

ST JOHN L I F E Together

THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 24-25, 2015

ADORING The Prayer of the Church

Persecuted Christians in:

Afghanistan **Iran**
Sudan **Syria**

Partner Church:

Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (Germany)

Birthday:

Nathan Crowe (20 years)

Prayer of thanksgiving:

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Comfort, health, recovery:

Jonathan Burmeister
John Byrd
Donna Cihak
Lorna Clucas (mother of Rob Clucas)
Richard Flashing
Robert G. Gerritsen (father-in-law of Barbara Bowman)
Bob Johnson (father of LeighAnn Boehme)
Jeremy Kadletz (relative of Joan Kaliher)
Jackie Kandora
Alice Koch
Greg Kopka (cousin of Rob Waszak)
Cassie Muir (friend of Gary Dirksen)
Anna Sedberry (friend of the St. John Ringers)
Brian Schnurstein (friend of Jon Beutjer)
Bethany Stellwagen
David Stim (grandson of Jack and Joan Fiene)
Jayde Thornton (niece of Glenn and Jann Barnes)
Janessa Tipner (sister of Jennifer Tipner)
David Uhrig (son of Jack Uhrig)
Virginia Williams (mother of Jim Williams)

Peace and comfort for the family and friends of:

Jeanne Gatch (mother of friend of Gary Dirksen)
Jodeen Knapp-Immer
(mother of friend of Gary Dirksen)
Donna Smith (niece of Alice Koch)
Kenneth Wachtel (uncle of Dennis Wendte)

Safety and protection:

CPT Mark Axtell, US Army
LT Frederick William Blickle IV, US Army
2LT John Blickle, US Army
LT Ryan Carey, US Army
CPT Brent Eisberner, USMC Reserves
AE2 (AW) Tyson Jones, US Navy
PVT Doug Mullaney, USMC
MAJ Kris Nelson, US Army National Guard
(serving in Kuwait)
LCPL Aaron Raezler, USMC
SSgt Christopher Reisor, USAF
HN Charles Rhame, US Navy
LT Daniel Rhame, US Navy
LT Sean Wolf, US Army (serving in Afghanistan)

Safe travel:

James and Lindsay Yonker

Those who need our ongoing prayers:

Susan Anderson (sister of Pat Braun)
Faith Bathje
Jacob Behl
Doris Blickle
Marilyn Bolton (aunt of Ted Kahn)

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Please submit your prayer requests to the website or call the church office at 630-668-0701 x400.

The Prayer of the Church *continued from page 1*

Jackie Ewen (aunt of Ted Kahn)

Tammy Fitzpatrick

Alan Heidorn (brother of Byron Heidorn)

Rockford Hinten (friend of Emilie Yonkers)

James McBride (friend of Kathy Leimbach)

Shelby Muehlfelt (granddaughter of Toni Breseman)

Bob Schmidt (son-in-law of Donna Cihak)

Richard Shaw

Mary Stefany

Rick Stefany

Debra Verdico (friend of Karen Crawford)

Melanie Weaver (friend of the Bytners)

MATURING

SUNDAYS

Adult Bible Study

Telling Stories: A Clever, Easy, Loving, Welcoming and Riskless Shot at Changing the World

- **Place:** The Study
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m.
- **Commitment:** 45 minutes
- **Contact:** Pastor Bruzek bruzek@stjohnwheaton.org

Our everyday lives offer us countless opportunities for a good witness to Christ, but these possibilities sometimes make us nervous. Why? Maybe what we expect of ourselves and others is out of whack. Perhaps we need think about these opportunities in a new way, as the chance for us to tell a story, let the Holy Spirit play and then carry on quite normally in love and hope and joy. Come see how that might work for you amidst your family, friends and even folks you don't know well at all—yet!

High School Youth Catechumenate Bible Study: Refreshing the stories!

- **Place:** Room 203
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m.
- **Commitment:** 45 minutes
- **Contact:** Pastor Buchs dbuchs@stjohnwheaton.org

The Old Testament is full of great history—stories that are formative for understanding the world as a Christian. Join us as we revisit these stories and learn to make them our own! Bagels or doughnuts are a bonus!

