

# The Proclaimer

January  
2012

St. John's Lutheran Church ~ A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church

## A Truly Good Journey

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Where are you heading in the New Year? An English writer once made this observation about the English sparrow. The English sparrow is a small bird. Each one weighs about an ounce and a quarter. Like all birds that migrate each year in the fall and in the spring they take off into the unknown, committing themselves to the air to fly over the ocean where there are no landmarks to give them any direction. Even though there are no landmarks out over the ocean, without any hesitation, every spring and fall thousands of them take off for their destination. The birds do this by blind trust in their instincts.



This migration, the writer says, is a good example of what our journey is like in life, especially as we begin a New Year. We have no idea of where we are going. There are all kinds of things ahead we cannot foresee. In January we remember the journey of the Wise Men that came to see the newborn Christ Child. Like the migrating birds they had no idea of where they were going. There would be difficulties to be encountered. Who knows what the trip cost them? Following their instincts and a single star they arrived at the place where they could worship the newborn King and present their gifts.

In this New Year we don't know where we will end up. But like the migrating birds, or the Wise Men we are setting out on the journey through time in the New Year. We let go and let the wind (the Holy Spirit) take us to our destination. There is no turning back once we have started because the sky is a big place, and we had better stay with the flock. The image of the little English sparrows flying over the ocean, fighting storms and winds to get to their destination, and the journey of the Wise Men are good symbols for us. God's Word is our star. We will encounter difficulties. The trip is going to cost a great deal. But in the end we will arrive at that place where we can worship and present our gifts to the newborn Christ, who becomes our Crucified Savior, and our Risen Lord.

Our Call to Discipleship begins with the Call to Worship, to be with the flock, and then to go and serve, until we reach our final destination. It will be a good journey because Jesus, Emmanuel ("God with Us") is with us. Happy New Year!

—Pastor Ron

## Keeping Christmas and Epiphany, Well



The closing line of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas story "The Christmas Carol" says this about Ebenezer Scrooge; "From that time on he kept Christmas well." For our neighbors Christmas is now over. They have kept it well for a day. But for us in God's

Family, Christmas still goes on, and it continues into Epiphany. Henry Van Dyke once wrote the following piece about keeping Christmas.

*Are you willing —  
to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children;  
to remember the weaknesses and loneliness of people who are growing old;  
to stop asking how much your friends love you, and to ask yourself whether you love them enough;  
to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts;*

*to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;*

*to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open?*

*Are you willing to do these things everyday? Then you are ready to keep Christmas!*

I would add the reflection that if you indeed do these things every day, you will not be sharing the Spirit of Christmas one day, but every day of the year. And that is what Epiphany is all about, revealing Christ to the world. It is "Show and Tell Time" for all the gifts of God that you have received at Christmas! May your "Show and Tell Time" be rich in 2012 as you Keep Christmas and Epiphany Well, every day!

*Pastor Ron*

## 2012 Congregational Council

Name	Committee/Role	Term
Brian Sutton	President	2011-2013
Cletis Wooten	V. President & Treasurer	2011-2013
George Campbell	Secretary	2012-2014
Sheila Burger	Property	2012-2014
Bill Coffey	Finance	2010-2012
Daniel Dunn	Youth	2010-2012
Brenda Estes	Worship & Music	2012-2014
Patti Horinka	Evangelism	2012-2014
Anita Johnson	Stewardship	2011-2013
Betty Jo Litaker	Social	2011-2013
Gail Pope	Christian Ed	2010-2012
Dennis Wilson	Video/Communication	2012-2012

# 2012

### Investment Committee

The Investment Committee will add *Bill Kepley* and *Bill Hamiter* as members for 2012.

# Unity and St. John's

Just before Christmas on December 20, the council affirmed the call committee's candidate for our next pastor by acclamation. This was after the call committee had unanimously selected Rev. Tim Bean as the best candidate from a field of many prospects.

Do you recognize something in those first two sentences? The council is unified in its decision, the call committee is unified in theirs. I don't think we could dare call this coincidence, do you?

The call committee has spent countless hours in prayer, interviewing candidates, reading voluminous profiles of almost a dozen prospects, each one with unique gifts and experiences, not to mention long meetings and travel. All this was done by a committee of people from every corner of our congregation; young, older, employed, retired, men, and women; and they all agreed on the same candidate. WOW! Thanks be to God! We have been given the opportunity of a new start at the beginning of the new year with a new pastor to lead us in revitalizing St. John's and its witness to the world.

Don't miss the reception on Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 3:00 PM in the fellowship hall when we will have the opportunity to meet Pastor Bean and his wife, Rhonda. There will be refreshments and a time for questions and answers so that we may all get acquainted with Pastor Bean before he returns to St. John's on Sunday January 22, to preach and lead us in worship. This will be followed by a

congregational meeting to vote on extending a call to him.

While you are at the reception, please take the opportunity to express your appreciation to the individual members of the call committee for their commitment, dedication, and tireless efforts in bringing us to this point.

