



IN THE CENTER RING
February, 2017

ALIVE!

"No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit."

John 3:5

The room was dimly lit. A machine was blinking every so often over in the corner of the room. She was in bed. He was standing next to her, holding her hand. They were alone . . . for now. As the hours passed, her pain grew more and more intense—and so did their anticipation. Finally, the words they had been waiting to hear: "It's a boy!" Finally, the sound they couldn't wait to hear: Baby's first cry!

The nurse eventually placed the squirming newborn in his mother's lap. He stretched out his arms and kicked up his legs, but then he quickly curled them back up into a ball. Ten fingers, ten toes, a heart that was pumping, lungs that were breathing—a healthy baby boy. He was very much alive. And yet, as healthy as he was, this child was dead, spiritually dead. No monitor indicated that. No machine would ever detect that. Only the Word of God reveals that we, like King David, have been sinful from birth; sinful from the time our mothers conceived us (Psalm 51:5). More than that, only the Word of God reveals that all of us were born dead in our transgressions and sins (Ephesians 2).

Dead. Spiritually dead. When it came to God or to faith or to obedience, we were more helpless than a newborn baby. We could do nothing. We didn't love God. We didn't *want* to love God. We couldn't believe in God. We didn't *want* to believe in God. We couldn't obey his commands. We didn't *want* to obey his commands. We weren't able to make any kind of decision for Christ, accept anyone as Lord, open our hearts up to Jesus, or invite the Spirit in. We were dead, spiritually dead. We were unable to do a thing. We were unable to save ourselves.

So God, in love, stepped in to do something for us, to do something to us, to do something in us. He did it with a splash of water and the proclamation of his Word: a second birth, born now of water and the Spirit—you and I at the font in the waters of Holy Baptism. Alive. Spiritually alive. We are able to love, able to believe, able to obey. We are alive—"born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God" (1 Peter 1:23). Alive in Christ. And God did it all—he did it all by grace and by grace alone.

- Pastor Maglietto

Official Acts

Baptisms

Amelia Ann Puglisi
Daughter of Michael and Abigail Puglisi
Born November 7, 2016
Baptized January 7, 2017

Macy Kay Thorpe
Daughter of Chris and
Adehlia (Stieve) Thorpe
Born November 6, 2016
Baptized January 15, 2017

February Special Envelopes Teen Ministry



St. John's Media Ministry



Balance 19-Dec-2016	\$7,110.67
Contributions	\$1,040.00
Disbursements	
WRPQ	\$1,130.00
Radio Phone Line	\$ 15.00
Balance 24-Jan-2017	\$7,005.67

Statistics as of January 24, 2017

Confirmed members	942
Baptized members	229
Total members	1,171

"Mysterious Marriage" Bible Class

The next four-week Interactive Faith online Bible study, ***Mysterious Marriage***, will begin Wednesday, February 1. Rev. Randy Hunter, St Andrew Middleton, will lead a study on enriching marriages each Wednesday at 6 pm through Wednesday February 22. Couples will have the opportunity to build their marriage on the gospel of Jesus through the study as they examine how the gospel gives you the power to be married and how marriage gives you a way to show the gospel.

Financial Giving

Your 2016 financial statements may be ***picked up***; they will not be mailed. They are alphabetized in a box on the porch. Please pick up your **2017 envelope boxes from the porch** you haven't already done so.

Soup 'n' Bread Suppers

Soup 'n' Bread Suppers begin Wednesday, March 8 following the 3:30 Lenten services. Watch for further information in bulletins. Plan to join us for great food and fellowship.

