

# St John United Church of Christ

January 2017

*"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"*



## Happy New Year

Begin the new year by worshipping God and celebrating Holy Communion. What a wonderful way of inviting God into your life this 2017. Join the warmth of your St John family 10:30 am January 1.



### Deuteronomy 7:13

He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land, your grain, new wine and olive oil — the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.

### Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

## Welcoming 2017

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*I love the Christmas Eve service with the candles and "Silent Night," and I'm looking forward to starting the New Year with our Communion service. We rejoice in the birth of Christ, and then we "commune" with the risen Christ in worship.*

*The Psalmist says: "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!" (Ps. 98). Because we have experienced God's presence in the past, we can be confident that God will be with us in the year ahead—in all that happens in our lives and in our church.*

*I want to thank the Search Committee for its work on filling out our "Local Church Profile," which is essential to our search for a new pastor. Thank you to Jared Cooley, Sabine Gutt, Dodie Kayler, Lori Neumann and Glen Rostek. The Committee's next step will be to meet with Rev. Kathy Lawes of the IL Conference, UCC, to go over the Profile.*

*I enjoy serving with you at St John, and my plan is to be at St John until a new pastor is installed. Please remember that we are also searching for a new organist, a Children's Ministry Director, and an Office Manager/Communications Director. Please pray with me that God will lead us to people who want to serve Christ with us at St John UCC.*

*In Christ's love,*

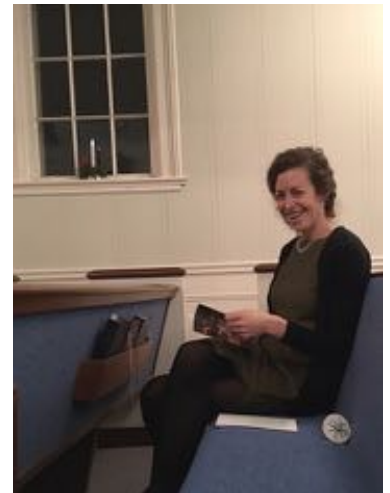
*Pastor David 630-747-8181*

## Our Christmas Joy Shared

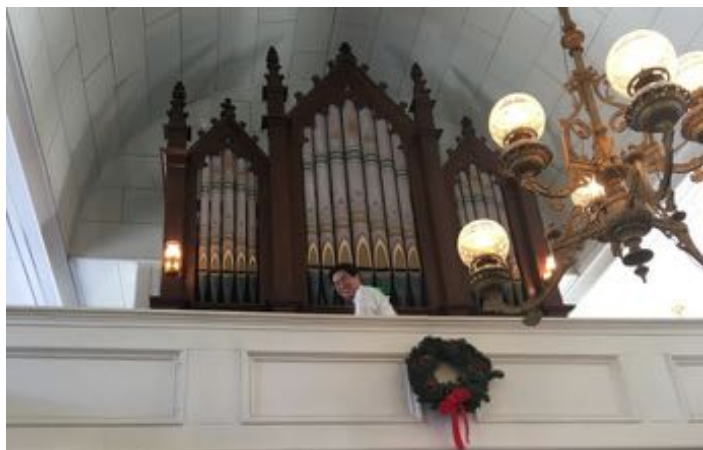
*"In Christ's name, I will light my candle; and the Lord my God will illuminate my darkness and help me bring his light to my neighbor."*

Our candlelight service brought friends and family from near and far, even Jayne flew in. It was good to see our church filled with the light of Christ over the Christmas Eve and Day services.

*"To all who receive him, He gives power to become children of God!"*



## SAYING GOODBYE AND THANKS TO SETH



For a year we have been blessed to have Seth Luna join us in service with his gift of music. His beautiful voice accompanied his wonderful ability to make our historic organ fill our church with uplifting worship. We knew Seth would be with us during his studies, now a new opportunity awaits him as he leaves us. His last service at St John was Christmas day.

Thank you Seth.

***God bless you and your music.***



SETH LUNA

## ***In the Know***

– by the Communications Director, Laura D.

We had a busy year at St John. We started the year with a new interim pastor. We are grateful to Pastor David for joining us on our journey to grow each of us and the church in Christ. We also said goodbye to our organist Diana and hello to Seth. Under Seth and David's care, we had many visiting musicians and singers to grace our worship. The Rejoice Singers blessed us with their joyful voices as we are able. We hope to see even more of them in 2017.

After much work and research the council secured a new beautiful sign to share with the community our services, events, weddings, and more.

We now have a new wedding committee who is looking to grow that ministry.

A new search committee and updated profile was established. There have been some losses to the council members and they could use your help. Talk to Jared, the Council President if you are interested in helping out in any way.

The church members managed to continue many of our long standing special events and fundraisers this year. Well Done!

What you may not know . . . An evangelical program began with the heading of Pastor David.

A temporary Communications Director position has been established, designing invitations and email announcements. These have then been shared with the Palatine Patch and beyond. They have been printed and hand delivered to neighbors at the new Bergman Pointe and others. We have sent out small mailings to our neighbors. Anyone who has worked in this type of promotional business knows that this will require a repeated welcoming outreach before people come to visit us. We have also added banners and intend to increase this outreach using the most economical means available to us. There is an online google database set up for easy emailing, as well as a calendar with reminders for the council members.

There is much more needed to be done. Look for beautification and clean up in and outdoors, that is making small changes. A new permanent Pastor, organist and a Children's Sunday school teacher needs to be hired. As well as how the Office Manager/ Communications Director position will continue.

***The Good News – We have made a lot of progress & our future has a plan.*** Look for more info about our progress and news from the council here each month.



**Service 10:30 am – All Year**

**Children's Church every Sunday, following the Children's Message**

Older kids from 9:30 to 10:15 am, before the service.

Pastor David has church office hours weekly.

Please call his cell 630-747-8181 to make an appointment for a visitation.

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## *Calendar Events coming this year.*

**March** – Our History Day, after Service, date TBD. – Lead Contact Laura D'Argo

**April** – Spring Clean Up

Help with the grounds clean up and give our Church curb appeal  
as we get ready for our summer events.

**April** – Spaghetti Dinner

**May** – Flower Sale

Brought to you by The Flower Committee – Judy, Julie, Ellen, Jody, Laurie and Sam

**May** – Women's Guild Luncheon

**September 15<sup>th</sup>** – Craft Fair/Flea Market

**October** – Ham Supper, Spiral cut ham and home-made German potato salad

**November** – Turkey Pot Luck and Hymn Sing

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Service 10:00 pm

Additional possible events – Chili Cookoff, Ice Cream Social, Men's Breakfast, Our History Day.

If you wish to head up any of these events, Please contact Laura at 847-303-5361  
and I will get your name on the calendar.



### **Coffee Hour**

1st and 3rd Sundays following service.



### **Last Sunday of the Month**

- Communion
- Food Pantry donation pick up.

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Go to [stjohnpalatine.org](http://stjohnpalatine.org) and click on the Donate button on the  
home page OR click on the link below to go right to our home page.  
<http://stjohnpalatine.org>

– Thank you.

### **St. John Church**

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