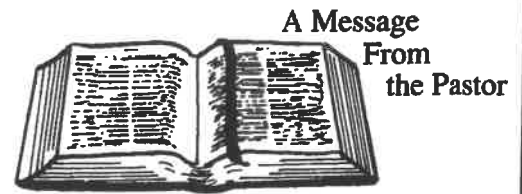




'Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love'



“DO OVER”

Remember when as a child we were playing some game with our friends and we failed to hit the ball...or catch the ball, or something else we did or didn't do, that didn't go well... and we would shout out, "Do Over!" How often in life, have we all wished for a "Do Over"?

How about after you decided to go here for vacation, instead of there...and had a terrible time. How about the football quarterback who is walking back to the bench after throwing an interception... or a baseball pitcher who just threw a fastball instead of a curve ball and it was hit for a grand-slam homerun. I bet both of them would like a "do over". Or how about the used car you bought, just because you liked the color of it better than the other options. But you don't get to look at it that much, because it spends more time in the repair garage than in your own. How about a "do over" with that?

Last year a movie came out called: "The Do Over", starring Adam Sandler and David Spade. It was about two down-on-their-luck guys who decide to fake their own deaths and start over with new identities; only to find the people they're pretending to be are in even deeper trouble. I didn't see the movie, and from what I read, few people did. Maybe the makers of this movie would like a "Do Over".

A recent book by author Rick Domeier is titled: "Can I Get A Do Over?" Unforgettable stories of second chances and life makeovers. I quote two brief accounts...

"I would not drink alcohol. I am a recovering alcoholic. I drank from 17 to 46, caused pain and unhappiness to my first two children and my extended family and friends. I am now 8 years sober, very grateful and learning to forgive myself. My life would have been so different. - Wendy

If I could, I would remarry the same sweet girl I fell in love with the first time. I would be much nicer to her and not fuss so much. I would treasure my time with her and do more things to create memories together. And I would make her get yearly breast exams. It's been over 12 years, and I am still as heart broken as the day she was taken from me. I miss her so much. - Bill

Did you ever consider that January 1st of each New Year... can be for you a "do over"? It's like the man in a cartoon who says to another man, "My resolution for this new year is to do all the things I didn't do last year."

So many of our New Year's Resolutions are simply attempts at "do over's" from the previous year...all the "wish-I-had's and "should-a-done's". There are even categories for such "do over's": Relationships – Jobs – Friends – Education – Home - and Roads not Taken.

As we as Christians enter this new year of 2018, I want to bring you good news. No matter what has happened or hasn't happened in the past, Jesus Christ can make you new...He can give you a "do-over". For our God is the God of "do-over's". He's the God of second chances, and more. He's the God of fresh starts, clean slates, new chapters, and another day; because He's the God of hope.

And our Lord has a plan and purpose for each day that He gives us. God specializes in “do-over’s”. He can take a broken life and set it straight again. He can take a hopeless situation and infuse it with hope. He can offer perfect love and forgiveness to people who are repentant.

Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, was born to give the whole world a “do over”. He was born unto us to forgive our sins, so that by faith in God’s grace we can have a new life in Jesus.

Just consider all those in the Bible to whom God gave a chance for a “do over” in their life.

MOSES was driven by fear and uncertainty, afraid to even speak God’s words. He had killed an Egyptian and run far away. But God had a plan for him. God became his strength in ways Moses had never known, and God made him into a great leader.

DAVID was known as a man after God’s own heart. But he allowed his affection for other things to lead him straight into temptation. He had a man killed, he took the wife of another, he lied, and he covered-up. Until he was broken and repented of his sins; and God in His great mercy forgave him. And though David faced the consequences of his sin, the Lord was with him. For even when we’re faithless, God remains faithful.

The apostle PAUL was once Saul, a persecutor of Christians, until the day he met Jesus on the road. He was blinded by light, God touched his eyes. And Paul saw differently, and he was given a fresh start and a new purpose in life. And God used this one man to lead countless others into new life through Christ.

What about the Prodigal Son...the example of us all. He wished his father dead, to get his inheritance; and then squandered it all in riotous living. Yet he was welcomed back by his father, as his son, he was forgiven and offered a new life... a: “do over”.

