

# Tidings

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



Good things are happening here at St. John's! And through St. John's. And you are part of it.

I shared those exact words with you at the start of worship a few Sundays ago, and, along with everything else I offer on the front of these monthly newsletters, I stand behind them.

Good things are indeed happening as we turn the calendar and begin the work of a new year.

You might recall that one of the very first of many things we needed to do at the start of last year was to re-build a good number of ministry teams which had become dormant, and to appoint various chairpersons and team members, and to set them to work!

We begin this year by thanking a few of those chairpersons and team members who have decided to now step away, and by also welcoming, encouraging, and supporting the new leaders who are coming aboard. I am heartened by the words of one new leader who recently said to me... *"My family and I want to be part of the solution here at St. John's."*

(And, as we seek to re-fill a few remaining ministry positions... I encourage the rest of you to also step forward and offer your own positive energy to the important and difference-making work we share together.)

We also begin the new year with the commitment of our incoming Church Council to invest a little extra time each month journeying through a small book about the re-vitalization of another ELCA church... an exercise which brought significant, positive change to two other congregations whose Church Councils I also led through the same journey.

And finally, we begin the year by focusing on bringing to reality a whole array of new ministries which I have repeatedly articulated both here in the monthly Tidings and in my regular reports to the Church Council, including... the formation of new small group ministries for both men and women; the introduction of new retreat opportunities; the creation of a "Shepherd Ministry" to reach out to those who miss 3-4 Sundays in a row; the providing of "care bags" to folks who come to the church seeking assistance; the planning of closer, shorter-term mission trips for those who are unable to participate in our larger annual Guatemala venture; and hopefully, the re-scheduling of our Sunday morning schedule to include two worship gatherings, with a learning hour in-between for both our youngest ones and our older youth, along with a Pastor-led class for our adults.

Good things are indeed happening here at St. John's. Despite the efforts of those who continue to choose to be divisive. Despite those who boycott my pastoral leadership by literally crossing the aisle in order not to receive the Holy Sacrament from my hands. And despite those who coyly whisper in the corners to other people that the tone of this congregation has become noticeably "dark" (that's the word they keep using) ever since my arrival.

Still, I will reiterate to all who are willing to listen... we must not and cannot allow negativity to be the default mode here at St. John's, and I commend you to remind anyone who speaks and acts in such a manner that it serves no one any good and, in fact, only harms and hinders the mission and ministry of this congregation. (I will also point you to the Apostle Paul's instructions in Romans 16:17-19 regarding those who repeatedly choose to cause such dissent.)

Good things are happening right here at St. John's. And through St. John's. Thank you, Holy Spirit.

And everyone is welcomed to take part in it.

**Pastor Jim Dew**

## ***In Memoriam***

**In memory of Charles Williams, Bill & Udell Odam, Louis & Paulette Blank,  
Walter Schessenhagen and Edgar & Dorothy Stahl**

Given by Dwayne, Denise and Emma Stahl

**In memory of Kenneth Ferguson**

Given by Fred and Maria Pfeiffer  
Given by Jack and Susan Park  
Given by Ron and Belinda Schmidt

**In memory of Marilyn Brehm**

Given by Ron and Belinda Schmidt

**In memory of Walter Schessenhagen**

Given by Mary Jane Schessenhagen

**In memory of Charles Williams**

Given by Janice Williams

**In memory of Bill & Udell Odam**

Given by Mr. & Mrs. Billy Odam

**In memory of Delrose Cearley**

Given by Frank and Gaelyn Burk  
Given by Albert and Deleyce Tietze  
Given by Irene Lieke

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

1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day, Church Office Closed  
1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Jim on vacation  
6<sup>th</sup> – Executive Committee Meeting 6:00 PM  
12<sup>th</sup> – Installation of Church Council  
12<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Instruction 11:00 AM  
13<sup>th</sup> – Congregation Council Meeting  
7:00 PM  
14<sup>th</sup> – Fiesta Team Meeting 6:30 PM  
20<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Church  
Office Closed  
26<sup>th</sup> – Legacy Planning with Deacon John  
Dellis 11:00 AM

### **First Friday Concert Series**

**There will be no performance on  
Friday, January 3.**

**The series will resume on February 6  
at 12:05 PM**

**with a performance by  
DAVID MARTINEZ,  
TRUMPETER**

**Please plan to attend.**

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### **Cookie Walk a Big Success!**

**Thank You, St. John's members and volunteers for making our annual cookie walk a success.  
We sold over 90 lbs. of cookies. All the proceeds will go towards our new care bag ministry.  
Thank you again for supporting this ministry.**

**Bea Imken**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Rene Garza, Jr.
- 2 Charlotte Baker
- 3 Karen Caraway  
Joseph Curry
- 5 Ashley Goode  
Danny Hudel  
Agnes Valadez  
Cecilia Villanueva
- 6 Warren Gray  
Cliff Imken
- 7 John Lowther
- 8 Tiffany Harper  
Harvey Penshorn
- 10 Louis Spreen
- 11 Lewis Anderson  
Sophie Schultz  
Donna Zastawny
- 12 Kevin Dorsey  
Mary Hestilow  
Judge Barbara Nellerhoe

