

The heart of Christ...
in the heart of the city



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Volume 65, Issue 12

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Coronation 2012

From the desk of Pastor Skip:

"You don't have to believe in everything currently taught by the ELCA to be a member of St. John's; you just have to believe in the Jesus whose Spirit is working in St. John's." I overheard a member of this church fellowship say that to another member. It was just about everything I could do to keep from wrapping my arms around this member and planting the most "holy" kiss I could muster on their forehead! There is great wisdom and a mature spirituality in this faithful believer. I applauded him, and privately told him so.

It is here, right here in the heart of St John's, that God is giving and we are using his gifts. Each of us has them. We are each recipients of a good variety of just the right gifts for the success of the St John's ministry Strategic Plan. As we enter the season of gift giving in another celebration of God's greatest gift, perhaps a word here about all the other gifts of ministry that God has laid on the altar at historic 502.

Spiritual gifts constitute the power that moves a congregation. When members are trained to identify spiritual gifts in themselves and have those gifts confirmed by others, the life and ministry of a congregation is dramatically changed forever. Here's a list of the spiritual gifts of which I speak.

The Gift of Administration—enables a believer to formulate, direct and carry out plans necessary to fulfill a purpose;

The Gift of Apostle—gives a believer the courage and the urgency to express faith in settings where the gospel is rarely heard;

The Gift of Craftsmanship/Artistry—gives a believer the skill of creating artistic expressions that produce a spiritual response of strength and inspiration;

The Gift of Discernment—motivates a believer to seek God's will and purpose and apply that understanding to individual and congregational situations;

The Gift of Evangelism—moves believers to reach nonbelievers in such a way that they are baptized and become active forces in the Christian community;

The Gift of Exhortation—moves a believer to reach out with Christian love and presence to people in personal conflict or facing a spiritual void;

The Gift of Faith—gives a believer the eyes to see the Spirit at work and the ability to trust the Spirit's leading with no sense of where it all might lead;

The Gift of Giving—enables a believer to recognize God's blessings and to respond to those blessings by generously and sacrificially giving of one's material resources;

The Gift of Hospitality—causes a believer to joyfully open his or her home for meetings and overnight visitors;

(continued on page 2)

St. John's Lutheran Church
502 East Nueva
San Antonio, TX 78205
210-223-2611

The Gift of Intercession—enables a believer to pray with the certainty that prayer is heard and, when requests are made, answers will come;

The Gift of Knowledge—drives a person to learn, analyze, and uncover new insights with regard to the Bible and faith;

The Gift of Leadership—gives a believer the confidence to step forward, give directions, and provide motivation to get a task completed or a dream fulfilled;

The Gift of Mercy—motivates a believer to feel deeply for those in physical, spiritual, or emotional need and then act to meet that need;

The Gift of Music/Vocal—gives a believer the capability and opportunity to present personal witness and inspiration to others through singing;

The Gift of Music/Instrumental—gives a believer the desire and capability to express personal faith and provide inspiration and comfort through the playing of a musical instrument;

The Gift of Pastoral Serving—gives a believer the confidence, capability, and compassion to provide spiritual leadership and direction for individuals or groups of individuals;

The Gift of Service—enables a believer to work gladly behind the scenes in order that God’s work is fulfilled;

The Gift of Teaching—enables a believer to communicate a personal understanding of the Bible and faith in such a way that it becomes clear and understood by others;

The Gift of Wisdom—allows a believer to sort through opinions, facts and thought in order to determine what solution would be best for the individual believer or the community of believers;

The Gift of Writing—gives a believer the ability to translate Biblical truth into a written form that can edify, instruct, and strengthen the community of believers.

There are other lists or categories of spiritual gifts available for review and let’s not forget the Apostle Paul’s list: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation, apostleship, teaching, helping, administration (1 Corinthians 12). And, as illustrated in the lists above and below, I don’t think Paul was being exclusive. Some lists of spiritual gifts include:

Achiever	Activator	Adaptability
Analytical	Arranger	Belief
Command	Communication	Competition
Connectedness	Consistency	Context
Deliberative	Developer	Discipline
Empathy	Focus	Futuristic
Harmony	Ideation	Include
Individualization	Input	Intellection
Learner	Maximizer	Positivity
Relater	Responsibility	Restorative
Self-Assurance	Significance	Strategic

There are so many tools available to congregations to help them introduce spiritual gifts that those lists are endless and new ones get published all the time. Most are “inventories” given to members in a class or during a worship service. Whatever gift is scored the highest is said to be the members’ “spiritual” gift.