All of these are reminders to us that our Lord can take what little we feel like we have to offer him, our brokenness, our failures, our weaknesses and our mistakes, and He can still do great things through it all. Our loving Lord wants our love, our repentance and our trust in Him, so that He can make of our life a: “DO OVER” unto His glory.

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:18-19)

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (II Corinthians 5:17)

Together with you as we enter a New Year, and the opportunity for a Godly “Do Over” in our life,


Pastor Jeff G. Gavin

PERSONAL PRAYER TIME

During our Sunday worship time of prayer, we offer a time for personal prayer. Each Sunday your Pastor leads you in prayer for various issues and people; but there are issues and people in your personal life which need prayer. So... we will include a time for silent prayer for any and all personal issues, concerns or burdens you may have; or your prayers for family, friends, home, church, nation or world, which may be on your heart and mind, so that you can bring these to your Lord in prayer.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD - 2017

The Year In Review

It was indeed a "Year of our Lord" for St. John, as His presence was evident in so many ways.

2017 WAS FOR ST. JOHN, A YEAR OF:

- + Continuing to do our part toward Christian "Kingdom work", through the usage of our lower level as a worship center for Maranatha Church (Hispanic); and our old school building used for ministry and worship by Immanuel Presbyterian Bible Church (Korean)
- + Another successful Community Roast Beef and Spaghetti Dinner
- + Continued learning and fun in our Children's Sunday School
- + Full page color Easter and Christmas ads with sister churches in the Daily Herald newspaper
- + A constant variety of worship services, many unique to St John, each and every Sunday
- + Special and successful 'Food Drives' for those in need in Mt Prospect, and for our own members
- + The tragic loss of three members of the Crawford Family in a February auto accident
- + The continued enjoyment of the St John Bowling League season
- + A signed contract in April from developers to purchase our East side property to construct a Senior Living Facility.
- + Informative and enjoyable Adult Bible Classes
- + Hosting the Junior Soccer League of the Chicago Fire professional soccer team
- + Contributing to Mt. Prospect's Centennial with tours of our church building and cemetery promoted and conducted for the community, historical brochures distributed, and a special section placed on our website about the history of St John and Mt. Prospect
- + Various congregational fellowships and meals, and enjoyable Fellowship Club activities
- + The continued hard work by our Board of Church Properties members
- + High hopes, with a purchase contract in hand, of new church construction – consideration of interim facilities – and "clean out" efforts within the school building
- + Increased ministry, counseling and aid given to needy members and non-members alike
- + Ten days of guided tours conducted of our historical church and cemetery for several classes from District 57 Elementary Schools
- + The continuation of our 9:15 am Summer Worship Schedule during July and August
- + Recognition of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with our own special services - a concert of Luther's Music by our Music Director Jim Vyhanek - and a joint service headed by Jim and Pastor Jeff, with us, Immanuel, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Churches, at Good Shepherd
- + Hopes dashed with one of the development partners backing out of the property sale contact
- + A year of recognitions for our staff: Jim Vyhanek, 30 years serving St John – Pastor Jeff: 25 years serving St John & 35 years in Ministry – Cathy Schubkegel: 18 years as Church Secretary
- + The continued fine work of our Music Director, Choir, Hand-bell Choir, Praise Singers and Musicians
- + The continued fine work of our many Board and Committee members, Council members, Church Secretary and dedicated volunteers, for whom we can be so thankful!

It was a year of births and deaths, joys and sorrows, Bible classes, meetings, events, special worship services, visits, programs and ministries, numerous activities, fun fellowships and countless blessings for our St. John Family.

It was all of this and more, for 2017 was indeed a: "Year of our Lord" at our St. John.

2017 STATISTICS

Deaths: 5

Youth Confirmation: 1

Adult Profession of Faith: 1

Adult Confirmation: 1


Membership

Baptized Souls: 432 / Communicants: 250

◁ ▷ ◁ ▷ ◁ ▷ ◁ ▷ ◁ ▷ **COMMITMENT** ▷ ▷ ▷ ▷ ▷ ▷

I AM YOUR CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPE

- * I would like to talk with you,
for I am part of your faith life.
- * I may not be familiar to you,
but I can help you be a better Christian.
- * I like to go to church every Sunday,
for I help you to be a partner with Christ.
- * I am very small, but I am vital to the
ministry of your church.

