

The Sentinel

St. John's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

JANUARY 2012

Rev. Dr. Robert Castro, Pastor

1209 Circle Drive West, Beaver Dam, WI 53916 *** Office: 920-885-3396 / Fax: 920-885-4830
email: stjohnsbd@sbcglobal.net *** website: <http://www.stjohnsbeaverdam.org>

St. John's Lutheran Church Mission Statement:

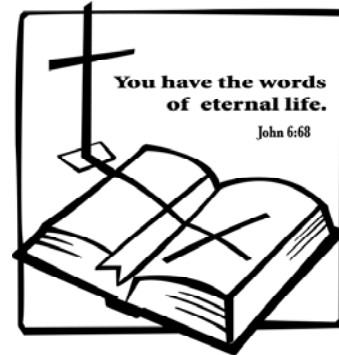
"With glad and generous hearts we bring the Good News to all, in gratitude for God's grace."

St. John's Lutheran Church Vision Statement:

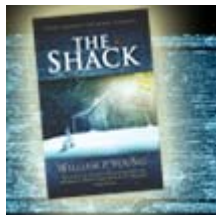
"We the family of God, believers in Jesus Christ, gathered as St. John's Lutheran, commit to be faithful, growing disciples within our parish, community and world. Living in the grace of God, we continue to grow inwardly through devotion to prayer, study of the Bible and regular worship, so we can serve compassionately through our invitations, by encouraging future generations, and by generously sharing our selves."



**ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
W/POTLUCK
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 10:30
A.M. WORSHIP AT 11:30 A.M.**



**Women's Bible Study will resume our normal 4th
Tuesday meeting in January - 6:30 p.m. at church**



The St. John's book club will be discussing The Shack by William Young. If you would like to join us, our next meeting is January 8th at 9:00 a.m. at the church. If you have questions call Heidi Freeby at 920-344-0160.

<http://theshackbook.com/index.html>

PASTOR'S REPORT, 2011

It was about six years ago, early January, that I came to Beaver Dam and met with the Call Committee to talk about St. John's. I was very impressed with the Call Committee and enjoyed my interview very much (even though, or because, the questions were pointed and challenging). Then following the interview something extraordinary took place. We walked into the worship space together and started dreaming / visioning. Specifically, we began discussing where the screen would go for the projector when St. John's was able to upgrade the worship space to include projection for contemporary worship. (Not surprisingly, our screen is located where the consensus determined it ought to be back then.) I remember thinking to myself, "Wow, these people are really serious about moving forward. This would be a wonderful place to serve with them." I was not wrong. The leadership at St. John's has been very serious these past six years about moving forward. And it was been wonderful to serve along with you.

It has been a good six years. (The official 6-year mark for me as your pastor is Mother's Day.) We have been moving forward. Thanks to your commitment and generosity we have a new roof, and an upgraded worship space. We have a traditional and contemporary worship service every Sunday. We are very grateful for the generosity of Gloria Purvis, and of Ervin and Alice Kulke, who made provision for St. John's in their wills. As a result of the Kulke estate we have added a residence to our property, and an additional \$29,000 that we can use to pay back the money that had been borrowed over the years from Memorial Funds. This will not fully pay off our deficit, but vastly reduce it, returning money to the Funds for future ministry in moving forward together. As Don Anderson, President and Chair of Stewardship has carefully pointed out in this *Sentinel*, that money is not available to help us meet our regular monthly expenses. We cannot use it to fund our Mission Plan. But much of the burden of the deficit that has built up will be lifted from our shoulders, freeing us to move forward in mission according to our Vision Statement. As a result of Gloria's generosity we are in position to move forward with the expansion of our narthex space, and by so doing make St. John's an even more warm and welcoming place

We have been very blessed by the people that have come to be among us this past year as new members of our church family. We continue to "make the circle bigger" as we welcome new members. At a time when Church membership is declining, St. John's membership has grown over the last 5 ½ years. People are joining to walk with us, as we move forward together.

This will be a pivotal year in the life of St. John's. This is the first full school year that we will be sharing two worship services from September through May. This is the first year that I have been here that we will not be looking over our shoulder at the substantial deficit borrowed from Memorial Funds. We have the freedom to focus our energy, and our generosity, on the Mission Plan of our Church for St. John's. As we shared during our Commitment Sundays, St. John's has throughout its history, your history, been extremely committed when called upon to "Give to need." But what moving forward into the future looks like is growing into a deeper understanding that as redeemed, baptized, children of God, we truly do have a "need to give." This is part of what it means to live into our Mission and Vision Statements. It is not just what we do. It is part of who we are.

