

# Tidings

St. John's Lutheran Church Newsletter  
February 2020 Edition

Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



There's a song stuck in my head, all thanks to my wife, Maria. I will admit, however, as songs go, I'd rather have this one playing over and over within me than a lot of other selections. But before I say any more about why the song is there, allow me to press the "play button" for you, too. It is # 512 in our ELW worship book...



*Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your Word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.  
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.  
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.  
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.*

Maria and I were talking this morning about Jesus' Parable of the Sower, and about how the seeds of His Kingdom are cast far and wide, falling upon all types of ground. Mostly onto hardpan, rocky places, and thorn patches, it seems. But finally, thanks be to God, some seeds also find a soft and welcomed landing spot upon receptive soil.

And our conversation got me to thinking about the various ways we approach worship, itself. And about our receptivity. From my vantage point on Sunday mornings, I can see all types of soil... Hopeful, expectant faces. A few tired expressions. Some folks who actually take notes during the sermon. And others with deep frowns and folded arms.

So my question is... What do you expect in worship? Do you come hoping to encounter God? How do you prepare yourself to be fed and transformed by Word and Sacrament? Truth is, what we expect is usually exactly what we get.

What do you suppose could happen... if you entered our sanctuary, fully looking for Jesus to speak to you, to offer strength and balance to whatever you're carrying within you, and to bring right direction to all that awaits you in the week ahead? What might happen if you approached worship with a heart and mind fully-opened to the possibility of being re-calibrated by God for carrying out some task that He wants you to do? How might you more genuinely experience these very things as you gather alongside the rest of God's people every time we gather for worship?

Allow me to offer a few positive practices regarding weekly worship...

- Make worship a priority in your weekly schedule. And come fully expecting to be met by God. (I've seen one video on YouTube that calls weekly worship "*The Most Important Hour of Your Life*". I like that.)
- After greeting those near you, spend time during the Prelude in silent prayer, asking God to help you put aside all distractions, so that you may be open to whatever God hopes to give you in that hour. Ask God to enable you to hear the proclaimed Word with humility and partake of the Holy Sacrament with deepest gratitude. Remember that the two largest obstacles to the flow of grace are self-righteousness and self-promotion.
- Pray also for everyone else around you, both leaders and participants. Ask God to bless and assist them in whatever ways they most need that day.
- Give worship your fullest attention. Participate in the liturgy to the best of your ability. Pay close attention to what you are doing and saying, as well as why. Remember that the purpose of worship is not to entertain. Ask God to help you make your worship both acceptable and pleasing to Him.
- Bring someone else. Weekly worship ought not be something to keep to yourself. God wants you to bless others by inviting them to worship, as well.

**Pastor Jim Dew**

## **Happening in February at St. John's**

2 – Evangelism Team Meeting 11:00 AM

2 – Worship Team Meeting 11:00 AM

3 - Executive Committee Meeting  
6:15 PM

7 - First Friday Concert 12:05 PM

9 - Confirmation Instruction 11:00 AM

11 - Fiesta Team meeting 6:30 PM

17 - Congregation Council meeting  
6:15 PM

18 - Men's Worship and Dinner 6:30 PM

22 - Men's Worship and Brunch 9:00 AM

26 - Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00 PM

Please see our online calendar at [stjohnssa.org](http://stjohnssa.org) for weekly reoccurring events.

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### **First Friday Concert Series February 7 at 12:05 PM with a performance by DAVID MARTINEZ, TRUMPETER ROBERT JENKINS, PIANO AND ORGAN**



### **Save the Dates**

**Friday, March 6  
San Antonio Liederkrantz**

**Friday, April 3  
Moipei Triplets, vocal trio**

**Friday May 1  
Andrew Small, violinist**

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**Deadline for March TIDINGS is February 15**



## **Mission Trip 2020 to Sololá, Guatemala June 7 - 14, 2020**

**It is time to put our mission team  
together for a summer trip. If you  
are interested in being a part of  
this team or would like additional  
information,**

**Bea Imken  
210-878-7874 or beafitt@gmail.com**

### **St. John's Lutheran Church of San Antonio, TX Spring Congregational Meeting March 1, 2020 Agenda**

1. Opening Worship
2. President's Report
3. Secretary's Report (Minutes & Statistics)
4. Pastor's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Benediction