00	JAN 7 2018
	Our St. John Lutheran Church 1100 Linneman • Mt. Prospect, Illinois
	CURRENT EXPENSES . . . \$ _____ MISSIONS and SYNOD . . . \$ _____ _____ \$ _____ Name _____ \$ _____
<small>Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all. -- Proverbs 22:2 NIV God loves a cheerful giver.</small>	
<small>C.P.H. St. Louis, MO Made in U.S.A.</small>	

- * I challenge you to be as kind to God as He has been to you.
- * I am only paper, but I carry the full gift of a generous heart.
- * I am the only "pocketbook" you need to take to church on Sunday.
- * I am not a burden, but the joy of the faithful believer.
- * I am your chance to preach, for I am a silent sermon of your devotion.
- * I am your way of a showing trust and love to your Lord.
- * I am . . . **YOUR CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPE.**

***** PLEASE REMEMBER . . .**

**The surest and easiest way to solve any church financial situation is to . . .
Fill and bring YOUR Church Offering Envelope to worship . . . every Sunday!**



We hope you will come and join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM** for our **ADULT Sunday Bible Class** in the lower level of the school building . . . *open question forum with refreshments and sweets - every week.*

Please join us for our **Mid-Week Bible Class** on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the lower level of the school building.

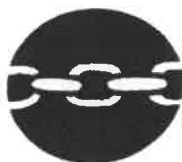
All children in Preschool and up are invited to join us for **Sunday School for ALL AGES** on **Sundays at 9:15 AM** in the lower level of the school building.

ALTAR FLOWERS . . .

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar, *(or confirm your "standing order")* please contact **Ellen Gehrke** at **(847) 220-1709** **NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE PRIOR TUESDAY!**



ALTAR FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS CAN COST AS LITTLE AS \$15! Please Note: When you donate flowers for our worship services, you are welcome to bring the flowers home after the 10:30 service.



Prayer Chain

If you would like a prayer for a need for yourself or someone you know . . . allow members of your St. John Family to offer prayer for this need. Primary contact people for the Prayer Chain are Darlene Bergstrom (847-259-0084) or Pastor (847-593-7670, ext. 1). Please call and give them your prayer request.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Along with "Birthday Greetings", we will now be wishing a "Happy Anniversary" to these couples who were married during each month by printing their marriage date.

If you are unsure if we might have a record of your wedding date . . . please contact the church office (847-593-7670, ext 1) with this information. We would like to include all of our married couples and wish to them . . . **"Happy Anniversary"**:

Armando & Marsha Hernandez	January 6
John & Brittany Coleman	January 8
Santiago & Laurel Marin	January 14
Eugene & Waltraut Zimmer	January 16
David & Sharon Wille	January 26



**The Board of Elders
is very happy to announce
a celebratory party
for the 25 Years that
Pastor Jeff has served
at our St. John Church,
and his 35 years
in the Ministry**

DATE: Sunday January 14, 2018

WHERE: The Rose Garden Cafe
111 East Higgins Road
Elk Grove Village, IL
(847) 952-1881

TIME: Fellowship & Cocktails: Noon - 1:00 PM*
***CASH BAR**

Dinner: 1:00 PM

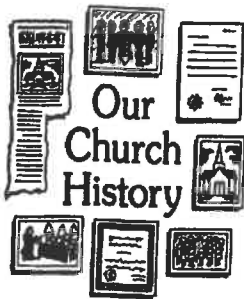
MENU: Choice of: Roast Sirloin of Beef w/ Au Jus
OR Boneless Stuffed Breast of Chicken

Includes: Cream of Chicken Soup,
Green Salad w/ Dressings, Baked Potato,
Rolls & Butter, Ice Cream

COST: \$20 PER PERSON, with decision of choice of
dinner and checks made out to: Jon Tertel

TICKETS AVAILABLE: 8:00 AM George Jensen
10:30 AM Jon Tertel

RESERVATIONS (AND MONEY) DUE BY JANUARY 7, 2018



Would a member of each Board, Committee, or Club kindly write a brief summary of their year's activities or meetings to be included in the Annual Historian's Report for 2017.