There are problems connected with this approach. First and foremost, the education phase of “spiritual gifts” is completely left out. When someone completes an inventory, that person needs to understand how spiritual gifts relate to call, why we have gifts, where they come from, how to pursue them, pray for them and use them within congregational life. Otherwise, these inventories become nothing more than a time and talent sheet. It’s a pity.

Spiritual gifts come by deep discernment. Clearly, a commitment to educate members’ about spiritual gifts coupled with a careful development process for putting member’s gifts to use is critical to the power of gifts being unleashed in the congregation. Gifts are not gimmicks to fill vacant committee positions. They are given by the Holy Spirit for the work of Jesus within our St John’s fellowship to build up and strengthen our body. If we open our minds to understand them and their use, ministry opportunities will open up as fast as your kids or grandkids will open their presents on Christmas morning. And like those kids and their new gifts, our ministry will look so exciting and be pursued with such passion we will never be the same congregation again. Enjoy your gift; the really big one (Jesus) and all the little ones that follow after.

In Our Prayers

Please pray for the following members and friends and family of the congregation:

Adeline Cavazos
Alta Woytaszyk
Bill Brewer
Billy Odam Sr.
Brian & Debbie Haas
Charline Herzog
Christal Davis
Cora Ottmers
Courtney Chappelle & baby Edison
Daniel Wood
Delia Islas
Duane Jennings
Eddie Flesher
Evelyn Bippert
Geneva Hestilow
George Pasterchick
Gloria De La Garza & family
Heidi Becker
Isolde Scarzafava
Jackie Bourgeois
Jesse Mercer
Margaret Reynolds
Margie Ringcon
Marlene Menetti
Merikay Qualls
Michael Helms
Nita Poss
Norma Rilling
Norma Woelfel
Pastor Steve Lunning
Paul Erich
Philip Lunning
Rebekah Lang
Santos Bara
Sara Longoria
Scott Southwell
Steven Moyer
Stuart Leafstedt
Terri Ann Goode
Tiffany Harper
Tom Guyer
Yolanda Garza

Family & Friends

Alexandra Jahn

Prayers for our Troops

Bob Recio
Brian Alfaro
Dan Leingang
Dennis Kruse
Eric Oglesbee
Jamie Raymond
Jared Raymond
Mark Alfaro
Matthew Helms
Micah Jenkins
Michael Longoria
Steven Baker



Thank you for these gifts received in memory or honor of someone during the month of October, 2011.

To the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Gene Bullington by LeRoy & Alva Schulmeier
Willis W. Cresswell, Jr. by Dorothy & Ted Bowles; Delrose Cearley; Mr. & Mrs. Cletus Eckhardt; Curtis & Frances Franz; Daniel & Anna Meier; Leroy & Alva Schulmeier
Laura Geiger by LeRoy & Alva Schulmeier
Cecelia E. Haun by Agnes Behrens & children; Bob & Carole Cauble; Mr. & Mrs. Keith Jorgensen; Leroy & Alva Schulmeier
Robert Hengel by Viola Caraway; Delrose Cearley; Loreen Eckhardt; LeRoy & Alva Schulmeier; Ruth Shipp
Julius F. Holm by Agnes Behrens & children; Bob & Carole Cauble; Delrose Cearley; Loreen Eckhardt; Curtis & Frances Franz; Grace L. Neitzke; Ruth Shipp
Wilburn Kitchen by Carole & Robert Cauble; Mr. & Mrs. Keith Jorgensen; Leroy & Alva Schulmeier
Viola Kolmeier by Cletus & Lillian Eckhardt
Willis E. Kotzebue, Jr. by Louis & Mary Spreen
Marguerite Lewis by Dorothy & Ted Bowles; Viola Caraway; Delrose Cearley; Joyce E. Chamberlain; Ernest & Betty Chavana; First Mark Credit Union; Ruth Haas; Marilyn Hartung; Grace Neitzke; Roy & Frances Lemaster; Cynthia June Rogstad; Ruth Schriewer; LeRoy & Alva Schulmeier; Cliftine Solbrig
Mrs. Emma Rusche by Ruth Schriewer
Walter Schessenhagen by Mary J. Schessenhagen
Frances Watts by Mr. & Mrs. Gordon McDonald
Myrle Ann Zunker by Delrose Cearley; Kenneth & Jo Ferguson; Mary Ann & Al Griffin; Grace Neitzke; Ron & Belinda Schmidt; LeRoy & Alva Schulmeier

