

THE STAFF OF ST JOHN

Church Office

Judy Stahancyk

jstahancyk@st-john-lutheran.org

Phone: 907-745-3338

Fax: 907-746-6117

Senior Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Rocky

jonathanrockey@st-john-lutheran.org

Home Phone: 907-746-5131

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Richard Allen

richardallen@st-john-lutheran.org

Home Phone: 907-746-3919

D.C.E.

Jamie L Walters

dce@st-john-lutheran.org

Home Phone: 907-355-1456

Music Coordinators

Sara Guhl

guhls@mtaonline.net

Home Phone: 907-745-8097

Marilee Nufer

marleenufer@hotmail.com

Home Phone: 907-745-6528

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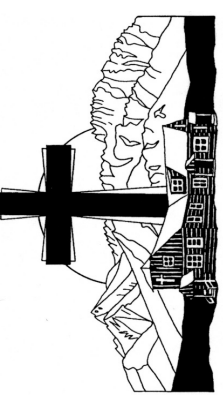
E-mail: stjohn@mtaonline.net

Phone: 907-745-3338
Fax: 907-746-6117
P.O. Box 774
440 East Elmwood
Palmer, AK 99645

CHURCH

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED





The Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

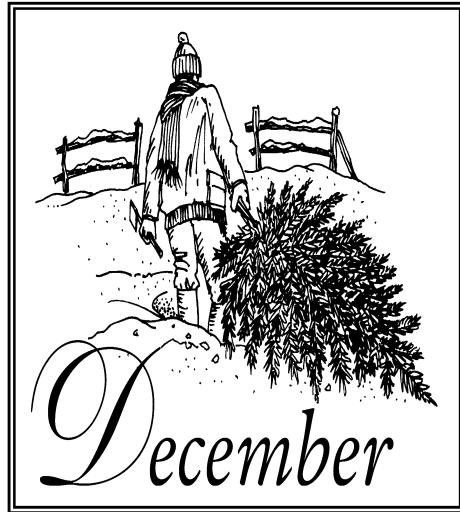
ST JOHN LUTHERAN MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by God's Holy Spirit,
we will share our Savior, Jesus,
so our members, our commu-
nity, and all people live and
grow in Biblical Christian Faith.

"SHARE-LIVE-GROW"

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER DECEMBER

12-01	Community Advent Meal and Worship
12-05	Cantora Arctica Concert Holiday Concert
12-08	Advent Meal & Worship
12-011	Alaska Children's Choir Holiday Concert
12-12	Sunday School Christmas Program
12-12	Birthday Party for Jesus
12-12	Voter's Meeting
12-12	Mat-Su Community Chorus Holiday Concert
12-15	Advent Meal and Worship
12-18	Family Movie Night
12-19	Christmas Caroling
12-24	Christmas Eve Worship
12-25	Christmas Day Worship
12-31	New Year's Eve Worship





Dear Members and Friends of St. John,

Do you remember Christmas as a child? There was a wonder and mystery at the special trappings of the season. Perhaps there still is. The lights, the decorations, the music, the special stories, and the presents all combined to make the season magical and mystical. However, in today's world we have perhaps become overwhelmed with the trappings.

In truth, the mystery of Christmas is even much greater than the trappings of the season today. Most of us know the traditional Christmas story of Luke 2, but do you know the story of Jesus' birth found in John 1?

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. . . ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Is there anything more mysterious, more wonderful, than God himself taking on human form? What a wonder that the creator of all dwells among us so that we can see His glory, His grace, and His truth in Jesus. We get to celebrate the fact that God loved us so much He went to extreme measures to show that love. No lights, no decorations, no seasonal music can match the mystery and wonder of God. But, the special magical trappings can remind us of the greater mystery, the mystery of the son of God come to earth.

I pray this year that your celebration of Jesus birth may be full of the mystery of God who loved us so much that He went to such great lengths to keep us in His love.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Rockey

P.S. Please note in the newsletter below recommendations for devotions for this year we can do as a congregation.

P.P.S Please also note the many opportunities for celebrating Christmas and Advent again this year at St. John.



Christian Growth

The Twelve Days of Christmas The Meaning Behind the Song



The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas Day, December 25th, the birth of Jesus, and the Epiphany, January 6th, the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) and the revelation of Christ as the light of the world.