Confirmation

- **Place:** Lower Level Youth Room
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m.
- **Commitment:** 45 minutes
- **Contact:** Pastor Nelson mnelson@stjohnwheaton.org

Students should bring their Bibles and binders to class. Each week, we'll have a Learn-by-Heart verse and Bible lesson as we prepare ourselves for Confirmation. Friends are encouraged to come.

Sunday School

- **Place:** Lower Level
- **Time:** 10:00–10:50 a.m.
- **Commitment:** 50 minutes
- **Contact:** Gretchen Scheel gscheel@stjohnwheaton.org

Children in preschool 3's through grade 5 are invited to come along for Sunday School each week. We are having a fun year filled with God's word, sacred music, good friends, and lots of Bible adventures! Bring a friend and join us as we support the Lutheran Women's Missionary League with this year's offerings. Parents are asked to come to the Lower Level to sign in and sign out children in preschool through grade 2. Older students will be dismissed at 10:50.

WEDNESDAYS

J.O.Y. Group (Jesus. Others. You.)

- **Place:** The Study
- **Time:** 9:00–10:30 a.m.
- **Commitment:** 90 minutes
- **Contact:** Church Office 630-668-0701 x400

Are you free Wednesday mornings? Join this adult Bible study group for study, fellowship, and refreshments. The Vicar is leading us through the Minor Prophets. We would love to see new faces!

Website Resources for Your Personal Use

Podcasts for sermons and Bible studies are now available on our website, stjohnwheaton.org. From the home page, follow the link on the *Resources* menu. The current worship folder and *Life Together*, recent and archived mp3 files, and the link to the 8:30 a.m. Divine Service audio broadcast can also be found there.

Pastor Chats

- **Place:** Gym
- **Time:** 4:00 p.m.
- **Commitment:** 1 hour
- **Contact:** Val Gaede 630-668-0701 x436
gaede@stjohnwheaton.org

Children are invited to join our pastors as they lead us through the stories of Jesus shown in the beautiful stained glass windows. All are welcome to bring friends. Parents and caregivers may relax and visit over coffee or join the Pastor Chats. We'll gather in the Gym but also spend time in the Nave, Commons, and Lower Level.

THURSDAYS Men's Bible Study

- **Place:** The Study
- **Time:** 6:30–7:15 a.m.
- **Commitment:** 45 minutes
- **Contact:** Vicar Jonathan Scheck
jscheck@stjohnwheaton.org

Men who are up early and looking for lively theological discussion should join the Vicar for a read through 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. These books are often referred to as the Pastoral Epistles as Paul writes to Timothy and Titus about their office in the ministry. However, these books also provide good judgment and sound thinking for husbands and fathers as the spiritual head and teacher within the family. You have the added bonus of the Eucharist at 7:40 a.m., so plan to come for both!

FRIDAYS Friday Morning Women's Bible Study

Mere Christianity

- **Place:** The Study
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m.
- **Commitment:** 1 hour 15 minutes, Childcare provided
- **Contact:** Pastor Nelson mnelson@stjohnwheaton.org

Teaching topics will be drawn from *Mere Christianity*, by C. S. Lewis.

From the back cover: "One of the most popular introductions to Christian faith ever written, *Mere Christianity* ... brings together C.S. Lewis's legendary broadcast talks of the war years, talks in which he set out simply to 'explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times.' ... It is a collection of scintillating brilliance that remains strikingly fresh for the modern reader and at the same

time confirms C. S. Lewis's reputation as one of the leading writers and thinkers of our age." All women in the congregation are welcome to attend. Invite a friend!

EMBODYING

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Mites • January 31–February 1

- **Place:** The Commons
- **Time:** Before/After Worship Services
- **Commitment:** A minute
- **Contact:** Evonne Schewe 630-668-8816

There is a need for Bible Story books that teach the truth of God's love, especially in developing countries. Lutheran Friends of the Deaf has received requests for updated religious educational materials for the deaf from countries around the world. An LWML grant of \$100,000 will enable them to continue publishing a Bible story series for the deaf and to send this material to places such as Kenya and India. The Mite box is located in The Commons for your gifts.