"With glad and generous hearts we bring the Good News to all, in gratitude for God's grace."

Yours and His, but not in that order,
Pastor Bob

Pastoral Acts

Funerals for Members: 5

Funerals for Non-Members: 5

Baptisms: 3

Transfers Out: Baptized: 15; Confirmed: 14

Removal from Membership from Letter: 14

Transfers In: Baptized: 16 (adult baptism not included as transfer);

Confirmed: 10

Confirmands become Confirmed members: 7

Change in Membership: Baptized: $-34 + 19 = -15$;

Confirmed: $-33 + 18 = -15$

Parents, it's 10:00.

Do you know where your prescription meds are?

Did you know that a major problem area at Beaver Dam Schools now is prescription drugs used illegally by students? I didn't. I am grateful to Superintendent Steve Vessey for meeting with Beaver Dam pastors recently and sharing successes and concerns in the School District. This was his number one concern at this time.

Now this may not seem like a big deal. But if I say the names Heath Ledger and Michael Jackson, maybe it becomes more pressing. What students are doing (across all race, class and grade point average) are siphoning off pills from Mom and Dad's prescriptions (or their own). They can choose to sell the pills outright, or hold pill parties where they are thrown into a bowl and students take turns grabbing handfuls (having no idea what is in their hands at the time) and gulping them down.

Superintendent Vessey has asked us as pastors to put the word out to our parents through our newsletters, and I was glad to do so. There is no "profile" for students taking drugs from Mom and Dad. It is across the board. The problem from the perspective of the school is that while dogs can find marijuana, they cannot find pills. They come in under the radar.

So please keep tabs on your prescriptions (pun intended). Know where they are and how many there are and have the talk with your students about the consequences of succumbing to the temptation to take just a few away. (Arrest and juvenile court is bad enough. But death is a very real possibility as we have seen all too clearly.)

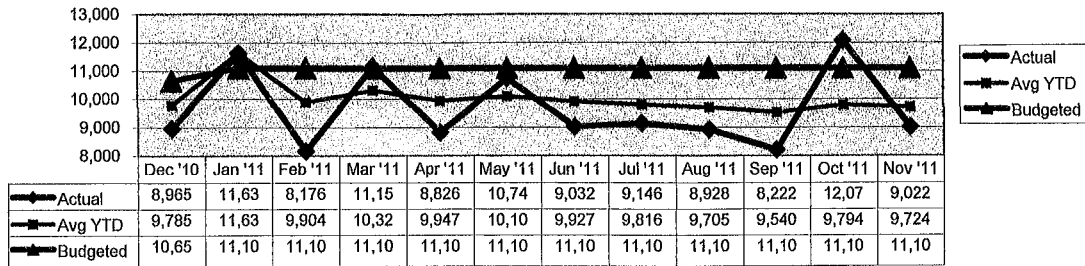
A word to the wise....

Pastor Bob

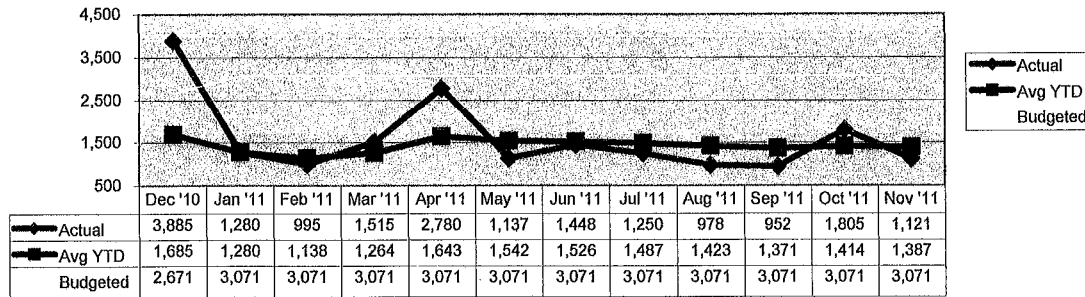


Thank you to all our St. John's members who rang the bells for The Salvation Army this season: Don Anderson, Sheri Born, Bob Javoroski, Jim Johnson and Dave Maleck.

