

THE EAGLE

News & Views from Saint John's Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2012

Vol. 104 No. 1

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN
305 East Elizabeth Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524
970-482-5316
www.StJohnsFC.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP
8:00 AM Classic Grace
(Traditional worship)
9:30 AM Bible Study Hour
10:45 AM Hearts Afire
(Contemporary worship)

SWIM UPSTREAM!



THERE IS A MISGUIDED NOTION among many Christians that “if God is in *this*, the doors will swing open.” A new job, a new relationship, a new career, a new home, a new school ... whatever “this” might happen to be. Although that may be true at times, sometimes it’s not.

The danger of teaching this saying as if it were a doctrinal truth is that God’s will, like water, doesn’t always take the path of least resistance. Remember, the path of least resistance is generally *downhill*. For example, Moses had to go to Pharaoh ten times before the obstinate ruler finally complied with God’s instructions.

What if Moses had made one trip to the Egyptian palace and declared on behalf of God, “Let My people go,” only to have Pharaoh cross his arms defiantly and say, “No”? (Which is exactly what he did!) If Moses had believed “if God is in this, the doors will swing open,” he would’ve boarded the first caravan heading back to the Midian desert, only to herd sheep for another forty years.

But Moses learned painfully and painstakingly that when God instructs you to do something, you do it, whether doors swing open or not. The author of Hebrews contends, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (11:1) When God calls you to have faith, it will most often be when doors seem closed.

Believe me, I have been on both sides of doors—those that swung open naturally, and those that seem bolted shut. What I discovered is that our faithful and loving God is on *both sides* of the door. It is only through prayer, discernment of His Word, and perseverance that you know which door to take.

Sam Walton, founder of Walmart, started his retail enterprise with ten principles. Item number ten on his list is the one that stands out: *swim upstream*.

Walton’s wisdom has been proven over time. In 2010 Walmart knocked Dutch Royal Shell out of the top slot for “World’s Largest Corporation.” Walmart is now the largest and most profitable company in the world, employing 2.1 million people across the globe.

Walton believed that people living in rural America had as much right to fine merchandise at reasonable prices as anyone else living in metropolises. People at the time scoffed at his concept. Retail centers were always located in big cities, where the majority of consumers lived—not in the middle of farm fields. Walton quietly began swimming upstream, starting with one five-and-dime store. Today Walton’s company serves over 200 million customers per week through 9,884 stores in 28 countries, and the little farm town of Bentonville, Arkansas, now houses the largest corporation in the world. Walton swam upstream!

When you consider the words of Jesus, you will be amazed at how often He asked people to swim upstream. Jesus told the fishermen to ignore tradition and throw the net on the other side of the boat. He told Peter later in a dream to take the gospel to the Gentiles, changing the tradition of “exclusivity” of nearly three thousand years. Jesus told His disciples to love their enemies and pray for them. He told them to not seek the things of this world, which can rust and be stolen, but to seek first the kingdom of God and to store up treasures in heaven. In a nutshell: Jesus swam upstream!

As we begin the new year of 2012 under God’s grace, we will face times of *cheerfulness* and times of *challenge*. What will you do during those difficult times? Don’t take the path of least resistance. Don’t just walk through any door that swings open. Make your relationship with Christ Jesus a high priority. Seek His will and guidance in all things. For the sake of God’s kingdom, *swim upstream!*

The Rev. Brian Bestian is the Senior Pastor of Saint John’s Lutheran Church. You can reach him at the church office Tuesday through Thursday at 482-5316, by appointment, or by email at bestian@StJohnsFC.org.

MISSION TRIP: HESED FOR HAITI



DEAR CONGREGATION,

This summer, twenty people from our church will serve—alongside dozens of other people from all over the country—on a short-term mission trip to Haiti with Lifetree Adventures. And take my word for it: this is no ordinary mission trip!