Our Christian Mission Statements

St. John's Church and Day School

“Forming Faithfulness to the love of God

**...in traditional worship,
...through enlivened discipleship
...with service and honor to all.”**

Publication Deadline

Information for the next newsletter must be submitted (preferably by email) by **Friday, December 2, 2011**. Information for the weekend Bulletins and announcements are due by **Tuesday afternoon** each week. Submit to: Mary Boehme in the church office: (ph.) 223-2611 x 200, (fax) 223-5667, (email) mboehme@stjohnsroosterchurch.org

**ANNOUNCING THE BIRTH OF
BLAKE JASON ECKHARDT**

Blake Jason Eckhardt was born September 27, 2011. He weighed 8.3 lbs and was 19 1/2 inches long. Proud parents are Laura and Brian Eckhardt and proud big brother, Chase. Proud grandparents are Dee and Lynda Elrod and Cletus and Lillian Eckhardt. Proud great grandmothers are Evelyn Elrod and Velta Lloyd. Proud aunts are Leslie Elrod and Rhonda Eckhardt. We are truly blessed with this addition to our family.
God Bless
Lillian Eckhardt

**ANNOUNCING THE BIRTH OF
CASN BRYCE CHANLER**

Kim & Chris are proud parents of a baby boy, Casen Bryce Chanler. Casen arrived at 5:34 PM on Friday, November 4, 2011. He weighed 7 lbs and 11 oz. Everyone is doing well.

Proud grandparents are Stephen and Liz Wendel and Pam Wendel. Proud aunt is Kendra Wendel.



CAM is in need of men and boys clothing and food items. Please bring them to the church and place in the boxes marked for CAM in Memorial Hall.

Thank you

St. John's Council Meeting Minutes

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregation Council Meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside Memorial Hall.

Hanging of the Greens – Sunday, November 27th following the Church Service and taking down the Greens, Wednesday, January 4th at 6:30 PM

2011 – CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA
(Proceeds to benefit the Luther League)

Poinsettia potted plants will be used during our Christmas Worship services. Each plant will be \$15.00. You may present a plant to the Glory of God and:

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

BY:

Please mark one:

- Plant will be picked up by donor
- Plant will go to the sick or shut-ins

You may bring form and money to the office or place in envelope and place in the offering plate. **DEADLINE** for turning in money is Monday, December 5th.

The deadline for donors desiring to pick-up their poinsettia plant is Tuesday, December 27th. Those plants not picked up by this date will be given to volunteers to deliver to our homebound members. Thank you.

SUCCESSFUL CEMETERY WORKDAY!

Saturday, October 22 at New Lutheran/Immanuel cemetery was a great success! The temperature and cloud cover cooperated to provide a fine working environment. The veteran crew—Sam Mendez, David Caraway, Albert and Deleyce Tietze, W.C. Spenn, Doris and Ken Taggart, Fred Pfeiffer, Brendan Warren and Victor Mendez—were joined by hard-working visitor, Kyle Steinquist. The result of their well-spent morning was evidenced by tall brush piles throughout the cemetery. As a result, the cemetery looks amazingly good in spite of the drought. We can also happily announce that the enormous dirt pile that has been growing for several years has been removed thanks to the hard work of Albert Tietze. Give Albert a big “thank you” when you see him. Look for news of the next workday in the spring and keep praying for rain!

Maria Pfeiffer
Cemetery Task Force Chairman





CONGRATULATIONS *December Birthdays*

Dec.	1	Alton R. Mellenbruch Ronald Ressmann, Jr.	13	Sandra Moline Herbert A. Lieck Judi Bullington
	2	Grace Neitzke Catherine Saathoff Jorene Smith	15	Jason Fabianke Nancy Hein Edgar C. Boehme Thomas Lieck Colton Stade
	3	Cora Ottmers Frances Franz Aleida Allen SueAnn P. Haugh Krista Bowers Dorothy Stahl	16	Joan Williams Christopher Boniol
	4	Brian J. Eckhardt Brooklyn Bowling Neil Haiduk	18	Madisen Curry Gabrielle Mucha
	5	Kenneth Boehme Curtis Bowers Thomas Boniol Jr.	19	Joanne Smart Jackie Bourgeois Amy Bohmann Linda Garza-Molina Owen Johnson
	6	Muriel Leafstedt Kristin Grayson Wesley Arnold	20	Gladys Gembler
	7	Catherine Wilson	21	Bill Southwell James Hestilow Christine Caraway Emma Lopez Eric Wilson
	8	Ruby Wehmeyer Courtney Ogle Noah Ramirez	23	Leatha Kay Boenisch
	9	Marie Schaper Jeff Curry Allison Hughes	25	Ronald R. Stinson James Acosta
	10	Olive Gallaway	26	David Fischer Leslie S. Koesterer
	11	Margaret Neumann Joshua Wadsworth	27	Mourette Boehme Michele Johnson
	12	Ron Urrabaz Lisa Gail White	28	Alaina Johnson
			30	Delrose Cearley Sandi Martin Kendall White
			31	Karen Iredale

This Month's Events

Church Ofc. & DS Closed, Dec. 23 & 26 for Christmas Holidays

No Evening Activities on Wed. Dec. 28

Church Ofc. & DS Closed Dec. 30 & Jan. 2 for New Year Holidays

Men's Retreat Group will meet Tuesday, Dec. 6 & 13 at 6:30 PM in 3rd flr. conf. rm.