**St. John Monthly General Giving
November 2011**



**St. Johns Monthly Benevolence Giving
November 2011**



Comparison

	Receipts	Budgeted	Receipts Over/(Short)	Budgeted Expenses Paid	Expense Over/(Short)
Current	9,022.40	11,108.50	(2,086.10)	11,108.50	9,688.55 (1,419.95)
Benevolence Current	1,120.60	3,070.83	(1,950.23)	3,070.83	1,120.60 (1,950.23)
YTD	107,101.97	122,193.50	(15,091.53)	122,193.50	111,398.85 (10,794.65)
Benevolence YTD	15,261.81	33,779.13	(18,517.32)	33,779.13	17,591.31 (16,187.82)

ST. JOHN'S WEEKLY RECAP

DATE	ATTENDANCE	INCOME NEEDED	OFFERINGS RECV'D	BENEVOLENCE		OTHER RECV'D
				BUDGETED NEEDED	RECV'D	
November 1 - 7, 2011	101	\$2,563.50	\$2,880.40	\$708.65	\$357.60	\$197.00
November 13 - 17, 2011	101	\$2,563.50	\$2,280.00	\$708.65	\$181.00	\$136.30
November 20 - 21, 2011		\$2,563.50	\$2,086.20	\$708.65	\$251.80	\$132.50
November 27 - 30, 2011	70	\$2,563.50	\$1,775.80	\$708.65	\$330.20	\$110.00
TOTALS:		\$10,254.00	\$9,022.40	\$2,834.60	\$1,120.60	\$575.80

Account Balances As Of November 30, 2011		Reserve Building Fund	
GENERAL OPERATING FUNDS	(\$42,656.55)	11/01/11 Beginning Bal	\$38,821.45
Reserves Checking(Designated Funds)	\$166,593.17 *	Other Rcpts	
Reserve from CD	\$20,000.00	Receipts	\$230.00
TOTAL CHECKBOOK	\$143,936.62	Disbursements	
Money Market Savings	\$23,601.58	11/30/11 Ending Bal	\$39,051.45
Latvia Savings Acct	\$172.89		
PACE Savings	\$3,161.77		
ELCA Equity Account	\$25,000.00		
TOTAL	\$195,872.86		

* Includes advance from Kulke Estate

Our current deficit is (\$42,656.55)

Drop everything...

Jesus' first four disciples dropped everything to follow him. Help each of them find the way from their fishing spots on Lake Galilee to Jesus on the shore.



Sunday Worship & Prayer Reader Assignments

	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	PRAY-ER
January 1 st – 10:30 ONLY	Dace Kaminska	---
January 8 – 9 a.m.	Lynn Javoroski	Don Anderson
January 8 – 10:30 a.m.	Alicia Burnett	Janet Anderson
January 15 – 9 a.m.	Linda Wulff	Lucille Burbach
January 15 – 10:30 a.m.	Heidi Freeby	Pam Kuhlman
January 22 – 9 a.m.	Don Anderson	---
January 22 – 10:30 a.m.	Mariah Kinjerski	---
January 29 – 9 a.m.	Kathy Anderson	Denise Loosley
January 29 – 10:30 a.m.	Anita Castro	---
February 5 – 9:00 a.m.	Linda Thalacker	Linda Wulff
February 5 – 10:30 a.m.	Janet Anderson	Janet Anderson
February 12 – 9:00 a.m.	Nancy Benson	Denise Loosley
February 12 – 10:30 a.m.	Alicia Burnett	Jen Klawitter
February 19 – 9:00 a.m.	Eric Moline	Lucille Burbach
February 19 – 10:30 a.m.	Linda Wulff	Pam Kuhlman
February 26 – 9:00 a.m.	Pam Thomas	---
February 26 – 10:30 a.m.	Heidi Freeby	---
March 4 – 9:00 a.m.	Lynn Javoroski	Nancy Smith
March 4 – 10:30 a.m.	Don Anderson	Don Anderson
March 11 – 9:00 a.m.	Jen Klawitter	Pam Kuhlman
March 11 – 10:30 a.m.	Mariah Kinjerski	Kathy Anderson
March 18 – 9:00 a.m.	Sheri Born	Lucille Burbach
March 18 – 10:30 a.m.	Bonnie Skaar	Linda Wulff
March 25 – 9:00 a.m.	Nancy Benson	---
March 25 – 10:30 a.m.	Linda Thalacker	---

