The Twinkling of an Eye

TODAY @ ST. JOHN’S
December 29, 2013
First Sunday of Christmas

Christmas day is past, but God’s blessings remain. Welcome to all! Let us joyfully praise God for God’s unique gift of Christ our Lord.

8:15 & 11AM ~ Holy Communion
9:30AM ~ Contemporary Service with “Praise4Him” Team, Communion

Food Sunday Next Week
Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, designated for collecting non-perishable food, paper goods and toiletries for local food pantries. Please place items in the bin provided in the narthex. Cash gifts are also gratefully accepted. Make checks payable to “St. John’s Hunger Team” and place in the offering plate or in the Social Ministry/Food Cupboard mailbox in the church office. Thank you!

COMING EVENTS...

Chick-fil-a Fundraiser to the Youth
Love chicken? Love doing good? Combine those two loves by saving the date of Jan. 6 for the youth’s fundraiser at Chick-fil-A in Hunt Valley for the mission trip to Puerto Rico in 2014! ~Thank you!

Newcomer Gatherings – Jan. 12 & 19
Looking for a church home at St. John’s? Plan to begin the new year by attending one of the two Newcomer Gatherings set for Jan. 12 & 19, 10:45 am, in the Parlor, lower level. It is a time to get acquainted with others, ask questions, and hear about the mission, vision and ministry activities of St. John’s. Attending one of these meetings is needed preparation for faith commitment and community membership. Child care is provided.

We rejoice and welcome into the kingdom of God through Holy Baptism at the 9:30am service today:
Remington John Preteroti
son of
Jonathan & Kelly Preteroti

WELCOME CENTER
Visiting today? Thank you for participating in worship! Please use the yellow card in the pew rack to register your contact information and any prayer requests. Return the card to the Welcome Center and receive a gift. We are glad to share with you more information about St. John’s and answer questions you may have.

Theme of the Day
As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

Bring a Bell Sunday TODAY
Plan to bring any bell of your choice to worship today. At all three services worshipers will be invited to ring as the Spirit moves you during this joyful service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

Name Tag Sunday – Today
As you enter worship today, please wear a name tag and help build our friendship together in Christ.

Thanks from The Mitten Tree Team
Thank you to all who donated to the Mitten Tree this year. With your help, we were able to deliver many warm clothing items to Amazing Grace. Many blessings to your families from ours! The Loomis Family

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye... we shall be changed.” 1Corinthians 15:52
This Week

Monday, December 30
6:30PM Cub Scouts Pack 444 (CH)

Tuesday, December 31
Nothing on calendar

Wednesday, January 1
Office closed for Holiday
6:00PM Cub Scouts Den 1 (CH)

Thursday, January 2
7:00AM Men’s Breakfast (FH)
11:00AM Deborah Circle (FH)
7:37PM Oasis (YC)
8:00PM AA Meeting (FH)

Friday, January 3
9:00AM Prayer Group (P)

Saturday, January 4
9:00AM Chrysalis Team Meeting

C ~ Chapel
CH ~ Chapel Hall
CR ~ Choir Room
FH ~ Fellowship Hall
N ~ Nursery
P ~ Parlor
WC ~ Worship Center
YC ~ Youth Center

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jesus’ birthday and for our family from Doris and Wilbur Koerner.

Keeping you informed...
The office will be closing at 12 noon on Tuesday, December 31 and will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 for New Year’s Day. We'll be back in the office on Thursday, January 2 at 8:30AM. Thank you.

Happy New Year!

Faith Matters: “It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”

~ Mother Teresa

Memorial Service for Susan Nash
Susan passed away on December 20. There is a memorial service scheduled for Susan at 4:00PM on Saturday, January 11, 2014. A luncheon buffet will be served in the church’s Fellowship Hall immediately following the service. If you plan to attend, please let us know before January 8th, so that our Kitchen Ministry may make adequate preparations for the meal. You can contact us at wsnmeb4@aol.com or call our home at 410-692-9084.

Thank you for your love and support,
Bill & Margaret Nash

NEXT WEEK’S SCRIPTURE LESSONS JAN. 5
First Reading ~ Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm ~ 147:12-20
Ephesians ~ 1:3-14
Gospel ~ John 1:(1-9)10-18

End-of-Year Donations
Please note that all 2013 gifts and offerings must be postmarked or received at the church by December 31 in order to be included in your 2012 giving (for tax purposes). Any questions please contact Cheryl Bitner, Financial Secretary on 410-527-0381

From The Finance Committee ~
To Various Committees When Acknowledging Donations
Please be sure to include the IRS mandated phrases, "No goods or services were provided to you by St. John’s in connection with these contributions. St. John’s is a 501(C)3 organization."