## Call Committee

Elizabeth Brown	Steve Horinka
Bill Coffey	John Karriker
Brenda Dunn	Janis Mills
Frank Hager	Janet Wooten
Ed Hall	

With a favorable vote on January 22, Pastor Ron's last Sunday with us will be January 29 after which a covered dish luncheon will be held in his honor, in appreciation for his service to St. Johns.

Blessings;

Brian Sutton  
Council President



Lead a life  
worthy of the calling ...  
making every effort  
to maintain the unity  
of the Spirit in  
the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3



### Iredell Christian Ministries Collection

Thank you for the December collection of hats, gloves, and socks. There were 172

items donated. On Sunday, January 15, we will collect the following items:

deodorant (men & women), pasta noodles, and jellies/jams.

Some items are always in short supply: baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and black pepper. Your generosity throughout the year has been

wonderful. In 2011, St. John's donated 1640 pounds of food with 314 pounds collected in November – thanks to the Youth Ministry Project! ICM is greatly appreciative for the help. If you would like to volunteer at ICM, contact Sandi Rabe at 704-838-1449.

### Children and Youth Ministry

Thanks to the Rebekah Circle for serving the youth meal on December 14. The Priscilla Circle will serve the youth on Wednesday, January 18.

### Penny Power

Continue to save your pennies and bring them to circle each month or drop them in the green basket in the library each Sunday. The money collected during 2012 will be



given to the Barium Springs Home for Children.

### Pregnancy Resource Center

Thank you for the "birthday gifts for Jesus" that were given on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The numerous items along with the toilet paper were taken to the Pregnancy Resource Center – they were very surprised and appreciative of the gifts. They were expecting 32 babies to be born during the month of December. During 2011, there have been 128 babies born. Also, during the year, the Pregnancy Resource Center has provided counseling for 1600 individuals; spiritual discussions for 756; Bible studies for 150. There have been 13 salvations; 5 rededications; 10 who were abortion minded; and 7 who changed their mind. January 15 – 22 is Sanctity of Human Life Week and on January 26, there will be a Family Fundraiser at FunStation 2000 for the Pregnancy Resource Center.



### Executive Board Meeting

On Saturday, January 7 at 9:30 a.m., there will be a joint meeting of Officers, Committee Chairs, and Circle Leaders from 2011 and for 2012 in the Fellowship Hall. *This is a very important planning meeting!* Since the Men's breakfast has been changed, there will be breakfast items for refreshments.

### St. John's WINGS Sunday

On Sunday, January 15, the women will be conducting the service. Our guest speaker will be Kay Weaver, who currently is serving on the Executive Council for the NALC. Officers,

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Committee Chairs, and Circle Leaders will be installed during the service. We need your help in the choir. We will meet in the choir room at 10:00 am on Sunday morning, January 15. *Remember any woman who has helped or contributed to a project sponsored by WINGS is a participant – whether you attend a circle or not.* So come help us celebrate the women of St. John's.



### Coming Events Mark your calendars!

Saturday, January 7, 2012  
Joint Executive Board Meeting @ 9:30 am  
in Fellowship Hall — 2011 & 2012 officers /  
committee chairs & circle leaders

Sunday, January 15, 2012  
Women's Sunday – St. John's WINGS will  
be conducting the service

Saturday, February 11, 2012  
Bi-annual Fellowship: *Spiritual-Tea-*  
Program & Social Tea - 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 11, 2012 Spa Day  
*Finding the Beauty Within:* 8:45 AM - 1 PM

### January/February Service Opportunities

Kitchen Clean-up: Priscilla Circle

Visitation: Sarah Circle

Special Friends: Rebekah Circle

### February Meetings

#### Rebekah Circle

Wednesday, February 1 @ 9:30 am;  
Hostess: *Frances Coffey*, Program: *Patti  
Horinka*

#### Priscilla Circle

Monday, February 6 @ 6:30 pm in church  
lounge; Program: *Martha Kepley*

#### Sarah Circle

Wednesday, February 1 @ 9:30 am  
in the church lounge

## Men's "1st Thursday" Pizza Fellowship

January 5 &



February 2 @ 6:30 PM

## Men's Community Breakfast



Saturday

January 14

8:00 AM — 10 AM

## Preschool News

The children and staff are back from Christmas break and ready to start the new year.

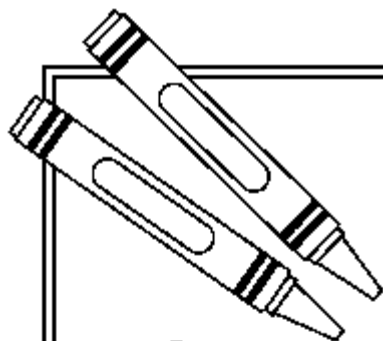
This month we will be learning about snow, winter and hibernation.

There will be lots of snowflakes and arctic animals in the classrooms.

Have a great month.