### **PLEASE REMEMBER**

**In addition to your regular offering, kindly bring one or two non-perishable food items or travel-size personal care products and place in the CAM grocery cart located in Memorial Hall each Sunday. Every Monday a volunteer delivers the items to CAM.**



**In memory of Delrose Cearley**

**By Viola Caraway  
By Ron and Belinda Schmidt  
By Betty Joyce Chavana  
By Barbara Cook  
By Jack and Susan Park  
By David and Terese Cearley Smith  
By Rev. Donald and Gretchen  
Marshall**

**In memory of Kenneth Ferguson**

**By Helen Lutz  
By Nathan Lutz**

**In memory of Loren Caraway**

**By Viola Caraway**

**In memory of Ernest M Chavana, Sr.**

**By Betty Joyce Chavana**

**In memory of Mourette Boehme**

**By Ronald and Belinda Schmidt  
By Maurice and Michelle Deaver  
By Ralph and Carol Detwiler  
By Jeryl and Dayton Simms  
By Ken and Mary Boehme  
By Rev. Donald and Gretchen Marshall**

**In memory of our parents: John P. & Marie A. Chavana and  
Alvin H. & Ellen I. Hartmann**

**By Betty Joyce Chavana**

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**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

*Please remember to notify the church office whenever  
you make a visit to any of our homebound members.  
Thanks!*

# One Year to Live Men's Retreat

**An Experience that meets men where they are.**

***As iron sharpens iron...so one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17***



**February 7 – 9**

**Camp Chrysalis**

**Kerrville, TX**

**For more information: David Umlang  
(210) 645-5036 talk/text  
or contact the church office**



**WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING**

**JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX**

Find out more at

[www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page)

**1 William Dickson**  
**Phyllis Southwell**  
**Scott Wudel**  
**2 Cletus Eckhardt**  
**3 Nita Larson**  
**4 Eric Haiduk**  
**Dakota Kelly**  
**Christopher Kopecky**  
**Deleyce Tietze**  
**5 Randy Abernathy**  
**Valerie Airheart**  
**Cynthia Grunewald**  
**6 Chelsea Huber**  
**Margaret Saathoff**  
**7 Nancy Codina**  
**Jayden Hall-Goode**  
**Karen Knudson**  
**Andrew Trevino**  
**8 Sarah Kopecky**



**9 Elaine Kourt**  
**10 Bruce Hahn**  
**Jacob Roman**  
**Joshua Roman**  
**11 Shannon Glover**  
**13 Evan Bowers**  
**14 Marcus Lang**  
**15 Kyle Dorsey**  
**Michelle McCartney**  
**16 Martha Lowther**  
**Maximilian**  
**von Durckheim**  
**17 Hope Garcia**

**18 Michele Braak**  
**20 Karl Kleinbeck**  
**Michelle Kraus**  
**Kimberly Peavler**  
**21 Ainsley Kraus**  
**22 Robert Cauble**  
**Carol Huber**  
**23 Jane Crenwelge**  
**Maike Hudson**  
**24 Sydney Acosta**  
**Raelyn Cauble**  
**Kent Rooen**  
**Emma Stahl**  
**26 Matthew Lopez**  
**27 Fern Frothingham**  
**28 Fred Feliciano**  
**Rona Stinson**  
**Michael Villarreal**



**Ash Wednesday Worship**  
**February 26 7:00 PM**  
**Imposition of Ashes and**  
**Holy Communion in the**  
**Sanctuary**

## **FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

**The Family Ministry Committee will begin in mid-February to stuff eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. We would appreciate it if the congregation would donate bags of candy for the hunt. A box will be available in Memorial Hall for your donations.**

**Thank you very much!**



## Open Hands, Open Hearts

Both pastors and parents often teach children to pray by bowing their heads, closing their eyes, and folding their hands. I still often pray in these very postures, but truth be told, teaching children to pray in this manner simply helps to minimize the squirming.

But folding hands does not really seem to match what we do when we pray. When we pray, we seek to open our hearts. So perhaps it is more fitting to open our hands.

You see, open, empty hands remind us that we possess nothing that we have not already received from God. We open our hands to a sudden rain that pours down upon us. We open our hands in surprise and in joy. We open our hands to signify that whatever our loving God has in store for us.

Open hands signal we are poised to receive.

