

Christmas Ornament Ball - \$10.00

St. John's Cookbook - \$10.00

Cats Meow block of the church building - \$15.00 (limited availability)

St. John's Blanket/Throw - \$40.00

## Congregational Life (continued)

### LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Building men for Christ

Our meetings continue to take place on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. In December, we plan to continue our studies of the books of the Bible. We are currently studying the books of Ruth and Esther.

Our next Men's Breakfast get-together will take place on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will have breakfast and help Santa Claus with his breakfast for the children.

Our sponsored child in the Philippines, Lynn Lynn, will turn 16 in December. We have sponsored her for at least 8 years! She has written us many times to express her gratitude and show us how well she is doing in her education.

Have a joyous, peaceful Christmas!

Keith Duerling

### "HOLDING YOUR FAMILY TOGETHER": Adult Forum on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30AM

Pastor Asplin will lead the Forum on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> giving a presentation on **"Holding Your Family Together": An introduction to the "Faith Five"**, a nightly bedtime ritual for parents, guardians, and family members and their kids. This concept, which is practiced in homes across the country, is a simple way for parents and/or family members to stay connected and communicating with their children or grandchildren. It works—even with youth up into the college years. Pastor Rich Melheim is the creator of the concept, and we'll meet him via video that Sunday. His book, *Holding Your Family Together*, will also be available that day. Adults, parents, grandparents, family members, and anyone who loves kids should come to this forum. The Faith Five are as follows: "Sharing Highs & Lows", "Reading a Bible Verse", "Talking Together", "Praying for Each Other", and "Blessing One Another".



### Nominations Open!

At Synod Assembly this May, we will be electing several members of the Synod Council, new members to the Consultation and Discipline Committees, a new Synod Vice President, and voting members for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans. If you are interested in serving in any of these roles or would like to nominate someone you trust, please contact Pastor Dave Albertson at [pda@livinggracelc.com](mailto:pda@livinggracelc.com).

## Congregational Life (continued)



The Stewardship Ministry Team would like to say “Thank You” to all who made a financial pledge in 2014 and have faithfully honored their commitment to St. John’s. Your financial contributions allow us to maintain this beautiful church which we have been blessed to inherit, to continue our good works supporting the Synod, our congregation, and our community. And, “Thank You” to members of the congregation who had made a financial pledge to St. John’s for the 2015 calendar year. It is our hope that all members would make a commitment to support the financial well-being of our church -- St. John’s -- and the Church -- our work as disciples of Christ in the world.

Your financial pledge and its fulfillment will *allow us as a congregation to reach our goal of moving from maintenance to mission*. To date 53 members of the congregation have made a pledge of financial support totaling \$161,120 for 2015. For the 2014 calendar year, 111 members pledged to contribute \$191,150. If you have not yet made a pledge to St. John’s for the 2015 calendar year, you will receive a pledge packet in the mail. Please consider supporting God’s Work in His Kingdom by making a pledge of your time and talent and treasure to St. John’s where we work together to share the Good News of God’s Love.

### Spoken Word Ministries



Spoken Word Ministries, which provides braille and audio books for the sight impaired, is in need of help. The organization is looking for people who would be interested in narrating a book for BrailleAudio.

If you are interested in assisting with this ministry, please call 919-635-1000 and ask to speak with Tim Snyder, who can give further details as well as an “audition”. You will be able to set your own schedule and work from your own home.



The Wednesday Lunch Bunch will meet at Josef’s Country Inn at 2410 Pleasantville Road, Fallston, MD on Wednesday, December 14, 2014 at 12:00 noon. For reservations or additional information, call Carolyn at 410-686-0063.

\*Please note date change because of the Christmas holidays.

## Congregational Life (continued)



# CHRISTMAS CAROLING

*Sponsored by St. John's Youth*

**Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

**St. John's Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.**

Carolers will meet in Fellowship Hall prior to departing as a group and driving to homebound members' homes to carol.

Refreshments to follow caroling in the Fellowship Hall.

