

The St. John's Messenger

Volume 14 Issue 12

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December 2014



WHOSE SON IS HE?

I hope your Thanksgiving was filled with family, friends, food and the opportunity to count your blessings with thanks to God. It is good to give God our thanks and praise. Acknowledgement of the Lord's provision in our lives can be a heartfelt offering of worship. Certainly the Lord is worthy of our worship.

Now our attention is drawn to the celebration of Christmas. Excitement, joy, hope, generosity, and goodwill all seem to well up within us. We begin the countdown to Christmas Day and our plans begin to reveal the expectation of our heart. The remembrance of our Savior's birth is the heartbeat that guides our devotion for Christmas.

As we consider the life of Christ, I invite you to take a moment to consider this question: "WHO IS JESUS, WHOSE SON IS HE?"

Jesus asked this question of the religious leaders in Matthew 22:41-46:

"WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE MESSIAH,
WHOSE SON IS HE?"

The religious leaders knew the Messiah was identified in Scripture as the son of David. This answer can be determined by tracing the lineage of descendants from David as recorded in Scripture. The Messiah as descendant of David identifies with the human condition and so he is referred to as the Son of Man in Scripture.

Now there is also another answer that identifies the Messiah. He is the Son of God.

That answer comes through revelation of the Holy Spirit. The Son of God is the incarnation of God in a man named Jesus. So Jesus is deity as well as a man.

As deity of God, Jesus manifests the authority of God in a world that only recognizes the authority of man. When you accept Jesus as the deity of God, you will see Christmas as the royal birth of the prince of peace.

The reign of God is breaking into this world as the Isaiah prophesied:

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

*And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be
no end.*

*He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.*

The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

This Advent and Christmas prepare to receive the coming of a King who will dwell within you to accomplish justice, righteousness, and peace here and now.

In the Peace of Christ, Pastor Bill

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Just a reminder to all committee chairpersons, the Annual Reports are due at the December Consistory meeting, Thursday, Dec. 11th. Please email your report to the office before that date. *Thank you very much!*

STEWARDSHIP

The law of rightful ownership:

*Nothing truly belongs to us;
everything actually belongs to God.*

Your financial support and commitment is required and expected of you, for this I make no apology. You may ask, why is this true? The answer: because all your possessions, your wealth, are gifts given to you by God to be used for the help of God's people. Remember the tithe (10%) already belongs to God, the remaining 90% is to be used wisely.

God's blessings now and forever.

*In Christian Love,
Bob Rumsey*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

6:30 p.m. Worship (family service)

9:00 p.m. Worship (traditional candlelight)



CALVARY RADIO, 89.9 F.M.

Christian Nurture highly recommends and encourages you to tune in to Calvary Radio at 89.9 FM to benefit from their teaching programs and music all week long. Their programs may be the only way some people have to hear the Bible taught chapter by chapter and verse by verse. Please prayerfully consider supporting their efforts by mailing a donation to them so they can keep spreading the gospel over the airwaves at: Calvary Radio Network, 150 West Lincolnway Suite 2001, Valparaiso, Indiana, 46383, or making a donation online at <http://www.calvaryradionetwork.com/Support.html>

LOOKING FOR PREVIOUS CHURCH SERVICES? SERMONS?

To find previous services, including sermons, please go to:

<http://alc.pegcentral.com/>

You may also go to St. John's facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnschurchmc>



WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

Dr. James Musial, director of Sandcastle Shelter for Children and Families, was the guest speaker at the St. John's Women Guild October meeting. Sandcastle can accommodate 25 - 28 people. There are seven bedrooms with bunk beds. It takes 30 - 45 days to help find jobs and insurance. Veterans also help find jobs and a home.

Betty Johnson gave devotions in the absence of Phyllis Nowatzke. Karen Lawrenz presided at the business meeting. Esther Schlegelmilch read the Minutes from September. Betty Johnson gave the Treasurer's report. Nineteen sick calls were made by the members. Jerre Applegate, Lynda Ferry, and Emma Jean Kinsey were guests.

At the November 20th meeting, Elaine Burkhart led devotions and Esther provided refreshments. The speaker was from Humana Health. Guests are always welcome at our meetings.

PEANUT BRITTLE, ANYONE?

Join our Guild project by eating Peanut Brittle, and/or selling Peanut Brittle! All together we can contribute to agencies in our community which serve others. We can make a difference right here in Michigan City! St. John's is offering its famous Peanut Brittle at \$8.00/pound. Orders can be placed in the church office. Tell your family and friends that once again all profits from the sale will be donated to community agencies and to St. John's projects. We are accepting orders for our work dates of December 4, 11, and 18. *Thank you for your continued support!*

OFFICE CLOSINGS

**The office will be closed on the following days due to the holidays:
Closed Dec. 24th, 25th, 26th, 31st, and January 1st**

MESSENGER/NEWS NOTES DEADLINES

Due to the holiday office schedule, please note the following deadlines to submit information for inclusion the News Notes and Messenger:
Thursday, Dec. 18, 9 a.m.: January Messenger
Monday, Dec. 22, 9 a.m.: Dec. 29 News Notes
Monday, Dec. 29, 9 a.m.: January 4 News Notes

VISITATION MINISTRY

Mark your calendar! We will be hosting a Visitation Ministry Workshop here on Thursday, January 8th, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. First United Methodist Church will join us; the workshop will be led by Pastor Dennis Carroll.

