

Now glory be to God who by His mighty power at work within us
 is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of,
 infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes. -Ephesians



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 7:30 Men's Fellowship Breakfast	2 9:00 Martha Circle Program: Margie Dreier	3	4	5 4:00 Annual Reports Due in the Office	6 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i>
	Church Office CLOSED		Church Office OPEN			
7 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:30 Council Budget Meeting	8	9 12:00 Rebekah's Lunch Bunch Devotion: Shelly Schulze	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Epiphany 2</i> 9:15 Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship	15 2:00 42 Party @ Senior Center 	16 6:00 Unity Meeting Devotion: Martha Circle	17 6:00 Sarah Circle Devotion: Lavon Meyer	18	19	20
21 <i>Epiphany 3</i> 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Communion	22 3:00 February Newsletter Deadline 	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Epiphany 4</i> 9:15 Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Annual Meeting	29	30	31			



Volunteers for January

If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled - Please make arrangements to switch with someone on the list, then, notify the church office so we have the correct names in the bulletin. In addition, if you know before the newsletter deadline that you will not be available a certain Sunday of the following month, please let me know so I can make note. Thank you! ~Wendi

Ushers: Leslie Zillig, Margie Dreier, Martha Oehlke, Paul Otwell

Lectors:

07 Christy Paulsgrove
14 Gloria Billo
21 Ginia Bruno
28 Walter Pfenninger

Communion Assistant:

07 Wanda Cornish
21 Ginia Bruno

Communion Preparation:

Ginia Bruno

Cookies:

07 Wendi Pospech & Connie Westphal
14 Linda Swickheimer & Mary Lea Pfenninger
21 Ginia Bruno & Dorothy Foerster
28 Margie Dreier & Renee Stroman

Offering Counters:

Wanda Cornish & Merle Otwell

Flowers:

07 available
14 Baecker
21 available
28 available

Greeters:

07 Merle & Paul Otwell
14 Mackenzie Billo & Wanda Cornish
21 Alan & Kim Schneider
28 Margie Dreier & Martha Oehlke

Change Paraments:

Mary Lea Pfenninger
07 White
14, 21, 28 Green





P.O. Box 518 251 N. Market St.
Goliad, Texas 77963-3421
361-645-3330
Web: www.stjohnsgoliad.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord. —Romans 6:23*



Our apologies if we missed your special date, please help us make corrections for next time.
If you would like to **unsubscribe** or have the newsletter **e-mailed** to you please let the office know.
361.645.3330 / stjohnsgoliad@gmail.com Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:00-4:00

St. John's Journal

January 2018

St. John's Lutheran Church
251 N. Market St. / P. O. Box 518 / Goliad, TX 77963
Church Office: 361-645-3330
stjohnsgoliad@gmail.com / stjohnsgoliad.org
Office Hours : Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00-4:00

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Phyllis Franke, Ray Parr, Ruth Pieper,
Betty Cullum, Alton Oehlke, Bob Farley,
Cindy Shelton, Oney Hagens, Gloria Billo,
Ann Deskin, Jamie Ara, Charles Pollard,
Cole Ohrt, Kristen Bruno

THOSE IN CARE FACILITIES:

Edna Mae Riggs, Ruth Baacke,
& Virginia Zillig

NURSING HOME WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

March 11th
June 3rd
August 26th
November 18th

Worship is held at the La Bahia Nursing
Home at 3:00
Anyone and Everyone is welcomed to join.

Under **new business** lighting outside fellowship hall was discussed. Pastor and Leslie will look into it. The milling of Pecan trees from our church was discussed. Mary Lea moved and Keith seconded that we approve the estimated amount for this at \$400. Motion carried. Also discussed was determining rules for fellowship hall use since we have renovated kitchen and bathrooms. With no further business, Mary Lea moved and Stanly seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christy Paulsgrove, Secretary

*It's time to get ready for summer
camp 2018!*



This summer Cross Trails Ministry campers will be exploring the theme "Here I Am!" and discovering ways to interact and grow with God through prayer.