And if you think about it, open hands cannot hold on to the past, or hold on to anger, or hold on to hurts.

Perhaps you might also notice that when we say thank you to someone, we also tend to do it with open hands. And our thanks always begin with thanking God.

Just one more thought...

Open hands receive, but they also give. It becomes like water flowing over our hands from that sudden rain. We receive and we give and we forgive and we give thanks. Open hands cannot interrupt the flow. Neither can they avoid it or bypass it. Being truly alive means being a part of the flow of receiving and giving and thanksgiving. And we do it all with open hands and open hearts.

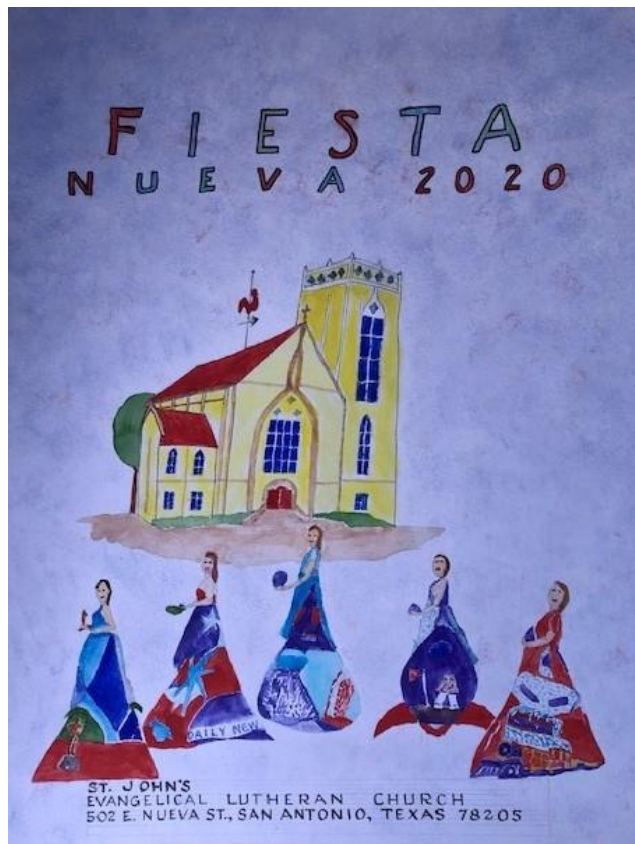
"Lord, we give you thanks for opening our hearts and our hands to what you would have us receive and what you would also have us give. Amen."

*Pastor Jim and your St. John's Stewardship Team*



## A Message from Deacon John Dellis

Comprehensive legacy planning for family, ministries and other non-profit organizations is available to the members of our congregation through Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest. Contact Deacon John Dellis, senior gift planner, at (830) 305-2758 or [jdellis@lfsw.org](mailto:jdellis@lfsw.org) to set a confidential, no-obligation appointment.



**EY-YI-YI-YI.....It's time for Fiesta Nueva**

**Sunday, April 19, 2020**

**St. John's 16th Annual Fiesta Nueva Celebration**

This year expect positive changes to ensure comfort, delicious cuisine with food trucks, wonderful shopping at our exclusive Silent Auction and St. John's memorabilia. Take a chance at winning with our Raffle prizes. Enjoy live music and entertainment while visiting with your fellow congregational members. *And by all means - invite your neighbors and friends ... the bigger the crowd, the better - it's St. John's. and we know how to "fiesta"!!*

Our commemorative Fiesta Nueva Meals, Raffle Tickets and Tee-Shirt Order forms will be available every Sunday prior to worship. We will announce the beginning in an upcoming Thursday weekly update.

Proceeds from Fiesta Nueva benefit our Family and Mission Ministries - including Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio along with CAM - Christian Assistance Ministries.

Fiesta Nueva is an Official Fiesta Event since 2009.

**VIVA FIESTA ST. JOHN'S**



## Men's Worship Service

"Glory be to God!" Men of Christ. This is your time! And your time is now!

If you are 18 years of age or older, you are invited to attend our "Men's Worship Service." This will be a great time to praise and worship God - an opportunity to rekindle old relationships and develop new ones! This is a new beginning for our men's group!