Bible Study, Each Wed. at 9:30 AM

Men's Group meets at Taco Haven each Thursday at 6:30 AM

Wednesday Dinners, 5:30 PM

Campus Ministry meets Wed., 6:00 PM

Advent Dramas Wed. at 6:15 PM

Book Club Wed., 6:45 PM

Bell Choir Wed. at 6:45 PM

Choir Wed. 7:15 PM

First Friday Concert Dec. 2, 12:05 PM
Tiding Articles due Dec. 2

Luther League Dec 3 from 4-6 PM

WELCA Cookie Walk, Dec. 4

Fiesta Nueva Mtg., Dec. 6, 6:00 PM

WELCA Dec. 8 at 9:30 AM

St. John's Christmas Pageant during Worship Service on Dec. 11

St. John's Christmas Party fol. Worship Serv. in Mem. Hall on Dec. 11

Committee Mtgs. Dec. 12, 5:30 PM

Council Mtg. Dec. 12, 7:00 PM

Mutual Min. Ministry Mtg. at the

Courter's Dec. 17 at 6:00 PM

Blessing of Acolytes Dec. 18

San Antonio Chamber Choir at St.

John's Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3:00 PM

Christmas Eve Services 5:30 & 11:00

PM Dec. 24, Special Music 30 mins.

Prior to service

Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will meet Thursday, December 8th at 11:00 AM at the home of Betty Boldt. 9848 Oakland Rd., Ph# 696-8257, Cell-410-5540

We will have a covered dish Christmas Luncheon. Ham, Tea & Coffee will be provided. The 3 Groups will be contacting you about the covered dish and your transportation if needed. All Ladies are invited to join us. Call Jo Ferguson for more information. 210-490-4174.

3rd Sunday Refreshments will be all 3 Groups

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas & a very Happy New Year!

COOKIE WALK/SALE ITEMS/QUILT AUCTION

We are having our Annual Cookie Walk, Sale Items & Quilt Auction on Dec.4th in the Memorial Hall. We will gladly accept homemade bake goods donated to sell with the WELCA bake goods. Stock up and freeze the bake goods for Christmas. Proceeds will go to the St John's Organ Fund.

We will also have a table for Hollye Schwartz to display the Fair Trade Gift items that you may purchase. Hollye will have coffee, chocolates and hand-made items on display. Hollye is a member of Christ Lutheran Church.

Thanks and Christmas Blessings to all, WELCA

PLEASE DONATE ANY NUMBER OF ITEMS TO THE LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF HEALTH KITS ARE NOW CALLED PERSONAL CARE KITS AND THE CONTENTS HAVE CHANGED (Collecting Oct, Nov, & Dec)

1. One light-or medium-weight bath-size towel (approx. 52' X 27'), dark color recommended
2. Two bath-size bars of soap, any brand
3. One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging OR Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing a toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic
4. One sturdy comb
5. One metal nail clipper

Wrap items in the towel and tie securely with a ribbon or yarn. Single items are acceptable, place in the WELCA basket in Memorial Hall.

We will be collecting extra bars of soap all year long. We would like to send an extra box of soap with our Personal Care Kits.

Thank You, WELCA

Christmas Love Begins in 100 Degree Weather with Elf Louise

Thrivent helps by purchasing bicycles for Elf Louise with help from the West Bexar County Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. "Trained Elves" Ralph Detwiler and Larry Foster have purchased 34 bicycles for THE ELF LOUIS CHRISTMAS PROJECT. They are currently stored at Elf Louise's Warehouse. Larry began working on this project in the 1990's when they delivered 8 bicycles. As the Christmas Season gets closer, Elf Louise workers will establish a gift area and they are going to need help assembling the bicycles for delivery. What an incredible story and a great way to bring a huge smile to a child's face. Elf Trainer Sylvia Foster or Larry Foster can be reached at 210-342-7508.

St. John's Guatemalan Mission

A Journey in "Accompaniment"

The ELCA calls its model of mission "accompaniment". Did you ever think of mission that way? It is an interesting concept that, like most, needs some history.