There are many options from kindergarten to adults, day camps to groups and family camps at Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch Camp and several Off-site Adventure Camps!

There are even camperships available!

If you would like more information the schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and there are registration forms in the office or you can visit

www.crosstrails.org

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
December 11th, 2017

The Church Council of St. John's Lutheran Church met at 6:30pm on December 11, 2017. The meeting was called to order by President, Mark Stroman. Pastor Randy opened the meeting with prayer. Those in attendance besides Pastor and Mark were Mary Lea Pfenninger, Stanly Oehlke, Keith Cornish, Christy Paulsgrove, Randy Riggs, and Tim Westphal. It was noted by Mark that Marshall Henson was not present.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Randy moved and Keith seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried. The Treasurer's report was discussed. Mary Lea moved and Keith seconded that this report be approved. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Christy (**Faith and Life Committee**) reported that donations were taken to Sheriff's office for the Silver Santa program. Gifts were delivered to children on December 16. Thanks to the congregation for their participation in this project. WOSJ delivered care packages to congregational members in need. Mark reported that the Men's breakfast was well attended. Pastor reviewed his ministry work for the month of November. Also a new committee has been added—Beautification Committee. Members of this committee are Kim Schneider, Ginia Bruno, Cynthia Barnhill, Mark Stroman, and Pastor.

Under **calendar review** the date for the Congregational meeting was discussed. Christy moved and Mary Lea seconded that this meeting be set for January 28 following the Worship Service. Motion carried. The January Council meeting will be held January 7 following the Church service.

Happy Birthday

8 – Kyle Cornish

15 – Sara Conrad

27 - Renee Stroman

31 - Lavon Meyer

Happy Baptism Anniversary

5 – Mary Lea Pfenninger

12 – Cierra Fromme

16 – Mallory Shelton

19 – Hayden Otwell

21 – Drake Loest, LaNell Ressmann

22 – Shanell Gorman

27 – Blake Cornish, Kadie Johnson,

Kelly Gruetzmacher, Logan Huth,

Brodie Huth

30 – Allene Bethke, Cliff Fromme

Happy Wedding Anniversary

15 – Gerald & Dorothy Foerster

16 – Preston & Joyce Baecker

From Pastor Randy...

⁶ He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. (Jer. 17:6 ESV)



I lived in a very old house for a good number of years where the previous owner, or owners, had planted a good number of shrubs; Boxwood to be more precise. It was the unwritten code of conduct in that area to keep all shrubs manicured and shaped as if that was the shrub's natural look. Once so shaped the shrub was no longer called a shrub but a hedge. And trust me, I looked to see if you could just buy a hedge and skip the shrub part altogether; no luck. In our area any deviation of allowing a hedge to go wild was not met with fines but something more devastating and degrading – shame. It took me a good while to learn to shape a shrub. I don't mind telling you that I have had numerous failed attempts that swiftly brought down the disappointed looks from our community and the whispers from those walking by.

Knowing that there had to be a good way to trim those things, I tried various methods. I once foolishly used hand clippers. When you have a lot of inherited shrubs, clippers take a long time. And your hand gets very very tired. And the result is not smooth but appearing more like a choppy sea. I also tried larger clippers which resulted in similar results and the same “tisk tisk” from the neighbors. I once went covert and spied through the windows with binoculars as my neighbors worked their expertise on their shrubs and that's where I learned about powered hedge clippers. Now I don't really mean to brag, but I have worked with both electric and gas powered trimmers. Yes, both! And I can tell you the trimmer is the way to go. But still, it takes time to learn to smooth out a shrub into a hedge. Perseverance though finally paid off and we became proud hedge owners and the good news is that we were no longer looked down upon by our community. Well, at least not for the shrubs. – Sadly that was a long time ago and a talent has to be practiced to be maintained.