February is St. John Month at ESSE

- **Place:** St. Paul Lutheran Church
515 South Wheaton Avenue
- **Time:** Throughout February
- **Commitment:** Varied
- **Contact:** Toni Breseman 630-668-6811

Share your love for others in our community by getting ready to help at the ESSE (Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly) Center. Each February St. John has the special opportunity to interact with those who attend this adult day care program. Bring a snack, share your kids and/or pets, play a musical instrument, help with crafts or games, dust off those vacation photos or your favorite collection—you'll find an appreciative audience! Sign up on the bulletin board in The Commons stairwell. However you choose to share, the Lord will bless both giver and receiver.

Quilters • Tuesday, February 3

- **Place:** Lower Level “Naehstube”
- **Time:** 6:30–8:30 p.m.
- **Commitment:** 2 hours
- **Contact:** Christa Caspari 630-665-7642

You are invited to join our quilters for a relaxing evening of sewing, quilt tying, crochet, knitting and embroidery. Finished items are donated to local and other charities. If you enjoy or would like to learn any of these crafts, Call Christa and she will prepare a spot for you!

Afternoon Circle • Wednesday, February 4 *The Story of the Stained Glass Windows*

- **Place:** Room 203
- **Time:** 12:00 p.m.
- **Commitment:** 2-3 hours
- **Contact:** Carol Toenies, President 630-653-5759 or 630-668-0701, x417 toenies@stjohnwheaton.org

The February hostesses are planning a “Baked Potato Bar” for the February meeting. Baked potatoes with all the trimmings: sour cream, butter, bacon bits, shredded cheese, green onions, etc. will be served. Afterward, we will move to the sanctuary where Pastor Bruzek will share the story of the “I Am” stained glass windows. The monthly business meeting will be conducted. Plans for the celebration of the 135th anniversary of the Circle will be discussed. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

Gifts for Grace

Thank you to the many individuals and families who lovingly donated gifts to Grace Christian Academy. Your abundant giving surpassed that of previous years. Generous tuition assistance, basic classroom items and facility supplies were presented at the January 11 Pancake Breakfast. This successful event gave all who attended an opportunity to meet and be served by the students of Grace. Gifts from St. John support the continuing mission of sharing Christ with the children in the Little Village neighborhood. Principal Carlo Giannotta, the faculty, students and parents are grateful for the love shared by the members of St. John.

Kathie Thorne, Outreach Committee

2015 St. John Men’s Retreat

Friday, February 6 and/or Saturday, February 7

- **Place:** Hilton Hotel
3003 Corporate West Drive Lisle, IL
- **Time:** After work on Friday until noon on Saturday
- **Commitment:** 2–16 hours
- **Cost*:** \$45 for double occupancy room/ \$90 for single. Retreat is free for those not staying overnight.
- **Contact:** Aaron Zoeller 630-818-5123
azoeller@scccombustion.com
RSVP to mensretreat@stjohnwheaton.org
Indicate room/roommate preference if applicable.

Please join us at the Men’s Retreat for physical, mental and spiritual nourishment! The Rev. Pete Ledic will lead an evening and morning lecture on *Confession and Absolution*—perfect timing as we enter Lent. This is a great opportunity to introduce a friend to St. John. Appetizers, drinks & dinner and Saturday breakfast are included. If you plan to stay overnight*, please make checks payable to *St. John Lutheran Church*. Put *Men’s Retreat* in the memo line. Payment can be dropped off at the reception desk.

**Don’t let the cost keep you from coming; scholarships are available. See Pastor Bruzek.*

Annual Time and Talent Fair • Sunday, February 8

- **Place:** The Gym
- **Time:** 9:45–10:45 a.m.
- **Commitment:** One hour
- **Contact:** Carol Heidorn: 630-715-3458 or carol.a.heidorn@gmail.com

Pastor Bruzek likes to say “Find your spot and work your spot.” If you have yet to “find your spot,” or are interested in finding or working another, come to the Time and Talent Fair. There are opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and interests to serve the Lord at St. John. Representatives from various church committees will be on hand to answer questions, share their experiences, offer guidance, and even recruit you! We look forward to starting the year with renewed energy, offering our time and talent to support St. John and enrich our community.

Women's Book Club • Tuesday, February 10

- **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Place:** The Commons
- **Commitment:** 2 hours
- **Contact:** Brenda Douglass bdouglass68@yahoo.com

Our February selection is *Enchanted April* by Elizabeth von Arnim and Cathleen Schine. Join us for discussion and fellowship the second Tuesday of each month.