Each day, all day, we will work alongside local missionaries to help rebuild what was lost or damaged in the tragic Haiti earthquake almost two years ago. Over 222,000 people were killed in the earthquake and thousands and thousands of people are still living in tents now. We have a chance to help repair, build, and bring hope to many hurting people through this service in Christ's name.

Yes, we will sweat. We will work long and hard for an entire week. And we can't wait to do it! It will be an adventure and we know many blessings are ahead.

We are actually excited about giving our time and effort in Christ-like service ... but not all of us can handle the financial cost of this life-changing trip. That's why we are contacting you.

Will you help? Although we have several fund raisers planned for January through April, when our bills are due, the financial donations of individuals and families are our most substantial

contributions so far.

Will you donate a few (or a few hundred!) dollars toward the cost of this mission trip? We need to raise about \$1,500 per person to cover all of the expenses (including our flight down to Haiti), and anything you can give is appreciated. Your donation will empower people to become ambassadors, sharing Christ's love in joyful service to others.

Thanks so much for considering this request. We are so thankful that many in our church share our heart for missions abroad.

Gratefully yours,

The Haiti Mission Group

P.S. Please send your donation to Saint John's with "Haiti Mission Trip" in the memo line or on the envelope. We need to turn in all funds in early April, so your prompt response is appreciated. Thanks!

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES FOR THE following fund raising activities for the "Hesed for Haiti" mission trip:

January

Pre-Superbowl Party: This will include a variety of activities, such as a chili cook-off, slave auction, and "votes of confidence" for your favorite team.

February

Music Concert: A community event; de-

tails forthcoming.

March

Garage Sale: Please start saving your items for donation!

March 28 Seder Meal: Jews for Jesus will lead the meal on the final Wednesday of Lent. Tickets will go on sale at the end of January.

Nelly Sanford and Nikolai Gibbons are heading Saint John's June mission trip to Haiti. They and seventeen other Saint John's members will be serving there this June: Adam and Jennifer Musgrave, Art Mullen, Del and Jo Fredin, Don, Sharon, Donovan and Janelle Gibbons, Elise Smith, Emily Geisler, Kimberly Pepmiller, RoxAnn Karkhoff-Schweizer, Sue and Sammi Gardner, Tim Maxwell and Tom Miles.

Merry Christmas



Blessings to you this Christmas season!

May we, His children, rejoice in the tenderness of His birth and the victory of His resurrection!

As I count the many blessings God has given I thank you sincerely for your continued support and prayers while at seminary.

In Christ,

Nikolai Gibbons

Epiphany Sunday, January 8 Christmas Cleanup

The end of the Christmas season means it's time to take down and box the Christmas decorations.

Start at Noon

Come lend a hand! Please bring a simple dish to share at a potluck lunch.



THRIVENT CARES PROJECTS



THRIVENT CARES—MEMBERS
Share: showing love and
compassion to those we serve!

Irish Elementary Project

The first Thrivent Cares—Members Share ninety-day mission project for 2012 will be to support the teachers at Irish Elementary School in north Fort Collins by helping them prepare for the spring semester. Irish is a very high poverty school with its teachers facing rigorous demands. The teachers often purchase school supplies and other basic student needs out of their own pockets. If you are interested in sponsoring a teacher by helping to fulfill their "wish list," we will have more information available in future bulletins on how you can support those who are supporting many.

Nancy J. Behm, LUTCF, FIC, and Ryan M. Behm, FIC, are your Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Fort Collins associates. You may reach them at 266-1700 or 222-5678.

Thrivent Financial Representatives Ryan Behm and Nancy Behm are excited to ring in The New Year with Irish. They look forward to showing love and compassion to the Irish community by offering members a way to give back in 2012.

