



# St. John Lutheran Church & School

## November 2018 Newsletter

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- **James Schuette**  
Athletic Director  
5th/6th
- **Hannah Hackbarth**  
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Educational Tech
- **Karla Haley**  
Music Coordinator  
K-2nd
- **Linda Schwartz**  
Head organist  
K-8 Departmentalized
- **Tammy Musser**  
Administrative  
Assistant
- **Sandra Berndt**  
Custodian
- **Shari Kiesow**  
Kitchen Supervisor

**Church Website:**

[www.stjohnwaterloo.com](http://www.stjohnwaterloo.com)



### *"God Sets the Lonely in Families"* [Psalm 68:6]

This verse is true for both our everyday life and our spiritual life. God brings us together with other people, to enrich our lives and give us a sense of belonging. He also intends for us to be helped and to be a help to others—to give us a sense of purpose.

Sometimes we forget that. You may have heard it said, "My faith is my business and nobody else's". While this is technically true, that each person is responsible to God for their own faith; in reality, because God places us into families, we also have responsibilities toward those other members of our family. That's why God writes, "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." [1 Timothy 5:8] Additionally, God reminds us, "Each of you should not only look to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." [Philippians 2:4] These responsibilities toward one another also include spiritual care, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other that you may be healed," [James 5:16] and, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." [Hebrews 10:24]

One of the best ways to encourage one another is during and after worship and Bible classes. Hearing the Word of God, receiving the power of the Holy Spirit in the Lord's Supper, and then talking about the opportunities which God gives to us, either in visiting informally with one another, or meeting together as a congregation are natural ways of building ourselves up and others. So God reminds us we are to do just that.

When we pass around the 'friendship registers' during service, we're not keeping track of you to see how good or bad a Lutheran/Christian you are. We're giving you an opportunity to remind your leaders, you're here and you're ready to participate in the work God has given us as a part of this congregation of believers. We're also giving an opportunity to new members and visitors to let us know they're joining with us, and perhaps giving all of us a chance to put names with faces of the people in our rows.

What we're trying to avoid is that someone who 'falls off the map' in their attendance, and nobody notices. Faith is strengthened by time in the Word of God and receiving the sacrament; and in this world, it doesn't take long before that faith can wither and die without encouragement and nourishment. You are in charge of your own spirituality, we're only here to encourage you as needed. Let us know how we can be of help.

*Pastor Adomeit*