

# The St. John's Messenger

Volume 15 Issue 12

www.stjohnsmc.

December 2015



## Glory to God in the Highest Heaven

Why is Christmas such a magical time of year? I think it's because everyone is expecting a miracle at Christmas. Consider all the popular movies. Each one has a miracle as its central plot. Whether it's a boy hoping his parents get back together, a shop-owner hoping he can keep his business running, or a town who needs a new hero to help "save Christmas."

You might be reading this and wishing for your own miracle this Christmas. It's probably much smaller than what makes a holiday movie but it still requires a miracle of God's love.

Christmas is how God miraculously sent himself to us in Jesus. The fullness of God came in the fullness of Jesus to fill us with the miracle of love. Love in the midst of brokenness brings miracles.

***<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14***

This Christmas let us receive the miracle of Christ with our worship. Worship is our response to the glory of God that came to earth in Jesus. As believers we know that Christmas begins and continues with worship. Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men and angels all worshipped the Glory of God in Christ.

Make worship the center of Advent and Christmas for you and your family.

Advent Sermon Series: "Advent Conspiracy"

Sunday Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>: "Worship Fully"

(Noisy Offering at 10)

Sunday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>: "Spend Less/Give More"

Sunday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Cantata

(One service, at 10 a.m., Worship only)

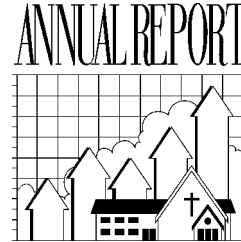
5 p.m. Christmas Play, "Grand Mama's Christmas Tree," dessert and fellowship to follow

Sunday Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>: "Love All"

Thursday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: 6:30 p.m. Family Service

9:00 p.m., Lessons and Carols

*All Glory Be to God  
Pastor Bill*



## ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Just a reminder to all committee chairpersons, the Annual Reports are due at the December Consistory meeting, Thursday, Dec. 10th. Please email your report to the office before that date (secretary@stjohnsmc.org); email is best!

*Thank you very much!*

## DECEMBER USHERS

Arnie Bos, Mike & Debbie Dill,  
Paul Steinheiser, Joe Dabkowski

## CHRISTMAS CHOIR CANTATA



St. John's will be having a Christmas Cantata this year on December 13th. We will have ONE worship service that day (10:00).



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

6:30 p.m. Worship  
(family service)

9:00 p.m. Worship  
(traditional candlelight)

## UPCOMING COMMUNION and SPECIAL OFFERINGS

December 6, Communion: Meals on Wheels

December 20, Special Env.: Veterans of the Cross

December 25, Christmas: St. John's General Fund

## WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

Mr. Dennis Siddall, General Manager of LaPorte Radio Station WLOI, was our speaker at our Women's Guild meeting on October 15th. He is responsible for seeing that 400 children from LaPorte County receive gifts for Christmas. Usually in September he spends three days sitting on a roof top with a pup tent for protection from the weather. The children receive school supplies, clothes, and gifts. Ages for children to receive gifts are 5 through 10 years. Volunteers are needed to take the children shopping. Anyone wishing to volunteer can call Carrie Campbell, 219-851-1864. The Guild is donating \$100 for the shopping trip.

At the October meeting, Phyllis Nowatzke was in charge of the program and Judy Kerestury, Alice Flotow, and June Applegate did the refreshments. Twenty-one sick calls were made by the members.

Our December meeting will be our Christmas party on Tuesday, December 15th. We will meet at Memo's at 12:00 p.m..



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## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The Bereavement Support group, led by Pastor Dennis Carroll, will continue to meet every other Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the Adobe Room.

Upcoming dates are:

December 3rd & 17th

Questions, please call Pastor Carroll, (219) 898-8492.

Bring your family or friends, all are welcome!

## POINSETTIA ORDER FORM INSERT



Please note the poinsettia/Christmas donation insert in today's Messenger. Orders are due by Monday, December 14th. Please take your poinsettia home after the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. Questions, please call Dave, 872-9121.

