



Saint John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Eagle December 2019

In this Issue

Table of Contents

Pastor's Greeting.....	2
Up Coming Events.....	3
Kids News.....	4
Youth Group	5
Dec. Worship Schedule	6
Advent Brunch	7
Christmas Angel	7
Fellowship Folks.....	8
Women's Ministry.....	8
Alternative Giving.....	9
Share the News	10
Church Highlights	11
Birthdays & Anniv	12
Prayers	12
Staff	13



Pastor's Page

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" James 1:17

Christmas Question for you: When you're out shopping for gifts, do you ever buy something for yourself? If you do, do you give yourself grief for it? Or do you just treat yourself because you deserve it? I say, go nuts, get yourself something nice!



God is the giver of all good gifts. We celebrate with gifts because he is generous beyond measure. It's his nature. And if we're children of God, it will be our nature too. There are so many ways to give this season. Would you ask God what he's calling you to bless this year? Our Alternative Gift Giving Fair on Sunday, December 8th, might give you some great ideas this year.

I know God wants to bless you this Christmas with the gift of his presence. Let's all take special care to listen to his voice as we enjoy this month together. **Remember, all our Sunday worship gatherings will be combined together at 10am.** It will be fun to share this season with the whole church meeting as one.

Merry Christmas
Greg



**New NALC Bishop
Meet & Greet
Saturday, December
7th, 2pm**

**Don't Forget!
Congregational
Budget Meeting
Sunday,
December 15th
After the Cantata**

Up Coming Events

Advent Brunch

Sunday December 1st 5-7 pm

Fun for all ages! Join us for potluck, making advent wreaths & care packages, plus decorating and singing around the Christmas tree.

Sunday December 8th Children's Christmas Play!

Heaven and Nature Sing Children's Christmas Play coming Sunday, December 8th One Service at 10:00 am



Sunday December 15th Christmas Celebration

Sunday, December 15, One Service at 10:00 am
Annual Congregational Mtg. Part 1 at 11:15 am



Sunday December 22nd

Sunday, December 22, One Service at 10:00 am
Ukulele Ugly Sweater Sunday



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

4:00 PM Candlelight Worship

6:00 PM Candlelight Worship



Sunday, December 29th,

Worship and Carols, One Service at 10:00 am
Scarf Distribution & Lunch at 11:30 am

Swede Johnson Memorial Monday, December 23rd

Join us for a brief gathering at the Saint John's Columbarium as we remember Swede. Richard "Swede" Johnson passed away in Charlotte, North Carolina on May 5, 2019 after a short illness. Swede's wife, Marilyn Andersen Johnson, was laid to rest there in the Columbarium in 2014. We'll gather on Monday, December 23rd at 11am.

Kids Up and Coming News



KidsChurch continues Sundays at 9:30 and we are currently working through a series called Advent Adventures. Maybe you are thinking of a little calendar with chocolates?! Advent means “to wait patiently.” In the Christian world, it means to patiently anticipate the coming of the Messiah. In order to get through our lessons, we are starting a little early but Advent traditionally begins on the first Sunday after

Thanksgiving and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is about spending a little time each day anticipating the birth of our Savior, and all those who waited patiently — Bible characters, Christ’s ancestors, the prophets, his parents, and even the angels! **Be sure to pick up the Advent Adventures Family guide to help facilitate some meaningful devotional and family time around your December family meals.**



Kids Christmas Program Sunday, December 8th at 10 am

Invite your family and friends to experience the Joy and meaningful message of Christmas. Get ready for a Special treat following the service!

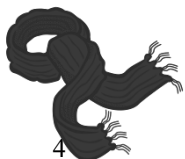
PLUS - Practice, practice, practice your lines!!! And don't miss our dress rehearsal on December 7 from 9-11 am.



Save the Date for Sharing Piano Music & Memories at Saint John's with pianist Louise Frye & Belva Hanson on **Sunday, January 12th, 2020 at 3:00 P.M.**

FREEWILL OFFERING with donations benefitting the Youth and Children of Saint John's Lutheran Church.

The concert will include solo piano works by Martha Mier, J.S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, Beethoven, Haydn, Greig, Liszt, and Chopin. Also included will be one piano, four hands with Belva and will feature Four American Folk Songs, and the delightful “Little White Donkey”. Louise will be sharing some of her memories as a student in her early teens to adulthood from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Many of the pieces were first learned during those years. Please plan to attend the recital and refreshments will be served following the recital.



Kids and parents (or grandparents!) are invited to join us for **Scarf distribution on Sunday, December 29th following worship**. Kids 6th grade and younger need an adult present for this outing. Please see details on the youth page.