The Gift of a Green Christmas

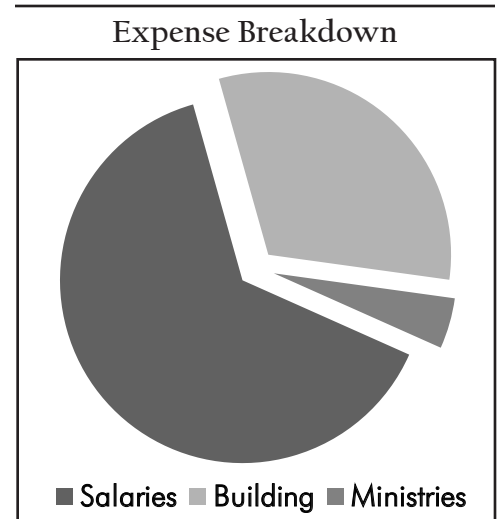
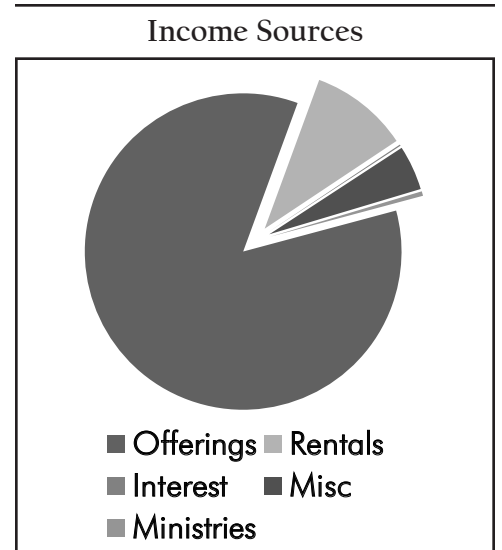
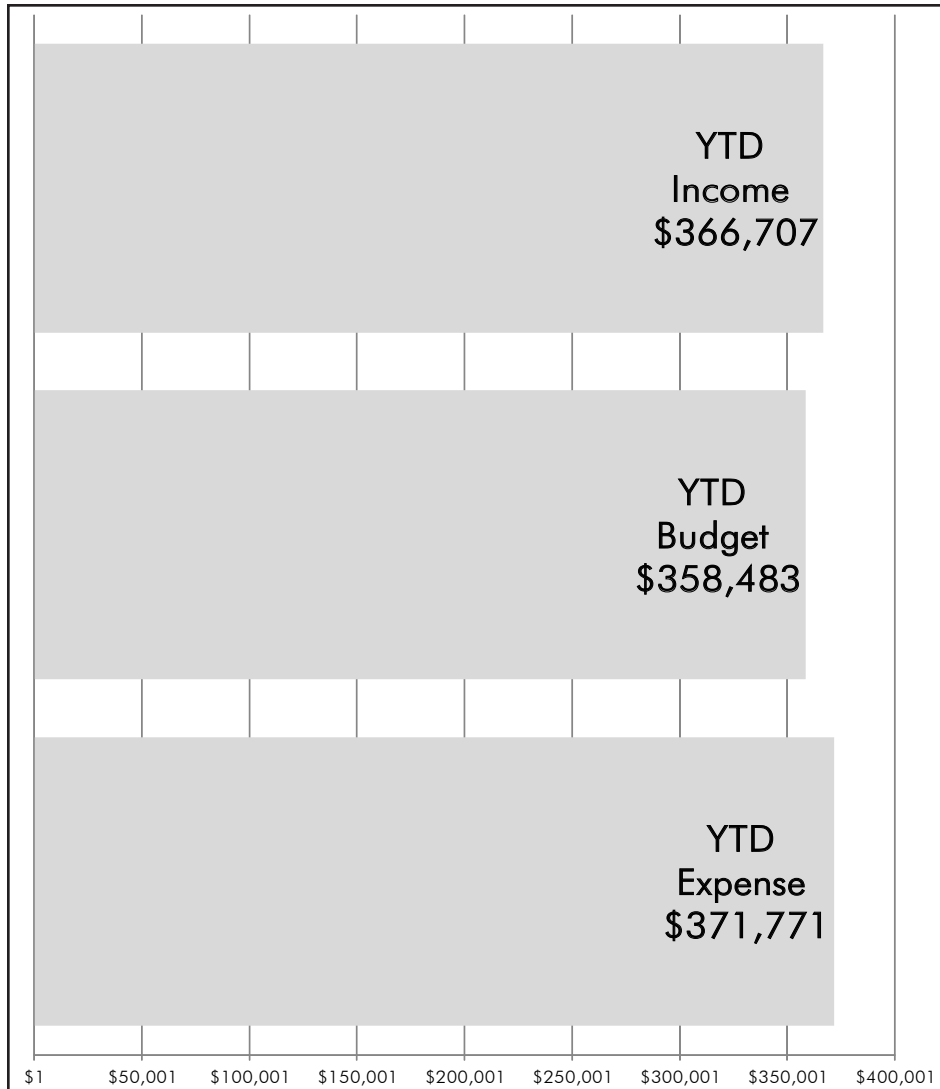
Thrivent Financial Representatives Ryan Behm and Nancy Behm wish to thank everyone for the donations, volunteers and support of "The Gift of a Green Christmas Tree" project. This mission project is very near and dear to our hearts and we are so grateful for everyone that helped and contributed. This year we delivered over 210 Christmas Trees to families that otherwise wouldn't be able to afford one. Thank You!