In the Center Ring

is a monthly publication of
St. John's Lutheran Church
Baraboo, Wisconsin

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Rev. Nicholas C. Maglietto
Principal Craig Breitreutz



2017 Lenten Schedule

The solemn and penitential season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 1st. The theme for this year's Lenten series is **"Repent. Turn to Jesus."**

Wednesday Services at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
(NO Thursday evening services during Lent.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Wednesday 3/1 | Pastor Nick Maglietto
St. Johns, Baraboo
"Turn to Jesus; He Longs to Forgive You" |
| Wednesday 3/8 | Pastor Dave Karow
St. Johns, Rock Springs
"Turn to Jesus; He Holds the Key to Heaven" |
| Wednesday 3/15 | Pastor Brad Pearson
St. James, Prairie du Sac
"Turn to Jesus; Do Not Turn Away" |
| Wednesday 3/22 | Pastor Steve Neyhart
Faith, Reedsburg
"Turn to Jesus and Not to Yourself" |
| Wednesday 3/29 | Pastor Dan Lewig
St. Johns, Hillpoint
"Turn to Jesus When You Face Temptations" |
| Wednesday 4/5 | Pastor Andrew Meyer
St. Paul, North Freedom
"Turn to Jesus; He Changes Your Life" |

OTHER AREA SERVICE TIMES

Prairie du Sac	6:30 pm
Rock Springs	7:00 pm
Reedsburg	7:00 pm
Hill Point / Lime Ridge	7:00 pm

Dear Members of St. John's:

These past weeks have been a wonderful blessing for myself and my family. When I received the Divine Call from St. Paul's, God extended a blessed opportunity for me. I have been able to evaluate where the Lord wants me to serve, either in Beverly Hills, Florida, or here at St. John's.

After much prayerful consideration, the Lord has led me to accept the Call He extended to me through St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The Lord has led me to conclude that I can best serve His Kingdom in Beverly Hills at this time.

It has been humbling to reflect on how the Lord had allowed me to serve here at St. John's. My wife and I will always treasure our time here at St. John's. We have been thoroughly blessed to be a part of your congregation for eleven years. Thank you for allowing us to grow in our faith and in our abilities to serve.

It is also humbling to trust that the Lord will continue to provide workers for His work at St. John's. We can trust fully in His promise to care for His flock. You will continue to be in my prayers as God's plan for you is revealed.

Thank you for your many comments, encouragements, and most of all for your prayers during this time of deliberation. I humbly ask for your continued prayers as we prepare for this change in our ministry.

Thank you and may God richly bless you in the days ahead.

In our Lord's Service,
Mr. Justin Siegler

Due to icy winter weather, the church council meeting was postponed twice in January. The minutes from their January 24 meeting will appear in next month's newsletter.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregational Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2017 (Rescheduled from Dec. 18, 2016)

Opening prayer and devotion – Pastor Maglietto opened the meeting with prayer and devotion.

Motion to approve September 18, 2016 congregational quarterly meeting minutes as presented carried.

Additions to agenda to new business: item C Tuition Freeze 2017/2018 School –Strobel. item D School Recommendation - Kruse. Motion to approve agenda as amended carried.

Motion to accept membership changes as presented on back of agenda carried.

Roll call of voting members still present for this portion of meeting – 47

Election for Church Council, School Board & Finance elders. Motion carried. Results are as follows:

President: Dave Grant.

Elders: Eric Durkee, Will Underwood, Thom Tiedt, Michael Tennier, Gayland Leatherberry.

Secretary: Marty Brey.

School Board Elder: Martin Strobel.

School Board: Jim Allen & Bob Hovey.

Finance Committee: Judy Birch*, Bill Giese, Gayland Leatherberry*, Bill Karg*, Tim Quinn*, Bruce Ramsey*, Don Rogers*, Steph Wilkinson*, Dave Williams*.
*Denotes incumbent.

Endowment Committee: Bob Jauch and Jamie Hovey.

Reports of officers and committees

Pastor Maglietto – printed report. Ash Wednesday March 1. Services will be held at 3:30pm & 6:30pm with the Lord's Supper offered in both. Pastor Maglietto will participate in a preaching rotation during Lent. No Thursday worship services during Lent services will resume April 20. Lay delegate needed for Synod Convention July 31-Aug 3 held at Luther Prep in Watertown. Contact Pastor if interested.

Congregational president – (Jeff Thieding) printed report.

Financial Report – +\$12,000 compared to budget through December.

Education – (Eric Durkee) VBS set for August. Working with TAC and Camp Phillip.

