

THE GRAPEVINE

Faithful Disciples of Jesus,

I pray everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. I wonder if this is true for most people, [fellow disciples, I'd love to know if the same is true for you] but the older I get the more JOY I find in life. I hope that is true for you as well and for my younger friends you have much to look forward too.

As I reflect as to why that may be true, I've come to believe it is because as we grow as an individual, we discover what is truly important in life. We learn that all the titles, promotions, and material things never fill the void, we just keep craving more and more. But there seems to be this point in your life when you have tried everything there is to make you happy: the diets, the gym membership, the new car, the new house, the new boyfriend, husband, and when you finally realize all these things are just temporary fixes, you are on the verge of discovering true JOY.

Because after we've tried all these other things, I am going to ask you to make one more New Year's resolution, which is: Precious God, help me this year to make You, my number one focus in my life.

Here is my promise. Do this with all your heart, mind and soul, and I promise you will begin to discover true JOY! I say this humbly but with conviction; it has worked for me.

I've never been happier. My life is filled with JOY because of Jesus, my family and truly, because of each of you. Each of you have touched my life and I pray that I have touched your life in some way, and it is these relationships that fill my life with JOY.

May the God of JOY, continue to bless you and me throughout 2020.

Blessings+
Pastor Don



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Note	1
Church News	2
Small Groups	3
Birthdays	3
Music	4
Prayers	5
Shut Ins	5
Ministry Schedule	6





Poinsettias

Thank you everyone who ordered Poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. They were a beautiful addition to our decorations. If you have not already, please remember to take yours home to enjoy for the rest of the winter.

Blessing Bags

We still have supplies to make Blessing Bags for the Homeless. Please consider making and taking a few to hand out now that it's so cold.

"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered." - Proverbs 11:25

Building Team Meeting

There will be a building team meeting on **January 26** between services. Please come and join the discussion.

Youth Group

Youth Group meets on Friday evenings, from 6:00-7:30 pm *unless there is a scheduled outing or other event that week*. We will meet January 10, 17, 24.

There will be no Youth Group on January 31.

The Youth Group will be going to the movies at Showplace Cinemas South on **Saturday, January 4th**. Please contact John Geary at 812-604-9660 for more information.





There's a place for you!

Evening Bible Study

The evening Bible Study will meet **January 7 & 21 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm** at St. Mark's. We will be studying the book of Luke and you do not need to be a member of St. Mark's to join. Please contact Diane Meier if interested.



Lunch Crew

This group meets for lunch and fellowship on the 3rd Monday of each month at various restaurants around town. **Lunch Crew will meet at Spanky's Pizza, at 4404 W Lloyd Expressway on January 20 at 12:00 p.m.** Please join us for fellowship and a great meal. All are welcome!

Creative Hands

Creative Hands fellowship group will meet Wednesday, **January 8 & 22 from 9am-2pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own creative project to work on plus any snacks or lunch you might want. There will be people here during the times listed, however, you are welcome to come when you like and leave when you need. Hope to see you there! —Susann Betz



1/3—Deb Schade

1/5—Margaret Boyles

1/6—Pat Powers

1/7—Greg Bryant

1/8—John Geary

1/12—Dan Mowrey

1/13—Liam Nelson

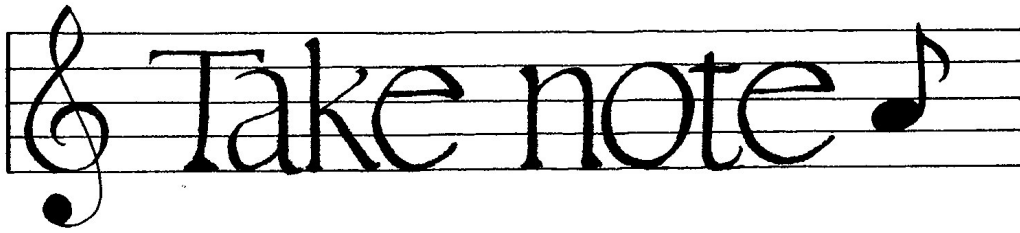
1/16—Glen Bieber

1/21—Karen Dunlap

1/23—Kyle Conapinski

1/31—Ruby Geary





First, I would like to thank the choir, soloists, and musicians for all of their time, hard work and dedication to help make our Traditional Christmas Eve service wonderful! It was awesome—19 voices and 8 musicians!