## PEANUT BRITTLE, ANYONE?

Join our Guild project by eating Peanut Brittle, and/or selling Peanut Brittle! All together we can contribute to agencies in our community which serve others. We can make a difference right here in Michigan City! St. John's is offering its famous Peanut Brittle at \$8.00/pound. Orders can be placed in the church office. Tell your family and friends that once again all profits from the sale will be donated to community agencies and to St. John's projects. We are accepting orders for our work dates of December 4, 11, and 18. Thank you for your continued support!



## OFFICE CLOSINGS

Please note, the office will be closed on the following days due to the holidays:  
Closed Dec. 23rd, 24th, 25th, 31<sup>st</sup>,  
and January 1<sup>st</sup>.



## MESSENGER/NEWS NOTES DEADLINES

Due to the holiday office schedule, please note the following deadlines to submit information for inclusion the News Notes and Messenger:

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 9 a.m.:

January Messenger

Monday, Dec. 21, 9 a.m.:

Dec. 27th News Notes

Monday, Dec. 28, 9 a.m.:

January 3rd News Notes

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Annual Meeting, Sunday,  
January 24, 2016  
One service, 10:00 a.m.**

Also, please note that our Consistory has voted not to have a catered dinner after the Annual Meeting in January. This will result in a savings of approximately \$1,000.

**ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP  
Meets the 2nd Thursday of every month,  
6:30 p.m. here at St. John's**

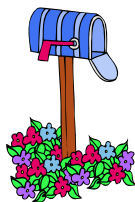
The next meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 10th, 2015.  
For more information, please call 1-800-272-3900.



**"GRAND MAMA'S  
CHRISTMAS TREE"**  
**Sunday, December 13, 2015**  
**5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Here at St. John's**  
*Come to the party and see  
what happens when  
Jesus shows up!*

## GREETERS NEEDED

Please add your name to the list on the bulletin board and help keep this wonderful tradition at St. John's alive!



## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please remember to notify St. John's office of any address change in order for our records to be kept up-to-date and for you to receive the Messenger or other correspondence in a timely manner. Thank you very much!

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, December 5th: Christmas Tea

Thursday, December 3, 10, & 17:

Peanut Brittle

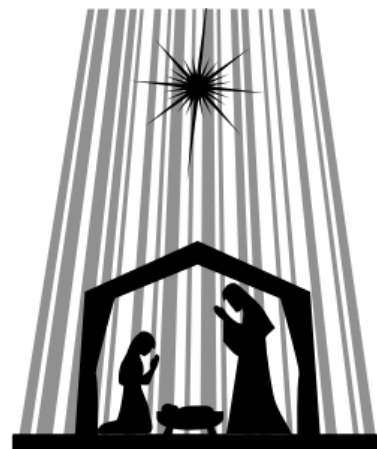
Sunday, December 13: Cantata,  
one worship service, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 13: "Grandmama's  
Christmas Tree" presentation, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 24th: Annual Meeting

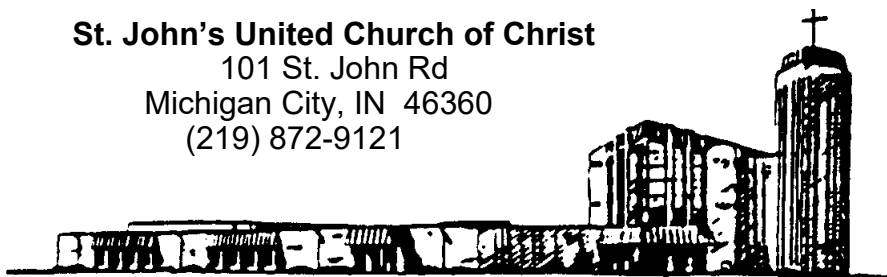
## PRAYER LIST UPDATE

Please help us keep our prayer list on the back of the Sunday bulletins current. Call the office if you know of anyone not listed needing to be uplifted in prayer. Also, as circumstances change and the person no longer needs to be listed, please call the office and let either Joyce or Nicole know that they may be removed from the listing. *Thanks!*





St. John's United Church of Christ  
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Michigan City, IN 46360  
(219) 872-9121



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"The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize Him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

—Luke 2:11b—14