Counters Schedule

January 1 (10:30 a.m. only)	Pam Kuhlman & Pam Ludowese
January 8	Bonnie Skaar & Cindy Reчек
January 15	Janet Anderson & Karen Manke
January 22	Sheri Born & Cindy Wotruba
January 29	Don Anderson & Virginia Butler
February 5	Gloria Bell & Dilana Moline
February 12	Deb Hays & Kathy Anderson
February 19	Pam Kuhlman & Darlene Budde
February 26	Bonnie Skaar & Lynn Lothen

Ushers Schedule

January 1 st – 10:30 ONLY	Need volunteers
January 8 – 9 a.m.	Jeff Beyer & Don Anderson
January 8 – 10:30 a.m.	Jim & Zachary Johnson
January 15 – 9 a.m.	Dale & Linda Smerchek & Gage
January 15 – 10:30 a.m.	Smith family
January 22 – 9 a.m.	---
January 22 – 10:30 a.m.	Klawitter family
January 29 – 9 a.m.	Freeby family
January 29 – 10:30 a.m.	Cory Wulff Plumb & Lisa Wilde
February 5 – 9:00 a.m.	---
February 5 – 10:30 a.m.	Kinjerski family
February 12 – 9:00 a.m.	Jim Lookman & Don Anderson
February 12 – 10:30 a.m.	Brewer family
February 19 – 9:00 a.m.	---
February 19 – 10:30 a.m.	Dave & Karen Maleck
February 26 – 9:00 a.m.	Jim Lookman & Don Anderson
February 26 – 10:30 a.m.	Smith family

Communion Bread Schedule

January Lynn Javoroski
February Darlene Budde

Altar Care Schedule

January Darlene Meinders & Karen Maleck
February Darlene Budde & Janet Anderson

Acolyte Schedule

January 1st – 10:30 ONLY
January 8 – 9 a.m.
January 8 – 10:30 a.m.
January 15 – 9 a.m.
January 15 – 10:30 a.m. Olivia Smith
January 22 – 9 a.m. Marcus Freeby
January 22 – 10:30 a.m. Elly Klawitter
January 29 – 9 a.m. Tim Butler
January 29 – 10:30 a.m. AJ Lemire



Hospitalized????

When you register at the hospital, tell the hospital staff that you want St. John's of Beaver Dam to be notified of your admission to the hospital. With the onset of HIPAA laws and privacy concerns, you need to state that you want St. John's to be notified.

Put in the record that you want your pastor to be called to come and visit, and give them Pastor Bob's contact information. After being notified, Pastor Bob will be happy to make a hospital visit as soon as possible.

You are part of the family of St. John's and important to us!

**Donate a Bulletin in Honor,
Celebration, or Memory of an
Event or Person**

You can honor a loved one by sponsoring a Sunday bulletin. The **2012** schedule is on the bulletin board near Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$20 per Sunday – this includes a mention of your donation in the printed bulletin for the 9:00 a.m. service.

The Estate of Ervin and Alice Kulke

Earlier this year St. John's received a gift from God through the estate of Ervin and Alice Kulke. This gift was in the form of a house. In November that gift from God was increased when we also received the residual funds (the cash left after all bills were settled). It totaled about \$32,000. After tithing to benevolent programs the net receipt was about \$29,000.

The council struggled with how best to use this gift of a house to further God's mission at St. John's. We decided to rent the house. In today's real estate market the selling price would be about 70% of the home's market value five years ago. If we allow the real estate market to recover we can sell it for full value. The house has not cost us anything because the rent pays all the expenses.

Then the council struggled with how best to further God's plan with use of the residual funds. The council decided to apply the \$29,000 to our general fund deficit. The general fund deficit has been a burden to us for years. This deficit is the result of borrowing money from some accounts (building improvement funds in particular). We have been borrowing the money and replacing it with IOU's. Even though not spent, the money has not been available for its original intent until we satisfy the IOU's (pay it back).

We have identified building needs in our narthex and office area. Building expansion to

the North and South would allow for expanded greeting area and an accessible toilet facility for our members and guests who use canes, walkers, or wheelchairs. Most of the money needed for this building expansion is in those accounts that we have borrowed from. The money has not been available for us to use until we pay the IOU. Since the roof was constructed with this expansion in mind, we want to start planning this project in 2012 with completion in 2012-2013.

