



The Missioner

**St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
Washington & 11th Streets, Lockport, IL 60441
815-834-1168 www.stjohns-lockport-il.org**

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January 2016

Perhaps because it is ingrained in our culture, many of us see the start of a new year as an opportunity for a fresh start. Whether we're into making resolutions for the new year, or we simply look forward in hope to the potential that may well come with the year ahead; I have to say I find it all to be quite invigorating. But, I will add that it wasn't until this passing from 2015 to 2016 that I began to see this practice of hope for the new year as something *holy*.

This may or may not surprise anyone. After all, clergy are either supposed to be aware of holiness in all things, or we're expected to make clear distinctions for people about what things are sacred, what not. However, after being with you all for 5 years, I think you know me well enough to realize that I'm suspicious of absolutes in the realm of "sacred things." So, it's not likely that you'll be reading a list of "*Dos and Don'ts*" from me anytime soon.

Anyway, getting back to my point, what I think is holy and sacred about this practice of hope for what is ahead for a new year is that it not only calls us to be better people, but it calls to mind the idea that we *can be* better people. In this sense of hope, we invest of ourselves into the promise that our lives have meaning, and our choices can affect not only ourselves, but the lives of others, as well. So whether we're choosing to eat better, or get more exercise; we're affirming our need for health with the knowledge that such things can help us in other parts of our lives. Maybe we'd like to devote more meaningful time with family or friends... In this, we're trusting that our relationships are not only worth our time, but that such relationships are important enough to invest in them intentionally. Whatever the case, those things that we choose to work at, or even those things we choose to hope in—more often than not, our hope for a new year, and a new start come from a deep place within us.

Now, of course, I can't talk about things like hope and potential without also mentioning the church. I may not be a conventional cleric—but, I'm still a cleric nonetheless. With that, I know for myself that I have my own hopes for what 2016 will mean for St. John's. With each passing New Year, I can't help but think of the continual changes that have occurred over the previous year. And, at the same time, I think about where the potential seems to be in the church. My hope is that I'll be able to share those things as the year begins.

But, then again, St. John's isn't really *my* church—it's yours. While I can help encourage and cultivate vision and mission—without a sense of ownership, a vision cannot last beyond the tenure of the person who introduced it. That is, not unless that vision is also the vision of the people.

So, what would *your* hopes be for St. John's in 2016? Where do you see the challenges and potential for the church? What will you offer to help make that hope real? Whatever the case, we're beginning a new year, and it's up to us to decide whether it will be a time new beginnings and potential, or perhaps something less. But, then, only one of these choices would be considered "hope."

Peace,

Fr. Matt Humm+

Bishop's Committee News

The next Bishop's Committee Meeting will be held on January 13 at 6:30 PM.

~

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church will hold its Annual Meeting on January 31, 2016 after the 10:30 AM Service. All are encouraged to attend and participate this event.

What Happens At This Meeting? The annual meeting typically elects bishop committee (church board) members, and it may elect bishop committee officers. Delegates to diocesan convention and representatives to other diocesan, deanery, or parish entities may also be elected at the annual meeting. The budget of the church may be presented and approved. The vicar, bishop committee officers, music director, christian education director, and other church or program leaders may make presentations at the annual church meeting. A review of the previous year's accomplishments as well as goals for the new year may also be presented.

RSVP Today! [Keeping God's People Safe Training - Level One](#)

January 16—Saturday ~ Facilitator: Fr. Matt Humm ~ 9 AM—12 PM
@ [Church of St. Benedict](#)—909 Lily Cache Lane, Bolingbrook



This is a
Keeping God's People
Safe Church

The Diocese of Chicago is committed to doing everything in its power to maintain a safe and supportive atmosphere for the children and adults who are members of its congregations, attend its programs or participate in its ministries.

To foster a secure environment, we have developed Keeping God's People Safe, a two-level workshop training program that sensitizes all of those who work with children in our church to the dangers of child sexual abuse and teaches them to recognize and prevent situations in which abuse or exploitation might occur.

Please RSVP to Denise, Parish Secretary with St. Benedict's at info@stbenedict.ws. Thank you.