~ Thank you.

2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE!
Your giving envelopes are labeled and ready to be picked up from the Fellowship Hall. Please use the envelopes when you give in 2014; it makes it so much easier for our volunteers who count each week. Thank you!

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S GOODNESS
Worshipers Last Week 392 (12/22) Two Weeks Ago 253 (12/15)
12/1/13 12/1/13
Last Week Two Weeks Ago YTD Receipts YTD Expenses
$14,409 $8,537 $523,094 $575,642

Every Gift Counts! Thank you for your financial gifts to both “Current” ministry and our “Expansion Fund” mission goals.

Simply Giving (electronic)
Through October our Simply Giving amount is $8,673
Thrivent Choice Dollars YTD through October is $3,611
**PRAYER LIST**

**Those with illness:**
- Linda Asplin
- Edie Bandy
- Bob Barrett
- Brittany Carr
- Rose Como
- MaryBeth Cowell
- Ava Daniels
- Jacqi Davis
- Mary Lee Farlow
- Sarah Gangi
- John Garber
- Kitty Gouldin
- Mark Habicht
- Florence Hoepker
- Gary Katsanis
- Mary Knott
- Ray Ledbetter
- Cheri Laumann
- Alva Linthicum
- Dan Lipsey
- Jackie Lober
- Evelyn McKeithan
- Richard Mellor
- Barbara Music
- Lee Nickel
- John Pence
- Dale Pickett Jr.
- Catherine Porter
- Marian Reichert
- Catherine Reid
- Jen Ritchie
- Cindy Shephard
- Denny Shoemaker
- Nancy Vanzetta
- Christine Weber
- Paul Wheeler
- Joy Finley Yoder
- Art & Carol Young
- Those with destructive addictions

**Those Bereaved:**
- The family of Bill and June Rhoads
- The family of Susan Nash, daughter of Bill & Margaret Nash, sister of Karen Nash

**Special needs:**
- The hungry and unemployed
- Peace in the Middle East
- Victims of Typhoon Haiyan

**Deployed soldiers & families:**
- Sean Bauhaus
- Peter Erickson
- Alex Knipe
- Partners in Care Congregations for the MD National Guard

**Current ministries:**
- Empowerment of the Holy Spirit in:
  - † Faith & Hope Campaign
  - † “Faith Stepping Stones”
  - Family Ministry
  - † Finance Committee

**Our mission partners:**
- Amazing Grace Lutheran Church – Pr. Gary Dittman (Baltimore)
- Prs. Mercedes & Isaias Nelson (Dom. Rep.)
- Pr. Tyrone Smith (New Orleans)
- Our bishops, Wolfgang and Elizabeth

**Prayers of thanksgiving:**
- Doug & Lisa Clark, Kelsey, Doug, Jr.
- Bill & Barbara Clark
- Clarence and Mary Lou Clawson

Names on the prayer list are printed with permission of the person named. After receiving permission you may place a completed yellow prayer request card in the offering plate or contact the church office to add a name to the prayer list. After four weeks on the list a name will be removed unless the office is notified for an extension of time. **Visitation:** please notify the church office if you anticipate a hospital stay. **Thanks for your assistance!**
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UNLOCK FAMILY STRENGTH WITH 4 KEYS

Conversation: What picture does the word “peace” bring to mind?

Devotion: Read Isaiah 9:6. What do each one of these names mean to you? Jesus brings change to the world and peace to our hearts. How can you create peace at home?

Service: Find ways to create peace not only in your home, but in your school and your community. Brainstorm a list together as a family and hold each accountable.

Tradition: Leave your Christmas tree up until the New Year to remind yourself that the lights of the Christmas season are not for just a season, but for the entire year.

BALTIMORE LUTHERAN SCHOOL
WINTER OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 26, 2014
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Baltimore Lutheran School is a coed, college preparatory school serving students in grades 6-12. We are located at 1145 Concordia Drive, Towson, MD 21286. For additional information, please contact our Admissions Director, Mr. John Tucker at 410.825-2323 or via email: jtucker@baltimorelutheran.org.

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E-mail: office@stjohnssweetair.org
Newsletter: hearye@stjohnssweetair.org
Prayer Chain: Lois Collinge, 410-666-3699
Iona Dorn, 410-592-9725

AED Device: On wall of Welcome Center
First Aid Kits: Narthex credenza, all Sunday school classrooms; Office (top of mailboxes)