

Pastor's Note

The Point of Christmas

Yesterday morning we heard the awful news that a student from Somalia injured several people at Ohio State University. It was said that he had been a refugee. I would ask everyone to pray for those who suffered injury, for the person who inflicted injury, for everyone's families, for all refugees and for all who are afraid.

Concern has been voiced about refugees recently. There is fear that some of them might commit acts like the one yesterday morning. And indeed, recently (before yesterday) various refugees, persons of color and immigrants have experienced bullying and harassment because of their background.

This is a problem. No one should be bullied. But the other question also exists in people's minds: "How can we be safe?"

This month is Advent and Christmas, when we prepare for and celebrate Jesus' birth. All of our Biblical Christmas stories come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. In both Gospels, the first words out of the angels' mouths when they announce Jesus' birth are "Do not be afraid." That will sound insane to some of us. How can we not be afraid in such a dangerous world?

And yet, that's the whole point of Christmas. Christ comes to us in this dangerous world. In Luke, Jesus and his family have no place to stay. In Matthew they are refugees themselves. Indeed, King

Herod commits whole massacres in an effort to kill them. The light of Christmas comes in a world full of terror.

Again, the question rises, "How do we know refugees nowadays are as safe as Jesus and his family?"

The answer is, we don't. No large group of people of any kind is entirely safe. You throw enough people into one category and someone in there is going to be crazy.

A more helpful questions might be, "How safe?" And how much risk does Jesus call us to take? Because scripture is clear. Jesus requires us to take risks for the sake of love.

With refugees, it may help to know that refugees are screened more carefully than any other group of people entering the U.S. It takes eighteen to twenty-four months and involves the National Counterterrorism Center, the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the Department of Defense and U.S. intelligence agencies. Fingerprints are cross-checked with multiple agencies. Individual interviews are conducted. Extra screening is performed for Syrian refugees.

It also may help to know that 85,000 refugees were accepted into the U.S. in 2016. Of them, 72% were women and children. According to Time magazine, about 25% are over sixty.

Finally, it helps to know that these people are Jesus. That is, they come to us in need. And yes, sometimes we have to keep ourselves safe from people who come to us in need. And we can't give everything to

everyone either. But sometimes we have to risk. Because if Christ comes to us in a dangerous world, Christ calls us to go to others in a dangerous world too.

So the following letter was brought to my attention by a St. John member. It comes from Americana, an organization that has served refugees in the Louisville area since 1990. It does not involve risk from us. But it does support refugees. I am wondering if you could prayerfully consider their request.

"Americana is asking for cards and letters from the community for our refugee and immigrant participants to say, "We're glad you're here" and "We stand by you".

Many of our participants, both young and old, are frightened from the recent bullying at schools and threats to "send them back", and we know there are many of you who want to reach out to them. Here's an opportunity to do just that. Throw a party and have all your friends write a letter. Have your family write a few letters before dinner. Let's put a note full of love into each of their hands.

You can send the letters to: Americana, 4801 Southside Drive, Louisville, KY, 40214. Please send it to the attention of Clare Rutz.

Thank you for your compassion and support.

Gratefully,

The Americana Family

P.S. If you can, please include images and drawings for some of our lower-level English participants."

Pr. Andy

Stay "in the loop" at St. John

Many interesting and important announcements about our shared life at St. John are shared on our Facebook page. If you do not have access to Facebook and would like to be kept in the loop with a telephone call, please notify the office and the Evangelism Committee will arrange to have someone call you with important announcements.

Good Gifts:

On Sundays during Advent in the Narthex, we will offer opportunities to provide a family in a developing country with honey bees, chicks, a pig, a goat, a sheep or a cow. Managed by ELCA Hunger Appeal, this is a great way to celebrate Christmas by helping others.

Advent Worship:

7:30pm Wednesdays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21. We will use Holden Vespers, a quiet version of Evening Prayer.
(No worship on Dec. 28)

Christmas Decorating

Dec 4th – Set up Christmas tree after the 11:00 service
Dec 11th – Decorate tree and church after the 11:00 service

Volunteers are needed and welcomed!



