



Reaching Out

St. John's Newsletter

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 9-3
Friday 9-12

1804 Highland Ave.
Eau Claire, WI
54701

"Together In God"

Broadcast Schedule

November - 2, 16

December - 7, 21

ABC Network, Channel 18,
Cable 9, HD 618

WQOW Broadcast @ 10:30 AM

WHAT'S INSIDE:

1. A Message From Pastor Christine
2. Caretakers of Creation
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5. Bible Study
6. Christmas Giving
7. Youth News
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A Message From Pastor Christine

It's November, the month where gratitude and thankfulness both take a front seat. One of my favorite readings from the Bible is often used during this month as we reflect upon our blessings: From Philippians 1:3-11 (NIV): "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

There is an old song that I love to sing by Irving Berlin called "Count Your Blessings" and the text goes like this: "When you're worried and cannot sleep, just count your blessings instead of sheep, and you'll go to sleep counting your blessings." Sounds easy, right? Easier said than done! Looking around these days, it seems more like anger, frustration, and conflict are counted within our country, communities, and even our households. Things are hard for many people. And, yet the practice of gratitude (something God gave us as a gift for our brains to thrive), can have such a positive effect on us.

It's often hard to be grateful when things are deeply strained whether in the workplace, home, or at school. Our longing for things to be different than what they actually are is difficult and tiring. We often resist the reality of what is, especially if it is unpleasant. And, when that happens, gratitude can not only feel oversimplified, but it can also feel forced like we are dragging ourselves through it hoping it will make us feel better. But positivity for its own sake is not actually gratitude or happiness and dare I say, not even positive.

This is why I never found saying what my blessings are an effective way to feel better, even when I would do it repeatedly to have a better frame of mind. Perhaps it works for other people and likely does. But, for me, it always somehow felt that I was trying push me into another practice or to avoid hard things that were present, to somehow minimize what was difficult; until that is, I began to see my own part in the blessings, a practice that I was taught while doing Church of the Wild training.

So, here is a little exercise that we can all do to gain a bit more gratitude and thankfulness in our lives as we approach Thanksgiving. But I recommend you practice this daily for a month and then see where it takes you. The hope is that it will build up what is called neuroplasticity in training your brain to have gratitude. It's called a GRATITUDE JAR.

As difficult as gratitude is some days, there are always things for which to be thankful without minimizing what our difficulties are. God also knows our struggles but that does not mean we cannot find ways to see the goodness and blessings. Let's do a gratitude exercise together. Try it out. Try it on. In the month of November, write down on little slips of paper something you notice makes you smile. Or, if a little kind thing you see, hear, or experience happens, write it down. Put those little things on paper and put them in the jar. You will likely forget what they all are, but they will add up. At the end of the week, open the jar and read what you wrote down. Then, start the exercise again the next week. This exercise will encourage "neuroplasticity" of the brain and hopefully will start to compensate for the negative things around you.

In this season of gratitude, like Paul said to his community of faith, I am also thankful for you. You are a part of the many blessings for which I give thanks to God. May we all know how blessed we are to call ourselves a family of faith together. Happy Thanksgiving! Pastor Christine

Caretakers of Creation Cold Weather Care for Birds

The birds who winter here in Wisconsin are looking for our help. Here is what you can do. Get some bird feeders and provide high-calorie, high-protein food like suet, sunflower seeds, and mealworms. Also maintain a constant supply of fresh water (maybe a heated bowl.) Keep the birdfeeders clean and restock them daily. Leave some shelter in your yard such as brush piles. The 2025 U.S. State of Birds report shows that more than 1/3 of U.S. bird species are of high or moderate conservation concern. The decline in bird populations are due to habitat loss, extreme weather, and cat predation. Everything we can do will help!

From Caretakers of Creation

WELCA NEWS

St. John's annual Thankoffering service will be on Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 7:00 pm. This is a tradition that dates back to the 1800's. Christian women would set aside money in gratitude for their blessings. Today, Thankofferings sustain the ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Those ministries include justice and advocacy work, global education, and awareness of issues like domestic violence and human trafficking.