Susan White





# Just for **KIDS**

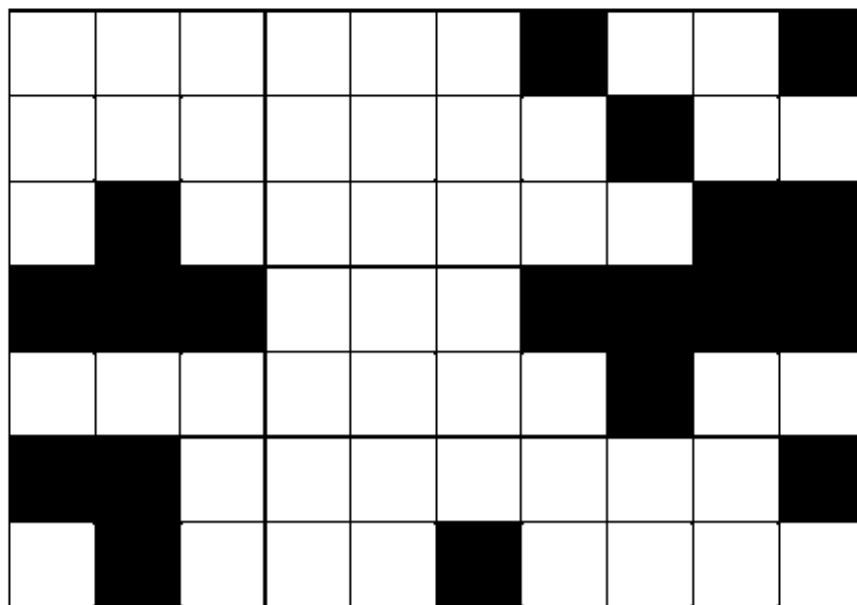
## CHARACTER THAT PLEASURES

The New Year is a time for renewed commitments and changes in our behavior. Complete the puzzle below to see whose example is worthy of imitating or copying.

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to finish the NIV Bible verse.



Y	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	S	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
O	F	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
:	1	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■



Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1



*\* THIS MONTH'S \**  
**birthdays**

January 1	Frank Hager
January 5	Cassidy Brandt Christie Brandt
January 10	Terry Barnes Scott Raymer
January 11	Anita Johnson
January 13	Thomas Compton Sarah Conine
January 15	Brenda Estes
January 18	John K. Campbell Kay Rudisill Scott Brandt
January 20	Keri Pavelock
January 23	John Troutman
January 24	Edna Tuft Larry Wiegman
January 25	Karen Miller
January 26	Walter Conine
January 27	Donald Krueger Brant Hass
January 29	Lillian Lindler
January 31	Penny Conine, Leroy Pearson Bill Shoemaker

## ◆ Stewardship

CORNER

“I have held many things in my hands,  
and I have lost them all. But whatever I  
have placed in God’s hands,  
that I still possess.”

— MARTIN LUTHER (1483-1546)

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

January 1

Comm Asst: Bill Coffey, Ed Hall

Crucifer: Alonzo Burger

Acolyte: Andrew Wilson

Altar Duty: Marcia Lindler

Lector: Daniel Dunn

Nursery: Martha & Bill Kepley

January 8

Comm Asst: Wise Men

Crucifer: John-Barron Davidson

Acolyte: Daniel Dunn

Altar Duty: Brenda Dunn

Lector: Marcia Lindler

Nursery: Sue Plyler, Paulette Rader

January 15

Comm Asst: Brenda Dunn, Karen Miller

Crucifer: Tammy Combs

Acolyte: Sarah Murphy

Altar Duty: Frances Coffey

Lector: Renae Karriker

Nursery: Chris & Christina Pavelock

January 22

Comm Asst: Ann Bejcek, Brian Sutton

Crucifer: Daniel Dunn

Acolyte: Gavin Combs

Altar Duty: Daniel Dunn

Lector: Laurie Dishman

Nursery: Amy & Patrick Murphy

January 29

Comm Asst: Marty Driggers, Mike Johnson

Crucifer: Alonzo Burger

Acolyte: Andrew Wilson

Altar Duty: Marcia Lindler

Lector: Janis Mills

Nursery: Janice Mull, Renae Karriker

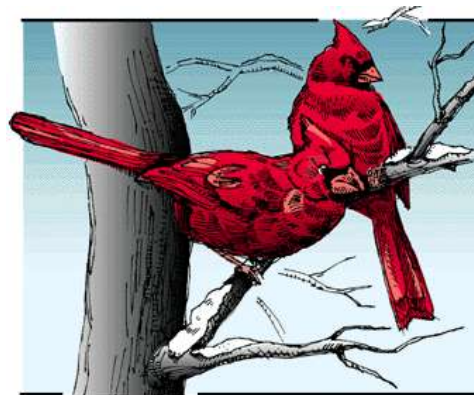
January Ushers — Scott Neely Team:  
Sheila Burger, Bill Hamiter, Jim Henderson,  
Patti Horinka, Mike Johnson, Janis Mills,

St. John's Lutheran Church  
PO Box 943 † Statesville, NC 28687

Located at: 740 N Center Street  
704-873-0222  
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February Proclaimer Deadline: January

JANUARY



St. John's

## **WINGS Sunday**

Sunday, January 15 @ 10:30 AM

~ The women of St. John's  
will be conducting the service ~

**Guest Speaker: Kay Weaver**  
Member of the NALC Executive Council