Church Council Meeting

January 7th

Following the morning worship service

7

*The annual **budget meeting** will also be held at this time*

Sunday School Report

The following 8 children were in Sunday School on **December 10th**:

Cutter & Cooper Mares, Emberlynn Elrod, Emree & Trey Hoffmann, Kelton Sparks, Conner Runge, and Troy Lee and we collected \$11 in offering.



Sunday school classes will resume on January 14th at 9:15.

42 Party

Will be held at 2:00 on Monday, January 15th at the Goliad Senior Citizens Center



Annual Church Meeting

January 28th

Following the morning worship service





The Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity is having a House Party!

New Date: Friday, January 12, 2018
6 PM - 11 PM @ Club Westerner

ReStoring Dreams: Building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter for local families in need.

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity is gathering a group of local DIYers ready to show off their skills and compete against each other while they raise money for Habitat.

ReStore ReVamp:

Each DIYer will...

- Have a \$200 credit at the Habitat ReStore to pick out items for their project.
- Upcycle their project and give it new life.
- Try to get the most votes at House Party to win a fabulous prize.

See the results of their hard work, vote for your favorite, and bid on these one-of-a-kind masterpieces at Habitat's House Party.

The evening also includes music by Austin Nines, dinner by Backdoor Catering, beer and wine, auctions and more!



 **ReStore**
**YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIFT
A HAMMER TO HELP**

Notice please that God is always working the same way on us. God though already has all the expertise and fortunately He doesn't mind spending His time trimming up all of us wild things. A poor result is not so much from God's lack of skill or lack of trying but from our lack of standing in his care long enough to get a good smooth finish. And like the shrub, we need to go back to the master gardener often for we have a tendency to go wild again pretty quickly. Wouldn't it be nice if we would just learn to stay in his care all the time? Maybe we just don't focus on the right thing. We don't really care for the pruning, so we avoid it. But sometimes where the task is difficult, focusing on the result keeps us going. So why didn't God just make us like a well-trimmed hedge in the first place? Because there are a lot of important things to learn along the way. And we most likely would not be so appreciative of the result if it wasn't for the journey.

So if you feel that God is seeking changes in your life and is coming after you with hedge clippers, stand still. If you allow the pruning eventually God only has to gently use hand clippers once in a while. And if you find that society is giving you disapproving looks because you are looking more and more like a child of God, don't be disappointed but stand proud; for God does what He does because he cares about you. Maybe instead invite a few of the shrubs over and let them know that the Master Gardener is a true hedge against death.

Pastor Randy

²⁶ And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? (Mk. 12:26 ESV)



Thank you so very much for your generous donation. This donation will go to make some Christmas baskets for clients and then for future purchases of goods from the Victoria Food Bank. Thanks so very much once again!

Tony Kouba
Goliad County Outreach Food Pantry

*Thank
You*

Thank you to everyone who donated to the NALC South Texas Mission District's quilt and Christmas decorations drive for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. St. John's Contributed more than 20 quilts, blankets, sleeping bags, etc. and many boxes of Christmas items. Our items went to Rockport area victims and were greatly appreciated!

Women of St. John's

Martha Circle

January 2nd @ 9:00

Program: Margie Dreier

Rebekah's Lunch Bunch

January 9th @ 12:00

Devotion: Shelly Schulze

*Bring two completed personal care kits before April.

Sarah Circle

January 17th @ 6:00

Devotion: Lavon Meyer

*Bring two completed school kits before April.

Unity Meeting

January 16th @ 6:00

Devotion: Martha Circle

Projects for the Month

*Start circle kits and animal projects

The Women on First English Lutheran Church
Invite you to **BUNCO Monday, February, 5th**
Registration at 5:30, Food served at 6:00,
and Bunco begins at 7:00

First English Lutheran Activity Center
500 block of North Main, Victoria

Please **RSVP** by **January 31st** to 575-5941 or 575-3623

*Men are also invited to play domino