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### Church Council

Gary Tartanian

Council President

CouncilPresident@stjohnmd.org

Mike West

Council Vice President

Christina Merchant

Treasurer

Lisa Strutz

Secretary

### Council Members

Julie Alzin

Garland Jackson

Alicia Slahetka

Denise Stepanik

Council@stjohnmd.org

This publication is accessible at

[www.stjohnmd.org](http://www.stjohnmd.org)

About Us  
Click "Calendar"

### St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

6004 Waterloo Road

Columbia, MD 21045

Office: 410/799-8888

Fax: 410/799-3614

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Everyone comes before Christ carrying a heavy load. Daily we pray for the hurts and the hopes of all who are touched by the mission & ministry of St. John. This week we pray especially for:

### Members

Thelma Heber  
Charlotte Bibleheimer  
Lillian Dasher

Gene & Maria Boritz  
Luther Cressman  
Judy Anderson

Tom & Alicia & Family  
Ryan Alzin (Graduation)

### Friends

Good Samaritan Orphanage,  
in Mbeya, Tanzania  
Korean Church  
Community of St. Dymas  
Bishop Jerry Knoche  
Those seeking employment  
Teachers & Students

John Jensen  
Sonja Ashner  
Lisa Barben  
Dot Horn  
Samantha LaFaive  
Katie & Ben  
Russ Wyne  
Daniel Cronin  
Courtney & Kurt  
Peggy Quinn  
Warren Wunder  
Maury Reddinger  
Charles Woods  
Annette Lusby  
The McGuire Family  
Raymond Reily  
Aiden & Andrea  
Bill  
Sandie  
Anne McNeal  
Russ

Delani Noel  
Jan Case  
The Grant Family  
The Marvel Family  
The Coppa Family  
Brandon & Family  
Kayleigh Clark  
Nate Wessel  
Colson Tacket  
Mary Jo Wessel  
Tara  
Cherie Baron  
Ray-Karl & Liz  
Jim & Jean  
Sherri  
Jason  
Jon  
Mike  
Susie  
Bill  
Sam  
Geena  
Eula Armiger  
Ruthie Peters  
Audrey Roberts  
Joe Armiger, Jr.  
Ken Riccini  
Zack Collard

Sharon Wunder  
Herrmann Family  
Juliet  
Earl Lester  
Carolyn Carnes  
Peggy Brannan  
Lyndsey Fields  
Eileen Bednar  
Tedi Klotzman  
Rowan Grace  
Blanche Curran  
Bruce Nolte  
Alice Kahl  
Priscilla Thomassen  
Suzanne Herbold  
Janice Goldberg & Family  
Preston Johnson  
Phil Johnson  
Beverly Johnson  
JoAnn & Mark Geier  
Nicholas  
Holly  
John Purcell  
Dr. Richard Piel  
Dorothy Piel  
Corrie & Mike Boyer

**Office Production Note** — In order to get all of the bulletins and Updates printed prior to the Christmas holiday, all printing for services through January 4th will be completed by December 22nd. Though the Prayer Team will be praying over prayer requests received after the 21st of December, the names of those for whom prayers were requested (which are received *after* office production is wrapped up the year) will not appear in the Update until the January 11th issue. Have a blessed and safe Christmas season!

**Our Vision: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ,  
Growing in Faith, Hope & Love**

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." *Matthew 28:19*  
"faith, hope, and love abide" — *1 Corinthians 13:13*

**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
December 24, 2008  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**



**St. John**  
Lutheran Church

# Christmas: This Changes Everything



## We will never be the same!

Join us on January 11th  
when we begin our new sermon series ...  
**"Fearless"**

Battles are inevitable but victory is not. We often find ourselves contending with forces that are stronger than are we. So how do you stand fearless when there's so much at stake? Be inspired by accounts from God's Word about average people who became champions and overcame insurmountable odds.

Do you have what it takes?

Experience "FEARLESS" to find out once and for all.