The Christmas song, “*The Twelve Days of Christmas*” may sound silly and contrived to many of us. But it actually had its origins in religious symbolism—and with a serious purpose.

It dates from a time of religious persecution. The song, “*The Twelve Days of Christmas*,” was written as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without fear of arrest—a learning or memory aid to Christians in face.

The song can be taken at two levels of interpretation - the surface meaning, or the hidden meaning known only to the Christians involved. Each element is a code word for a religious truth.

1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus.
2. The two turtledoves are the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds are the four Gospels.
5. The five gold rings recall the Hebrew Torah (Law), or the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
7. The seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
8. The eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit .
10. The ten lord a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
11. Eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful Apostles.
12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed.

If you think Jesus being symbolized as a partridge in a pear tree sounds blasphemous, remember: “*Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so.*” (Luke 13:34 and Matthew 23:34)

The “*true love*” in the song refers to God Himself.

The “*me*” receiving the gifts is every Christian.

So that “*silly*” song we sing at Christmas time has more meaning than we thought.

Official Acts

Baptisms

Brendan Lloyd Andree 11-07-10

Violet Folsom 11-14-10

Julie Kathleen Foster 11-14-10

Weddings

Funerals

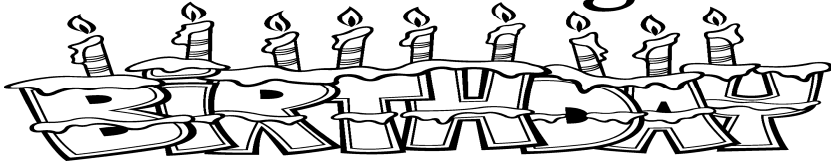
Date	Offering	Attendance
11-07-10	\$14,054.00	185
11-14-10	\$12,227.35	172
11-21-10	\$19,239.82	165
11-25-10		67
11-28-10	\$12,487.43	181



Brendan L. Andree

Violet Folsom

Celebrating a



12-01	Mika Barto	12-19	Mary Colberg
12-02	Jackie Kolberg	12-20	Brayden Ahrens
12-02	Peter Probasco	12-22	Monique Christiansen
12-05	Ron Jones	12-22	McKenna France
12-07	James Evans	12-23	Dorothy Jacobson
12-07	Linda Harm	12-26	Elizabeth Richards
12-13	Bill Allen	12-27	Dwight Probasco
12-13	Jerome Larson	12-28	Bill Barney
12-13	Mark Larson	12-30	Mike Donn
12-19	Sawyer Christiansen		

12-01	Carol & Norma Christiansen	63years	<p><i>Happy Anniversary!</i></p>
12-27	Ben and Kallen Probasco	2 years	
12-30	Bill & Jean McMahon	34 years	

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES



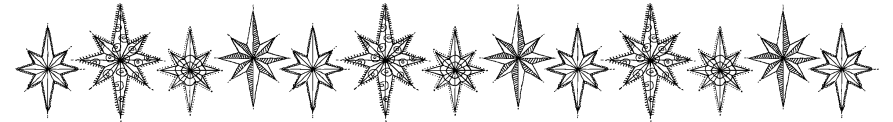
Choir Rehearsal

SENIOR CHOIR is held each Wednesday from 5:30pm to 6:45pm. New senior choir members **ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!** Sara Guhl serves as Choir Director. Please come and join us!



Bell Choir **ST. JOHN BELL CHOIR** practices on Thursdays at 5:30pm. If you would like more information, contact Sharon Allen.

JOYFUL NOISE worship team practices the Fridays before the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month in the Sanctuary at 5:30pm.



DECEMBER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



Annual Church Voter's Meeting

ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING will be held after late worship on Sunday, December 12th. At this meeting we will vote to elect new officers and board members, and we will vote on a budget for 2011. These are decisions we want all St. John members and friends to participate in making.

PLEASE ATTEND!

The meal at this meeting will be a pot luck, organized by the Fellowship Board and the Church Council.

Again, we ask all St. John members and friends to attend and to help in decisions as we work together to do the ministry of the Lord.



NATIVITY

A SPECIAL MANGER SCENE IS BEING DISPLAYED THIS YEAR IN THE EAST ENTRY WAY. A stained glass manger scene was donated to St. John by long-time Palmer resident, June Tull,

SPECIAL DECEMBER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!!!!



THE COMMUNITY ADVENT SERVICE was held at St. John on Wednesday, December 1st, at 7:00pm with a meal of an “Alaskan Fare” served at 5:30pm.

