

**Announcements for the week of
December 17, 2017
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Pastor's Office Hours: Generally Tuesdays & Thursdays – 9:30-1:00 pm
Wednesdays – 9:30-11:00 am “Coffee Hours” at Mars Brew House
Available other times by appointment.**

Stewardship Snippet – December 17, 2017 (3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B)

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

Ever notice how some people are always complaining, even when their lives seem (to us, anyway) to be pretty blessed? They aren't living right and begin good stewards of their gifts. By contrast, these short verses from 1 Thessalonians give sage advice – Rejoice! Pray! Give thanks! That IS the will of God for you!

Christmas Worship Services

**Dec. 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent - 10:00 am - Service of Holy Communion
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve - 3:00 pm & 7:30 pm - Festival Candlelight Service of Holy Communion
December 25 - Christmas Day – 10:00 am – Service of Holy Communion**

Church Decorating - Today

If you are able to help decorate the church for Christmas, please stay after the 10:30 am service today. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels has contacted us and requested that we provide desserts for the rest of December through January 3. If you are baking for the Christmas season, please consider donating some to this worthy cause. You can place your baked goods (cookies, cakes, candies, etc.) in the refrigerator in the Fellowship Hall and mark as MOW. Many desserts are needed, including diabetic desserts (please label). All donations are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please call or text Kim Richards at 724-316-2263. Delivery to Meals on Wheels will be weekly through January 3.

Ladies Book Group – December 20

Our next selection for the book group is “Where'd You Go, Bernadette?” by Maria Semple. This book is quite different from our usual choices and is quoted by the New York Times as “divinely funny.” We will meet **December 20 at 3 pm** at the home of Denise Hager. More information will be available in the December Newsletter.

Quilting Group

The group will not meet in January.

White Elephant Bingo – January 6

Join us for fellowship, laughs, food & Bingo on **Saturday, January 6 from 4:00pm – 7:00 pm** (approximately) in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a wrapped gift (\$5 value) to be used as a bingo prize. There will also be a potluck dinner, so please bring a covered dish to share if you can, if not, there is always plenty of food and snacks. Family friendly, bring the kids, grandkids, or invite a neighbor! Any questions, contact Kim Richards at 724-316-2263.

Sunday School Project – January 7 – Welcome Home Baby Kit

We will be putting together these kits to be donated to the women in the Light of Life Mission so they have what they need to welcome their babies. Please consider donating bottles, baby blankets, bibs, baby shampoo, wipes, and diapers. All will be appreciated.

Holiday Blood Drive – January 7

St. John will host a holiday blood drive on Sunday, January 7, 2018 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All participating donors will receive an “ugly holiday sweater” t-shirt, while supplies last! To schedule an appointment please visit centralbloodbank.org and enter group code: **G0030128**, or call the church office at 724-625-1830. Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are welcome.

This Week at St. John

Sunday – December 17	Worship (Third Sunday in Advent) Sunday School & Lifelong Learning	8:00 am 9:00 am
	Worship (Third Sunday in Advent)	10:30 am
Wednesday – December 20	Morning Prayer Bible Study Ladies Book Group at Denise Hager’s house	11:30 am Noon 3:00 pm
Sunday – December 24	Worship (Fourth Sunday in Advent) Sunday School & Lifelong Learning	10:00 am 9:00 am
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion	3:00 pm 7:30 pm
Monday – December 25	Christmas Day: Nativity of Our Lord (Service of Holy Communion)	10:00 am