- 13 Martin Almaguer, Jr.  
Herb Garteiser  
Alexus Merrill  
Jack Park
- 14 Marilyn Hartung
- 15 Emily Cobb  
Anthony Mecke  
Victor Mendez
- 17 Marilyn Kowalik
- 18 Laura Eckhardt  
Melisa Kelly  
Travis Kelly  
Marilyn McSpadden  
Caroline Saathoff
- 19 Frances Lemaster  
Karen Lichtenberg  
Aimee Wudel
- 20 Christina Gibson  
Destiny Gonzalez

- 21 Jon Bohmann  
Bryan Caraway  
Fred Pfeiffer  
James Williamson
- 22 Felipa Mendez
- 23 Damian Anderson  
Jonathan Meinen  
Lila Ogle
- 24 Tom Bartholomew
- 25 Alexa Cauble  
Alma Genzer  
Nicolas Goode  
Lane Moore  
John Tietze
- 26 Mac McIntyre  
Wyatt Zelenak
- 27 Julie Acosta  
William Jackson IV
- 28 Declan Darchicourt  
Luke Fleming
- 31 Casey Acosta



**Janet Grun and Dottie Bowles  
serve on the Mission Team**

## Mission Team

SHOWER THE PEOPLE WITH LOVE has been a learning opportunity for the City of San Antonio, CAM and all its supporting volunteers from many congregations. The program's expectations of serving 60 - 80 clients, 3 days a week has resulted an average of 35 clients. An 8-stall trailer was borrowed from the Baptist Charities. It will be moved from the CAM lot by the end of this month.

Members of the City, CAM, SAWS and the Program Coordinator met, and are considering installing a 2 stall shower trailer. The City has paid for towels, cleaning and staff services, SAWS has contributed the water and CAM has provided volunteers to expedite the shifts 3 times a week. The thought of only 2-stalls is hard to imagine. In my opinion - it will be a lot of effort, for very few, and will cause great frustration for the 35 regular clients. I'm praying for a better solution. A solution will be provided by the end of the year.

As the Volunteer Coordinator for this program of the Mission Team, a heartfelt thank you for our St. John's volunteers:  
Dottie Bowles, Lynn Ed and Norma Case, Cliff and Bea Imken, and Ron Olson.  
Janet Grun



## **Legacy Giving for Family and Ministry Seminar** **January 26, Memorial Hall**

Everything that we have is a gift that God places in our care during our lifetimes. We each have the privilege, responsibility and joy of being a steward, of caring for loved ones, for God's creation, and also creating gifts for Christian ministry.

As you plan your own legacy that will reflect your faith and values, the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest is here to assist you. We are here to help you care for your family and benefit Lutheran ministries, as well as your other favorite community and other non-profit organizations.

Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest provides comprehensive gift planning and management, personalized to your goals and your unique family and financial situation. The gifts the foundation receives and stewards are on behalf of other ministries.

St. John's Lutheran Church will host a Legacy Giving for Family and Ministry Seminar at 11:00 AM on Sunday, Jan. 26. Deacon John Dellis, our synod gift planner with the foundation, will be with us to talk about options and possibilities for the future for our congregation.



During the seminar, we'll discuss:

- How to care and provide for family and other loved ones and provide legacy gifts for ministry and other non-profit organizations
- Review options for legacy gift sharing that will bless future generations forever
- That the foundation's services to the members of our congregation are provided at no cost and no obligation.



## **Help Fill the Shopping Cart for CAM**

**Bring your non-perishable food items and place in the cart located in Memorial Hall. Each Monday a volunteer delivers the items to CAM.**



**Hazael Menchaca has joined the church staff as our Sunday Sexton.**

**Hazael began his duties on Sunday, December 22.**

**Please be sure to welcome him when you see him, if you haven't already. He is replacing Christine Hazelton, whom we thank for her two and a half years of service to our congregation.**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) Christmas Store

A big thank you to all who helped to give over 700 children a wonderful Christmas. The money and gifts given to CAM went a huge way to help stock the store. Parents came and were able to select gifts for their children at no cost to them. A big thank you to Tanya Anderson, Elle Anderson, Bea Imken, Amy Bohmann, Kathy Dicke and Mary Boehme for helping to set up the store and assist the parents in selecting the toys. Thank you again to all who made donations, and to those who volunteered to help set-up the store!

To God alone the glory.



## CHURCH COUNCIL

President~ Ron Stinson	210 415-4872	ronstinson@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
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Kent Rooen	480 993-7402	krrooen25@hotmail.com
Belinda Schmidt	210 493-9035	belindabschmidt@gmail.com

## MINISTRY TEAM/COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

*(Updated information will be posted in the next issue of Tidings)*

### **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 or by going to the "Members" section of the church website. For more information, please contact Eric at 210-223-2611 or at [eric.ryniker@stjohnssa.org](mailto:eric.ryniker@stjohnssa.org)

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*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 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 ext. 3019

**Robert Jenkins *Organist***

rob.jenkins@StJohnsSA.org ext. 3019

**Juan Diaz *Church Sexton***

**Hazael Menchaca *Sunday Church Sexton***

