

Tidings

St. John's Lutheran Church Newsletter
November 2019 Edition

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



Dear People of God at St. John's,

There is a river that flows out in the middle of the desert, and it flows in and between two different lakes. As it flows into the first lake, the most striking thing you notice is the abundance of life all around it. All along the shores of this first lake are green trees and flowering plants. Multi-colored fish swim just beneath the water's surface and various kinds of birds skim the top of it. There are fishermen in their boats and families with children playing on the shores. In the very midst of this harsh landscape, this first lake's coolness and refreshment is enjoyed by them all.

The river continues to flow... out of this first lake, and after about 50 miles, it empties into the second lake. The difference, however, is startling. There, you see no plants, no fish, no birds... nothing. Why? Because nothing flows out of this second lake. The river literally dies right there.

The river, by the way, is the Jordan, which runs through the Holy Land, and where John baptized the masses.

The first lake is the Sea of Galilee... where Jesus stilled the storm, where he fed the multitudes, where the disciples lived and fished, and where, today, it continues to teem full of life.

But the second lake doesn't allow any of the river's water to continue to flow. It keeps it all to itself, trapping it. And it has become so salty that it is actually poisonous to any living thing. Not surprisingly, it is called the Dead Sea.

Although fed by the one and same river, the image of these two lakes speaks a real truth about our living, and about our life in God... both as individuals and as a congregation.

What do we do with all the good gifts that flow into our lives? Do we celebrate God's goodness and abundance and allow all which God gives us to continue to flow through us? Or do we get stuck in "scarcity-thinking" and choose to keep it all for ourselves?

And what do we do as a congregation? Do we dare to risk a "mission" style of thinking and doing that allows for new life to grow and blossom? Or are we too content to remain stuck in a "maintenance" mode, and in old patterns, even though they impede the flow of grace? And (dare I name it again?) is it still too easy to continue to feed the same old strife that has consumed St. John's for decades now, despite its poisonous effects?

Just inside this issue of Tidings, on the back of this page, you'll find a copy of an old Sunday morning Bible Study handout I created back in my previous congregation for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B. Its focus was on the Second Reading appointed for that day. Using it as your guide, I strongly encourage you to commit intentional time, prayer, and conversation with others during this month, focusing on that particular passage of Scripture.

In order that God may once again fill us... here at St. John's... to overflowing.

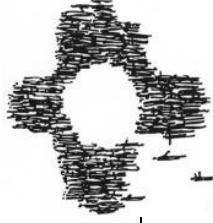
Pastor Jim Dew

"Mid-week Word and Prayer" (Contemplative Version)
Every Wednesday at 12:15pm, beginning November 6th
(Water and Tea provided. Bring a sack lunch if you wish.)

Wisdom, Conflict, and Peace-making

17th Sunday after Pentecost / Ordinary 25 Year B

Santa Cruz Lutheran Church – Pastor's Class



Welcome!

Our passage for this study begins with the question, "Who is wise and understanding among you?" Using this question as a yardstick, the topics of conflict and peace-making are also addressed...

Read / Listen

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵ Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1} Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ² You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Wisdom

James believes it is best to live a life of wisdom, rather than simply to talk about it. In that, these verses are consistent with the overall theme of the Letter of James, that is, being "doers" of God's Word and not merely "hearers" who only fool themselves (James 1:22).

- How might you describe someone who is wise?
- As you read this passage, how does James define wisdom? What are the key traits?

Conflict

James raises more questions... "Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you?" (James 4:1)

- The Apostle James suggests that our struggles with others often reflect our own inner struggles. What sense do you make of this?

James also believes that many people spend their energy seeking that which is not God. They covet and seek earthly things. Conflicts occur because of misdirected pursuits.

- What do you believe is the root of conflicts between people?
- How does a wise person resolve conflict?

Peace-making

The advice is simple: "Submit yourselves therefore to God." "Draw near to God." (James 4:7-8) Allow God's wisdom to shape and guide your life.

- What does peace look like? In your home? At work? Out in public? In this congregation?
- Why are people sometimes unwilling to work for peace?
- How might "making peace" stir up conflict?
- How can you cultivate a better climate of peace in your own daily living? What gets in the way? What helps?

A Few More Thoughts...

The Christian life is not conflict-free. Those who sow peace and are faithful to Christ are not immune to facing turmoil. The real difference is seen in how they choose to respond. Making peace is more than just being polite and keeping to ourselves. It includes naming injustice, righting wrongs, and working toward change. These practices are rooted in our baptismal identity as a people called by God to embody Christ's hands and feet in this world.

Pray

"Holy God, give us wisdom and grace to face conflict in healthy ways. Bless us with a harvest of righteousness as we sow peace. Amen."