Evangelism – (Tim Kiefer) Trunk or Treat and the Christmas Light Parade we completed. A big THANK YOU to all that helped. 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Please help us with ideas. I could really use some help from the congregation with

my committee. Please consider joining the evangelism committee.

Fellowship – (Tom Tiedt) August 27th is date next year for church picnic.

Property – (Bill Giese) Condensate tank for school heating system is in need of replacement.

School Board – (Martin Strobel) printed report. Enrollment 110. Childcare hourly rate increase of 50 cents per hour per child starts 1/1/2017. Registration fee for 2017/2018 will be \$50 per child. Recommended by the school board and council that, the one year call will expire and not be renewed. With Siegler accepting his call to Florida no other calls will be cut from the 2017/2018 budget. Possible that some grades will be combined in the 2017/2018 school year.

Spiritual Growth – (Will Underwood) emphasized that we need to be in church routinely.

Stewardship/Finance – (Brent Bailey) no report.

Worship – (Dave Grant) printed report. Need usher for the 3rd and 4th Thursday evening services. Working on setting up meetings for ushers and radio/tv.

Youth – (vacant) no report.

Church council recommendations and New Business:

Budget vs Tuition/Offerings thru November (5 Months) – (Thieding) Printed report. 2017/2018 will consider lowering the budget to match offerings.

Council Recommended Staffing cuts for 2017/2018. No changes to staffing due to Siegler accepting his call to Florida. Motion to table carried.

Tuition Freeze 2017/2018 School. - (Strobel) 2016/2017 was the 3rd year for tuition increase that was approved three years ago for a four year phased tuition increase. School Board recommends a freeze as families' state the reason for leaving was due to cost. Motion carried.

School Recommendation - (Kruse) no action taken.

Public Comments: Discussion asking about reviewing the cradle roll and contacting members whose children are not currently enrolled in our school. Bill Otto and Jeff & Ann Vogtschaller offered to volunteer. Margaret Heitmann stated more ladies are needed for all the lady groups at church.

Items for Next Voter's Meeting in March:

Follow-up and discuss second Pastor position.

Try to complete an every member visit in 2017. Report on status. Committee and volunteers needed.

Add the Actual Expenses to the Budget vs Tuition/Offerings Report.
Submit any School Board recommendations prior to the March quarterly meeting for congregation to review.

Motion to adjourn with prayer carried. Pastor Maglietto closed meeting with a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Brey
Secretary



Men of His Word Conference February 11th

Be Strong and Courageous - 2017 Men of His Word Conference: Have you seen the news lately? It's crazy out there. The world attacks our Christian values from every direction on a daily basis. To counter these attacks, the MOHW (Men of His Word) Conference uses God's Word to empower and equip men to carry out their God-given mission in their homes, churches, communities and the world with the theme, "BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS."

The 8th annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Oshkosh Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center on Saturday, February 11. Additional details and online registration are available at www.menofhisword.org for the first 650 men (\$50 from January 30th - February 5th).

Note: Registration materials are also on bulletin boards in narthex and downstairs hallway.

Ironmen of Wisconsin March 25th

Several hundred men from all over southern WISCONSIN GATHER EACH YEAR TO HEAR God's Word aimed right at them! Hear Pastors Tim Soukup, Tony Schultz, Dave Arndt, and Wayne Shevey remind us It will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Ioxnia, WI, from 9 am - 2 pm, March 25. Registration details will be available soon.

Pathways to Christ



Sisters in Christ, please join us for the 17th Pathways to Christ Retreat on March 10-12 at LaSure's Banquet Hall in Oshkosh. The 2017 theme is taken from Proverbs 14:30 "A Heart at Peace Gives Life to the Body." On Friday night, we will begin the retreat with a Forgiveness Workshop: Conflict vs. Peace. On Saturday, Kenneth Kramer will share insights and tools from his book, *A Heart at Peace: Biblical Strategies for Christians in Conflict*, "which equips readers to view conflict from a biblical perspective, providing the antidote for the deadly poison that conflict injects into our relationships." Come and find out how to address conflict head-on. Also, on Saturday, Amber Albee Swenson will continue our theme focusing on the need and healing effects of forgiveness. On Sunday, Pastor Leon Ehlerth will share with us a Bible Study and then lead us in worship. Additional information along with registration forms are on our website: <http://pathwaystochrist.org>. There are also registration forms on bulletin boards in narthex and downstairs hallway.