St. John Lutheran Church Sunday School Schedule 2016-2017

PreK - 2nd grade - Room 26

3rd thru 5th grade - Room 25

Middle and High School - Room 16

Dec. 4: Practice for Christmas Pageant
Dec. 11: Practice for Christmas Pageant
Dec. 18: Practice for Christmas Pageant/
Performance at 2nd service
Dec. 25: **No Sunday School**
Jan. 1: **No Sunday School**
Jan 8: Sunday School Resumes
Jan. 15 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day
weekend)
Jan 22
Jan. 29
Feb. 5
Feb 12
Feb. 18 (President's Day weekend)
Feb 26:
March 5: (First Sunday of Lent)
March 12: (Daylight Savings Time Begins)
March 19
Mar 26
April 2
Apr. 9 (Palm Sunday)
Apr. 16 (Easter)
Apr. 23
Apr. 30
May 7
May 14 (Mother's Day)
May 21 **Last day of Sunday School**



Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation

Beginning in mid-January, the Sunday School class that meets in the library will be watching and discussing the series of videos which looks at the literature of the Bible.

“Enjoy an intellectual adventure like no other in **Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation**, which offers a comprehensive, book-by-book analysis of the Bible from the fascinating perspective of literature and narrative. Delivered by religion scholar and acclaimed professor Craig R. Koester of Luther Seminary, these 36 lectures guide you through ancient stories, empowering you to engage with the books of the Bible as richly meaningful texts. You will get an unforgettably vivid sense of the Bible as a tale filled with complex characters, hidden meanings, and powerful life lessons.”

Sunday Pastries and Coffee

The Fellowship committee needs your



help with Sunday Pastries and Coffee :)

Starting in December we are asking members of the congregation to set up before and/or clean up after each Sunday's Coffee and Pastries. If you would like to help out on a Sunday the sign up sheet is posted on the Diehl Hall kitchen refrigerator. See Terri Manning or Mrs. Shawn Hall for any questions.



St. John Lutheran Church, Holidays in United States

Dec 2016 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>27</p> <p>8:45am - Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Coffee and</p> <p>10am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>11am - Worship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10am - Bridge Group @</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>5:30pm - Yoga</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5pm - TaeKwonDo</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6pm - RFBL - DH</p> <p>7pm - Men's Prayer &</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>5:30pm - VDC Reunion</p> <p>6pm - Choir Rehearsals</p> <p>6pm - Friendship Bible</p> <p>6:30pm - VDC Group</p> <p>7pm - OA Meeting</p> <p>7:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9am - Walk & Talk @ Mall</p> <p>5pm - TaeKwonDo</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6:30pm - Executive</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am - SOKY - yac</p> <p>10am - Youth Work Day</p> <p>8pm - AIAAnon</p>
<p>4</p> <p>8:45am - Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Coffee and</p> <p>10am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am - Christmas Pageant</p> <p>11am - Worship</p> <p>12:15pm - Set up</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>5:30pm - Yoga</p> <p>6:30pm - Fellowship</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5pm - TaeKwonDo</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:45am - Bridge Group</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>5:30pm - VDC Reunion</p> <p>6pm - Choir Rehearsals</p> <p>6pm - Friendship Bible</p> <p>6:30pm - VDC Group</p> <p>7pm - OA Meeting</p> <p>7:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9am - Walk & Talk @ Mall</p> <p>5pm - TaeKwonDo</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6pm - RFBL - DH</p> <p>6:30pm - Congregation</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>7pm - Ornament Exchange</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am - RFBL - DH</p> <p>10am - SOKY - yac</p> <p>8pm - AIAAnon</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Cantata Sunday</p> <p>8:45am - Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Coffee and</p> <p>10am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am - Christmas Pageant</p> <p>11am - Worship</p> <p>12:15pm - Confirmation</p> <p>12:15pm - Decorate</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>5:30pm - Yoga</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5pm - TaeKwonDo</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6pm - Property</p> <p>7pm - Men's Prayer &</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>5:30pm - VDC Reunion</p> <p>6pm - Friendship Bible</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsals</p> <p>6:30pm - VDC Group</p> <p>7pm - OA Meeting</p> <p>7:30pm - Worship</p> <p>7:45pm - Handbells</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Journal Deadline</p> <p>9am - Walk & Talk @ Mall</p> <p>5pm - TaeKwonDo</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6pm - Worship & Music</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am - SOKY - yac</p> <p>8pm - AIAAnon</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:45am - Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Coffee and</p> <p>10am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am - Christmas Pageant</p> <p>11am - Worship</p> <p>12:15pm - Youth Christmas</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>5:30pm - Yoga</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5pm - TaeKwonDo</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>7pm - Christian Education</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>5:30pm - VDC Reunion</p> <p>6pm - Friendship Bible</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsals</p> <p>6:30pm - VDC Group</p> <p>7pm - OA Meeting</p> <p>7:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9am - Walk & Talk @ Mall</p> <p>5pm - TaeKwonDo</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>4pm - Christmas Eve</p> <p>7:30pm - Christmas Eve</p> <p>8pm - AIAAnon</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>9:30am - Christmas Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Christmas Day observed</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>10am - Bridge Group @</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>5:30pm - Yoga</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5pm - TaeKwonDo</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>7pm - Men's Prayer &</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>5:30pm - VDC Reunion</p> <p>6pm - Friendship Bible</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsals</p> <p>6:30pm - VDC Group</p> <p>7pm - OA Meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9am - Walk & Talk @ Mall</p> <p>5pm - TaeKwonDo</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:30pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>10am - SOKY - yac</p> <p>8pm - AIAAnon</p>