Thank you so much for the Christmas tree. My children have gone without a tree for a number of years now because we cannot afford to buy one so this is a VERY special treat for them (and me) this year. Thanks for thinking of us to share with this season. Also thank you for all the other Christmas decorations! you have been so generous and have added so much to our holiday season.

THE NUMBERS: NOVEMBER

FINANCE SUMMARY

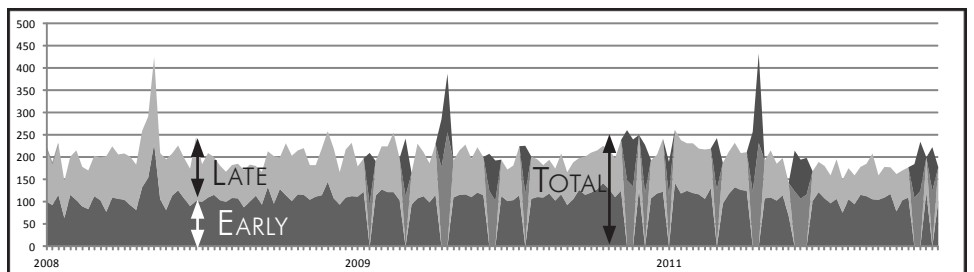


OFFICIAL ACTS

- November 15: Donna Williams transferred out to Our Savior Lutheran, Cheyenne. Approved by Pastor Bestian.
- November 20: Baptism of Aiden Josiah Nelson, son of Justin & Carissa Nelson. Officiated by Pastor Bestian.

ATTENDANCE

Date	8:00	10:45	Total
November 6, 2011	125	110	235
November 13, 2011	121	79	200
November 20, 2011	125	98	223
November 27, 2011	102	76	178





January

Sunday, January 1

Birthday

Jeremy Liley

*Festival of the Circumcision
and Name of Jesus*

The observance of the eighth day of Christmas has roots in the sixth century. Every Jewish boy was circumcised and formally named on the eighth day of his life. Already in His youth, Jesus bears the mark of a covenant that He makes new through the shedding of His blood on the cross. That covenant, like Jesus' name, is a gift that marks the children of God. Baptized into Christ, the church begins a new year in Jesus' name. (Sundays and Seasons)

8:30 am Fellowship

Coffee and friendly conversation in the Large Fellowship Hall.

9:00 am Life in Christ

Those interested in joining Saint John's or looking for a refresher on Lutheran theology are invited to attend. Six-day course with two sessions each Sunday: 9:30 - 10:30 am and Noon - 1:00 pm.

9:00 am Proclaim the Wondrous Birth

This Bible study for Advent delves into the history behind wondrous births that presaged the fulfillment of God's promises in that most special birth, in the Bethlehem manger.