Note: *A Heart at Peace* (book featured above) was used for Sunday Bible study at St John's last winter so this is a great chance to review it.



Did you know that you can stream our Sunday worship services from your computer? Visit our website at www.stjohnsbaraboo.org at 10am (Central), click the WRPQ icon on the lower right of our page and you will be directed to the WRPQ Listen Live page. No matter where you are you can be right back home with us and join us for worship. You will also be able to find the Worship Bulletin for the day under the downloads tab at the top of our homepage!



St. John's Lutheran School News

HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION:

Guidance Counselor Ann Renn from the Baraboo H.S. visited the 8th grade class to give them information on registering for classes next year.

THANK YOU: A BIG thank you to Tim and Carol Quinn for donating the candy bars for the treat bags that are given to the children at Church after the Christmas Service. Also, thank you to the congregation for the free will offering given towards the bags each year! The children look forward to this "treat" and it has been a long standing tradition at St. John's. It is so nice to see it carried on...

SCRIP: Scrip is sold on **Monday and Wednesday and Friday mornings (7:45-8:00 a.m.) and Friday afternoons at 3:00** by the office at school. SCRIP is also sold each Sunday at church after worship. Remember we place the order every other week. Once the order is placed, it will be received 2-3 days later.

SECOND QUARTER: The second quarter ended on Friday, January 13!

STORAGE SPACE: We are in need of an 8 x 8 space or larger to store games from Family Fun Night that are used annually. We are also looking for storage space to keep 75+ desks and some of the larger props used in the school musicals. Storage space is very limited at school and if anyone can help with this matter, it would be greatly appreciated.

FYI-TIME-CHANGE-SCHOOL-

CALENDAR: On the school calendar under 4th Qtr. ~ Kindergarten graduation time should be 6:00 p.m. and Closing Service/8th Grade Graduation time should be 6:30 p.m. The times are correct on the singing calendar

BAD WEATHER - CLOSINGS & DELAYS:

Please watch *Channel NBC 15* for school closings/delays. We will most likely follow the Baraboo Schools when closed or delayed but will use our discretion on closing/delays even if public schools are on. So please watch NBC 15! Any questions, please call school! Thank you!

TUITION ASSISTANCE: Please consider a donation to the Tuition Assistance Fund.

This is a supplemental fund available to St. John's member families who seek assistance paying their children's school tuition. If you would like to donate to Tuition Assistance, please stop at church or include a donation with your offering. Thank you for your support.

LADIES AID

St. John's Ladies Aid met on Thursday, January 5 at 1:30. Pastor Maglietto let the discussion about St. Stephen found in the Book of Acts.

Margaret Heitmann opened the meeting with the Ladies Aid prayer. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$1219.38 and was accepted.

The sunshine report showed a balance of \$18.44. The following cards were sent: 4 anniversary, 3 get well, 2 baby and 20 birthday. 10 thank you notes were read. 2 birthday cards were sent to our missionaries.

Our project for making caps and blankets for our missionaries in Africa was discussed.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 2 with Lone Deich and Donna Brooks as hostesses. Visitors for February will be Mary Kasten and Pat Dosier. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Refreshments were served by Margaret Heitmann and Pat Kingery.

Donna Brooks, Secretary

Volunteer Opportunities

Greeters

Please consider becoming a Greeter and welcome those attending Sunday services. You will make visitors feel at home and that we are glad to have them worship with us.

Monday Meadows Evangelist

Could you share your faith with others occasionally by volunteering to help us provide the services at St. Clare Meadows on Monday nights? We need more volunteers to help show the video of Sunday's service and help get patients from and back to their rooms. It takes about 90 minutes. If you are interested in helping with this outreach program, please contact the church office (355-3870).