Youth Group News

Youth group ELF Christmas Party & Movie Night
Sunday, December 15th 5-8 pm
Grades 7th-12th

Drysdale Home:

Dinner will be provided so please RSVP to Cindi or Dawn

Bring a wrapped \$5 OR LESS gift. Come in comfy PJs &

Slippers or your Ugly Christmas Sweater. Get ready for silly games, fun crafts, and indulging in lots of SUGAR. "We **elves** try to stick to the four main food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corns and syrup."



HUME
MINISTRIES

Hume Lake Winter Camp

When: February 28th - March 1st

Grades: 7-12

Cost: \$50 per student: \$25 Non-refundable deposit is past due. All changes need to be made by the end of December. Talk to Cindi if you are not signed up and we'll see if there is room to add. **Total cost for non-member friends: \$215 plus spending cash.**

Sunday, December 29th
Scarf Distribution & Lunch
No Youth Group that evening, please join us from 11:30-1:30

It's getting cold outside! All year long many of our women and children have been working hard knitting scarves to be distributed to local homeless or those who just happen to be a bit down on their luck. Join us as we head to local bus stops, beaches and parks to tie scarves and leave them as gifts to be found. We'll share in fellowship and lunch following our time of serving others. Bring cash for a fast food lunch.



December Worship Schedule

Dec. 1st one Gathering at 10:00 am ~Holy Communion

Dec. 8th one Gathering at 10:00 am KidsChurch Christmas Pageant

Dec. 15th one Gathering at 10:00 am Holy Communion
Combined Choirs Christmas Cantata
All-Congregational Meeting following Worship

Dec. 22th one Gathering at 10:00 am ~ Ukulele Ugly Sweater Sunday

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
 4:00 pm – Contemporary
 6:00 pm – Traditional

Dec. 29th - one Gathering at 10:00 a.m. Annual Worship & Carols Traditional



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ◆ January Newsletter Deadline | December 10th 8:30am |
| ◆ Annual Report Deadline | December 15th |
| ◆ Christmas Eve Bulletin Information | December 17th 8:30 am |
| ◆ December 29 Bulletin Information | December 18th 8:30 am |

**Please try to get your information & articles in early;
 Due to our holiday schedule we are unable to make exceptions.**

Just a reminder that the Annual Report Deadline is sneaking up on us. This year's deadline is December 17th, 2018. Please keep your article to 1 page. (Type-written if possible or you can email your report to office@saintjohnsag.com) We have extra copies of last year's Annual Report in the office in case you would like a copy to help you prepare this year's report. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email.

**Office Closed For Holidays
 December 24th – January 1st, 2020**

Come One, Come All to FAMILY ADVENT BRUNCH



Sunday, December 1st
11:30 AM
Following the 10:00 Service
Ouimette Hall



- **POTLUCK BRUNCH AT 11:30 AM**

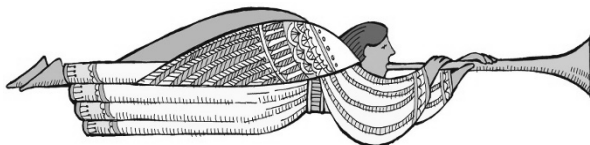
Bring your favorite Main Dish, Side Dish, Salad or Dessert

- **ADVENT ACTIVITIES**

Craft an Advent Wreath for your family or our homebound
Help to decorate the Church for Christmas
Decorate sugar cookies
Traditional Scandinavian Treats

- **CAROLING IN THE COMMONS**

A special time together in the Commons decorating our Church
Family Christmas Tree with Hot Cocoa, Apple Cider and Cookies



Christmas Angel Project

Watch for the small Christmas Tree in the Commons, decorated with cards that have the name, age & gift wishes of a child from Iglesia Luterana, whose life will be brightened by your generosity. Go shopping, wrap your gift, return to the Church by Thursday, Dec. 19th – gifts will be delivered to Santa Maria for you on Friday Dec. 20th.

Fellowship Folks

Our belated thanks go to our hosts for October headed by Janice Goodwin and all the talented folks that supported them. As I was gone in Monterey that weekend a little birdie sang a word of praise for those folks.

Now for our November gathering. We want to thank Sandy and Frank Lebens and their huge group of helpers for an evening of fun and enjoyment of tasting all different kinds of food and flavors. I tasted food I never had tasted before and if I was ordering off a menu probably would not have ordered. I'm sure I tasted every variety that was available and they were all delicious.

Looking ahead-----**WE ARE LOOKING FOR HOSTS.** December we'll tie Fellowship Folks in with our Advent event on Sunday December 1st. Advent time is a fun time and I expect that the activities planned will be to everyone's liking. Just hang around after church service to take in the variety of activities.