9:30 am Sunday School and Youth Bible Study

January 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

The children and youth take an in-depth look at the Bible stories from today's worship service, using lessons that point to Christ as the Savior while integrating a strong Law and Gospel focus.

10:00 am New Year Celebration
Come to this casual "carol sing" service to share carols and Christmas fellowship.

Monday, January 2

Birthday

Libby Cope, Carissa Nelson

Commemoration of J.K.

Wilhelm Loehe, Pastor

Although he never left Germany, Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, born in Fuerth in 1808, had a profound impact on the development of Lutheranism in North America. While serving as pastor in the Bavarian village of Neuendettelsau, he recognized the need for workers in developing lands and assisted in training

emergency helpers to be sent as missionary pastors to North America, Brazil, and Australia. A number of the men he sent to the United States became founders of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He helped found the seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, a teachers' institute in Saginaw, Michigan, a deaconess training house and homes for the aged. Loehe was known for his confessional integrity and his interest in liturgy and catechetics (www.lcms.org)

Church Office closed

9:00 am Quilters

12:00 pm Finance Board

1:15 pm Outreach Board

6:30 pm Fellowship Board

7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 96

Tuesday, January 3

Birthday

Ernest Sorensen

9:00 am Food and Clothing Bank

The Food and Clothing Bank is open to anyone needing assistance. An ID, proof of income and a utility bill (demonstrating that you are a resident of Larimer County) are required. Please enter through the north doors toward the west end of the building.

1:15 pm Outreach Board

7:00 pm Mission Guild

The Mission Guild invites all women to join them for their meeting.

7:00 pm Worship Board

Wednesday, January 4

Birthday

Grant Wolf

9:00 am Woman-to-Woman Bible Study

This group of joyful women meet every Wednesday, September through May, in Room 301 for the Woman-to-Woman group Bible study. All women are welcome to join. Free babysitting is provided for those with little ones.

9:30 am Bread of Life Bible Study

The Bread of Life Bible study

Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 8

Blended Services at 8:00 and 10:45 AM

Epiphany is from a Greek word meaning to "reveal" or "make manifest." The season of Epiphany is our time to focus on the revelation of "who" Jesus is: true God and true man.

We celebrate the Festival of Epiphany with readings of the visit of the wise men (Matthew 2:11). Through these foreigners, who acknowledged that this infant was the Son of God, God was showing us that Jesus was the Messiah and Savior of not just the Jewish people, but of all people, around the world.

Please join us for a service where we see the great light, revealed to humanity: Jesus has come to save us all!



meets every Wednesday morning. Enjoy coffee and snacks as Pastor Nickel leads study and discussion based on a book of the Bible.

Thursday, January 5

Birthday
Dustin Coy

9:00 am Quilters
5:30 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal
6:15 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 6

Birthday
Shirley Baskerville

Epiphany
6:30 am Men's Morning Bible Study
All men are invited to join the Men's Morning Bible Study at McCoy's Morning Glory (1003 West Horsetooth Road) on Friday mornings. Have breakfast and enjoy an interesting group Bible study. Bring your Bible!

Saturday, January 7

Birthday

Ellie Fields, Livvy Fields,
Marian Lemmon

9:00 am Board of Lay Ministry

Sunday, January 8

Birthday

Bert Carothers III

8:00 am Epiphany Sunday Worship Service

We celebrate the Festival of Epiphany with readings of the visit of the wise men (Matthew 2:1-12); through these foreigners, who acknowledged that this infant was the Son of God, God was showing us that Jesus was the Messiah and Savior of not just the Jewish people, but of all people, around the world.

9:00 am Fellowship

9:00 am Hesed for Haiti meeting

9:30 am Life in Christ

9:30 am Church Year Bible Study

A weekly reflection on each Sunday's Lectionary readings.

9:30 am Sunday School and Youth Bible Study

10:45 am Epiphany Sun. Worship Service

Blended worship service.