Worship & Formation



CHURCH SCHOOL

Schedule this Month: January 10 & January 24

Time: during 10:30 AM Sunday Service

Ages: 3—11

Where: In Parish Hall

Contact: Ellen Hill



Wednesday Evening Eucharist Service & Formation

January Schedule: 6th, 20th & 27th

Time: 7 PM

Contact: Fr. Matt Humm



All are invited to join **Centering Prayer** at 8:00 AM each Saturday morning in the church. Contact: Charity Humm

Worship & Formation Con't

St. John Youth Group

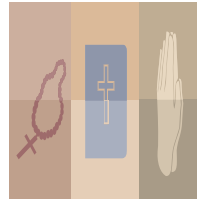


I would like to start by thanking everyone who supported the youth group this year with our Kringle sales. We were nervous because the weather made the sales at Christmas Crossroads very low, but you all really stepped up and picked up the slack from that and it is extremely appreciated. We had a generous donator who purchased the last 40 of them and requested that they be passed out to Morning Star Mission and the local men's and women's shelters. What a way to spread Christmas spirit! The money raised from this will be put to great use in helping our kids continue to have a youth group with meaningful and fun activities where they can grow together in a safe loving place. Our recent activities have consisted of helping sort food at the local Creekside Cares facility for Thanksgiving and gingerbread house making for Christmas!

I would also like to welcome a new addition to the youth group; Katherine who will be my co-leader. She has been an amazing addition to the group and we're so excited to have her! We are looking forward to what the new year has in store for us, and from how great this year was I can only imagine how great next year will be! I thank you again for your continued support of this group of truly amazing young people. Merry Christmas and Happy New Years to you and your family!

-Kim McElheny

Musicians' Centering Prayer Retreat—Open Invitation February 20—10:30 AM



Dean Sharon Fisher of the American Guild of Organists (AGO-SW Chapter) is extending an invite to St. John's Musicians/Choir and all others to participate with them this February 20th.

Dear Colleagues,

We have a program set up with St. John's Episcopal Church in Lockport for a Retreat on February 20, 2016, to be conducted by Charity Humm (the Pastor's wife). This is a repeat for our musicians. Tom Secor organized the first Centering Prayer retreat in 2014. The experience was worthwhile and very well received - and I look forward to this program.

Time: the event is from 10:30 - noon (with a pizza lunch).

Address: [St. John the Evangelist](#) - 312 E. 11th Street, Lockport, IL 60441

Phone: 815/834-1168

RSVP: Sharon Fisher at slfisher615@att.net

Regards,

Sharon Fisher, Dean
AGO Southwest Suburban

January Lectionary

Date	1st Lesson	Psalm	2nd Lesson	Gospel
January 3	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 84:1-8	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Matthew 2:1-12
January 10	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January 17	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
January 24	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 4-6, 8-10	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
January 31	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30

Parish Life



Note of Gratitude for continued service to the mission here at St. John's...

- Pam Carter, Ellen Hill, Hannah Hill, Jan Lindstrand and Lee Moarn for their service week in and week out with the Altar Guild ministry.
- Kim McElheny for organizing the fun Christmas Radio Theater Outreach program presented in December.
- Jan McElheny & Kim McElheny for the planning the Candle Exchange and Ugly Sweater Party.
- Judy Broud & Ruth Kozlowski for planning the Toys for Tots collection/drop-off of gifts and those, many unknown, that contributed gifts to this outreach effort.
- Greening of the Church helpers and Potluck contributors for a fun Advent Sunday event.

The Candle Exchange

December 6th was our candle exchange. There were roughly 13 parishioners that participated. We all enjoyed getting together, listening to Christmas music and having tasty treats. It was a fun fellowship time. Thank you all for coming.

Christmas Crossroads

November 21st & 22nd, the Youth Group sold Kringles at the craft show. The Youth Group sold a total of 570 Kringles between the craft show and our parishioners. Thank you to everyone that bought the Kringles to support our youth. The profits will help the youth to have special activities in 2016.

Thank you.

~ Jan McElheny



Outreach



2016 Morning Star Mission

Lunch Service Schedule—Helping Hands Needed

Located at the back of the church, please consider signing up to serve lunch once or several times this year. Lunch Servers gathers at church at 10:30 AM and carpool to Mission to serve a warm meal to those in need. This once a month effort takes 2.5 hours on the second Saturday of each month.



Recap of Events

I would like to take a moment and thank all of you who came out and enjoyed some of the activities that have been going on this past month. It's a great feeling to know that I can bring new ideas to the church and that there are going to be people to support it. We had a great time with the weekly Christmas radio theater event on Tuesday nights. It was wonderful having some people return from October's radio theater, including people who weren't even parishioners! What a treat to get to share our beautiful church with people from the community. I am also so grateful for everyone who stepped up to help me with things like clean up and even making treats! I really am so proud to be apart of such a supporting and loving community.

Thank you also to those of you who came out to our ugly sweater party. It was a great night filled with food, games and great conversation. Congrats to our 3 ugly sweater winners, and thank you all for donning your best ugly sweaters.