We will also collect hats, scarves, and mittens to be given to those in need. Coin boxes and envelopes are in the gathering area for you to give your thankoffering. Come with your joyful thanks and enjoy a slice of pie after the service.

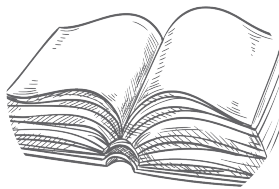
Lutheran World Relief Kits They've been delivered!

The Lutheran World Relief boxes, that is. Thank you, St. John's congregation, for donating enough supplies to fill 99 school bags and 49 personal care kits. The boxes containing each set of kits plus boxes holding 40 quilts were delivered by Richard and Mary Spryer on Saturday, October 11, to a semi from Lutheran World Relief parked at Our Redeemer church on Birch Street.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." -1 Peter 4:10

Thank you, again to all who donated.
Sharon Price





Monthly Readings

November 2

Isaiah 1:10-18
Luke 19:1-10

November 9

Psalm 17:1-9
Luke 20:27-38

November 16

Malachi 4:1-2a
Luke 21:5-19

November 23

Psalm 46
Luke 23:33-43

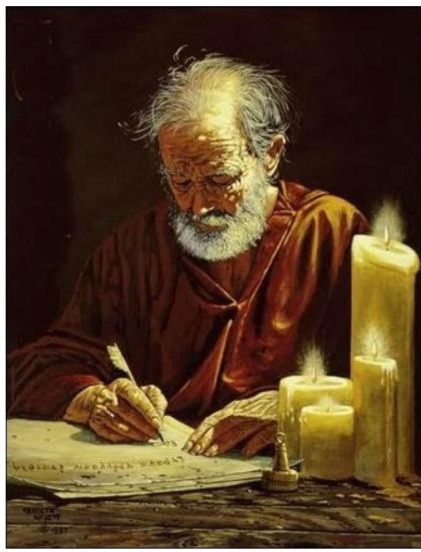
November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5
Matthew 24:36-44

Don't forget to pick up your Advent Devotions as Advent begins November 30th! Devotions will be put out around the 23rd, so keep your eyes peeled!

Mutually Encouraged in our Shared Faith

A Bible Study in Romans



Join Pastor Christine as we delve deep into the book of Romans at Adult Education on the following Sundays at 10:30AM:

Nov. 2nd, Nov. 23rd, Dec. 7th, Dec. 14th

Special Offerings This Month

Capital Improvements

Thanksgiving

Good Samaritan Fund - November
Gifts to this fund give support to local people in need with rent, utilities, or a place to stay.

Diner's Club
SHANGHAI BISTRO

TUESDAY, NOV. 18TH - 5:30 PM



PLEASE RSVP TO LOUISE ALT BY NOON
ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH AT
715-834-1693 OR ALT.LK@CHARTER.NET

MEN OF SPIRIT
PRESENT

WARREN PETRYK
IN CONCERT



NOVEMBER 9, 2025

SUNDAY 3:00 PM

SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH
1310 MAIN ST - EAU CLAIRE - WI

ENJOY AN EVENING OF MUSIC CELEBRATING
THE SEASONS OF
THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

WITH A SPECIAL SALUTE TO OUR
U.S. MILITARY VETERANS IN HONOR
OF VETERANS DAY



PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
THE SALVATION ARMY OF
THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY

MINIMUM DONATION
\$ 10.00



Trivia Corner

What woman continued in prayer day and night
in the temple till age 84?

Answer on Page 8

DA GREAT CHILI COOK-OFF



Da Rules

- The first 12 individuals to submit a registration by November 10th will be eligible for the competition on November 16th!
- Participants MUST bring their chili to the downstairs kitchen in a crockpot before service on the day of the event.
- Our esteemed panel of judges will crown and announce their top three picks at 11:00 during the auction in the large assembly!

Da Schedule

November 10th - Final day to sign up for the competition!