*Growing in faith, hope, and love*

## ITEMS OF INTEREST AT ST. JOHN

### The Perfect Last Minute Gift —

Special gift cards are available in the church entrance for making donations to Good Samaritan Orphanage to honor or remember loved ones. These cards make perfect gifts for those on your list who are difficult to find just the right gift or who already have everything and are beginning to downsize. Your gift will help those at Good Samaritan Orphanage and their outreach.

### Hat/Mitten/Scarf Tree —

You can help the Knit and Crochet Team decorate a tree with warm gloves, scarves and hats. Home-made or store-bought, hang them on the tree in the Education Wing. The tree will remain up through January 11th and all “decorations” will be given to local homeless men, women and children.

### First Holy Communion for

**Teens** — On **Saturday, January 10, 2009, 12:30-3:00 PM**, Pastor Mike will engage teenagers and their parents in conversation around the importance and significance of Holy Communion, as well as instruct the teens on receiving this special meal. Teens will then be able to **receive** their first Communion **any Sunday after the class, or**, if they are in Confirmation, **on the Confirmation Retreat** on January 17-18, 2009. Contact Pastor Mike.

**Baptism Class** — If you desire to be baptized or have a child whom

you would like to have baptized, please register now for the class on **Saturday, January 10th at 8:30 AM in Room #20**. Contact Linda Lester at the church office or by email at **LindaLester@stjohnmd.org**.

**New Members Class** — If you have been worshipping with us for a while and now wish to take the next step into membership of the St. John faith community, register for the **New Member Class on Sunday, January 11th from 1 PM ‘til about 3 PM**. Contact Linda Lester at the church office or by email at **LindaLester@stjohnmd.org**.

**WAVE** — WAVE dinners and activities will resume on **Wednesday, January 7th**. Plan to have dinner together at 6 PM and participate in all of the various activities which follow until 8:30 PM. If you’d like to know more about WAVE phone the church office or email your question to **Office@stjohnmd.org**.

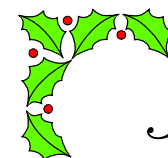
**Spiritual Spa Day** — Save the date! **Saturday March 7th from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**. Cost will be \$25.00 which includes breakfast and lunch. More details to come after the first of the year.

**Women’s Retreat** — Thirteenth Annual Women’s Retreat, will be held instead on **May 15 – 17, 2009** at the Precious Blood Spiritual Center located in Columbia, PA.

The theme for the retreat is **“Discerning the Will of God”** from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. The cost will be just \$160, which includes lodging and all meals. Registration forms will be available soon

**Emergency Message Procedure Reminder** — When the church office is closed for the day or during holidays, we make every attempt to check messages at regular intervals and return calls as the situation dictates. We also have an emergency contact system in place for those times when a pastor’s response is required. If you have an emergency and need to reach one of the pastors after the church office is closed for the day or during a holiday, simply call the church 410/799-8888 and follow the directions on the recording.

**Sign up for *Simply Giving***<sup>®</sup>, a free electronic transfer arrangement to support the mission of St. John. It's easy and confidential for you; consistent for our ministry. Pick up an enrollment form and return envelope in the church entry or for more information about the ***Simply Giving***<sup>®</sup> program, contact our Business Manager for more information.



### In Honor

Ernst, Cole, Fallenstein  
Parents & Grandparents  
by Mark, Doni, Melissa & Joshua Ernst

Our Grandparents & Jim Holtzman, Jr.  
by The Brogan Family

Bob & Leora Grinde  
and St. John Staff  
by the Hughes Family

Children Grandchildren,  
Mothers & Fathers  
by Ken & LaDonna Cunningham

Ella Marie Mangum  
by Doug & Kristin Mangum

Colleen & David Blough  
by Bob McGuire

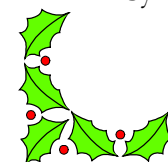
### In Memory

Parents Margaret & Paul Wuerth  
Brothers Roland, Lloyd & Paul Wuerth  
by Margot Hoffman