Be sure to dress for the weather!

**PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE SIGNED UP  
BY SUNDAY, NOV. 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Permission slips are required for all youth.**

Forms are available in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Sunday School, middle and high school rooms.

If you have any questions, please contact Tony Jasinski or any other youth ministry leaders.

**We hope you can join us! All are welcome!**



**Congregational Life (continued)**



**Saturday, December 13th**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**

**Fellowship Hall**

**9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m**

*(Sponsored by St. John's Youth)*

Come and enjoy pancakes, sausage, hot chocolate or juice (apple or orange). There is no charge for the breakfast, but you will have an opportunity to make a free will offering. Visit with Santa and get a candy cane. All children are welcome to make a craft for the cost of \$4.00.

Seating is limited, so be sure to sign up ahead of time by completing the bottom of this form and drop it off in the "Breakfast with Santa" box outside of the Sanctuary or at our Church Office. If unable to complete and submit the information below, you can call our Church Secretary at (410) 665-1234, Monday thru Friday, from 9 am until 3:30 pm to sign up for this great event.

We hope to see you there!

----- Please complete and tear off -----

**"Breakfast with Santa"**

**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending breakfast: \_\_\_\_\_ (no charge)

Number of children to make craft: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$4 per child)

# December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 10:00 Bible Study SB 5-8 pm Pack CAN shoe boxes MR	<b>2</b> 7p Men in Mission YR	<b>3</b> 9:30-1:30 Busy Bees SB 12:00 Young at Heart FH 6-9:00 pm Choirs MR 6:30p Bible Study SB	<b>4</b> 10-12 Bible Study SB 6:30p Transition Team Meeting MR	<b>5</b> 6:30p Christmas Caroling St. Ursula Parent Conferences	<b>6</b> 9am Men in Mission Breakfast (Denny's) St Ursula – Boy Scout Flea Market
<b>7</b> Congregation Meeting 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Prep 9:00 ONE SERVICE 10:00 Youth Service 11:00 Cong. Mtg 12ish Pot Luck	<b>8</b> 10:00 Bible Study SB	<b>9</b> 7:00p Trinity Circle SB 7p Men in Mission YR	<b>10</b> 9:30-1:30 Busy Bees SB 6-9:00 pm Choirs MR 6:30p Bible Study SB 7:00 Stewardship CE	<b>11</b> 10-12 Bible Study SB 7:00 Exec MR	<b>12</b> St. Ursula Concert/Art Show	<b>13</b> 9-11am Breakfast with Santa FH/K 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Prep 9:00
<b>14</b> 8:15 & 11 Worship 9:30 SS/AF/YF 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Prep 9:30 9:45 Handbells MR 12:30 Lunch Bunch	<b>15</b> NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 10:00 Bible Study SB	<b>16</b> 12:00 Ascension Cir SB 7p Men in Mission YR 7:00 Altar Guild SB 7	<b>17</b> 6:00 Tech Mtg-Tech ofc 6-9:00 pm Choirs MR 6:30p Bible Study SB	<b>18</b> 10-12 Bible Study SB Preschool Christmas Party (S) 7:00 Council SB	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 Healing Sunday</b> 8:15 & 11 Worship 9:30 SS/AF/YF 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Prep 9:30 9:45 Handbells MR	<b>22</b> 10:00 Bible Study SB	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 11am Service 4pm Family Svc 8pm Candlelight Svc 11pm Candlelight Svc	<b>25</b> BLESSED CHRISTMAS! (office closed)	<b>26</b> (office closed)	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> One Service Sunday 10 Lessons & Carols 12-4 Young Families FH	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> (office closed)			

CE Christian Ed. Room      MR Music Room  
 CR Confirmation Room      P Parlor  
 FH Fellowship Hall      PS Preschool Room  
 K Kitchen      S Sanctuary  
 SB Smith Building  
 TO Tech Office  
 YR Youth Room