As a professional language specialist, I like to take words apart and think about the meanings of the different parts. Dictionaries tell us that "ac" means "in addition to", "com" means with, "pan" means bread, and "ment" as a suffix makes the whole word a noun. So, accompaniment would mean the act of adding to with bread. Hmmm, that makes me think about the song, "Let Us Break Bread Together". Maybe that is what mission work is really all about. It's about being together. It's about building a relationship. It's about being "in company" with others.

That puts a shift in perspective about mission as a whole and our Guatemalan trip in particular. It's not just about us doing for them; it's about us being together, in the company of each other and building a relationship. It is about accompaniment and making a difference. Should we do mission work here at home? Definitely, but where is home in these days of global economic systems and the world-wide web? Where is God's home? The Lord God created the heavens and the earth and so home has no boundaries here on this planet.

Jesus told the disciples to follow him and Jesus went to many places that surprised (dismayed) others. The disciples followed Jesus. They accompanied him. Later, through their own mission trips the disciples gave their company to others, even those outside of their comfort zone. God accompanies us every day. As He accompanies me in this journey I grow more excited everyday about leading and accompanying my faith community from here to Guatemala!

Make Plans Now: Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, 22 November, 2011
Dinner at 5:30 PM & Worship at 7 PM
Followed by a "Pie Social"
Bring your favorite pie to share in thanksgiving
with your friends!

First Friday Concert
December 2, 2011 at 12:05 PM
Meredith Ridgway, piano
Piano Music of Mozart
A delightful meal follows each concert.
(Five dollar donation)

Wreaths Across America St. John's Fund Raiser

ST JOHN'S GROUP CODE--- TXSJLCO1
FT SAM NATIONAL CODE--- TXFSHS

Wreaths Across America is an amazing program that honors our fallen heroes and veterans in state and National cemeteries for the holidays. This year's theme is: *The Christmas they never had*. Sherry Taraskiewicz, with the blessing of Pastor Skip Courter, has enrolled St. John's in the fundraiser "Wreaths Across America." This is a great fund raiser and will help support the church in a big way. The wreaths are \$15 each. For every wreath that the church gets someone to sponsor, WAA will give the church back \$5. All the members have to do is get people to sponsor a wreath and turn in the form and check made payable to Wreaths Across America to Sherry. The forms and more information may be picked up at the reception desk outside Memorial Hall. Please come and join us for the **ceremony 10 DEC 2011 @ 11 AM**. The wreaths will be laid immediately following the ceremony. **SPONSOR A WREATH...HONOR A HERO**
Thank you

Cross Trails Ministry Trail Guide Program

Our Synod's Cross Trails Ministry is looking for two members of our congregation who would like to volunteer to be the St John's Cross Trails Ministry Trail Guides. This is a wonderful opportunity to help enable more people in our congregation to hear about all the great programs and events that Cross Trails Ministry has to offer! Through the new Trail Guide Program, Cross Trails Ministry can more fully partner with St John's, helping us to grow into a deeper relationship with God! Training information for Trail Guides will be sent directly to our St John's volunteers. Workshops for Trail Guides will be held on Sunday afternoons in January and February at four different places around our synod. Please identify yourself to Pastor Courter if you would like to be involved in this congregational ministry.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN
IN THE FUN OF
AN OLD FASHIONED
ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

WHEN: DECEMBER 11, 2011

9:30 WORSHIP SERVICE – Within the liturgy our Sunday School children will present **“THE CHRISTMAS STORY ACCORDING TO THE 2ND CHAPTER OF LUKE”** featuring scripture and singing many favorite Christmas hymns

LUNCH AT 11:30 AM – Ham, Turkey and Dressing, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Dessert and Drinks will be furnished.
Please bring a salad or vegetable dish

After Lunch entertainment:

“Season’s Beatings: (Presented by the Church Council)

If you wish please bring a new stuffed animal or colorful twin sheet sets to donate to the Lutheran Social Service New Life Children’s Center at Canyon Lake, Texas. New Life Children’s Center is a home for abused, neglected and troubled girls.