What are the Youth up to?

As many of you remember, the youth wrapped up October by throwing a great Halloween party! Using the funds raised at the party and through selling baked goods at Trivia Night, the youth made a donation to an underprivileged school in New Orleans. The money will go towards helping a deserving child participate in a school field trip.

During November, we held an All Youth Meeting to discuss events for the coming year. It was a great opportunity for brainstorming new ideas, and penciling in tentative dates for upcoming events. Stay tuned in the coming months for more information on Ice Skating, Broomball, Trivia Night and more!

Coming Up in December:

- December 3rd – Cleanup and Christmas Decorating for a St. John member
- December 18th – Christmas Caroling

YouthQuake:

- If you are still interested in going to YouthQuake in January, please let Whitney Adkins know by December 11th so we can get you registered before the deadline!
- The event will take place Friday, January 13th through Sunday, January 15th in Cincinnati

Christmas Pageant:

- Please let Whitney Adkins or Sarah House know if you are interested in participating in the Christmas Pageant, which will take place on Sunday, December 18th. Rehearsals will be held during the Sunday School hour, beginning on December 4th.

December Birthdays

Beth Coleman	12/4
Brenda Lind	12/4
Brent Florence	12/5
Brandon Lowen	12/5
David Janes	12/6
Rosalie Wiebusch	12/6
John Gray	12/8
Henry Huber Jr.	12/9
Norma Gruen	12/10
Holly Perry	12/10
Pete Dallas	12/15
Mike Murray	12/15
Donis Hukee	12/17
Matt Janes	12/19
Candice Hann	12/20
Dee Lynch	12/20
Sherrill Williams	12/21
Aaron Lind	12/22
Teresa Jones	12/23
Sarah Nehring	12/23
Phillip Heslin	12/26
Thomas Irwin	12/28
Lindsay Romer	12/28
Jackson Eaton	12/29
Paula Eaton	12/29
Destiny Nordstrom	12/29
Haley Tabler	12/29
Donna Gladstone	12/30
Savannah House	12/30

December Anniversaries

Sherley & Rose Mary Sample	12/9
Russell & Dawn Perry	12/12
Bill & Gail Workman	12/16
John & Mary-Frances Gray	12/13
Paul & Lisa Konar	12/19
Chet & Barbara Gentry	12/26
Bernard & Donis Hukee	12/26
Jerry & Rosalie Wiebusch	12/28

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE REPORT

As always we had a very successful craft show, bake sale, raffle, and café. The weather was certainly perfect and we had a steady stream of shoppers.

The baked goods, as always, were spectacular and we thank all of you for your contributions. The cake that Sue Miller donated for the raffle was gorgeous and Merle Dahl had the good fortune to win it. (The staff at Magnolia Springs East got to enjoy it.) Thanks, Sue.

When all was totaled up, W/ELCA made a total of over \$950. These monies will be used throughout the year for the many projects that we support.

Thanks again for everyone's help, we really appreciate it.

CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Sunday, December 11th.