Upcoming dates and titles include:

- **March 10**—*Mission at Nuremberg: An American Army Chaplain and the Trial of the Nazis* by Tim Townsend
- **April 14**—*The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd
- **May 12**—*The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson
- **June 9**—*I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

J.O.Y. Lunch and Theatre Outing to See *West Side Story* • Thursday, February 19

- **Place:** Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace
- **Time:** 11:30 a.m. Lunch, 1:30 p.m. Show
- **Commitment:** 4 Hours, Cost is \$50 per person
- **Contact:** Beverly Hecht 630-208-4984
beverlyhecht@yahoo.com

Join the J.O.Y. Group for lunch and an afternoon at the theatre. We will see *West Side Story*, a modern retelling of *Romeo and Juliet* that changed the course of the American musical. The score includes *Somewhere*, *I Feel Pretty*, and *America*. The cost includes lunch, gratuity, and the play. *Reservations and payment must be received by Wednesday, January 28.* What a way to spend a cold winter afternoon!

Blood Drive • Saturday, February 21

- **Place:** Rooms 202 & 203
- **Time:** 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- **Commitment:** 45 minutes
- **Contact:** Emalee Stellwagen 630-668-3472
or estellwagen@gmail.com

Again this year St. John is hosting a Blood Drive for the Heartland Blood Center. There is currently an urgent need for blood donations. If you or family members have ever needed blood products, you know what a difference it makes! New at St. John? Never had the opportunity to donate before? Contact Emalee for more information or to schedule an appointment. Our past donors get reminder cards and a phone call to

schedule. We need your help! We need your blood! Please consider this precious act of mercy; it's a gift we can share.

L.E.R.T. (Lutheran Early Response Team) Upcoming Saturday Training Sessions

- **Place:** St. Peter's, Hampshire, IL—February 21
St. Peter, Morrison, IL—April 25
Good Shepherd, Frankfort, IL—September 19
Immanuel, Des Plaines, IL—September 26
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- **Commitment:** 3 hours, \$35 registration fee
- **Contact:** Register at LutheranChurchCharities.org
See Jan Gerzevske, Steve Chester, Marty Johnson or Byron Heidorn with questions.

If you are interested in helping with clean up after a tornado or flood, federal guidelines provide that volunteers responding to a disaster should be trained and certified. Lutheran Church Charities provides this basic training throughout the Northern Illinois District. When a disaster occurs, LERT participants are put on call and may be deployed within 72 hours or less depending upon the extent of devastation caused by the storm. In past years, members of the St. John team responded locally in Joliet and Palatine, and nationally to Superstorm Sandy, Arkansas, Mississippi, and New Orleans.

Let's Talk Seminary • Tuesday, February 24

- **Place:** Concordia University Chicago
7400 Augusta, River Forest, IL
- **Time:** 11:00 a.m. or by appointment
- **Commitment:** 1 or more hours
- **Contact:** Rev. Bill Wrede, Director of Admissions,
Concordia Seminary St. Louis 314-505-7221
wredew@csl.edu

Have you ever considered being a pastor or deaconess? If so, Rev. Bill Wrede from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis would like to meet with you. Prospective students of all ages—elementary school age through adults—are invited to discuss seminary education and the path to becoming a pastor or deaconess. Appointments are individual, informal, and family/friends are welcome. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are also welcome. If you are interested in scheduling a specific time, please contact Rev. Wrede.

**2015 St. John Women's Retreat:
Encountering God—Mystery. Beauty. Surrender.
Friday, March 20 and/or Saturday, March 21**

- **Place:** Hilton Hotel
3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle, IL
- **Time:** 6:00–12:00 p.m. Friday;
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Saturday
- **Commitment:** 2–16 hours
- **Cost*:** \$45 for double occupancy room/\$90 for single.
Retreat is free for those not staying overnight.
- **Contact:** Amy Hauenstein 630-752-1106
amyrich5@aol.com

Ladies, mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual St. John Women's Retreat! **Pamela Boehle-Silva**, a deaconess and parish nurse who has done extensive mission work in Africa, will be the guest speaker on both Friday evening and Saturday morning. Attendees are welcome to come Friday, Saturday or both days. Retreat sign-up and hotel reservations will be taken between services in The Commons beginning Sunday, February 1.