“Amigos de Cristo”

The annual “Amigos de Cristo” Christmas toy campaign for the Mision Luterana en Laredo which provides help to children and parents has begun. This year, instead of the Angel Tree, St John’s Church is encouraging everybody to make a monetary contribution directly to the project individually. Please note on the gift that you are a member of or received this notification from St John’s Church, San Antonio. Contributions may be sent to:

Mision Luterana en Laredo
1320 Laredo Street
Laredo, Texas 78045

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24, 2011

5:30 & 11:00 PM

Special Music 30 minutes prior to service

**DEADLINES FOR THE FOLLOWING
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

CONTRIBUTIONS

Members of the congregation who desire to receive credit for 2011 are requested to have their contribution in the church by **DECEMBER 31, 2011 or if mailed, the envelope must reflect a postmark no later than DECEMBER 31, 2011 and received by Monday, January 9, 2012 from the United States Postal Service.** (The church office will be closed from December 30, 2011 to January 2, 2012 – reopen on January 3, 2012)

If you are changing your offering using Simply Giving or would like to do Simply Giving, please contact Irene in the church office 223-2611 for forms.

REIMBURSEMENT

Any receipts for reimbursement or expenditure for the year of 2011 **must be in Irene’s office no later than Monday, January 9, 2012 otherwise you will not be reimbursed.**

ADVENT FOLDERS

The Advent Folders will not be mailed out this year as in the past years to save on postage. The folders will be available starting Sunday, November 27, 2011 the reception desk, in the narthex and by the entrance from the Chapel.

ANNUAL REPORTS

All annual reports are due on **MONDAY January 16, 2012 no exceptions.** (From Pastors, President, all Committees and Organizations Chair, and School Board)

Happy New Year!

Join us for a New Year’s Eve party in Memorial Hall on Dec. 31, 2011 at 7:00 PM. The cost will be \$15 per person, children 12 and under will be \$5. Baby sitting will be available only if requested at \$10 per child. Please make your reservations for a baby sitter at least 2 weeks in advance of the party.

Entertainment will be provided by Ramlin Man, Bill Dammann. Tamales will be served and we ask that you bring a covered dish or dessert to share. Bring your family and friends. All are welcome to enjoy this night of reflection and fun! Make your reservations to join us!



**Erna Zwicke, artist and Deleyce Tietze
Fiesta Nueva 2012 Poster**

Advent greetings from the Fiesta Nueva Committee! Thanks to all of you planning and working on Fiesta Nueva, coming to St. John's, April 22, 2012. Save the date! Even during the busy holiday season we are preparing for Fiesta Nueva. Our next planning meetings will be December 6 at 6 PM and January 10 at 6 PM. We would love to have you join us. Please consider this an invitation to come to one of our meetings, if you don't know about Fiesta Nueva but would like find out what's going on. St. John's sponsors Fiesta Nueva to promote our Day School and church programs, and also to join our neighbors in over 100 local non-profit organizations to celebrate Fiesta San Antonio. This year a portion of our proceeds will support St. John's mission to Guatemala. We are seeking donations of raffle prizes. If you or your business would like to support Fiesta Nueva in this fashion, call Jon Bohmann at 210-701-8116 for details.

Dear Pastor Courter:

Thank you for your letter inviting our family to St. John's Lutheran Church All Saints worship service on Sunday, November 6th. We are sorry that we will not be there as none of our family lives in San Antonio. It sounds as if it will be a hopeful and comforting service for all the families who have lost a loved one this past year as we have. We are thankful that Patricia will be remembered in this service.

Sincerely,
Marjorie M. Gerhardt

Merry Christmas St. John's,

This season brings such a treasured message to us each year. The birth of Jesus and the story of his arrival is so magical that it is retold countless ways and millions of times each year. Sadly, as special as that message is, it is easily lost in the Black Friday shopping, gift list making, holiday party planning and general rushing around that the holidays seem to bring.

Imagine being able to offer a pause button for that whirl wind of the holidays. What if we could stretch our arms wide and offer a welcome to all who wanted to slow down a bit, and marvel at the glory of His birth. What if we shared His story in such a way that people lined up to hear it, news crews came to cover it, and we were able to make an impact in hundreds of people's lives.

St. John's has such an opportunity, and it begins today. Nos Esparamos – translation "We are waiting" is an Advent experience that the St John's Family will bring to the Downtown San Antonio area next December, 2012. This Experience includes a walk through the streets of Bethlehem, Participating in the Census, meeting the Shepherds and Wisemen as they are on their journey to see the new King and finally arriving at the place of his birth. The gospel story of his birth will be shared with all attendees as they ponder the true glory of the holidays. At the end of each participant's journey, they will join us in Memorial Hall for a time of fellowship and a simple meal of warm soup and homemade bread.

Not only will this be a beautiful experience for our guests, it will also be a chance for us to strengthen our relationship with our Day School families, as the event is planned through the Day School, a ministry of St. John's Lutheran. In addition, we have secured partnerships from Grace Lutheran and Our Savior Lutheran Community for assistance in this project, and are communicating with other congregations as potential partners.