Congratulations Carole Cauble!

Carole Cauble will represent St. John's in the upcoming **3rd Annual Queso Meltdown** on November 2. Carole received 1st place at St. John's Queso Meltdown on October 13.

Come support Carole and this fundraiser for CAM, and vote for Carole's award winning Queso. You will enjoy a "family friendly" event with a variety of activities, a bouncy jumper, magician – fun for all!



3rd annual CAM Queso Meltdown

Saturday, November 2 1:00 – 4:00 pm

110 McCullough Ave

For ticket information, call: 210 223-4099

St. John's Queso Meltdown October 13



First Friday Concert Series

Friday, November 1st 12:05 p.m.

**Robert Jenkins, St John's Organist,
will present a selection of organ
classics.**



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st

Mary Boehme
Christian Stevens
Reagan Villareal

2nd

Joshua Kowalik
Brandon Rickrim

3rd

Travis Tondre
Adelle Trevino

4th

Casen Chanler
Bonnie Eckhardt
Joey Fisher
Slade Herb II
Karen Wolff

6th

Brittany Weaver

7th

Sebastian Alvarez
Lily Hendricks

8th

Shannon Albers
Dale Schultz
Gloria Teegardin

9th

Frances Bara
Micaila Larson
Brandon Martini

11th

Maury Deaver
Camden Hendricks
Roger Steckly

13th

Viola Caraway
Travis Haiduk
Mary Jane
Schessenhagen
Ruth Schriewer
Katherine Tietze

14th

Laura Almaguer
Lloyd Beyer
Brooklyn Bowling
Trey Reed
Henry Uhr, Jr.

15th

Patti Bernard
Ruth Garrity
Vernell Helm

17th

Eden Koester

19th

Susan Park

20th

Ruth Haas
Chasity Valdez-
Goode

22nd

Darrell Franz
Carol Wendel

26th

Sabrina Archer

27th

Samuel Mendez
Ashlynn Schultz

28th

Scott Baker
Amanda Poe

29th

Carmen Fischer
William Ogle

1st - First Friday Concert 12:05 pm

3rd - Budget Q & A 10:45 am

Confirmation Instruction 11:00 am

4th - Executive Committee Meeting 6:00 pm

10th - Congregational Meeting 10:45 am

11th - Congregational Council Meeting 7:00 pm

12th - Fiesta Team Meeting 6:30 pm

15th thru 17th - Pastor Jim away for Continuing
Education

16th - Lutheran Cluster Day, Habitat for Humanity

24th - Stewardship Sunday & Re-dedication
of the Sanctuary 9:30 am

Stewardship Sunday meal 10:45 am

28th & 29th - Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holidays



Please see the church's online calendar for a complete listing of meetings and events.



**In memory of Melvin and Stella Boehme
by Luis and Phyllis Guzman**

**In memory of her husband, Walter Schessenhagen
by Mary Jane Schessenhagen**

Stewardship Commitment and Brunch

November 24

Please join us for Stewardship Sunday on November 24, 2019, as we celebrate all that God has blessed us with.

There will be an opportunity for each of us to commit our gifts to the ministry of St. John's for 2020, followed by brunch in Memorial Hall.

You won't want to miss this time of fellowship and thanksgiving, as we give thanks for each of us and all that God has done in our lives and the life of our congregation.

See you there.

The Stewardship Team



Join us and 15 other Lutheran congregations in the San Antonio area as we come together this fall to build an affordable home for the Anderson family.

Construction volunteers needed (ages 14 and up). No tools or experience needed.

Lunch providers needed (all ages). Provide and serve 30 on site.

Saturday, November 16 has been designated **Lutheran Cluster Day**. Let's build up a family, build up a community and build up HOPE!

Contact Bea Imken at beafitt@gmail.com or (210) 878-7874.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of San Antonio, TX Fall Congregational Meeting November 10, 2019 Agenda

1. Opening Worship
2. President's Report
3. Presentation and Adoption of the Audit Report
4. Adoption of the 2020 Budget
5. Officers
 - a. Council Members
 - b. Synod Assembly Delegates
 - c. Nominating Committee Members
6. Closing Benediction



CALL OUT TO OUR BAKERS

It's that time again! Our annual cookie walk is scheduled for Dec. 8 and we need donations of a batch or two of your best homemade cookies and or/ other confections such as fudge, breads, pies, cakes, etc. The items being donated should be brought to Memorial Hall by 9AM if possible on the morning of the event. Please consider contributing homemade treats or crafts and/or buying some made by others; it's a wonderful way to obtain a selection of tasty treats for the holidays.