We need hosts starting in January for the whole year, so don't be shy step forward and provide our congregation with an opportunity to fellowship. For all future events you can pick the date, time and what you would like to do for any of the months available. Just let us know by either jotting a note down on the attendance slip or give Frank Drake a call, so we can provide any assistance you might want.

Looking forward to a year full of fun and fellowship your faithful servant
Frank Drake

Women's Ministry

**All women are invited to attend
the Women's Ministry Christmas Luncheon.**



DATE & TIME: Wednesday December 11th, 12:00

LOCATION: The Commons at Saint John's Lutheran Church. The luncheon will be catered by the Olive Garden, and will be served buffet style with pasta, including gluten free, meat entries, salad and breadsticks.

Feel free to bring a dessert, if you wish.

Cost is \$17.00 per person. Sunday December 1st is the deadline to sign up and pay. Please call either Ruth Kapka, or Louise Frye.



Alternative Gift Giving Christmas

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING CHRISTMAS IS COMING
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th!!**



On Sunday, December 8th, the Social Outreach Services team will be hosting an Alternative Gift Giving Fair in the Commons area of the church from 9:00 am-12:30pm. So many of us have people on our Christmas lists that are difficult to shop for or would rather have the money spent on a gift go to someone in need. This Christmas Fair is your chance to support a charitable cause in honor of someone on your Christmas list. **WHAT AN AMAZING WAY TO SPREAD GOD'S LOVE TO THOSE IN NEED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHILE HONORING OUR LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS!!!** At our Alternative Gift Giving Fair for Christmas, several charitable organizations will be featured: HEIFER INTERNATIONAL-make a donation to purchase farm animals to sustain small farms in Africa and South America; the ZOZU PROJECT (Solid Rock Christian School in Arua, Uganda)-make a donation toward ongoing school supplies and land acquisition adjacent to the existing church and school for school expansion and the ability to serve additional children. The Ouimette's and the Lebens' were able to bring back some wonderful Ugandan bags, baskets, etc. as well as the jewelry and boxes made by the Moms of the children at the school so watch for those items on the ZOZU sale table; IGLESIA LUTERANA SANTA CRUZ- Donations made will support the "Feed My People" program to take lunch to the field workers who toil to provide the fruits and vegetables that we all enjoy. Sandwiches are made and taken to the fields and a short prayer service is provided while the men and women have their lunch. Sometimes a worker will pass up their lunch in order to be able to take it home for a child; CHINA SERVICE VENTURE - Donations made will be used to purchase rice and oil for the families that are taking care of the "Stay Behind Children" in China. Pastor Jeff Neller-moe is hoping to travel to China in December and will purchase the rice and oil while he is in China and distribute it to the needy families.

Each of these non-profits will be available for you to make a Christmas gift donation in the name of a loved one. **ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.** We hope you will bring your checkbooks and come and support our efforts to share in the true spirit of Christmas by giving meaningful gifts to our loved ones and at the same time help those in need. Thank you.

Remember those
who are less
fortunate



SHARE The News!



Thank You

A giant "Thank You" to my Saint John's family for all the prayers, well wishes and cards while I recover from my recent back surgery. Your prayers and support have helped me along the way. Recovery is going a little slower this time but I'm feeling a little better each day and hope to see you soon. Blessings, Rena

BERTO VAN VEEN-CONTRACTOR, EXTRAORDINAIRE

To our congregation that was not around in the early 1990's I felt it befitting to pass on some information concerning Berto and the building of our church. This past Saturday the 26th a group of approximately 150 gathered at the Far Western Tavern in Orcutt.



Berto constructed the tavern at the new location when the Far Western moved from Guadalupe. In the early 1990's I headed a group of church members called the Development Task Force. We had put out early feelers for Contractors that might be interested in building our facility. Berto had built several churches in the area and decided to come to our task force weekly meetings. Although a contract had not been signed, he came on his own and offered ideas and suggestions to help keep our costs down. Our task force visited a couple of the churches he had built and a beautiful home in the foothills. We all were impressed with the quality of the structure. In the beginning we had problems with the architect which another task force had hired. When drawings were not being produced we decided to sever our relations with this individual, and Berto suggested Chuck Cebula who expeditiously produced the drawings so we could start construction. Our construction activities went through 3 phases to reach the beautiful building we now occupy to worship and serve our Lord. Phase 1 consisted of building the Sanctuary as is now, the office wing, the kitchen size as now, and a gathering room with classrooms built around the perimeter. Phase 2 consisted of removing the classroom walls that were constructed so they could easily be removed, expanding the gathering room to a hall, and construction of the education wing. Phase 3 consisted of building the Commons area which has served our congregation admirably for memorials, and our Sunday coffee and goodies fellowship period. During the first and second phases Berto, at his choosing, would daily stop at my house in the morning, we would have coffee & cookies, discuss what was going to be accomplished that day. He would make suggestions to enhance the building and save us money. I think the most notable accomplishment was that he completed the church ahead of schedule and under budget. You just don't normally find that occurring in construction of a facility. On a personal basis I was very appreciative of Berto's friendship and annually from the beginning to when Ginny passed away, delivering either flowers, plants, or candy for her. I like to think of Berto not as a God fearing man, because I do not believe he has to fear God, but as a man respecting and praying to God. God certainly was looking out for us when he chose Berto to be our Contractor. May the good Lord bless and watch over this man and his family as he moves into his next chapter of life. Frank Drake