An amazing opportunity has been given to us, and as it develops, I will keep you informed of our plans, progress and needs. Mark your calendars for **December 12th, 2012**; it will be a night to remember.

Blessings,

Katie Rode
Family Ministry Director

*ST. JOHN'S SHEEP
COLUMN RETURNS
BY Gloria Teegardin*

I am continually amazed at the music we are treated to by our members. Included in this music are occasional violin selections played by Dr. Jon Moline with organ or piano accompaniment.

Dr. Moline is from Fort Worth and his wife Sandra is from San Antonio. They met during freshmen orientation at Austin College in Sherman, TX. They married after graduation and moved to Durham, NC where Jon received his PhD from Duke University in Philosophy. While in Durham, Sandra taught Chemistry and Physics at Durham High School. Upon completion of his degree, they moved to Madison, WI, where Jon taught Philosophy and Environmental Ethics at the University of Wisconsin. Their sons, Kevin and Eric were born and raised in Wisconsin. While Jon was teaching, Sandra attended graduate school and completed Master's degrees in History of Science and Library Science. She subsequently served as head of the Physics Library at the university. In Madison, they were members of Luther Memorial Church, where both sang in the choir; Jon played in the church orchestra and served on the Church Council. After twenty-three years they moved to Minnesota where Jon became Vice-President and Dean of the St. Olaf College in Northfield. Sandra was the Head of the Reference and Research Services in the Physical Science and Engineering Library at the University of Minnesota.

Seven years later, Texas Lutheran College called Jon to be its thirteenth president. During his thirteen years of service there, the name was changed to Texas Lutheran University, six new buildings were built, football returned, the endowment tripled, and the student body grew. Jon was active in civic affairs as well, having served on the Seguin Economic Development Corporation for six years and as its president for three years. On the national scene he served on the National Council for the Humanities for nine years and on the board of the Fund for Improvement of Post-Secondary Education for six years.

Since retirement, Sandra has served on the Board of the Mid-Texas symphony, and Jon currently serves as volunteer Vice-President for Development. In San Antonio he serves on the board of the St. Luke's Lutheran Health Ministries, as an Advisory Trustee of the Southwest Research Institute and in Guadalupe County is just starting a term on the Board of the Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District. Sandra is president of the Public Library Foundation (Seguin), serves on its investment committee, volunteers at the Seguin Public Library, and is treasurer of the Seguin Shakespeare Club.

At St. John's, they both sing in the choir. Jon is a member of the Mutual Ministry Committee and Sandra is a member of the Worship, Music and Arts Committee. Their hobbies are hunting (Jon), gardening (Sandra), and good books (Sandra). Goodness, do they *ever* rest? But later in life, you participate in things you really love!

**To: St. John's Church
From: Pastor Toby Burk**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
As many of you already have heard, I have accepted a call to Salem Lutheran Church in Brenham Texas. My time in Nebraska has been difficult, but was filled with blessings and growth. The work of the church and journey of faith is present and real in this place. As my time here draws to a close I look forward to serving as the associate Pastor of Salem with Pr. Parnell. Being close to home will be great and I am energized by the ones I have met in this new service.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank the congregation of St. John's. Recently, a significant monetary gift was made by St John's in my name to the seminary debt that I have accrued. Thank you so much for having an endowment set up to help future pastors take on the heavy financial burden of a theological education. Thank you for using some of that endowment to shave years off my educational indebtedness. Thank you for thinking of me.

When I think of your generosity, I am reminded of Luke, Chapter 12, "³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." By gifts like what you have extended to me, you are not really giving to me but are making a statement about the whole communion of saints and your faithful living in the Gospel. This gift is a gift to the church, a gift to Christ. Where we place our money and how we spend it does matter.

Again, thank you so very much for this recent gift of money as well as prayers and support through the years. I look forward to seeing you again very soon.

Blessings,
Rev. Toby Burk

A special thank you!

I want to thank you for your continual prayers and financial support as the first semester of my last year has almost reached its end! Final papers and projects' due dates are quickly approaching and plans for Christmas and my January Term travels are being made. I hope the coming Advent season ushers in a sense of joy and intrigue as we ponder the gift of Jesus Christ to the world. (I highly recommend to you *God is in the Manger*, a devotional reading by Dietrich Bonhoeffer for your Advent journey.) In God's grip,
Marcus

Thank you very much for the cards, memorials and prayers at the loss of two members of my family. Both lived to be 90+ years old. Your love and support at this time is very much appreciated.
Delrose Cearley

Pastor Courter, Ms. Lieke

THANK YOU so much for allowing attendees at our Joint Base San Antonio Volunteer Appreciation dinner to park for free in your parking lots. We filled up the main lot next to the church entrance and there were some that went into the next lot, so there were several dozen anyway. It was a blessing to be able to offer free parking to our volunteers.

