



### RITTENHOUSE MINISTRY

**Next meeting, Thursday, Dec. 20th**

9:15-10:15 a.m., 1st floor Memory Care, Rittenhouse, 4300 Cleveland

We now have 17 residents that join in our prayer service! If you would like to join us or if you need further information, please call Sue, 861-6374.

### CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES—61!

Sixty-one Christmas Child boxes are on their way! Each recipient is invited to bible lessons. Thank you to all who shared Jesus with these gifts. (Several have already made purchases for next year!)

Still needed is postage money. Samaritan's Purse's cost to mail each box is \$9.00. Can you help? If you write a check to St. John's, please indicate "CC Boxes" on the memo line. Thank you for enriching the lives of children by sharing Christ's love!

### TREE OF LIFE

We have many occasions to celebrate with special birthdays, marriages, baptisms, and anniversaries, and to mourn the loss of loved ones. What better way to remember them than with a leaf on our Forever Tree. For a minimum donation of \$50, you can add your special remembrance to the tree. If you are interested, please see the office.



## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY - DECEMBER 9

8:30 Christianity 101  
9:30 Worship  
Coffee Hour  
10:00 Men's Choir  
10:30 Women's Bible Study  
11:00 Worship  
12:00 p.m. Worship

### MONDAY - DECEMBER 10

6:00 Men's Bible Study  
6:00 Preschool Board

### WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 12

4:10 p.m. Hymnology  
5:30 Discovery Dinner  
6:30 Handbells

### THURSDAY - DECEMBER 13

8:30 a.m. Peanut Brittle  
6:00 p.m. Scouts  
6:30 p.m. Consistory

### SUNDAY - DECEMBER 16

8:30 Christianity 101  
9:30 Worship  
Coffee Hour  
10:00 Men's Choir  
10:30 Women's Bible Study  
11:00 Worship  
12:00 p.m. Worship



### ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar!

Annual Meeting,  
January 27, 2019

~One worship service at 9:30 ~

The proposed revisions to the by-laws will be voted upon at that time.

## NEWS-NOTES

Sunday, December 9, 2018



Pastor William H. Fine

101 St. John Road

Michigan City, Indiana 46360

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

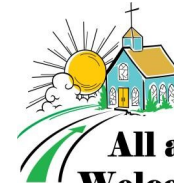
Office Manager: [norzech@stjohnsmc.org](mailto:norzech@stjohnsmc.org)

Office Secretary: [secretary@stjohnsmc.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsmc.org)

[bfine@stjohnsmc.org](mailto:bfine@stjohnsmc.org)

219-872-9121

[www.stjohnsmc.org](http://www.stjohnsmc.org)



**All are  
Welcome**

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. We are glad to have you sharing in our celebration of worship. We invite you to sign our guest book in the Narthex and take a "Welcome" brochure. The "Welcome" brochures contain more information about St. John's United Church of Christ, as does our website, [www.stjohnsmc.org](http://www.stjohnsmc.org). **For your convenience, childcare is provided each Sunday beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the preschool playroom.** Please join us for refreshments between services in the Fellowship Hall. A church member will be happy to show you the way.

**ATTENDANCE:** Last Sunday: 9:30 a.m., 66; 11:00 a.m., 45; 12 p.m., 12; Total: 123  
Sunday School: Adults, 12

### SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

With this being the second Sunday of Advent, we will re-light the first purple candle which represents "*Hope*" on our Advent Wreath and light the second purple candle for the first time.

The second candle represents "*Peace*." It also symbolized all of the preparations that had to be made in order to receive and take care of the Christ Child.

### **"FUND THE FENCE!"**

During a safety and security inspection of our outside play area this past year by the Sheriff's department, it was suggested that St. John's install a fence around the playground. This would benefit the children of our church family as well as children attending our Preschool program. The Consistory has considered this proposal and given approval for this project. The Preschool Board voted to tithe 20% of its funds on record when the project is done and also asks friends and members of St. John's Church to consider supporting this project.

Consider a Christmas donation to St. John's to help "FUND THE FENCE!" Donations can be directed to our church office and marked "Fund the Fence." Thank you for considering this project!



## CONTRIBUTIONS TO ST. JOHN'S

Please note, for you to receive credit on your 2018 Giving Statement, your donation must be received in the office no later than December 31st. Any donations received after Dec. 31st will be considered a 2019 contribution and be added to your 2019 statement. If you are mailing your contribution, please note that if it is received in the office after Dec. 31st, it will be considered a 2019 donation. This is due to our financial program's date-sensitive requirements. We sincerely appreciate your understanding.

## WOMEN'S GUILD REMINDER!

Just a reminder, the Women's Guild will be meeting Tuesday, Dec. 18th, at 12:30 p.m. at Patrick's Restaurant for their annual Christmas party. Please call Karen (872.5087) or Elaine (872.6164) to RSVP and reserve your place. All ladies of the congregation are most welcome to join us!