MORNING DOVES



Cookie Walk

We would like to thank all of you who donated and purchased for the Cookie Walk. Because of the weather, it ended up being held on two Sundays and we were still able to raise \$741 for the girl's basketball team uniforms.

Congrats to Kathy Underwood for winning the door prize.

Thank you again to all who helped make this year's Cookie Walk a success.

Lenten Theme Baskets

We will once again be selling tickets for our annual Theme baskets raffle during Lent starting with the first Soup Supper on Wednesday, March 8th. If you wish to donate a theme basket for this event, please make sure the baskets are enclosed in a cellophane bag or wrapped with Saran wrap and labeled. They can be dropped off in the fellowship hall of church starting March 3rd at 8 am.

Get your napkins now!

Did you know that Morning Doves have packs of special occasion napkins \$3/pack for sale located on the library level of Church? We do! But it won't last, this is all we have and will not be getting more. So get your now before it's too late because once they're gone, they're gone.

Baraboo Food Pantry

February

Soups and Crackers

March

Spaghetti Sauce and Pasta





**From the
Church Library**



The Healing Quilt by Lorraine Snelling

Aunt Teza faces a second bout of cancer, so Kit joins forces with other Jefferson City women to bring a new mammogram unit to the community. Each woman brings her skills, struggles and faith-sharing friendships to the cause.

Library News

St. John's Library continues to receive donations throughout the year. We welcome individuals who would like to review donated books or view donated DVD's for relevant and appropriate content.

We invite members to become part of the library team and to work toward improving this resource. If you are interested, talk to anyone working in the library area or call Kathie at 356-5911.

Buying greeting cards offered in the library and on the card stand upstairs is a great way to help defray library costs, and it also allows the library to make an occasional donation to St. John causes.

Library Book, DVD and Toy Sale



The library will again sponsor a Book and DVD Sale. This will happen during Lent, beginning March 5, 2017. Please review your book, magazine, and DVD collections at home to see what you might be finished with, yet would be current for another user.

In addition, this year we are adding a used toy sale. The toys donated should be clean, complete, and ready to be shared by another user. You might consider donating such toys as board games, puzzles, building toys, farm animals, action figures, a little-used colored pencil set, paints, school-readiness games and family games. Stuffed toys may not be the best choice for this event. We will be happy to take what you wish to share.



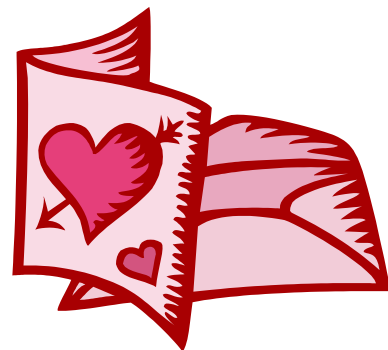
Any items donated can be marked as a donation and brought to the library area. Thanks for your help on this.

- Library Board Team

**READ THROUGH YOUR BIBLE
IN THREE YEARS**

February 2017

February 1	Luke 1:1-25
February 2	Luke 1:26-38
February 3	Luke 1:39-56
February 4	Luke 1:57-80
February 5	Luke 2:1-20
February 6	Luke 2:21-40
February 7	Luke 2:41-52
February 8	Luke 3:1-22
February 9	Luke 3:23-4:13
February 10	Luke 4:14-30
February 11	Luke 4:31-44
February 12	Luke 5:1-11
February 13	Luke 5:12-26
February 14	Luke 5:27-6:11
February 15	Luke 6:12-36
February 16	Luke 6:37-49
February 17	Luke 7:1-17
February 18	Luke 7:18-35
February 19	Luke 7:36-8:3
February 20	Luke 8:4-21
February 21	Luke 8:22-39
February 22	Luke 8:40-56
February 23	Luke 9:1-17
February 24	Luke 9:18-36
February 25	Luke 9:37-56
February 26	Genesis 1, 2
February 27	Genesis 3
February 28	Genesis 4, 5