We finished our program at 6:30 p.m., and just as we were leaving we noticed cars arriving for some kind of "Zombie Walk" in Hemisphere Park. It seems there is always something going on in downtown San Antonio.

We had nearly 400 people attending our dinner at the Villita Assembly Hall and all were aware of the gracious offer of St. John's for free parking. It was a tremendous outreach to the military chapel community and I thank you.

Blessings to you
Chaplain Paul Cannon

New Mission Start

Our Savior Lutheran Worshipping Community has begun the process of becoming a new Lutheran Church within our Synod. It worships along the Interstate 10 corridor between San Antonio and Boerne. More information is available at their web-site www.oursaviorsanantonio.org. Pastor Steve Rode, former Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Alamo Heights is their Mission Developer. If you live out in the area surrounding the church's location, considering worshipping there on Sunday and be a helping partner in establishing this new community. I-10 exit 555 if coming from the west and Dominion Drive if coming from the East. Their address is 8 Dominion Drive. It is the first curve to the right after passing the driving range. Go two blocks passing an open gate and immediately turn into the Dominion Village Club House parking lot. They worship in the game room on the right hand side of the entrance at 10:30 AM. Pastor Steve Rode is knocking on doors, so if you live in the area, expect a visit and warmly welcome him in.

If you would like to send a note to **PVT Steven Baker**, here is his address and instruction for mailing.

PVT Baker Steven E 302
A Co. 1-50 INBN, 198th ITB Building 3565
9773 2nd Armored Division Road
Fort Benning, GA 31905

When you send him a letter, **COLOR THE CORNERS OF THE ENVELOPE LIKE A BLUE TRIANGLE. DO NOT SEND CARE PACKAGES (NO FOOD IS ALLOWED). ONLY SEND LETTERS.**



San Antonio Lutheran Coronation Association presents its 53rd court: The Court of the 7 Seas.

Please join us on March 3rd, 2012 at the Scottish Rite Auditorium at 7 pm for the presentation of Queen Elect Suzanna Saathoff, Princess Elect Hannah Lyles and the duchesses of the Court of The Seven Seas. The San Antonio Lutheran Coronation Association (SALCA) is comprised of individuals from all walks of life, who lovingly give of their time and talents to make the Coronation possible. They represent various religious denominations (not just Lutheran). Participants are nominated by past Duchesses, Association members, Pastors or others, and are selected by the members of the Association according to their faithfulness and work in their church, school and community. Members of the court handcraft their gowns and trains with the help of their friends, family, church members and members of the association. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend some quality time completing a project together. The participants in the Coronation not only have an opportunity to display their gowns and witness their faith on the night of the Coronation; but also in many other ways. Members of the court ride on the Association float in the Battle of Flowers, Flambeau and various parades within the state. They are honored guests at the Mariachi service at St John's Lutheran Church, and display their trains during Fiesta Nueva, as well as participate in many service activities throughout the community during the year. **For more information on attending coronation please contact Mary Eaton at 210-317-0899.**

**The 107th Annual German Christmas
Candlelight Celebration**
Sunday, December 11, 2011 - 5:30 PM
Margarite B. Parker Chapel
Trinity University
1 Trinity Place, 78212
Beethoven Männerchor
San Antonio Liederkrantz
Chapel Organist Dr. David Heller
Sponsored by the German Weihnachtsfeier
Society of San Antonio

TIDINGS
502 East Nueva Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Postage paid in San Antonio, Texas
Periodical

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND DAY SCHOOL**

the Rev. Skip Courter - (210) 313-8482

scourter@stjohnsroosterchurch.org

Katie Rode – Director of Family Min. – katierode@gmail.com

Jennifer Bauer – Director of Campus Min. – jbauer@zionsa.org

Ken Turner - Director of Music - ktuner@stjohnsroosterchurch.org

Jenny Swanson – Organist - jswanson@alumni.trinity.edu

Irene Lieke - Business Manager

ilieke@stjohnsroosterchurch.org

Mary Boehme - Admin. Assist. &

Wedding Coordinator - (210) 223-2611

Fax: (210) 223-5667 mboehme@stjohnsroosterchurch.org

Web site - www.stjohnsroosterchurch.org

Delrose Cearley - Coordinator of Volunteers

DCearley@stjohnsroosterchurch.org

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Johnnie Porter - Part -Time Custodian

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9:15AM - Pre-Worship Preparation

9:30 AM - Worship

10:30 AM - Fellowship in Memorial Hall

Christian Education - 11:00 AM