November 16th - THE BIG DAY

- 10:15** - Sign-up for Bidding Paddles
- Coffee & Treats
- 10:30** - The Auction Begins!
- 11:00** - The Winners are Announced! Prizes will be distributed!
- 11:10** - The Auction Begins Anew!
- 11:30** - Chili Luncheon

People at the St. John's Apartments are in need at their food pantry.
Help us to stock it up now!

You can bring your food items to our office during regular business hours or on Sunday. Please consider the following list for the food items desperately needed and thank you for helping our neighbors in need!

Canned Fruit (pineapple, oranges etc)
Canned Corn
Canned Beans
Canned Cranberry
Stuffing Mix
Canned Pumpkin
Potatoes
Butter
Evaporated Milk
Pie Crust Mix
Cream of Mushroom Soup
French Fried Onions
Jarred or Canned Gravy
Mini Marshmallows
Re-usable Shopping Bags

A box of yarn is available in the gathering area for anyone who would like to knit or crochet for the November hat & mitten tree. Thank you!
- Barb Graham

Christmas Giving Caring Ministry

Caring Ministry's annual Christmas Giving Project will again provide Christmas gifts for children/families in need within our church community. We will also work with Locust Lane to provide miscellaneous snack items for their entire school. If you would like to help by donating a gift, please visit the tree in the Gathering Area between Sunday, November 23-December 7. On the tree, there will be tags for children with their age and their wants OR items needed for Locust Lane. Please keep your children's gift to no more than \$40. Children's gifts need to be wrapped and returned with tag to the church by Sunday, December 7. Items for Locust Lane need to be in a bag (not gift bag or wrapped) with the tag attached or in bag. If you prefer to donate money towards this Christmas Giving Project (for gift or grocery/gas cards), please drop off/send money to church office with a notation for Caring Ministry Christmas Giving.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Kathy Englebert (715-563-7470) or Shari Englebert (715-577-7969). Please look for upcoming emails/bulletin announcements regarding this project.

Thank you for helping make Christmas a little brighter for those in need!

If you are concerned about paying for Christmas gifts for your children this year or have concerns about food security and would like some help and resources, please reach out to Pastor Christine.

Thrivent Choice Dollars allows eligible Thrivent Financial members to direct Thrivent Financial's charitable dollars to St. John's Lutheran Church.

To be a benefit member with Thrivent Financial, you must own one of the following Thrivent products: life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance or annuities, and based on your premium and cash value, your Thrivent Choice dollars will be calculated. Letters or emails are sent annually to these members indicating the amount of charitable dollars available to them. If you believe that you qualify and have not received a letter, please contact your Thrivent Financial representative

For the period September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026, St. John's is designating the Thrivent Choice contributions to our general operations fund to help support our ministries, programs and maintain our day to day operations. When you are contacted by Thrivent Financial, please prayerfully consider directing these charitable dollars to St. John's.

The Thrivent Financial members who have directed their "Choice Dollars" to St. John's Lutheran Church for October were Lois Mai and Karen Stuber.

St. John's thanks you for doing this.