**Don't let the cost keep you from coming;
scholarships are available. See Pastor Bruzek.*

Supporting our Servicemen and Women

- **Place:** www.stjohnwheaton.org or Church Office
- **Time:** A few minutes
- **Commitment:** Complete online form or make a phone call
- **Contact:** Robin Jones 630-690-6647

Please help us stay in touch with your family members who are on active duty in the armed forces or Illinois National Guard. We would like to keep them in our ongoing prayers and to send them care packages and cards on occasion. To include someone, you may use the St. John website (from the home page select **FORMS** and **UPDATE YOUR INFO**) or contact Robin Jones directly. Be sure to provide branch, rank, and birthday.

ME and MY Shadow • Every other Tuesday

- **Place:** Hosted in homes
- **Time:** 9:30–11:00 a.m.
- **Commitment:** 1.5 hours or as long as you can stay or play
- **Contact:** Rachel Strutzel 630-823-8614
rachelstrutzel@hotmail.com

Me and My Shadow is a chance for moms to chat while the kids play! Upcoming dates are January 27, February 10 and 24, and March 10 and 24. Contact Rachel for the location or if you have questions.

January Caring Cube

- **Place:** Caring Cube Shelves/Lower level Outreach room
- **Time:** Weekend worship/Bible study
- **Commitment:** 5 minutes
- **Contact:** Ann Williams 630-665-3315
or annwms22@sbcglobal.net

Interfaith Food Pantry serves more than 1,000 Wheaton area residents and homeless. It is supported completely by donations and volunteer help. Please help feed our neighbors by filling a grocery bag with non-perishable food items and dropping it off in the Outreach room downstairs. Thanks for all your support.

Most needed food items:	Household items:
Bagged rice/beans	Laundry Detergent
Boxed pastas and noodles	Dish soap
Canned pasta and soups	Cleaning supplies
Canned fruits/vegetables	Toilet paper
Cereals	Paper towels
Coffee/tea/juice	Tissues
Flour/sugar	Bar Soap
Canned tuna/chicken	Toothbrushes
Pasta sauce	Tooth paste
Peanut butter and jelly	Shampoo

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday • January 25

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (The Study)
- 10:00 a.m. High School Catechumenate (203)
- 10:00 a.m. Confirmation (Youth Room)
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School (Lower Level)
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 8:00 p.m. Men's Pick up basketball (Gym)

Monday • January 26

CLOSED

Tuesday • January 27

- 7:40 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
- 9:30 a.m. Me & My Shadow (Off site)
- 6:30 p.m. St. John Ringers (Balcony)
- 6:30 p.m. Maintenance Volunteers
- 8:00 p.m. Dartball (Lower Level)
- 8:00 p.m. Kantorei (202)

Wednesday • January 28

- 7:40 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
- 9:00 a.m. J.O.Y. Group (The Study)
- 4:00 p.m. Pastor Chats (Gym)
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Orchestra (202)

Thursday • January 29

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (The Study)
- 7:40 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

Friday • January 30

- 7:40 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
- 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (The Study)

Saturday • January 31

- 8:30 a.m. Catechumenate (The Study)
- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday • February 1

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (The Study)
- 10:00 a.m. High School Catechumenate (203)
- 10:00 a.m. Confirmation (Youth Room)
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School (Lower Level)
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 12:30 p.m. Elders Meeting (Library)
- 8:00 p.m. Men's Pick up basketball (Gym)

You can prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Poinsettia Contributors

With gratefulness we wish to thank the following people for kindly providing the congregation with poinsettias:

Mr. & Mrs. James Braun in memory of Felix B. Colo, Herbert Braun and Verna Braun; **Christa & Gunter Caspari**, **David & Karen Crawford** in loving memory of our parents, Bill & Donna Crawford and Del & Dorothy Ihde; **Mr. & Mrs. Jack W. Fiene**; **Tom & Beverly Hecht**; **Carol Hoelter**; **Ron & Janice Lehman**; **Jeanette Marti** in memory of John; **Lawrence & Carol Morton**; **Robert & Gayle Nordlof**; **Don & Mary Ellen Orton**; **Norma Piro**; **Brian & Amy Sample** in memory of lost babies; **Dave & Martha Schlesselman** in loving memory of Robert H. Schlesselman; **Paul & Sue Schuett**; **the Stellwagen Family**, and **Delores Weiss**.