## Worship Leaders Schedules--December 2014

DATE	TIME	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	CRUCIFIER	ACOLYTE
December 7	10:00 A.M. - One Service Sunday	Service Led by St. John's Youth		Brandon Crites	Autumn Winterling Nate Grisez
December 14	8:15 A.M.	Jim Morrow	Jim Morrow Wilma White	Kyle Cappucci	Andrea Nufea
	11:00A.M.	Shirley Snyder	Shirley Snyder Amanda Rash	Ryan Cummings	Noah Jones Hannah Houston
December 21	8:15 A.M.	JoAnn Weiland	Joan K. Barb Berner	Mara Wolfe	John Meyers
	11:00A.M.	Ed Ford	Ed Ford Nancy Ford	Corinne Brock	Hayden Evans Matt Scheindlinger
December 24- Christmas Eve Services	11:00 A.M.	Bob Berner	Bob Berner Barbara Berner		Matthew Miller
	4:00 P.M.- Family Service			Ethan Sommer	Noah Jones Kyle Cappucci
	8:30 P.M.	Karen Merrey	Karen Merrey Rachel Hills	Zachary Hills	Joshua Hills Nate Grisez
	11:00 P.M.	Tony Jasinski	Tony Jasinski Judy Jasinski	Matt Scheindlinger	Autumn Winterling Sarah Scheindlinger
December 28- One Service Sunday	10:00 A.M.	Lessons and Carols Service-No Lector, Communion Assistants , or Acolytes Needed			

### Notes

**Lectors and Communion Assistants:** If you cannot serve on your designated date, contact Sheila Bender, Lector Coordinator, at 410-592-3084. The church office will send out your reading. If you have not received your reading by the Wednesday before you are scheduled, please call/email the church office. The schedule is posted monthly on the bulletin board in the Vestry where you robe.

\*Communion Assistants who did not lector- **You** commune the Pastor and the Assisting Minister at the conclusion of communion. Also, please fill the communion cups up at least 2/3 filled.

**Acolytes:** If you are unable to keep your scheduled time, please use the Acolyte List to find a replacement. Contact Rachel Hills at 410-592-3587 with any schedule changes as soon as possible.

## Assisting Ministers Schedule

Early Service (8:15)	Month	Late Service (11:00)
Bob Berner	December	Lisa Wiley

Donna McDonough is now the Coordinator for Assisting Ministers and will be forwarding "prayers of the church" to the assisting ministers on a regular basis. If you would like to join the team of assisting ministers, please contact Donna.

## Thanks Be to God!!!

With the close of Thanksgiving Day, my children were excited to begin the Christmas season. They become filled with wonder and excitement, searching the sky for eight magic reindeer, behaving their best for the Elf on the Shelf who has numerous adventures around the home, and writing letters in their best handwriting to Santa.

Along with these magical elements, it is important to be reminded *why* we celebrate—to not lose sight of the birth of Jesus Christ. Yes, it was three wise men who traveled bearing their gifts of frankincense, myrrh, and gold from afar by only following a star. They followed not knowing quite what to expect but trusting their faith and God. However, God gave us all the first Christmas gift—Jesus Christ.

As we begin this advent season, let us reflect on what gifts and talents we can bring—what we can do at St. John's and in the world beyond our walls and homes. Let's be led by faith to bring forth hope, peace, love, and joy. Let us always be reminded of God's magic and be thankful for His precious gift.

In hope, peace, love, and joy,  
The Herald



Please submit all articles, information, and pictures for inclusion in St. John's *The Herald* for the next edition for the month of January by

**DECEMBER 15th** to  
[newsletter@stjohnsparkville.org](mailto:newsletter@stjohnsparkville.org).

Anything received after this date will be included in the following month's edition (January's edition).  
Suggestions and ideas for future editions are welcome!

*Through the grace of God we D.A.R.E. to Hear the Story, Know the Story, Tell the Story, and Live the Story!*

## St. John's Lutheran Church

8808 Harford Road  
Parkville, MD 21234

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*We are just a few  
clicks away!*