God's gift of \$29,000 allows us to free up about 2/3 of the borrowed money. The money is now available for its original intent. It does not mean that our general fund has an extra \$29,000. It means we have satisfied some of the IOU's. We are now able to use the money to help us fund our building expansion needs.

Our general fund continues to get by – week to week and month to month – without any cushion. We need regular, committed sacrificial offerings. Our general fund is supported through regular, weekly, sacrificial offerings. We need continuation of and increases in the sacrificial gifts.

How long will we keep the house? We don't know. We want to keep it until the market recovers and we can use the proceeds to help us fund more building expansion (Sunday school, fellowship, kitchen, and storage areas).

God continues to be good to us. We need to be good stewards of what He has given us and of what he has entrusted us with. We need to use these gifts for God's mission through St. John's.

Don Anderson
Church Council President



NEXT BINGO IS SUNDAY, January 8th. Bingo is always the second Sunday of each month through April 2012. Volunteers meet on the first floor of Hillside Manor around 1:15 p.m. to set up and bring participants to the dining room. Bingo calling starts at 1:30 p.m. and goes to approximately 2:30 p.m. Please consider this outreach opportunity and see Mary Garbalagtys, Judy Welsch or Darlene Meinders if you wish to volunteer. This could be a wonderful ministry for youth as well as adults.



Progressive Dinner Planned

Saturday, February 11th is the night to mark on your calendar for St. John's annual Progressive Dinner! For those of you who have not had the pleasure of attending one....please plan to this year!

Here's how it works:

1. The dinner starts out with everyone gathering together at 5:30 p.m. for appetizers at a host home.
2. From there, the group is divided into smaller groups of 6-8, and then we "progress" to a host home to enjoy the main dish.
3. After the main course, everyone gathers back again into the large group to have dessert at the final host home. This is an adult evening of great fun and fellowship! Please join us...babysitting will be provided at the church for anyone who needs it.

Watch for the sign-up sheet to come!



ANGEL TREE

Once again, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! Through our Angel Tree, we have helped three area families in making their Christmas holiday a merry one. It is because of your generous donations that this project is such a huge success. I wish you could all see the reaction from the social workers when dropping off these gifts at Lutheran Social Services. You **really are** appreciated and a true blessing. God Bless you all!

The next Abby's group meeting is on Tuesday, January 10th at 6:30 at church. All women are welcome and invited!



On December 11, 2011, St. John's welcomed into the family these new members:



Lisa Wilde



Dennis and Kimberly Harnisch and Mac



Michael Lueloff



Sarah Borgardt (not pictured: children Raina and Mason)



Nancy Benson



THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

My husband and I had been happily married (most of the time) for five years but hadn't been blessed with a baby. I decided to do some serious praying and promised God that if he would give us a child, I would be a perfect mother, love it with all my heart and raise it with His word as my guide.

God answered my prayers and blessed us with a son. The next year God blessed us with another son. The following year, He blessed us with yet another son. The year after that we were blessed with a daughter. My husband thought we'd been blessed right into poverty. We now had four children, and the oldest was only four years old. I learned never to ask God for anything unless I meant it. As a minister once told me, "If you pray for rain, make sure you carry an umbrella."

I began reading a few verses of the Bible to the children each day as they lay in their cribs. I was off to a good start. God had entrusted me with four children and I didn't want to disappoint Him. I tried to be patient the day the children smashed two dozen eggs on the kitchen floor searching for baby chicks. I tried to be understanding... when they started a hotel for homeless frogs in the spare bedroom, although it took me nearly two hours to catch all twenty-three frogs. When my daughter poured ketchup all over herself and rolled up in a blanket to see how it felt to be a hot dog, I tried to see the humor rather than the mess.

In spite of changing over twenty-five thousand diapers, never eating a hot meal and never sleeping for more than thirty minutes at a time, I still thank God daily for my children. While I couldn't keep my promise to be a perfect mother - I didn't even come close - I did keep my promise to raise them in the Word

of God. I knew I was missing the mark just a little when I told my daughter we were going to church to worship God, and she wanted to bring a bar of soap along to "wash up" Jesus, too. Something was lost in the translation when I explained that God gave us everlasting life, and my son thought it was generous of God to give us his "last wife."

My proudest moment came during the children's Christmas pageant. My daughter was playing Mary, two of my sons were shepherds and my youngest son was a wise man. This was their moment to shine.