thrivent®

Memorials and Honorariums

Capital Improvements

IMO David Brimmer by Gary & Cora Klawiter

General Operations

IMO Ashley Schultz by Jim & Verna Farwell

IMO Pat Holstein by Marilyn & Lawrence Motzer

IMO Patricia Holstein by Eric Nielsen

IMO Teena Dessen by Irene & Paulis Lazda

IMO husband Roger & son Alan by Janet Dahl

IMO Patricia Holstein by Barbara Graham

IHO your support of Troop 30 & Scout Sunday by Leah & Andrew Calvin

IMO Teena Dessen by Leann Nordberg

Mission Trip

IMO David Brimmer, Carole Veness' brother, by Don & Sandy Huebscher

IMO Ashley Schultz by Ruth & Randy Lundblad

IMO David Brimmer, Carole Veness' brother, by Eric Nielsen

Quilters

IMO Teena Dessen by LaVonne & Larry Krause

TV Ministry

IMO Edith Pott & Teena Dessen by Lois Mai

IMO Ashley Schultz & David Brimmer by Gary & Cora Klawiter

IHO Wyatt, Lucas & Hunter Hedlund by Janet Dahl

IMO my sister, Pat Holstein, by Cheryl Mattison

IMO Betty Enersen & Pat Holstein by Lois Mai

IMO Pat Holstein by Arlene McAdam

All Saints Sunday

Robert G. Munden, Darlene A. Swanson, Mary Jane Melland, Marlene A. Glover, James M. Kiser, Gary D. Johnson, DeMaine E. Noskowiak, Charles J. Brantner, Ruth L. Kruschke, Arthur L. Hotvedt, Douglas L. Arkin, Gerald R. Schlewitz, Beverly M. Rohde, Judith A. Hanlin, John W. Friederichs, Richard D. Stage, Richard Van Helden, Ronald C. Mayer, Geraldine K. Wojtysiak, David D. Cramer, Donald M. Dewitz, Lawrence B. Stevens, Teena (Anthene) M. Dessen, Ashley L. Schultz, Edith E. Potts

We Celebrated the Marriage of
Michael Linstedt & Jessica Trudo
Jeff Anderson & Lynn Klomstad



We Celebrated the Baptism of
Delia Snyder, daughter of
Franklin & Brianna Snyder



We Mourned the Death of
David Brimmer, 71
Betty Enersen, 97
Patricia Holstein, 86



st. john's christian **PRESCHOOL**

Last Month at Preschool

October preschool days were filled with fall activities!

- *Hunted for colorful leaves*
- *Visited Bushel and a Peck Apple Orchard*
- *Cooked Applesauce*
- *Played with Pumpkins and Gourds*

Special thanks to Larry Krause who shared enough pumpkins and gourds for our classrooms and all the preschool families!

- *Paraded in Costume*

Thank you to the Grandfriends at SJ Apartments and SJ Staff for sharing in the fun!

This Month at Preschool

Our activities this month help us to be grateful and to give thanks to God. We continue to learn and grow together at SJCP! Some highlights include:

- *Collecting Bedding for Sleep in Heavenly Peace*
- *Picture Day with Sharp Photo*
- *Turkey Handprints*
- *Thanksgiving Feast Days with our Preschool Classes*

Openings

We currently have openings at SJCP. We would love to welcome children to join the fun with our preschool. Please share this information with families that may be interested. We suggest getting a feel for our program by visiting the classrooms and meeting our staff. We learn a lot, have some fun, and share God's love!

For more information about St John's Christian Preschool, contact Nancy Hanson at 715.834.9571.

Thank you!



Bedding Collection

This month, we will have a chance to practice gratitude and to share with our community. We would like to invite the St. John's Congregation to join in and help us with our drive.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to building and delivering hand-made, fully furnished beds to children in need. SHP's mission is to tackle childhood bedlessness, which is estimated to affect nearly 3% of the population.

During the month of November please bring in twin size sheets, comforters, and blankets. We will donate the bedding to the Chippewa Valley Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The local chapter serves families in Eau Claire, Chippewa, Barron and Rusk Counties. Beginning on November 2nd there will be a drop-off location in the Gathering Area during the month of November.

Youth & Education Ministry

Thank you to everyone who participated in Trunk or Treat! We appreciate your creativity, festive spirit, and generosity in handing out candy.

FALL LOCK-IN

7th Grade - High School



SIGN
UP
HERE





Friday, November 14th
Drop-off: 6pm | Pick-up: 9am

NEED HELP WITH TECHNOLOGY?
COME TO TEEN TECH NIGHT, AND GET THE
ANSWERS THAT YOU SEEK!

TEEN TECH NIGHT

8th & 9th Grade
Mentor Night

Wednesday,
November 19th
6:00-7:00

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Come and feel God's caring words in the stillness of St. John's

Blue Christmas Service

Saturday, December 6th - 2:00 p.m.