Next, a special thank you to two members of St. Mark's Youth Group, Grant Watson & Nathan Gates for their "Away In a Manger" trombone duet.

Also, if you enjoy making music vocally or instrumentally, come and check out a choir practice on Thursday nights from 6-7 pm in the sanctuary (*no practice December 26, 2019 or January 2, 2020 for the Holiday Season*).

Finally, *we desperately need sound and media volunteers for the 11:00 am service*. Please prayerfully consider serving in this special ministry. Could God be calling you?

Deb Ordner





We Remember In Our Prayers

JoAnne Petropoulos,
Norma Cobb,
Tom Wahoski,
Rebecca Messmann,
Eileen Bussey,
Travis Pyott,
Carol Courter,
the Krodel family,
Martin Englebert,
Jessie Raper,
Anita Conapinski,

Jennifer Galey,
Denise Lane,
Jennifer Lathrop,
Charlie Littlepage,
Sue Boyles,
Lynne Mowrey,
Deb Schade,
Alice Aiken,
Lynn Wahoski,
Debby Tartell,
Kenny Clark,

Darrell M.,
Clifford Schmidt,
Dottie Peteritas,
Jim Brogan,
Kelcie Richart,
John Williams,
Arlene Sellers,
Sharon Bieber,
Sharon Cota,
Mary Lou Thayer
Jan Heugel



Let Us Pray...

God of the journey, you call us to follow you without fear of stumbling, your hand held out to steady the weakest soul. Grant us a faith strong enough to take you at your word and, should we struggle, to know you're with us along the way.

God of the journey, forgive our moments of doubt and strengthen our hearts, we pray, that we might have the courage to share our faith with others, speak up for what we know is right, and keep our feet firmly on the path we know you would have us tread.

Amen.

—Birch, John. The Act of Prayer: Praying through the Lectionary, Bible Reading Fellowship.

Please Remember Our Shut-Ins and Homebound Members

Arthur Aarstad—*Newburgh Healthcare*
Norma Cobb—*Signature Health Care*
Jan Heugel—*Protestant Home*
Dottie Peteritas—*Oasis Dementia Care*
JoAnne Petropoulos—*Newburgh Healthcare*



January Ministry Schedule

	1/5	1/12	1/19	1/26
Altar Guild	J— Maria Dennis T— Linda Larsen & Sue Stuckemeyer			
Usher	Mark & Sherri Zeller	Jim Weitzel & Connor Higgins	Dan Mowrey & Pamela Stofleth	Mark & Velda Iverson
Greeter	J— Arlene Sellers & Sharon Arvidson T—Mark & Sherri Zeller	J— Jon & Sara Watson T— Jim Weitzel & Connor Higgins	J— Margaret Boyles & Cathy Goller T— Dan Mowrey & Pamela Stofleth	J— Terry & Debbie Garoutte T— Mark & Velda Iverson
Acolyte				
Nursery Attendant	J— Margaret Boyles T—	J— Mary Stuckemeyer T—	J— Maria Dennis T—	J—Julie Weyer T—
Lector	Wanda Krodel	LaVon Niehaus	Wanda Krodel	LaVon Niehaus
Assisting Minister	Jeff Braun	Mark Zeller	Sherri Zeller	Jeff Braun
Coffee Hour	Anne Basden, Heather Polley, Jordan Lejman	Julie Kelly	Debbie Anderson	Trevinos
Kids' Church	J— Susan Gray T— Susan Gray	J— Susan Gray T— Susan Gray	J— Susan Gray T— Susan Gray	J— Susan Gray T— Susan Gray
Media Ministry	J— Don Rodd & Barbara Rendleman T— Mike & Donna Myers			



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

2300 Washington Avenue
Evansville, IN 47714



Please join us for worship each Sunday

9 am Contemporary Service

10 am Coffee Hour/Sunday School

11 am Traditional Service