

# HAND CLASP

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER b FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH b JANUARY 2018  
302 S. 10TH ST b ST JOSEPH, MO 64501 b 816-232-8378 b  
FLCSJ.ORG

## BAPTISM: IDENTIFYING WITH CHRIST

(MATTHEW 3:1-17)

Christ began his public ministry with baptism. At the time, John the Baptist was calling people to confess their sins and demonstrate repentance through immersion in the river. So why did Jesus, the sinless One, ask to be baptized?

At first, John actually refused, knowing that Jesus Christ was the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). But Jesus wasn’t just demonstrating repentance; He was sacrificially identifying with sinful humankind.

As Christians, we’re called to follow His example in all things, becoming more like Him as we grow in our faith. That’s why baptism is so important in following Jesus. As He was willing to identify Himself with us, we publicly identify with Him when we are baptized, which is a symbolic way of declaring, “I have trusted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and believe that the debt of my sin is fully paid through His sacrificial death on the cross. I believe that as He rose from the dead, I will also be resurrected through Him. I look forward to walking in accordance with the Lord’s will while I’m on the earth and living with Him throughout eternity. Since He loved me enough to identify Himself with me in my sin, I will show my love for Him by following His example right now, and for the rest of my days.”

Baptism demonstrates our connection not only with the Lord but also with our spiritual brothers and sisters—past, present, and future. Joining everyone who’s walked before us in faith, we are saying that we’re members of one body, redeemed and brought to life by the same Lord.

Deng, Philip	1/1
Coyle, Noah	1/3
Coyle, Shelby	1/6
Bunge, James	1/7
Hebb, Marissa	1/7
Stroud, Joyce	1/9
Dennis, Noah	1/13
Johnson, Marcia	1/13
Luthans, Ashley	1/13
Heeler, Linda	1/14
Bass, Brenda	1/17
Knorr, Jackson	1/18
Schmidt, Diana	1/18
Newman, Ann	1/21
Cotton, Terry	1/22
Starks, Linda	1/24
Hunter, Brian	1/29



William & Elaine Guenther	1/2/1955 63 years
Stanley & Sara Lyman	1/7/2004 14 years
Brian & Shanya Hunter	1/16/1999 19 years
Mel & Jo Eyberg	1/26/1969 49 years

## Treasurer's Report November 2017

*Cyndee Simpson, Treasurer*

November Income	\$15,520.88
November Expenses	\$16,903.85
Year to Date Income	\$190,805.87
Year to Date Expenses	\$189,404.57



To my friends at FLC,  
Thank you so much for your many acts of kindness  
over these past months. Your prayers and love  
helped me through difficult times.  
Merry Christmas and God bless you!

Doris Anderson



# ROUNDTABLE

## DWELLING IN THE WORD

Phoebe Circle - Tuesday, Jan. 9th, 7 pm

Confirmation - will start back up Jan. 8th

Thursday Morning Bible Study - Thursdays at 10 am  
at church

## FELLOWSHIP

Early Morning Breakfast - Tuesday, Jan. 16th,  
6:30 am, at Le Peep

Wednesday With Friends - Wednesday, Jan. 10,  
12:00 pm @ Cracker Barrel

Wednesday Café - Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

## SERVICE

Quilting Ladies - Tuesdays, Jan. 2nd and 16th,  
12:30 pm Fellowship Hall

Chancel Choir - Wednesdays at 7 pm

Community Dinner - Sunday, Jan. 28th, 4:00 pm

## LEADERSHIP

Altar Guild - Thursday, Jan. 11th, 10:30 am

Congregational Council - Thursday, Jan. 11th, 6:30 pm

Congregational Meeting - Sunday, Jan. 21st, 10:15 am  
Snow Date: Sunday, Jan. 28th

## PLACES TO HELP

**There are many open** slots for snacks for coffee hour. The sign-up sheet is located in the kitchen. You don't have to be a baker – store bought work just as well as homemade! We could also use creamers, napkins, teas and hot chocolate.

**Mike Buckler, Director of Business Partnerships**, shared with the area pastors that most schools get plenty of hats, gloves, and coats, but the big need is shoes/boots. Another venture the schools are always looking for is adults to volunteer as mentors, tutors, reading assistants, and lunch buddies.

## Congregational Meeting - January 21st at 10:15am

The Annual meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> (Snow date is January 28<sup>th</sup>). The agenda includes election of Council members and voting on the 2018 Budget. Members who are confirmed and have contributed and communed in the past year are eligible to vote.



Thank you to everyone who gave time, money, and to the Altar Guild for their fund raising efforts to help with the Fellowship Hall renovation. Progress is being made and the transformation is so much brighter and inviting!

If anyone is interested, the cloth chairs will be for sale when the new chairs come in. If you have any questions, please see Dave Newman.

The Altar Guild would like to thank everyone for the donations for the silent auction and donated cookies. Thank you to those who purchased cookies and for those who participated in the auction. This was a successful event and as always, so fun!

\$1, 263.00 was collected to be donated to the Fellowship Hall Renovation.





Have a computer, mobile phone, iPad? Join in a weekly video online Bible Study on Tuesdays from 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. starting January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The study will be on the Gospel of Mark. Led by Pastor Roger, participants can join in from wherever they are located.

Email the Pastor at [rogerlenander@gmail.com](mailto:rogerlenander@gmail.com) to indicate your interest. You will receive directions on how to log in and join in the Video Study on the zoom.us app. If you know of others who are interested they are welcome to join in at anytime. The app is like a virtual room so everyone can participate in the discussions.

Sunday Adult Bible Study, 10:30 am:

Upper Classroom - The Gospel of Mark

Library - **Women's Bible Study** - Margaret Feinberg in a video presented Bible Study

### Willow Craft Items

Kris Langdon is starting a willow crafts ministry under the mentorship of Ed Holmes. If you are interested in learning how you can be part of this ministry contact Kris at 262-7587.

Participants can choose to sell their items to support designated benevolent needs. This is for youth and adults so consider learning this craft skill and enjoy getting to know others.