Thank you all again for participating in all the festivities and I look forward to what the new year has in store for us!

Merry Christmas!

-Kim McElheny

Lockport Food Pantry - January Schedule of Suggested Items for Donations

January 3: vegetable soup / cans of vegetables

January 10: beef stew

January 17: ravioli / SpaghettiOs

January 24: flour & sugar

January 31: instant mash potatoes

Thank You!



January Birthdays

Danielle Williams	1/4
Tristan Humm	1/5
Pam Carter	1/16
Pat Perrier	1/16
Ashley Lindstrand	1/18
Emma Phillips	1/20
Kim Brennan	1/21
Travis Falls	1/23
Pat Darin	1/25
Hannah Hill	1/28
Mary Alyce Polich	1/29

January Anniversaries

Thomas & Konstantina Gogerty	1/13
Edwin Hamilton & Mr. Gary Magruder	1/17
Kenneth Porter & Catherine Baker	1/24
Thomas & Susan Drake	1/25

Those for whom prayers have been asked:
 McKynsie J. and Deb U.
And all those with terminal illnesses, their families, and those caring for them.

*** Please contact the office if any of the above information changes.*

Website: www.stjohns-lockport-il.org Telephone: 815-834-1168
 Calendar: [Calendar - Google](#) E-mail: office@stjohns-lockport-il.org

January's - Humor & Smiles Corner

Reason #2: From smells and bells to speaking in tongues-we have it all.
 Sheena A. Lawrence
 Diocese of Atlanta
 Crew, Louie, *101 Reasons to be Episcopalian*,
 Morehouse Publishing, Harrisburg, 2003, xiii

Some Helpful Resources For Daily Prayer

For Daily Prayer	www.missionstclare.com
For Daily Reading	satucket.com/lectionary
Episcopal News	www.episcopalcafe.com/ http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens
Facebook - Lockport, IL	http://www.facebook.com/stjohntheevangelist
Diocesan Website	episcopalchicago.org
National Church	episcopalchurch.org
Parish Connections	stjohns-lockport-il.org
Twitter	@forwardinchrist

Important Dates to Remember

January 1.....	New Year's Day Service @ 10 AM
January 2.....	Centering Prayer @ 8 AM
January 6.....	Daughters of the King @ 10:30 AM
.....Prayer Shawl @ 11:30 AM, Eve Eucharist & Formation @ 7 PM	
January 9.....	Centering Prayer @ 8 AM
.....Morning Star Mission Meal Service @ 10:30 AM	
January 10.....	Church School @ 10:30 AM
January 13.....	Prayer Warriors @ 10:30 AM
.....Bishop's Committee Mtg @ 6:30 PM	
January 16.....	Centering Prayer @ 8 AM
.....Keeping God's People Safe Trng/St. Benedict @ 9 AM	
January 17.....	Youth Group at 6:30 PM
January 20.....	Daughters of the King @ 10:30 AM
.....Prayer Shawl @ 11:30 AM, Eve Eucharist & Formation @ 7 PM	
January 23.....	Centering Prayer @ 8 AM
January 24.....	Church School @ 10:30 AM
January 27.....	Eve Eucharist & Formation @ 7 PM
January 30.....	Centering Prayer @ 8 AM
January 31.....	Annual Meeting after 10:30 AM Svc

Staff

The Rev. R. Matthew Humm, *Priest*
 Kyndel Trejo, *Organist*
 Jill Crisman, *Church Secretary*
 Open *Sexton*
 Open, *Sr. Warden*
 Leona Davies, *Jr. Warden*
 Carolyn Hall, *Clerk*

Bishop Committee Members

Open, *Sacristan*
 Ellen Hill, *Christian Education*

Rob Brennan 16	Tom Boyle 18
Lee Moarn 16	Scott Ruphard 18
Art Pesavento 16	Wendy Stewart 18
Roberta Beaudoin 17	
Steve Masters 17	

Open, *Ushers*
 Rob Brennan, *Marketing*
 Lee Moarn, RN,BSN,FCN, *Health Ministry*
 Wendy Stewart, *Daughters of the King*
 Lillian Hensley, *Hospitality*
 Julia Matile, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
Formation (2nd & 4th Sunday)

WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
7:00 PM Worship & Formation

**Mission Statement of
St. John the Evangelist Church**

“The mission of St. John the Evangelist Church is to incarnate our Baptismal Covenant as we worship and praise God through the Sacraments of the Church, proclaim the Gospel in word and action, promote Christian fellowship and spiritual growth, and encourage all members to live their lives for the benefit of all God’s people.”



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