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

St. John's will be having a Christmas Cantata this year on December 14th. We will have ONE worship service that day (10:00).

"PEEPS" FALL SCHEDULE

The Peeps group (Parents of Young Children) will be meeting after church from 11:30 - 1:00 on the following Sundays: Dec 7, 21.

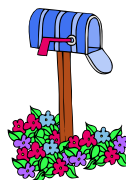
The six-week fall series is by Dr. Kevin Leman, "Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours" (how to bring out the best in your kids by doing what is best for them).

USHERS

Ushers for the month of December are:
Paul Steinheiser, Arnie Bos, Joe Dabkowski,
Mike & Debbie Dill

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM INSERT

Please note the poinsettia/Christmas donation insert in today's Messenger. Orders are due by Friday, December 12th. Please take your poinsettia home after the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. Questions, please call Dave, 872-9121.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

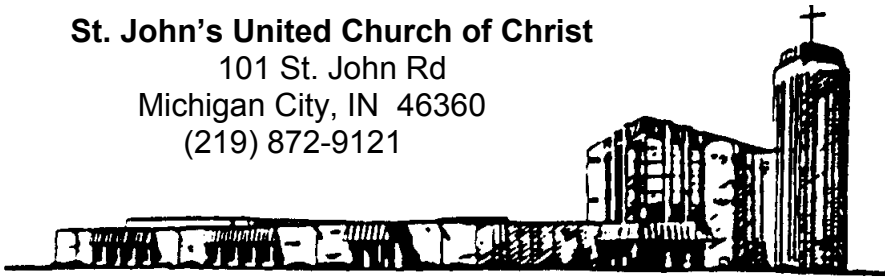
It's that time of year! *Please* remember to notify St. John's office of any address change in order for our records to be kept up-to-date and for you to receive the Messenger or other correspondence in a timely manner. Thank you very much!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We were learning about Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dreams in Genesis 41 including the seven sickly cows (seven years of famine) eating the seven healthy cows (seven years of plenty). We were thinking about how strange it was to dream of cows eating cows when the Holy Spirit guided us back to Genesis 1:30 where God provided plants to be the food of every animal. Imagine carnivores like wolves may have been eating grass next to sheep. This may bother evolutionists, but God knew the end from the beginning. He knew man would sin and bring suffering. He designed and created predators before they were needed to limit suffering by removing sickly animals from the herd and preventing the spread of disease. Evolutionists cling to a false idea that there was disease and death in the world before the fall of man. We can trust that death only came into the world as a result of Adam's sin as the Bible states, "By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19 NLT) "When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned." (Romans 5:12 NLT) We can't stop the death that will come to us in this fallen world, but we can trust in the victory of Jesus over death and the salvation he offers us if we are willing to surrender our lives to him.

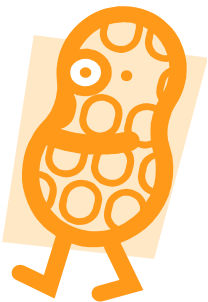
You can learn much more at <https://answersingenesis.org/evolution/> and by visiting the creation museum <http://creationmuseum.org/> in Petersburg, Kentucky. It's an easy 4-hour drive from here and well worth the trip.

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It's PEANUT BRITTLE SEASON!! and here is the history of St. John's Peanut Brittle Project as told by Henrietta Kriesel.

It started in the old church building where Alice Voight was president of the Afternoon Women's Guild which numbered about 100 members. After obtaining this recipe from friends in Elkhart, Alice asked Ruth Shedrow to make it along with help from Henrietta Kriesel. They made the recipe in the old church hall on 9th Street and soon Clara Ruggles joined them. Because Ruth was headed to Florida, Clara took over this project. The project grew larger and soon other women joined this cause: Lena Cashbaugh, Van Drew, Flo Aldenettal, Mabel Gerke, Clara LaBorn, Mabel Edlen, Mabel Schlundt, Frieda Helsing, Janice Schlundt, and later Emma Jean Kinsey. (Henrietta thinks there were other helpers but did not have a complete list of names.)

Henrietta noticed the date of March 17, 1967 on her recipe card which may be the date the recipe was copied OR when they first made the recipe. Clara was the authority on cooking the brittle and would taste a peanut to see if it was cooked or if they needed to turn the gas down!! After Clara, Janice Schlundt took over the project for many years.

It is Henrietta's hope that we can keep the project going here at St. John's!!

We thank you, Henrietta for all your help and service to this project!!

So, now we continue this tradition! Order your Peanut Brittle in the church office today! The price is \$8 per pound, and all proceeds go the local agencies and St. John's projects where we can make a difference here in Michigan City!