MID WEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES will be held on Wednesdays, December 8th and 15th. These services help us to prepare our hearts for the coming of the real gift of Christmas, God’s Son, our Savior, Jesus.

We will hold all services at 6:30pm, following the Advent Meal.

MID WEEK ADVENT MEALS will again be offered. A sign up sheet is located on the counter in the Narthex. **We ask 3 or 4 families to sign up to serve these Advent meals together.** These meals become a real time of fellowship for our congregation.



THE CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be held in late worship on Sunday, December 12th. Practice for the program is happening during the Sunday School opening time. Plan now to attend!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHT WORSHIP will be held again at St. John on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th. A Children’s Christmas Eve Service will be held at 6:00pm. A traditional Christmas Carol Candle-light worship will be held at 8:00pm and 10:00pm. Plan on attending and inviting your friends!



CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP will be held again this year at St. John at 11:00am. This worship will include a short communion liturgy. As we celebrate the coming of “Immanuel-God with us”, we will experience that coming in the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Please plan to attend!

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES—CON’T

LIFELIGHT BIBLE CLASSES have been held Wednesdays from noon—1:00pm for about 19 years. A group of St. John members and friends meet at noon to study God’s Word and share pot luck lunch. This year we will start studying *Proverbs*. Class meets Wednesdays at noon. Come, bring leftovers to share and participate in a fulfilling Bible study. This year we are studying *Ruth and Esther*.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES for students in grades 6-8. These classes help middle school youth to grow in knowledge, faith, and Christian friendship. Classes are held from 2:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. each Wednesday. **PLEASE REMEMBER THE MENTORING OPPORTUNITY** at 5:00pm.

FRIDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASSES are held twice a month, on the Fridays before the 1st and 3rd Sundays at St. John. This group studies a variety of topics and includes much lively discussion and prayer. Everyone is welcome.

THE PROPHET—RESCHEDULED

THE PROPHET is a dramatic presentation of verses from Old Testament prophets in the Bible by Shakespearian actor, Brad Sherrill of Atlanta, Georgia. *The Prophet* will have 4 shows in Anchorage, one in Soldotna, one in Palmer at St. John on Saturday evening, **January 22, 2011**. Plan now to attend this 90 minute presentation that looks at judgment and hope as God speaks.

The Alaska Christian Conference is bringing Mr. Sherrill to Alaska. He previously presented *The Gospel of John*. Tickets will be on sale and any proceeds exceeding cost will help the local Food Banks.

Tickets prices are: Adults \$15, Youth/Seniors/Military \$10 (This presentation was to have taken place October 30th, 2010 but due to Mr. Sherrill’s health, needed to be rescheduled)

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

DEVOTIONS FOR 2011—This year I am encouraging everyone to use the *Portals of Prayer* for daily devotions. There is a special unity of faith and mission that happens when a whole congregation of God's children study His Word together as a congregation. However, we have received the *Portals of Prayer* for decades, and many St. John members use them for devotions, but we have never used these as our official congregational devotion for the year.

Portals of Prayer devotional booklets are available each quarter on the counter in the back of the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASSES FOR WINTER 2011

The Following Classes are being offered.

18 months to 3 years old - "Woolly Lambs Sunday School is lead by Carol Gustafson and friends!

3 years through 5th Grade – Sunday School this year will be held in VBS style, with classes attending each of 4 stations. This year, classes focus on Jesus and His work and life.

Middle School and High School Classes – These are held each Sunday. High Schoolers meet in the portable classroom building in the parking lot.

Adult Bible Classes – Three Adult Classes are scheduled for Sundays this year –

- *Philippians* led by Pastor Rockey in the Library.
- **Bible Stories for Adults**—Kathy Rockey is teaching this class which gives adults an opportunity to relearn the Bible stories we learned in Sunday school, or learn them for the first time.
- *Sermon on the Mount*, from the Friendship Bible Study Series, is a ladies Bible study lead by Mary Jo Lentz.

WEEKLY GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

PROMISE KEEPERS MEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER GROUP will meet on Tuesday nights beginning October 5th at 7:30 p.m. This group is open to all men of the congregation and provides a time of sharing, support, Bible Study and prayer.

