

The St. John's Messenger

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December 2017



"THE CALL OF CHRISTMAS"

The time was fulfilled and the Messiah was about to come into the world.

The Lord was about to send His Son into the world and He called certain individuals to fulfill roles which He assigned them.

During the Sundays of Advent we will focus on God's call to certain individuals. We will focus on four individuals who accepted God's call on their lives to be servants of the Lord's purpose. Each of the following individuals had distinct and separate callings. These callings were to *Prepare, Provide, Protect and Praise*.

On the first Sunday of Advent we will meet Zechariah the priest. Zechariah was called to *prepare* for what God was about to do. While burning incense to the Lord in the Temple, the angel Gabriel appeared and spoke the message that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son. The Lord had heard Zechariah's prayer to be a father of a son and so he would be the father of John the Baptist. The Lord called Zechariah and Elizabeth to prepare John to honor God.

On the second Sunday of Advent we will meet Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary was called to *provide* space for God's spirit within her womb. Mary would willingly provide herself as the Lord's handmaid after hearing the message from angel Gabriel.

On the third Sunday of Advent, we will meet Joseph the soon-to-be husband of Mary. Joseph received his call by an angel in a dream. Joseph was called to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife. The Lord wanted Joseph to *protect* Mary and keep this holy family safe.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we will meet the shepherds. The shepherds were to receive an announcement of great joy from an angel which was the birth of the Savior. The glory of the Lord shone around them and they were given a sign which identified the Savior as a baby in a manger. The

shepherds were compelled to find the baby and offer their *praise*. The shepherds were called to offer praise to God.

The call of Christmas goes out to all God's people. God calls ordinary people like you and me to accept and carry out holy tasks for the kingdom of God.

What is God calling you to fulfill in this holy season?

Merry Christmas, Pastor Bill



OH MY! THAT TIME ALREADY?

Yes, it is! Just a reminder, at the December 14th Consistory meeting, annual reports from all ministry leaders are due. Please also email your report to the office at secretary@stjohnsmc.org. Thank you!

OPERATION BLESSING/ OPERACIÓN BENDICIÓN

On November 10th, we shipped 113 pounds of Christmas gifts to Eternal Anchor's Adult Program. As of this writing, the shipment is still on its way. But, Kelli Kelly wrote about the shipment:

"This is so awesome! Praise God and all of you who participated! Thank you so much!"

MITTEN TREE

The Mitten Tree will be set up next to the office and we will be collecting mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for children to keep little noses and fingers warm during this colder season. Just hang your donation and decorate our tree!





CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Carolers from St. John's and New Creation Vineyard will meet at St. John's, at Discovery Dinner, 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13th. After dinner, we will carpool to local nursing homes and sing carols. Please join us!!

DISCOVERY DINNERS

Don't forget! For a hearty meal, good company, and great classes, come by on Wednesday nights for a delicious meal! Join us for Discovery Dinners, Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. A freewill offering to cover the cost of the meal is always welcomed and greatly appreciated!

MEN'S CHOIR

New members are always welcome! Please come join us for a "harmonic experience." We meet Sundays, 10:00 a.m., prior to the second service. Any questions, please call Dolores at 362-3665.

OFFICE HOURS

We will continue our current office hours of Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 9-12 noon through December. The office will close at noon.

FOOD BANK

Especially needed are juice, stews, hash, and toilet paper. Thank you for always being so generous in your donations to our Food Bank!

BLOODMOBILE

The next Bloodmobile at St. John's will be Tuesday, December 5th, 12 - 6 p.m. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule your donation.



THANK YOU!!

Thank you to all the "stuffers"—we filled 84 Christmas Child boxes for Samaritan's Purse!

PEANUT BRITTLE, ANYONE?

Work Dates:

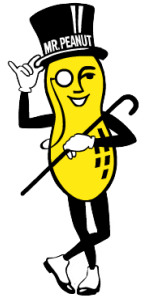
Dec. 7th, and Dec. 14th.

Pick up of orders is during office hours (M, T, Th, Fr, 9-12 noon) or on Sunday mornings between church services.

St. John's is offering its famous peanut brittle at \$8.50 per 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 or to St. John's projects.

We are accepting orders for our work dates of December 7th & 14th.

Orders for peanut brittle can be picked up before the church office closes at noon (M, T, Th, & Fr) or on Sunday mornings between church services. If you would like to be a part of our team, please speak with Judy Kerestury.



Thank you for your continued support!

RITTENHOUSE MINISTRY UPDATE — NEW OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN US!