Church Highlights

December Council Highlights

- ◆ Council began work on the 2020 budget
- ◆ Pastor Greg shared that staff reviews are almost all done
- ◆ Council conducted Pastor Greg’s staff review
- ◆ The new NALC Bishop will be visiting Saint John’s on Saturday, December 7th from 2-4pm. All are welcome.

Lay Staff Christmas Bonus

Would you like to give a gift to our hard working staff? These are the people that keep our church on track and running. They all go above and beyond for our church. It would be so wonderful for us to do the same for them. Please join with me and take a pew envelope and enclose a check, some cash, some spare change...

Let us show our love to them. Merry Christmas to you all!

Greg



<u>Income/Expenses:</u>	Oct. 2019	YTD
Income	25,219.15	290,773.10
Expenses	<u>39,745.81</u>	<u>355,885.24</u>
	-14,526.66	-65,112.14



ATTENDANCE

Nov. 3 128 (Family Sunday)	Nov. 10 151 includes 10 in Kids Church	Nov. 17 147 includes 18 in Kids Church	Nov. 24 119 includes 12 in Kids Church
---	--	--	--



December

- 2 BORJA, JANICE
- 7 CAL WOOD
- 8 IRENE RODIN
- 10 BRIAN BELDEN
- 11 GABRIELA SILVERSTONE
- 12 ANDY DODDS,
MIKE EBERSOLE,
CANDY KASEMAN,
BOB WEIGER
- 15 PRISCILLA THOMAS
- 18 TERRY FIBICH
- 22 VALERIE REILLY,
SCOTT TAYLOR
- 23 FRANK DRAKE,
GWEN MUNDEN
- 24 TIM MYER
- 26 RON WERNER



24 CHUCK & DARLENE LACUGNA



Prayer Ministry

Our friends & family: **Sandra, Rena, Axel, Betty, Sandy, Pam, Shirley, Candy, Barbara, Arianna, Tim, Rose, Karen, Jim, Belinda, Eric.**



January Newsletter

Deadline is Dec. 10th

No exceptions due to holidays!!!!

Thanks to all the volunteers who have been such a blessing to the office. It would be impossible without you!

CONTACT information



STAFF

Saint John's Office Phone	805-489-1259
Pastoral Emergencies.	310-613-0283
General E-mail	office@saintjohnsag.com
Greg Wallace, Pastor	greg@saintjohnsag.com
Cheryl Apfel, Office Admin	office@saintjohnsag.com
Cindi Wallace, Child & Youth Ministry Dir	cindi@saintjohnsag.com
David Goodwin, Council President	dgfin595@charter.net
Prayer Ministry Cindi Wallace, Pamela Glenn, office@saintjohnsag.com or 805-710-7941	cindi@saintjohnsag.com

Church Website www.saintjohnsag.com

Office Assistant	Pam Glenn
Bookkeeper	Cheryl Apfel
Child & Youth Director	Cindi Wallace
Chancel Choir Director	Janice Goodwin
Handbells Director	Shari Bowman
Songfest Director	Cal Wood
Choir Accompanist	Shari Bowman
Organist	Dawn Russ
Nursery Attendant	KC Siddle
Financial Secretary	Kerry Wood

2019 Church Council

PRESIDENT

David Goodwin

VICE PRESIDENT

Cal Wood

TREASURER

Brian King

SECRETARY

Mark Ravera

Property

David Goodwin

Social Ministry

Sandy Lebens

Worship & Music

Cal Wood

Youth & Christian Ed

Steve Kapka

Good News Team

Cheryl Price

Stewardship

Roseann Carroll

Tim Myer

Children's Ministry

Mark Ravera



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Saint John's

The Eagle

Is published monthly by
Saint John's Lutheran Church
959 Valley Rd.

Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
(805) 489-1259 Fax 489-8719
office@saintjohnsag.com
www.saintjohnsag.com

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
Permit No. 17

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL-PLEASE DO NOT DELAY