## MITTEN TREE

The Mitten Tree will soon 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 winter. Just hang your donation and decorate our tree!

## PEANUT BRITTLE! LAST CHANCE!!

**Last Work Date: Dec. 13th**

St. John's is offering its famous peanut brittle at **\$8.50 per pound**. Once again all profits from the sale will be donated to community agencies or to St. John's projects. 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. Call 872-9121 to order.



## MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES!

*"You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works."*

*--Pope Francis*

**Men's Shelter**, serving dinner on Monday, Dec. 10th, arrive at 6:00 p.m. (serve at 7 p.m., clean up before 8:30 p.m.) at First Presbyterian Church (enter the basement dining hall from the North parking lot at 8th & Washington). You can help from home, though, by providing a side dish. To join us, please call Lynda Ferry at 872-1427 or Don Briggs at 324-6117.

**Soup Kitchen**, serving lunch on Sun., Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30 a.m., at St. Paul's. Please call Don (219.324.6117) or Lynda (872.1427) if you'd like to join us! *We would be so happy to have many helpers!!*

## PROPOSED UPDATES TO BYLAWS

Please stop in the office if you would like a copy of the proposed revisions to the bylaws, and if you would like a copy of the current bylaws. If you are unable to stop in, please call the office and we will be happy to email (or postal mail) you a copy (872-9121; [secretary@stjohnsmc.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsmc.org)). Copies of each are also posted on the main bulletin board outside the office. Please note that these revisions are currently in the *proposal* stage; they will be voted on at the Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 27th, 2019.

## NURSING HOME GIFTS

We are collecting now for our nursing home residents: Lip balm, small hand creams or lotions, cube boxes of tissues, puzzle books and pencils, coloring books and colored pencils, and calendars. Please drop off in the collection box outside Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



## WHAT ARE CHRISMONS?

Over the years, the Christmas tree has become a symbol of Christ as the "Tree of Life." On our Christmas tree in the sanctuary, we have some Chrismons, made by ladies of our church some years ago and led by Mrs. Fine, Pastor Bill's mother.

Chrismons is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monograms" and represent the many symbols of Christ passed down to us through the ages. Since the early Christians often worshipped in secret to avoid possible persecution and death, they developed certain symbols, which hung on doors and buildings in order to communicate with fellow believers.

Chrismons are traditionally white and gold in color. White is the Liturgical (church) color for Christmas and symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold represents His Majesty and Glory.

Chrismons we have on our cross are:

**The Cross:** symbolizes that Christians believe Jesus Christ died for everyone on a cross.

**The Triumphant Cross:** representing the earth with the cross on top and symbolizes how Jesus is triumphant over everything.

**Five Pointed Star:** represents the five wounds of Jesus on the cross.

**The Crown:** is the symbol that Jesus is King and shows that Christians believe Jesus is ruler over heaven and earth.

**The Dove:** is the symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit. It points down to represent the Holy Spirit that appeared as a Dove when Jesus was baptized.

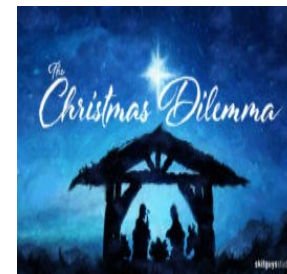
**The Chalice:** is the symbol of the blood Jesus shed on the cross for our sins, reminds us of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and represents God's forgiveness.

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**The Angel:** reminds Christians of the angels who told the shepherds about the birth of Jesus. It can also represent the second coming of Jesus, which the Bible says will start with an angel blowing a trumpet.

**The Lamb:** is a symbol of Jesus, who is sometimes called "The Lamb of God."

**The Fish:** is one of the oldest Christian symbols and one of the most popular. It was a secret symbol used by the early persecuted Christians to signify their belief in Jesus.



## ADVENT WORSHIP

**Sundays, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. (in the Sanctuary) Don't miss "The Christmas Dilemma" this Advent season!**

## MINISTRY LEADERS: ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!

Just a reminder to all ministry leaders: your annual report is due at the December 13th Consistory meeting. Please also send your report as a word.doc via email to the office at [secretary@stjohnsmc.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsmc.org). Thank you!!

## SILVERBIRCH -- How you can help!

We are **collecting books and magazines** which we will distribute to the residents of Silver Birch, on Michigan Blvd.. We will be **caroling** there in mid-December and will distribute your gifts at that time. If you have any books or magazines you'd like to donate to the residents, please drop them off in the office. Also, *please come caroling with us!!*

Call Don (219.324.6117) or Lynda (872.1427) if you have any questions or would like to join us caroling!