12:00 pm Christmas Cleanup

Epiphany Sunday marks the end of the Christmas season, so it's time for us to gather to take down the decorations of the season, but don't worry: we get to enjoy each others company with a potluck lunch, and many hands mean the work goes very quickly!

12:00 pm Life in Christ

Monday, January 9

8:45 am Open Arms Preschool

9:00 am Quilters

7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 96

Tuesday, January 10

Birthday

Karie Adema, Jett Harris, Anakin Hessler, Jared Warnock

8:45 am Open Arms Preschool

9:00 am Food and Clothing Bank

7:00 pm Altar Guild

Wednesday, January 11*Birthday*

Ilene Christiansen, Virginia Renley

8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
 9:00 am Woman-to-Woman Bible Study
 9:30 am Bread of Life Bible Study

Thursday, January 12*Birthday*

Stephen Dailey

8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
 9:00 am Quilters
 5:30 pm Small Choir B Rehearsal
 6:15 pm Confirmation
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 13

6:30 am Men's Morning Bible Study
 8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
 10:00 am Elderberries Board

Saturday, January 14*Birthday*

Katie Atwood, Chris Rattenborg

Sunday, January 15*Birthday*

Diana Fields, Mark Widdows

8:00 am Classic Grace Worship Service
 Traditional worship service.
 9:00 am Fellowship
 9:30 am Life in Christ
 9:30 am Church Year Bible Study
 9:30 am Sunday School and Youth Bible Study
 10:45 am Hearts Afire Worship Service
 Contemporary worship service.

Monday, January 16*Birthday*

Adam Musgrave, Ethan Scott

9:00 am Quilters
 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 96

Tuesday, January 17*Birthday*

Susan Hubbard, Carl Jorgensen, Harold Wilcox

8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
 9:00 am Food and Clothing Bank
 7:00 pm Church Council

Wednesday, January 18*Birthday*

Pete Sherman

Festival of the Confession of St. Peter

Today we remember that Peter was led by God's grace to acknowledge Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God". (Matthew 16:16) This confession is the common confession that unites us with Peter and with all Christians of every time and place. During the time after Epiphany, with its emphasis on mission, consider an ecumenical worship service with neighboring congregations to embody the unity we share in our confession of Christ, a unity granted us in our one baptism, a unity we yearn to embody more fully. (Sundays and Seasons)

8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
 9:00 am Woman-to-Woman Bible Study
 9:30 am Bread of Life Bible Study

Thursday, January 19

8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
 9:00 am Quilters

12:00 pm Elderberries Potluck & Travelogue
Please join us for our regular "third Thursday" potluck and stay to hear Pat Prill tell us about her trip to Croatia and a little bit of Venice!

5:30 pm Small Choir B Rehearsal
 6:15 pm Confirmation
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 20*Birthday*

Nate Taggatz

Commemoration of Sarah

Sarah was the wife (and half sister) of the Hebrew patriarch Abraham (Genesis 11:29; 20:12). In obedience to divine command (Genesis 12:1), she made the long and arduous journey west, along with her husband and his relatives, from Ur of the Chaldees to Haran and then finally to the land of Canaan. She remained childless until old age. Then, in

keeping with God's long-standing promise, she gave birth to a son and heir of the covenant (Genesis 21: 1-3). She is remembered and honored as the wife of Abraham and the mother of Isaac, the second of the three patriarchs. She is also favorably noted for her hospitality to strangers (Genesis 18:1-8). Following her death at the age of 127, she was laid to rest in the Cave of Machpelah (Genesis 49:13), where her husband was later buried. (www.lcms.org)

6:30 am Men's Morning Bible Study
 8:45 am Open Arms Preschool

Sunday, January 22*Birthday*

Lona Hoffman, Ron Nickel

8:00 am Classic Grace Worship Service
 9:00 am Fellowship
 9:30 am Life in Christ
 9:30 am Church Year Bible Study
 9:30 am Sunday School and Youth Bible Study
 10:45 am Hearts Afire Worship Service