This year's Bible Study will be a new study from Lutheran Hour Ministries Men's Network, "*Working for the Man Upstairs – Your Job*"

All men of the congregation are encouraged to join us for this time of growth and support!

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP will be held at St. John on Friday, December 31st, at 7:00pm. This is a good way to end one year and begin another, with the Lord and His blessings. This also will be a communion service.



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS?

SPECIAL ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES—There are many special worship services held to help God's people celebrate God's love in Jesus and share that love. Please take a look at the many opportunities.



OFFERING FOR THE NEEDY—A SPECIAL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN FOR THE NEEDY AT ST. JOHN after worship on December 5th and 12th! This offering is used to help people in our congregation and in our community during life's difficult times.

St. John is encouraging members to make donations to the Palmer Food Bank to help provide holiday food baskets to the needy. Please see the information on the Information Center/Bulletin Board in the east entry about this opportunity for sharing Jesus through Christmas love and service.



A CHRISTMAS CAROLING OUTING will be held on December 19th, beginning at 2:00pm. Watch for more announcements. These caroling events have been times of joy which have brought the Christmas joy of God's love to people who are housebound. We have many people to sing for this year. Come and join us!



Wednesday, December 8th

Advent Meal

5:30 P.M.

Advent Worship Service

6:30 P.M.

Wednesday, December 15th

Advent Meal

5:30 P.M.

Advent Worship Service

6:30 P.M.



December 24th

Family Christmas Worship

6:00 P.M.

Candlelight Worship Service

8:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

The Human Needs Board is encouraging St. John members and groups to support the Palmer Food Bank as they coordinate and distribute Christmas baskets to local families in need.

Following is a list of suggested items for Christmas baskets. You may contribute all or part of the items. You may take your items directly to the Food Bank at 221 S. Valley St. The Food Bank hours are 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

If you or your group would prefer to make a monetary contribution to help the Food Bank purchase food for the baskets, please make your check payable to the Palmer Food Bank and mail it to PO Box 579, Palmer, AK 99645.

The Food Bank volunteers will be putting the baskets together on December 20th and distributing them on December 21st and 22nd. Therefore, they would like to have all donations of food and money by Friday, December 17th. Thank you for your support in helping local families have a happy and healthy Christmas.



Family of 1 to 5

- 1 Turkey 10+ pounds or 5+ pounds of ham
- 1 box of instant potatoes or 5+ pounds of real potatoes
- 2 packages of gravy mix or 1 jar of gravy
- 1 box instant stuffing or stuffing ingredients
- 2 cans of vegetables
- 1 can of cranberry sauce
- 1 pound of butter
- 1 package of dinner rolls or biscuits (minimum of 8)
- 1 pumpkin pie with whipped topping

Family of 6 to 10

- 1 Turkey 20+ pounds or 1 ham 10+ pounds
- 1 box instant potatoes or 5+ pounds of real potatoes
- 3 packages of gravy mix or 2 jars of gravy
- 2 boxes of instant stuffing
- 4 cans vegetables
- 2 cans of cranberry sauce
- 1 pound of butter
- 2 pumpkin pies with whipped topping
- 2 packages of dinner rolls or biscuits (minimum of 16)
- 2 cans of corn

Optional Items

Marshmallows; Non-Alcoholic beverage (i.e. Kool-Aid, juice, coffee, tea, milk, etc.); fresh vegetables (i.e. celery, onions, carrots, salad, etc.); jam, honey, peanut butter, store baked goods, disposable roasting pan; salt & pepper; foil/plastic wrap/roasting bags; brown sugar; any additional store bought items are welcome.



Thank you to the gentleman who brought in the boxes of books, many are duplicates of those already in our library, some were given to the youth auction and others are still being sorted and catalogued.