Please mail or give it to Dorothy Halvorsen or you can drop it off in the Historical Committee Mailbox in the Church Lounge, or in the Church Office **BY THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY!!**
THANK YOU.



Another Year is Dawning

Another year is dawning,
 Dear Father, let it be,
 In working or in waiting,
 Another year with Thee.

Another year in progress,
 Another year of praise,
 Another year of proving,
 Thy presence in all the days.

Another year of mercies,
 Of faithfulness and grace,
 Another year of gladness,
 The glory of Thy face.

Another year of leaning
 Upon Thy loving breast,
 Another year of trusting,
 Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service,
 Of witness for Thy love,
 Another year of training
 For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
 Dear Father, let it be,
 On earth, or else in heaven,
 Another year for Thee.

A SPECIAL HOLIDAY THANK YOU . . .

To our Choir, Handbells, Praise Singers, and all who did so much to enhance our holiday worship service.
 Special Thanks to our Music Director, Jim Vyhanek for all of his fine work.

A Thank You also to those who work extra hard during the holiday season, but are often forgotten, our Secretary: Cathy Schubkegel and our ever loyal and dedicated volunteer Jerry Guanci.

A PERSONAL THANK YOU:

"Lynn and I would like to express our deep appreciation for all the lovely cards, thoughtful gifts and good wishes which we have received from you . . . our St. John Family, during the past Christmas season.

May the Christ of Christmas remain with you throughout this year and continue to bless all aspects of your life.

Pastor Jeff & Lynn

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

You are invited and encouraged to participate in the Family life at St. John.
The following opportunities for fellowship are available . . .

EVERYONE IN THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED!!!

ST. JOHN SUPERBOWL TAILGATE PARTY

**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 4, 2018**

AT 4:30 PM
(Game kicks off at 5:00 PM)

in the School basement
with the
BIG SCREEN TV!!!

Home-made Pizza will be provided

Bring an appetizer or a dessert to pass
(& to enter into the contest)

BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES

Bring your own lawn chair
(or just use one of
our folding chairs)



COME FOR: - THE FELLOWSHIP

- THE FOOTBALL GAME

- THE COMMERCIALS

- THE FOOD

**- THE EXCITING CONTEST FOR BEST:
DESSERT, HOT APPETIZER AND
COLD APPETIZER**

**. . . this year's judges are: Karen (Schubkegel) Rill,
Christy Schubkegel & El-Roy Schoo**

BRING YOUR FAMILY . . . INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

(COME WATCH THE GAME AND ROOT FOR YOUR TEAM ON OUR BIG SCREEN TV!!)

VOTER'S MEETING . . .



The next Voters' Meeting will be on **Monday, February 26 at 7:30 PM IN THE CHURCH.**

The Agenda for this Voters' Meeting will be:

Board and Committee Reports

FELLOWSHIP CLUB MEETING

The next Fellowship Club Meeting will be **Tuesday, February 27 at 7:30 PM** in the lower level of the school building.



P.A.B. (Pay A Bill)

P.A.B. enables interested St. John Families to directly aid the ministries of their church by paying a current bill. This is designed as an opportunity for an "**Over-and-Above**" gift, beyond the Sunday offering envelope.

Pay-A-Bill as of end of 2017: \$3,335.00

Please take note of the slips of paper posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Each slip contains the source of a bill and the amount. If you wish to pay that bill, please remove the slip of paper and a small envelope, enclose your check (make checks payable to "St. John Lutheran Church"), and place it in the offering plate. **THANK YOU!**



SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

COFFEE BREAK FELLOWSHIP

Please note the sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex to volunteer to help serve this gathering on the third Sunday of the month. ***We need your help. Thank You!***



PLEASE REMEMBER TO HELP OTHERS



The St. John Fellowship Club is continuing their food drive for distribution to people who reside in the Northwest suburbs who are less fortunate than ourselves. All non-perishable food items will be taken to the Mount Prospect Food Pantry. Remember also that paper & soap products (shampoo, etc.) are not included in food stamps.

A "deposit box" is located in the Cloak Room. If you have any questions, please call Luther & Jill Legg (847) 593-6335.

ATTENTION ALL THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS

If you wish to name St. John as your choice for your Thrivent Choice dollars, please call: 800-847-4836.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have previously named St. John as your choice . . . you must do so **every** year.