Be still, and know that I am God
-Psalm 46:10

715-834-9571
www.stjohns-ec.org
1804 Highland Ave. Eau Claire, WI

Music Jam With Mark

November 5

November 19

7:00

ROCK



Church Council

President: Richard Freitag
Vice President: Dramus Peuse
Secretary: Karla Spies
Treasurer: Norb Kirk
Caring: Mary Spryer
Community & World: Louise Alt
Education: Stacy Kelly
Faith Family: Nancy Putnam
Seniors & Home Visitation: Larry Schaefer
Worship & Music: Richard Spryer
Youth: Becky Cater
At-Large: Jeff Putnam
At-Large: Greg Johnson

FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
AUGUST	2025	2024	2022-24 Average
Income	\$ 32,961	\$ 48,559	\$ 34,649
Expense	39,349	36,232	36,818
Surplus(Deficit)	\$ (6,388)	\$ 12,327	\$ (2,169)
YEAR-TO-DATE	2025	2024	2022-24 Average
Income	\$ 316,433	\$ 323,987	\$ 298,980
Expense	298,384	326,436	309,287
Surplus(Deficit)	\$ 18,049	\$ (2,449)	\$ (10,307)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
SEPTEMBER	2025	2024	2022-24 Average
Income	\$ 37,054	\$ 37,130	\$ 34,455
Expense	39,312	46,220	41,442
Surplus(Deficit)	\$ (2,258)	\$ (9,090)	\$ (6,987)
YEAR-TO-DATE	2025	2024	2022-24 Average
Income	\$ 353,437	\$ 361,117	\$ 333,434
Expense	338,099	372,656	350,729
Surplus(Deficit)	\$ 15,338	\$ (11,539)	\$ (17,295)

Your Church Staff

Ministers: All the Congregation
Pastor: Pr. Christine Emerson
Music Director: Mark Lundin
CYF Director: Amanda Burkart
Communications Coordinator: Lydia Elko
Organist: Linda Ranney
Administrative Assistant: Genny Gorton
Bookkeeper: Marlee Agner
Facility & Grounds Manager: David LaRose
Custodian: Tyeanna Segura
St. John's Christian Preschool:
Nancy Hanson, Amanda Schroeder,
Amanda Downing, Bria Lindstrom



Trivia Corner

Anna
(Luke 2:36)



There are a great number of things happening in the world right now that have disrupted key programs that many in our community rely on. We have compiled a list of local resources to help supplement your needs. A more detailed list can be found on our website and Facebook page. If you would like more information or assistance, please reach out to Pastor Christine or the church office, and we will do our best to help.

Food Resources

- Feed My People - <https://www.fmpfoodbank.org/>
- FoodShare, Pop-Up Food Distribution, Food Bank
- The Community Table - <https://www.thecommunitytable.org/>
- St. Francis Food Pantry - <https://www.stfrancisfoodpantry.org/distribution>
- Find Help - <https://www.findhelp.org/>
- Find free or reduced-cost resources like food, housing, financial assistance, health care, and more.
- Volume One - <https://volumeone.org/articles/2020/03/19/209316-area-food-pantries-updated>
Article from Volume One with local food pantries, hours, and contact information
- Article Detailing Local Restaurants that offer low-cost meals
https://volumeone.org/sites/cityguide/pages/food_cheap

Clothing Resources

- The King’s Closet - <https://thekingscloset.org/>
- The Salvation Army - <https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/chippewavalley/programs-and-services/>
- Saint Francesca Resource Center - Chipp Falls - <https://stfrancesca.org/clothing-closet/>
Clothing, food, maternity assistance
- Hope Bargain Center - <https://www.hopegospelmission.org/our-stores/eau-claire/>

Housing Programs

- Housing Assistance - <https://www.findhelp.org/housing/help-find-housing--eau-claire-wi>
- Temporary Shelter Programs- <https://www.findhelp.org/housing/temporary-shelter--eau-claire-wi>
- Bolton Refuge House- <https://www.boltonrefuge.org/services>
- Sojourners House - <https://cclse.org/the-sojourner-house/>
- Home Goods - <https://www.findhelp.org/goods/home-goods--eau-claire-wi>
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore- <https://www.cvh4h.org/restore>