Every First and Third Thursday, at 1 p.m.

Upcoming Dates:

Thursdays, Dec. 7th and Dec. 21st;

**Thursdays, Jan. 4th and Jan. 18th
2nd floor of Rittenhouse,
4300 Cleveland Avenue, Mich. City**



Our St. John's Rittenhouse Ministry now meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month! Sue Allison coordinates and Pastor Dennis Carrol preaches. We pray, sing, hear a devotional message, and share communion. Come join us!



“NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM”
First Presbyterian Church
121 W. 9th Street
Sunday, Dec. 3rd,
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Are you looking for a family activity to kick off the Advent season? Come to Bethlehem at the First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. 9th Street on Sunday, December 3, 2017, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Kids of all ages are invited to spend a “Night in Bethlehem” where you will visit the shops and make a Christmas ornament or create a clay pot, make your own pretzels at the bakery, and visit the local well to enjoy some refreshing water and delicious baklava. You will especially want to stop by the manger to see the Baby Jesus before the night is over. Please mark your calendar for December 3rd and join in for an exciting evening in Bethlehem!

CROP WALK 2017



The final numbers are in and this year's Crop Walk raised \$5,766.44 with St. John's raising/donating \$1,535. Thank you so much for your compassion and generosity for those who hunger in our community and the world. There were eight individuals from the congregation who walked on that hot but beautiful September day. We truly appreciate your support of this mission outreach, which locally will benefit the Keys To Hope Community Garden. *Jan Lubiniecki & Kristen Jasicki*

SOUP KITCHEN AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Monday, Dec. 11th, 6:00 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 11th, at 6 p.m., St. John's will provide an evening meal for the Men's Shelter. We expect to serve 30 to 40 men. We gain access at 6 p.m. and serve at 7 p.m. These guys are always very grateful for the hot food, and for the love we show this way. You can join us by calling Lynda Ferry at (219) 872-1427 or Don Briggs at (219) 324-6117.

MESSENGER HELP

(And a heartfelt Thank you!!)

Would you like to help fold the monthly Messenger? This would be a once-a-month activity, for approximately 1-2 hours, beginning at 9 a.m. on a weekday towards the end of each month. We need you! Come to help out, and enjoy good fellowship and fun conversation. Please call the office, 872-9121, if you are able to help.

Also, *Thank you, thank you!!* to the faithful members who have folded for many years and continue to fold! Your help is vital and very much appreciated!

Thank you

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
 St. John's has filled more than 80 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We've done well this year!

PARTNERING WITH CHRIST --
HYMNOLOGY

As our group Partnering with Christ continues to study hymnology through the book “Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotion,” we discover not only the motivations of hymn writers through the ages, but take an in-depth look into the Scriptures that underscore these musical works, lifting up praise to our creator God and His Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The class meets at 4:00 prior to Discovery Dinners. All ladies welcome!

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will have their Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 19th, at Patrick's Restaurant, at 11:30 a.m.. There will be no meeting in January, 2018.

MICHIGAN CITY YOUTH GROUP
 ~ For 6th-8th graders ~

Dec. 16th: “White Elephant Christmas”
 Meet at New Creation Vineyard Church,
 9009 W. Paks Road, Michigan City
 6:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Please call Allison Harvey at 219.898.0501
 (or email allisonmcyg@gmail.com)
 if you have any questions.



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28th

After the 9:30a.m. service

in the Sanctuary

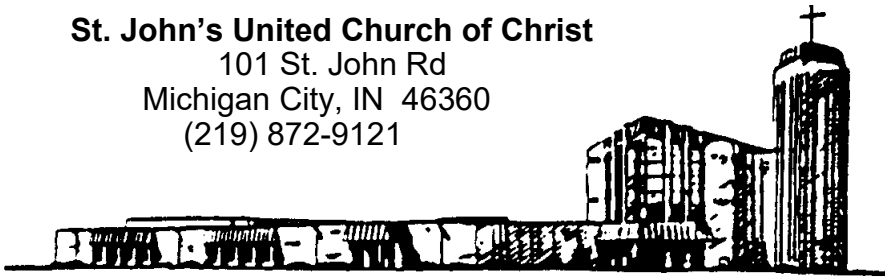
(one service that day),

Annual Meeting will follow in the Sanctuary.

Potluck will follow in Fellowship Hall.



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



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**ADVENT
WORSHIP**

**Sundays,
December 3rd,
10th, 17th, & 24th**

9:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

***Join us in
"The Call of
Christmas"
this Advent
season!***