My five-year-old shepherd had practiced his line, "We found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes." But he was nervous and said, "The baby was wrapped in wrinkled clothes."

My four-year-old "Mary" said, "That's not 'wrinkled clothes,' silly. That's dirty, rotten clothes." A wrestling match broke out between Mary and the shepherd and was stopped by an angel, who bent her halo and lost her left wing.

I slouched a little lower in my seat when Mary dropped the doll representing Baby Jesus, and it bounced down the aisle crying, "Mama-mama." Mary grabbed the doll, wrapped it back up and held it tightly as the wise men arrived. My other son stepped forward wearing a bathrobe and a paper crown, knelt at the manger and announced,

"We are the three wise men, and we are bringing gifts of gold, common sense and fur."

The congregation dissolved into laughter, and the pageant got a standing ovation. "I've never enjoyed a Christmas program as much as this one," laughed the pastor, wiping tears from his eyes. "For the rest of my life, I'll never hear the Christmas story without thinking of gold, common sense and fur."

"My children are my pride and my joy and my greatest blessing," I said as I dug through my purse for an aspirin.

Submitted by Lynn Javoroski

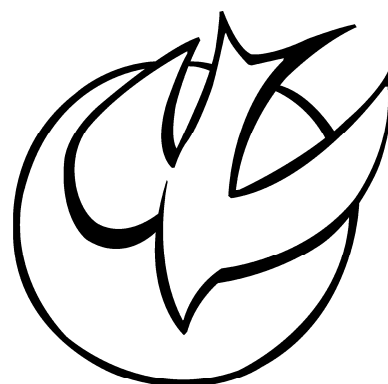
Wedding Anniversaries January 2012

January 16 Roger Plumb & Linda Wulff
January 20 Jerry & Deb Hays



January 2012

01/02	BORN, RICK
01/03	ELIZALDE, ZANDER
01/04	GIESE, LORI
01/04	JOHNSON, NICOLE
01/08	WILD, JACOB
01/09	WOTRUBA, SCOTT
01/09	VAN LOO, BRENDA
01/09	ANDERSON, ADAM
01/10	LOOSLEY, DENISE
01/11	THOMAS, PAMELA
01/11	BORGARDT, SARAH
01/11	HILEY, HUNTER
01/13	BORN, JEFF
01/13	MALUEG, TRAVIS
01/15	WALLACE, PETER
01/15	WILDE, LISA
01/15	BRAAKSMA, KEVIN
01/16	WAKEMAN, SHELBY
01/17	SCHULTZ, CAROLINE
01/20	JOHNSON, ZACHARY
01/22	HELLER, CHARLE
01/23	SMERCHEK, LINDA
01/25	GOTTSACKER, EUGENE
01/27	WELSCH, LEE
01/28	KUHLMAN, DENNIS
01/30	STOFFLET, RONALD
01/30	NEPERUD, SARA



Prayer Concerns

Harvey, Lynn Lothen's uncle
Bob, Gloria Bell's brother-in-law
Arlene Marthaler

Ashley

Nancy Smith

Tim Smith

Katherine Lentz, Angela's mother

John Jones, Heidi's father

Bob Liners and his wife Lois

Nancy Tarkowski

Dave Brandt

Rod

Louise, Delores Ellcey's sister

Connie Pocius

Valarie Pocius

John, Sarah Lanford's brother

LuAnne, friend of Linda Wulff

Jessica

Gilbert, Cindy Reчек's neighbor

Shirley Johnson

Jamie

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Deployed to Qatar: Cory Rabbach

In Washington DC: Chaplain Christopher Conklin

Deployed to Iraq:

Jason Geiser

Deployed to Afghanistan:

Chaplain Matt Shenton

LCPL Mark S. Allermann

and their families.



to all our generous St. John's members who have donated throughout the year to our Christ Care fund. Christ Care helps our local families who need a one-time helping hand to move their lives along.

**St. John's Sunday School Christmas
Play – December 18, 2011**



**St. John's Sunday School Christmas Play –
December 18, 2011**



**St. John's Sunday School Christmas Play –
December 18, 2011**



St. John's Lutheran Church
1209 Circle Drive West
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit 217
Beaver Dam, WI

St. John's Lutheran Church (920-885-3396)
Pastor - Bob Castro (cell 920-382-6424)
Custodian - Scott Klawitter

Church Council
President - Don Anderson
Vice-President - Matt Freeby