Daughter Linda Hoffman  
by Margot Hoffman

The Sensibaugh Family  
by Dorothy Sensibaugh

Karen Reeder  
by Stacy Reeder



## Poinsettia Dedications

Emily & Sara’s Grandparents,  
Aunts & Uncles  
By Byron & Lori Dixon

Anne O’Neill & James P. Kruger, Jr.  
by Kathy Kruger

Rodney E. Hirt  
Ting Jun Tam & Chuck Youn Fong  
by Pat Hirt & John Tam

Father & Grandfather,  
Charles Brannan  
by Debbie, Doug, Christopher,  
Matthew and Kaitlyn Warner

Conrad, Lula, Buck & Frank  
Vollmerhausen Family  
by Betty Bassler

Bill & Ruth McCrea (Mom & Dad)  
Ellen Karfgin (Sister)  
by Barbara Vinson

Our Parents  
by Bob & Donita Krueger

My Sister Bev  
by Lynn & Pete Murdza

John Strutz, Jr., Doris Selke,  
Ed Selke and Tom Perkins  
by the Strutz Family

Bobby Dietrich (Son)  
Sandy Sanderson (Husband)  
by Gloria Dietrich

Bob Dasher  
by Lillian Dasher

Dominick Cina & Billie H. Walker  
by the Cina Family

Frank Bobart  
by his Wife Dottie and  
Children Michelle & David

Joe Shad, John & Ruthild Eustis  
by Allan Shad & Ann Eustis

Our Loved Ones  
by Sherman & Janice Reddinger  
and Family

Joan M. McGuire  
by Bob McGuire

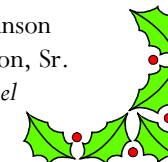
Loved Ones  
By Diane Mastroianni

Alfred & Alberta Turner  
Robert & Laura Owens  
by Brent & Louise Owens

Mr. Robert Richards  
by Brian, Ludmilla & Greg Richards

Maggie Lee & L.E. Pope  
Harold Taylor  
by Allison & George Wolf

Steven D. Johnson  
Paskel P. Johnson, Sr.  
by Lynda Piel



## WE PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Captains Shannon & Aaron Allison (Ft. Campbell, KY); Ted Bidwell (Fort Lewis, WA); Ross Brault (Fort Jackson, SC); TJ Camden (Camp LeJeune, NC); Pete DeAngelis (Ft. Benning, GA); Genival deSilva (Iraq); Peter Dobrzansky (Overseas); Andrew Elder (Iraq);

Travis A. Keys (Pensacola, FL); Laurie Knorr (Kirtland AFB, NM); Robert Knorr (Navy sub); Justin Merson (Afghanistan); Sgt./Maj. Greg Minor (Iraq); Vincent Pekrul (Iraq); Ensign Grant H. Regelin (Corpus Christi, TX); Jeffrey Sacks (Ft. Bliss, TX); Christian Smith (Ft.

Campbell, KY); Cedric Tanksley (Iraq); Jennifer Taylor (Germany); Michael Warner (Iraq); and Major Eric Young (US Army, Iraq).

If you would like us to include a loved one on our prayer list, call the office.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Thursday, December 25th Christmas Day	Christmas Day Church Office Closed	
<b>Friday, December 26th</b> Christmas Holiday	5:30 PM 7:30 PM	Zanski/Regelin Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary ‘til 7 PM) Praise Band Rehearsal (for Sundays 12/28 & 1/4/09 - 9 PM)
<b>Saturday, December 27th</b>	4:30 PM	Zanski/Regelin Wedding (Sanctuary ‘til about 6 PM)
<b>Sunday, December 28th</b>	9:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:15 AM 11:30 AM	Liturgical Worship Praise Band Rehearses (Fellowship Hall ‘til about 9:45 AM) Contemporary Worship Contemporary Worship
<b>No Sunday School ‘til 1/11</b>		