**Deuteronomy 31:6:** *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you or forsake you.*

**Join us for an evening of celebration of Christ!**  
**Tuesday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**We'll gather in Wolff Chapel with dinner and fellowship to follow.**

But wait! There is more!!!

If you can't attend the Tuesday evening service, or are just having too much fun and want to do this again...Come join us Saturday morning, February 22 at 9:00 a.m. We'll meet in Wolff Chapel with brunch and fellowship to follow.

**Psalm 37:23:** *The steps of a good man are established by the Lord, and He delights in his way.*

For more information, contact: Barry Shadrock (210) 279-9796 or [b.shadrock63@gmail.com](mailto:b.shadrock63@gmail.com)

# CHURCH COUNCIL

President~ Ron Stinson	210 415-4872	ronrstinson@aol.com
Vice President~ Julie Shadrock	210 286-1585	julie.shadrock@usaa.com
Secretary~ Caroline Nentwich	210 260-8361	cnetwic@yahoo.com
Treasurer ~ Lee Iredale	210 863-1604	leeiredale@gmail.com
<i>Members at Large:</i>		
Mary Boehme	210 288-5054	mboehme04@icloud.com
Pat Conroy	210 602-0645	conroy@ptconroy.com
Bonnie Eckhardt	210 632-8480	bonniejeckhart@gmail.com
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Belinda Schmidt	210 493-9035	belindabschmidt@gmail.com

## MINISTRY TEAM/COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

### *Team/Committee Chairperson*

Constitution/Bylaws	Ron Stinson	210 415-4872	ronrstinson@aol.com
Cemetery	Barry Shadrock	210 279-9796	bshadrock63@gmail.com
Evangelism	Susan Dickson	210 404-9610	sdwd416@satx.rr.com
Family	Amy Bohmann	830 556-1522	akdb@sbcglobal.net
Fiesta	Mary Boehme	210 288-5054	mboehme04@iloud.com
Finance	Kent Rooen	480 993-7402	krrooen25@hotmail.com
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Investment	Fred Pfeiffer	210 222-1586	fnpfeiffer@sbcglobal.net
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Property	Mike Arnold	210 654-1269	mikearnoldemt44@gmail.com
Stewardship	Caroline Nentwich	210 260-8361	cnetwic@yahoo.com
Worship	Ross Halvorson	480-797-8720	rhalvorson22@hotmail.com

## **Reminder Message from the Finance Office**

The Finance Office requests:

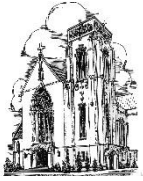
- 1) That all reimbursement requests be submitted to the Finance Office by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month of the purchase date. The Church closes its books each month and no reimbursement can be made for any month that has been closed.
- 2) That if you use a Church credit card, all receipts be turned in the week of the purchase. You can place these receipts in the box outside of the Accounting office. These receipts must be entered into accounts payable before the Church receives the credit card statement at the end of each month.

Thank you for your assistance. God's blessings.

Carolyn Myers, Bookkeeper

Financial reports are produced monthly and reviewed by the Congregation Council. These reports and Council minutes are available by request from the church office. For more information, please contact Eric at 210-223-2611 or at **[eric.ryniker@stjohnssa.org](mailto:eric.ryniker@stjohnssa.org)**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
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**Ph: 210-223-2611 Fax: 210-223-5667**  
**General E-mail: [info@StJohnsSA.org](mailto:info@StJohnsSA.org)**



*A legacy of Worship and  
Outreach in San Antonio  
since 1857*

Address Service Requested



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

***Our Mission:*** *Remembering our  
heritage and reaching for the future by  
living in faith and growing through  
worship, study and service.*

### **Parish Staff**

**Rev. James Dew *Senior Pastor***

[prjamesdew@hotmail.com](mailto:prjamesdew@hotmail.com) ext. 2613

**Eric Ryniker *Business Manager***

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**Tom Dannelley *Administrative Assistant***

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**Carolyn Myers *Bookkeeper***

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**Michael Bade *Director of Music***

[michael.bade@StJohnsSA.org](mailto:michael.bade@StJohnsSA.org) ext. 3019

**Robert Jenkins *Organist***

[rob.jenkins@StJohnsSA.org](mailto:rob.jenkins@StJohnsSA.org) ext. 3019

**Juan Diaz *Church Sexton***

**Hazael Menchaca *Sunday Church Sexton***