Contact Bea Imken @ 210-878-7874 or www.beafitt@gmail.com for more information.



Christian Assistance Ministry

GIVE OF YOURSELF

Personal Hygiene Products

Non-perishable food items

Drop your items in the basket located in Memorial Hall and our St. John's volunteers will deliver them weekly to CAM.

SHOWER THE PEOPLE WITH LOVE Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. About 20-35 clients come each day to use the shower. St. John's has promised to assist on the 2nd Saturday of each month. The next date will be November 9th.

A minimum of 4 volunteers would be amazing to represent our support of CAM and the Shower Program. There will be a sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall on the CAM table. Contact Janet Grun, the volunteer coordinator for more information at (210) 834-8052.

St. John's Eucharistic Ministry

Viola Caraway recently served communion to Marilyn Hartung, a resident of the Village of the Incarnate Word. The Eucharistic Ministry helps remind our members who are unable to attend Sunday worship that they are still an important part of St. John's.



Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Rd, San Antonio, Tx. 78254.

Saturday, November 9 from 11:00am 2:00pm.

Friends, Mr. Dave Newman from Zion Lutheran Church-Helotes is inviting our men from St John's to attend a national **"BOLD GATHERING"** event sponsored by Lutheran Men in Mission. The **"Bold Gathering"** is a day for men to come together to learn, network, and be equipped to boldly live their faith.

Let us show a huge support for this event by everyone attending! We can meet up at St. John's for coffee and pastries around 9:15 am. Then carpool to Zion Lutheran Church leaving St. John's at 10:00 am. An onsite lunch will be provided (with a free will offering) at the event.

Following the event (around 3:30 to 4:00) some Lutheran men from across the nation plan to come downtown to tour St. John's. Let the Holy Spirit rise! Let us welcome them with open arms, song, fellowship and love! **"Let our light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify you Father in heaven."** A light reception in Memorial Hall will follow the tour.

<http://www.boldgathering.com/> Please click on this link to register for the onsite event. **"Click" # 3. Onsite/Attend in Person (\$5).** There is a \$5.00 registration fee for all participants.

If you plan to attend this event, **please contact me, and let me know you have registered!** If you have any difficulty registering, please contact me: Barry Shadrock Bshadrock63@gmail.com (210) 279-9796

CHURCH COUNCIL

President~ Ron Stinson	210 415-4872	ronstinson@aol.com
Vice President~ Rosemary Petry	210 213-1512	rosemary.petry@frostbank.com
Secretary~ Caroline Nentwich	210 260-8361	cnetwic@yahoo.com
Treasurer ~ Kent Rooen	480 993-7402	krrooen25@hotmail.com

Members at Large:

Mary Boehme	210 288-5054	mboehme04@icloud.com
Ed Case	210 254-5169	skilledservicesofsa@yahoo.com
Pat Conroy	210 602-0645	conroy@ptconroy.com
Susan Dickson	210 394-0586	sdwd416@satx.rr.com
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Bea Imken	210 878-7874	beafitt@gmail.com
Brad Richie	210 287-6814	bradr12@me.com
Dan Robison	210 913-0328	daniel.robison@usaa.com
Belinda Schmidt	210 493-9035	belindabschmidt@gmail.com
Julie Shadrock	210 286-1585	Julie.shadrock@usaa.com

MINISTRY TEAM/COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

Team/Committee Chairperson

Audit (ad hoc)	Belinda Schmidt	210 493-9035	belindaschmidt@gmail.com
Cemetery	Barry Shadrock	210 279-9796	bshadrock63@gmail.com
Evangelism	Susan Dickson	210 404-9610	sdwd416@satx.rr.com
Family	Rona Stinson	210 262-3800	pebbles2885@yahoo.com
Fiesta	Mary Boehme	210 288-5054	mboehme04@iloud.com
Finance	Lee Iredale	830 980-2625	leeiredale@gmail.com
History	Maria Pfeiffer	210 222-1586	ampfeiffer@sbcglobal.net
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Property	Mike Arnold	210 654-1269	mikearnoldemt44@gmail.com
Stewardship	Dan Robison	210 532-7928	daniel.robison@usaa.com
Worship	Ron Schmidt	210 493-9035	rss@swlawsa.com

Reminder Message from the Finance Office The Finance Office requests:

- 1) That all reimbursement requests be submitted to the Finance Office by the 5th 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 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

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
502 East Nueva, San Antonio, Texas 78205
Ph: 210-223-2611 Fax: 210-223-5667
General E-mail: info@StJohnsSA.org

The heart of Christ...
In the heart of City
St. John's Lutheran Church



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*
prjimdew@outlook.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*
Christine Hazelton *Sunday Church Sexton*

