

News and Notes

- From the week of January 29 -

"Whatever is True; A Christian View of Anxiety" - Last Sunday we were blessed to have Bill Woodington in church presenting on the topic of God's Word and anxiety. Through his own personal experience with anxiety, Bill helped us consider the comfort, power and practical implications God's Word provides for those who struggle with anxiety. Bill is the author of the book "Whatever is True; a Christian View of Anxiety". If you'd like to order a copy, they can be purchased at our synod's publishing house, Northwestern Publishing House item # 1201814 (online at www.nph.net or by phone 1-800-662-6022).

Griefshare – Beginning Monday, February 6 @ 6pm. GriefShare is a ministry to help people who are grieving the loss of a loved one who has died – recently or in the past. We meet for about 2 hours each week; to watch a short video hosted by mental health experts and people who have gone through the grieving process themselves; we take time to discuss the video, though sharing is not required; and between each session there is a workbook with daily exercises that point you to God's Word and help you work through your grief. We'll be meeting in the social hall of our church each Monday evening from 6-8pm. If you are interested in getting more information, or know someone we should be personally inviting please contact Pastor Zimpelmann or visit the GriefShare website griefshare.org. Please register by January 30th so we can make sure we have enough workbooks (note: fee of \$20 per person to cover the cost of the books). People are free to join our group at any time during the series.

New Sunday Morning Bible Study: "Irreconcilable"

"Don't be such a Pharisee!" Many Christians know that being called a Pharisee isn't a good thing. But do you know why? In this new study is beginning **TODAY between worship services from 9:20-10:15** we'll be exploring the ancient origins of the Pharisees to find out why these life-long religious leaders were so hostile to Jesus and help us understand how easily believers today can think and act just like Pharisees when they forget the power and purpose of what Christ has done for them. If you've been looking for an opportunity to join a bible study in the new year or haven't attended one before, now is the time. We'll make you this promise: We won't ever call on you or make anyone participate beyond what they feel comfortable doing. We also promise that you'll grow in your knowledge and trust in God's Word along with making and deepening friendships and connections with your church family. But most of all, you'll leave each week with a deeper sense of peace and confidence in the forgiveness, love, and salvation you have through faith in Jesus Christ.

New Bible Study for Women: "Overcoming Worry" by Margaret Feinberg - Sunday mornings beginning, February 19th through April 2 @ 9:20am-10:10am at the Carriage House. There is no fee to attend the class, we simply ask that you please sign up for the study by February 12th to ensure we have enough copies of the book available. Scan the QR code or talk to Allison Harbach to register. Here is a short excerpt from the back of the book: *"Life is littered with what ifs. What if there's not enough money? Or the economy doesn't improve? What if the person we've trusted breaks her promise? Or doesn't fulfill his commitment? What if our health begins to fail? Or our loved ones pass away? Or we find ourselves alone? Jesus knows that worry can strangle the life out of us. Maybe that's one reason why time and time again He told His disciples to 'Fear not!' Jesus does not want us to be controlled by worry and anxiety, but instead to be marked by faith and trust. And, just as He told His disciples all those years ago, Jesus calls us to 'Fear not!' In this Bible study you will learn to rest assured that you never have to meet the what ifs alone. God is with you--always. You can choose to face uncertainty with faith and begin to walk in greater levels of confidence, contentment, joy, peace, security, and calmness."*



Neighboring WELS Churches - Our pastors are helping out with two of the many vacancies in the area. Last week, Pastor Zimpelmann was serving the believers at St. Andrews in St. Paul Park as Pastor Roecker preaches in Hudson, WI. Today, Pastor Harbach will lead worship at Salem, Woodbury as they prepare to call again. Continue to keep area churches in your prayers as they seek full time Pastors to serve.

Called Home to Heaven: Dale Benjamin was called home to glory this past Monday. After living in Arizona the past number of years, Dale was diagnosed with cancer and came to live with his family in Cottage Grove this past month until his death. The pastors were happy & encouraged to bring him the means of grace during his final weeks. His family has no plans at this time for a funeral or burial. They appreciate your prayers and words of encouragement.

Church Photo Directory – The 2023 Membership directory will be prepared and distributed following the annual meeting next month and this year it will include photos! Here are a few ways to send in your photo:

- Scan the QR code on this page
- Text the word: **photo** to the number **651-401-1400**
- Look for the link in the weekly eMessenger
- Email your photo to: admin@stjohnslutheran.com (please be sure to include any updates to your contact information if needed)



2022 Giving Statements – 2022 Giving Summaries were sent out via email on January 12 – check your inbox! If you would like a hard copy of your giving statement, please reach out to Michelle. For those without an email address on file, hard copies were printed and put in your church mailbox.

2023 Offering Envelopes – Be sure to pick up your 2023 offering envelopes in the fellowship hall today! After this Sunday, the remaining envelopes will be put in your church mailboxes. Are you giving online and no longer have a need for envelopes? Reach out to Michelle to us and let us know and we will no longer assign you a packet.

Committee Reports Due January 31st: As we welcome the new calendar year, we ask all committees to provide a report of the past year. Please submit your reports to Michelle at the following email address: michelle.schulte@stjohnslutheran.com

2023 Ministry Plan: Our church leaders and committees have put together Ministry Plans for the upcoming year. These Ministry plans outline our initiatives as we continue to Come. Grow. Live. at St. John's and also help determine the necessary budgeted funds to achieve them. Copies of these plans along with the proposed 2023 budget are available today for you to take home and review. If you have questions regarding our 2023 Ministry Plan, please feel free to reach out to one of our church leaders.

This week at St. John's:

Today:	8:00 AM	Worship Service
	9:15 AM	Family Bible Hour
	10:30 AM	Worship Service
	12:30 PM	Sunday School Teachers Party at Kristi Murtaugh's home
Monday:	10:00 AM	God & Me
	6:30 PM	God & Me
Wednesday:	6:30 AM	Grow Group – Dunn Bros.
	1:00 PM	Grow Group – Bierstube
	6:30 PM	Confirmation Class
Thursday:	9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study
Saturday:	8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study @ El Mexican
	10:00 AM	Worship Planning Committee
Sunday:	8:00 AM	Communion Service
	9:15 AM	Family Bible Hour
	10:30 AM	Communion Service

Upcoming Greeters – Feb 5: Larry & Julie Rosenow (8am); Tony Johnson (10:30am)

Feb 12: Rich & Linda Myklebust (8am); Carol Oertel & Rita Bremer (10:30am)