We will begin the evening at 5:30pm in the Young Activity Center. Please bring your favorite finger food on a platter ready to serve. W/ELCA will have drinks and some other goodies. At 7:00 we will be entertained by members from the Louisville Dulcimer Society.

Again this year, our special project will be Lifehouse Maternity Home. You may donate cash or check (made out to W/ELCA, memo: Lifehouse) or one or more of the below items from the *Lifehouse Wish List*: copy paper, legal pads, staples, canned food, salsa, disinfectant wipes, postage stamps, Kleenex, baking mix with icing, Kroger gift cards.

Book Club

We continue to meet at Homemade Pie and Ice Cream Kitchen, 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.

December 12 *The Lake House* by Kate Morton

January *The Nightingale*

February *The Revenant*

We always have a wonderful discussion. Join us if you would like to read.

St. John Annual Ornament Exchange

Friday, **December 9**, 7pm-9pm in Diehl Hall

Soda and lemonade will be provided
Bring an appetizer or dessert and adult beverage if you wish.

Each person bring a wrapped ornament.

All ages invited!!



Christmas Eve worship

Saturday, December 24

4:00pm and 7:30pm

Christmas Day worship

Sunday, December 25

9:30am



DECEMBER 2016 WORSHIP TEAM

12/4	12/11 Cantata	12/18 Program	12/25	
<u>Assisting Minister</u>			<u>Christmas Eve</u> 4:00pm <i>Lector:</i> Lola H. <i>Ushers:</i> Samples and Rosie W. <i>Asst. Min:</i> Carol G. <i>Acolytes:</i> Amber and Nicholas <i>Crucifer:</i> Ally 7:30pm <i>Lector:</i> Barbara H. <i>Ushers:</i> Hovells and Houses <i>Asst. Min:</i> Patti M. <i>Acolyte:</i> Holly <i>Crucifer:</i> RJ <u>Christmas Day at</u> <u>9:30am</u> <i>Lector:</i> Renae B/Patti G. <i>Ushers:</i> Klingemans <i>Asst. Min:</i> Patti M	
8:45	Mrs. Shawn H.	Carol G.		Jen S.
11:00	Patti M.	Mark L.		Mr. Shawn H.
<u>Crucifer/Communion Asst</u>				
11:00	Ally L.	Natalie L.		RJ P.
<u>Lector</u>				
8:45	Susan B.	Bob G.		Diane K.
11:00	Betty M.	Florence B.		John N.
<u>Ushers</u>				
8:45	Jennifer Stu. and Lorrie M.	Linda H. and Ruthann S.		Barbara Hu. and Chet L.
11:00	Matt & Whitney A. Bill & Gail W.	Lisa D, Mary Jo S, Terri & Brian P.	Marco & Ann H. Doug and Jake M.	
<u>Acolytes at 11:00am</u>				
	Holly P.	Amber L.	Haley T.	
<u>Altar Guild</u>				
<i>Month of December –</i>				
<u>Communion Prep</u>				
8:45	<i>Month of December – Jane Beckmann</i>			
11:00	<i>Month of December – Ann Hovell</i>			

Send a cheerful note to our members who are “under the weather” and/or can’t make it to church services or church events

If you would like a copy of the addresses, please let Rebecca know and she can email or mail the list to you.

In an effort to maintain privacy and keep our members’ information secure, the addresses have been removed from this section of the Journal.

Kay Becher
 Joy LaRue
 Vivian Lenberger

Rosalie Staley
 Lois Irwin
 Sylvia Grass
 J. Herman Mahaffey
 Lorraine Beyer
 Dot Pollei
 Carl Neumeyer
 Gladys Koltveit

St. John Lutheran Church

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



St. John Journal

St. John Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered, grace-based
community proclaiming the gospel through word and deed.

Worship at St. John

Sunday

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Worship on Wednesday
at 7:30 p.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Church Telephone & Fax Number

Voice: 502-895-9320

Fax: 502-895-3979

E-mail

stjohn@stjohnlutheranky.org

Office

Staff

Pastor Andy Rutrough

Pastor

Rebecca Dimon

Administrative Assistant

Whitney Adkins

Youth Project Coordinator

Maggie Owens

Choir Director

Dr. Denine LeBlanc

Organist

Mr. David Alcorn

Custodian