Simplified Financial Report for December 2016

<u>Month of December 2016</u>		<u>Fiscal Year-to-Date (12/31/2016)</u>	
Total Budgeted Expenses	75,380	Total Budgeted Expenses	476,373
Total Actual Expenses	71,131	Total Actual Expenses	430,400
Budgeted Giving (4 week month)	52,620	Budgeted Giving	343,760
Actual Giving*	119,834	Actual Giving*	352,381
Difference between actual and budgeted giving	67,214	Difference between actual and budgeted giving	8,621
School & Childcare Revenues	11,304	School & Childcare Revenues	137,597
Net operating gain or loss in expenses	60,007	Net operating gain or loss in expenses	59,578
(Actual giving + Sch & Child revenues - Actual expenses)		(Actual giving + Sch & Child revenues - Actual expenses)	

* Actual Giving does not include School & Childcare revenues

St. John's Lutheran Church

Operating Statements

For the one month and six months ending December 31, 2016 and 2015

Month of December			Fiscal Year to Date		
2016	2015	Difference	2016	2015	Difference
Operating Revenues					
Church Revenues					
\$87,552	\$83,038	\$4,514	\$316,338	\$311,718	\$4,620
0	0	\$0	0	0	0
32,282	25,365	6,917	36,042	28,042	8,000
<u>\$119,834</u>	<u>\$108,403</u>	<u>\$11,431</u>	<u>\$352,381</u>	<u>\$339,760</u>	<u>\$12,620</u>
\$8,134	\$11,643	-\$3,509	\$114,966	\$114,361	\$605
\$3,170	\$4,478	-\$1,308	\$22,631	\$28,430	-\$5,800
<u>\$131,138</u>	<u>\$124,524</u>	<u>\$6,614</u>	<u>\$489,977</u>	<u>\$482,551</u>	<u>\$7,426</u>
Operating Expenses					
Church Expenses					
\$9,429	\$11,653	-\$2,225	\$59,517	\$75,554	-\$16,037
3,092	1,099	\$1,993	10,492	11,684	-1,192
3,750	3,750	\$0	22,500	22,500	0
3,431	1,894	1,537	21,648	19,698	1,950
<u>\$19,701</u>	<u>\$18,396</u>	<u>\$1,305</u>	<u>\$114,157</u>	<u>\$129,436</u>	<u>-\$15,279</u>
School Expenses					
\$43,894	\$41,402	\$2,492	\$269,906	\$260,444	\$9,461
5,142	3,425	1,716	18,866	19,599	-733
763	1,782	-1,019	14,360	14,829	-468
<u>\$49,799</u>	<u>\$46,610</u>	<u>\$3,189</u>	<u>\$303,132</u>	<u>\$294,872</u>	<u>\$8,260</u>
\$1,631	\$4,204	-\$2,573	\$13,111	\$25,541	-\$12,430
<u>\$71,131</u>	<u>\$69,210</u>	<u>\$1,921</u>	<u>\$430,400</u>	<u>\$449,850</u>	<u>-\$19,449</u>
<u>\$60,007</u>	<u>\$55,314</u>	<u>\$4,692</u>	<u>\$59,577</u>	<u>\$32,702</u>	<u>\$26,875</u>
<u>-\$17</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>-\$17</u>	<u>\$7,391</u>	<u>\$7,792</u>	<u>-\$400</u>
Assets					
			Balance		
Checking Account @ BNB			\$83,889	\$59,215	
MM1 @ BNB					
GTF Undesignated			\$0	\$1,648	
Capital Improvement Fund			\$150	\$6,283	
Called Worker Fund			\$16,806	\$9,952	
Total MM1 @ BNB			<u>\$16,956</u>	<u>\$17,883</u>	
MM2 @ BNB					
Church Projects			\$1,663	\$17,090	
School Projects			\$7,478	\$14,133	
Scholarship Projects			\$4,917	\$3,481	
Total MM2 @ BNB			<u>\$14,058</u>	<u>\$34,703</u>	
Endowment @ ICF			\$268,548	\$249,481	
Eschenbach Fund @ ICF			\$206,315	\$201,473	
Investments-Bequests			\$1,206	\$12,011	