NOTICE . . .

Those who may be expecting your order of a car "bumper magnet" . . . due to circumstances, this order can not be completed.

Dear Church Members:

Due to our schedules I am sorry to say I must give up doing the Church flower sale. I know this seems very early but, contacts with the florist starts in January so we can save the date. So I am giving enough notice as to find some one who has time and is willing to handle this fund raiser with the proper care it deserves. I also hope people decide to order again as I heard some mention of undesired flowers due to unhealthy plants. Also I gather the people in charge of planting are to also care for these plants. Please contact the Church Office (847-593-7670) if you are interested in serving in this position. Thank you for allowing me to serve until now.



Yours in Christ, *Debbie Hug*



The Altar Guild is currently looking for additional volunteers who would enjoy preparing and maintaining the altar for worship at St. John. Volunteers are assigned to a rotating team committed to serve 2 months a year to set up for communion, change altar paraments, and to refill the altar candles as needed.

ALTAR FLOWERS . . . To the honor and glory of God

It is always a privilege to remember a loved one or a special event in our life as a blessing from our Lord and give Him honor and glory.

Think about all the occasions YOU could place flowers on the altar of your Lord. We are always appreciative of your flower donation. Let's continue to have flowers on our altar every Sunday.



If you would like to donate flowers . . . please contact **ELLEN GEHRKE** at **(847) 220-1709**.

JANUARY



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Carmen Hetrea	January 1	Michael Koeppen	January 10
Nicole Roediger	January 1	Chuck Glen	January 10
Leslie Raygor	January 6	Ruby Franz	January 14
Thomas Kijak	January 6	Joyce Hayden	January 20
Suzanne Travis	January 8	Christopher Klatka	January 23
Ed Pfingsten	January 9	Kyah Stephey	January 24
Joe Nather	January 10	Curt Gerlitz	January 26

If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the Church office for a correction... Thank You!

May God Bless You on Your Birthday

REVISED JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2018



JAN: Jackie Koeppen & Jerry Guanci
FEB: Jan Anderko

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>
Jan. 7	8:00 AM	Fred Hug	Arnie Johansen	Ron Leaf
	10:30 AM	Jon Tertel	Andrew Tertel	Jon Tertel & Art Schiemann
Jan. 14*	8:00 AM	Curt Gerlitz	Ron Leaf George Jensen	Curt Gerlitz
	10:30 AM	Youssef Tabib	Jon Tertel Andrew Tertel	Youssef Tabib & Heidi Tabib
Jan. 21	8:00 AM	Dwayne Mueller	Wayne Limpinsel	Alice Mueller
	10:30 AM	Marius Hetrea	Ron Busse	Art Schiemann
Jan. 28*	8:00 AM	George Jensen	Betty Roediger Sara Roediger	Betty Roediger
	10:30 AM	Jon Tertel	Trudy Klein Andrew Tertel	Tracy Galla & Phyllis Betts
Feb. 4	8:00 AM	Ron Leaf	El-Roy Schoo	Ron Leaf
	10:30 AM	Youssef Tabib	Heidi Tabib	Youssef Tabib & Heidi Tabib
Feb. 11*	8:00 AM	George Jensen	Arnie Johansen Wayne Limpinsel	Alice Mueller
	10:30 AM	Marius Hetrea	Jon Tertel Trudy Klein	Art Schiemann & Jon Tertel
Feb. 14* Ash Wednesday Worship	7:00 PM	Jon Tertel	Ron Busse Andrew Tertel	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 18	8:00 AM	Fred Hug	Debbie Hug	Sara Roediger
	10:30 AM	Jon Tertel	Andrew Tertel	Phyllis Betts & Tracy Galla
Feb. 21 Lenten Worship	7:00 PM	Ron Leaf	George Jensen	Lent
Feb. 25*	8:00 AM	Curt Gerlitz	Arnie Johansen Ron Leaf	Curt Gerlitz
	10:30 AM	Marius Hetrea	Jon Tertel Ron Busse	Jon Tertel & Stasia White

(* Communion)

ELDER FOR THE MONTH:

JAN: Ron Leaf
FEB: Curt Gerlitz

NOTE: If you are unable to serve your Lord at a scheduled worship service, your own replacement must be secured.