These two books are in Marriage, Family, Community Service etc., #1070 *God At Work, Your Christian Vocation in All of Life* by Gene Edward Veith, Jr. #1071 *Raising a Modern Day Knight, A Father's Role in Guiding His Son to authentic Manhood* by Robert Lewis. In Bible Helps and Devotionals #1927 *Readings for Meditation and Reflection*. By C. S. Lewis. And in Inspirational and Miscellaneous, #2527 *The Dead Sea Scrolls Deception*, why a handful of religious scholars conspired to suppress the revolutionary contents of the the dead sea scrolls, by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh. #2522 *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*, by G. Vermes, the third revised and augmented edition, including the *Temple Scroll* and other recently published manuscripts. #2523 *Mere Christian* by C. S. Lewis, #2524 *The Abolition of Man* by C. S. Lewis, #2525 *The Case For Christianity* by C. S. Lewis. #2527 *The Visionary Christian* by C. S. Lewis, and #2528 *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis. Other books and a CD donated are: Children's Blue Tub books, *The Puzzle Club Christmas Mystery* by Dandi Daley Mackall, There is also a VCR tap with this story on it, and a Little Golden Book, *Bible Stories of Boys and Girls*. The CD is *You've Got The Time*, listen to the New Testament for 28 minutes a day for 40 days. CD #460. Also donated were several *Bibles*, if you need one they are free, on shelf below the non-catalogued books. Stop in and enjoy the library located across from Pastor's office. The library is also available during the week, so stop by, have a cup of coffee and enjoy a book.



November and December are such busy months. On Monday, November 29th, men of the congregation graciously offered to put the Christmas tree in place. **Thanks a bunch fellows!** Tuesday, November 30th, the LWML ladies decorated the tree and church for the Christmas season. After the decorating the ladies had their annual Christmas party with many wonderful sweet treats and a gift exchange.

New officers for the coming year are:

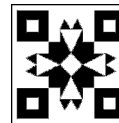
President:	Eleanor Allen
Vice President:	Cathy Glaser
Secretary:	Willie Pederson
Treasurer:	Kim Kirby

The next LWML meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011. All ladies of the church are invited.

**Mite Sunday
December 12th**

Mite donations collected for this month will go towards Ghana Seminary, Ghana, West Africa LCMS Mission. A grant for \$7,000. This would provide for needs of seminary students at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana to cover living expenses, transportation and medical expenses, books and material. Place donations in the brown Mites box in the narthex.

Are you going through, or do you know someone who's going through the pain of divorce or separation? St. John Lutheran Church will soon be offering a Christian-based program called **DIVORCE CARE**. Please contact Bev Dubos @ 745-0514 or Judy in the church office: 745-3338 for more information.



QUILTING for Lutheran World Relief meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The ladies are taking time off for the holidays and will resume quilting on Wednesday, January 5, 2011.



GO GREEN

*Would you like to help us save
the environment and money?
Go Green!*

*Sign-up with the church office to receive
your monthly newsletter via email!*



Men of the church were in on Monday, November 29 to set up the tree. The LWML ladies decorated the Christmas tree and the church on Tuesday, November 30th.



Pastor Allen defines the *Twelve Days of Christmas* as Eleanor Allen looks on.



Barbara Barney, Donna Hermon, Phyllis Williams, Elinor Goodrich and Gloria Okeson decorate the tree.

MITES

Two Mighty Mite Grants chosen to highlights for December are: Digitalized Classes for Specific Ministry Pastor Program-Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne— a grant of \$36,000. The LCMS Convention in 2007 established the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program as an alternate path to serving congregations in a specified kind of ministry through distance education, thereby allowing men to serve where they are needed while also learning. Professors at both seminaries will create classes on the Internet to be used by students all over the United States. Concordia Theological Seminary is actively working with seminarians around the world to provide much needed theological education and to support missions, ministries, seminaries, and SMP by digitizing materials and making classes available over the Internet. This grant of \$36,000 will purchase new digital equipment and software to teach and assist our servants here and throughout the world.



- 1— Youth Night & Bible Study
7:00-8:30pm | Youth Lounge
5— FISH @ Our Redeemer,
Meet at St John @ 2:30-5:30pm
8— Youth Night & Bible Study
7:00-8:30pm | Youth Lounge
15— Youth Night & Bible Study
7:00-8:30pm | Youth Lounge
19— Christmas Sweater Party
Meet at St John @ 3-5pm
22— Youth Night & Bible Study
7:00-8:30pm | Youth Lounge
24— CHRISTMAS EVE!
29— Alyeska Day Trip
Meet at 8am. Bring \$\$ for lift
tickets, rentals & food.

High School Youth Schedule



Confirmation Classes

Will take a break for Christmas.
Classes resume
January 5th.

Confirmation Parent Meeting

January 5th @ 5pm



Jamie L. Walters, DCE

907-355-1456

dce@st-john-lutheran.org

Look for me on Facebook & Twitter (dcejamie)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY OF *THE SR HIGH L.I.G.H.T.*,
CONTACT JAMIE VIA EMAIL