Monday, January 23*Birthday*

Richard Bettger

8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
 9:00 am Quilters
 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 96

Tuesday, January 24*Birthday*

Carl Ahlbrandt, Ben Weimer

Anniversary

Matthew & Hillary Johnson, 2009

Festival of St. Timothy, Pastor

On either side of the Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul, two of his companions and missionary coworkers are remembered. Timothy accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey and was commissioned by Paul to go to Ephesus, where he served as bishop and overseer of the church. These festivals invite the church to remember Christian leaders, bishops, pastors, and teachers

who have been influential in the lives of individual members as gospel signs of the light of Epiphany. (Sundays and Seasons)
8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
9:00 am Food and Clothing Bank

Wednesday, January 25

Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul

At the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the church remembers how a man of Tarsus named Saul, a former persecutor of the early Christian church, was turned around by God's grace to become one of its chief preachers. The risen Christ appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus and called him to proclaim the gospel. (Sundays and Seasons)

8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
9:00 am Woman-to-Woman Bible Study
9:30 am Bread of Life Bible Study

Thursday, January 26

Birthday

Bud Schalles, Margaret Wagner

Festival of St. Titus, Pastor

On either side of the Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul, two of his companions and missionary coworkers are remembered. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, accompanied him on the trip to the council of Jerusalem and became the first bishop of Crete. These festivals invite the church

to remember Christian leaders, bishops, pastors, and teachers who have been influential in the lives of individual members as gospel signs of the light of Epiphany. (Sundays and Seasons)

8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
9:00 am Quilters
6:15 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 27

Birthday

Lola Funke

Commemoration of John Chrysostom, Preacher

Given the added name of Chrysostom, which means "goldenmouthed" in Greek, Saint John was a dominant force in the fourth century Christian church. John was instructed in the Christian faith by his pious mother, Anthusa. After serving in a number of Christian offices, including acolyte and lector, John was ordained a presbyter and given preaching responsibilities. His simple but direct messages found an audience well beyond his home town. In 398, John Chrysostom was made Patriarch of Constantinople. His reforms of the church, court, and city brought him into conflict with established authorities. Eventually, he was exiled from his adopted

city. Although removed from his parishes and people, he continued writing and preaching until his death in 407. His final words: "Glory be to God for all things. Amen." (www.lcms.org)

6:30 am Men's Morning Bible Study
8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
9:00 am Lutheran World Relief Quilters

Sunday, January 29

8:00 am Classic Grace Worship Service
9:00 am Fellowship
9:30 am Life in Christ
9:30 am Church Year Bible Study
9:30 am Sunday School and Youth Bible Study
10:45 am Hearts Afire Worship Service

Monday, January 30

Birthday

Betsy Weaver

8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
9:00 am Quilters
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 96

Tuesday, January 31

Birthday

Jessica Stephens

8:45 am Open Arms Preschool
9:00 am Food and Clothing Bank
7:00 pm Front Range Chamber Players Concert

Festival Choir

Come and sing!

Rehearsal

Thursday, January 5, 5:30 PM

Worship

Epiphany Sunday: January 8, 8:00 & 10:45 AM

If you can join us, talk to Tom Miles
(482-5316) by December 11 for music.

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— Wes Rutt, *Organizer*
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Let the congregation know about your business while helping to cover the costs of mailing and printing this newsletter!

Sponsors receive a 3.5" wide by 4.5" tall space to list their business name, contact information and tell what the business does. (Because of postal regulations, we can't allow anything that's specifically "promotional.") A single-issue sponsorship costs \$20 (three issues for \$50). We are looking for four sponsors per newsletter.

Saint John's budget allows us to print black and white newsletters that are mailed using the slow bulk-mail delivery, where each newsletter has to be folded and tabbed by hand. The first three sponsors offset the cost of sending it straight off the press (figuratively speaking) and with speedier delivery. The fourth sponsor allows us to print the cover page in color!

Talk to Tom (482-5316) if interested.



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“A place of grace in the heart of Fort Collins!”

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