Medical Assistance - <https://www.findhelp.org/health/medical-care--eau-claire-wi>

Mental Health - <https://www.findhelp.org/health/mental-health-care--eau-claire-wi>

Pay For Healthcare - <https://www.findhelp.org/health/help-pay-for-healthcare--eau-claire-wi>

Financial Assistance - <https://www.findhelp.org/money/financial-assistance--eau-claire-wi>

Legal Assistance - <https://www.findhelp.org/legal/advocacy-%26-legal-aid--eau-claire-wi>

Employment Assistance - <https://www.findhelp.org/work/help-find-work--eau-claire-wi>

Vehicle Programs - <https://www.findhelp.org/transit/help-pay-for-transit--eau-claire-wi>

Entertainment

- Volume One Community Calendar- <https://volumeone.org/events/calendar?category-id=200026>
- Stuff to Do in the Eau Claire Area - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/120632664964590/>
- The Glass Orchard - <https://glassorchard.com/pages/classes>
- Eau Claire Board Game Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECBGG/>
- Hiking Trails - <https://www.visiteauclaire.com/things-to-do/outdoors/hiking-trails/>
- Open Rink<https://www.eauclairewi.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/40097/638924901250400000>

November Calendar

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord and will be repaid in full. - Proverbs 19:17

2 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Caretakers of Creation 10:30 Adult Education	3 10:00 EC Rostered Leaders 6:30 JuBellation	4 1:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 STEP Group	5 9:00 Quilting 3:00 Master Builders 5:15 First Wednesdays 5:30 Choir 6:00 CREW 6:00 6th & 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Music Jam	6 1:00 Caring Ministry 1:30 St. J's Apartment Services 6:00 Youth Meeting 6:30 New Member Orientation
9 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education	10 5:15 Education 6:30 JuBellation	11 9:30 Staff Meeting 1:00 Worship & Music 2:00 Senior & Home Visitation 6:30 Preschool Board 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 STEP Group	12 12:00 Chippewa Valley VIP 3:00 Master Builders 5:30 Choir 6:00 6th & 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Mission Trip Meeting	13 9:30 Rostered Leaders 7:00 Property
16 9:00 Worship New Member Sunday 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Chili Cook-off!	17 3:00 Bible Study @ The Classics 4:00 Finance 5:30 Faith Family 6:30 JuBellation	18 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 Diner's Club @ Shanghai Bistro 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 STEP Group	19 9:30 Women's Circle 10:00 Interfaith Green Team 12:30 Cards & Games 3:00 Master Builders 5:30 Choir 6:00 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation 6:00 6th & 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Music Jam	20 9:00 Volunteer @ The Community Table 6:00 Council
23 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education	24 No Preschool 6:30 JuBellation	25 No Preschool 9:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 STEP Group	26 No Preschool 3:00 Master Builders 5:30 Choir 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Worship	27 No Preschool Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving!
30 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	1 6:30 JuBellation	2 1:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 STEP Group	3	4

Saturday 8- Youth Leaf Raking Fundraiser

Friday 14 - Youth Lock-In

Friday 28 - Office Closed, No Preschool



Poinsettia Order Forms

Name: _____

Please circle if you would like the message to be an honorarium or memorial, and write your message on the following lines. PLEASE ONLY PUT ONE MESSAGE PER BOX. If you plan to purchase more than three, please fill out a separate form with your remaining orders.

I would like to order: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ Plants

In Honor of / In Memory of: _____

In Honor of / In Memory of: _____

In Honor of / In Memory of: _____

Please bring in your completed form with cash or check to the St. John's office before November 10th. Checks should be made out to "St. John's Lutheran Church".



Poinsettia Order Forms Are Here!

Flowers are \$12 Each
Forms are on the bulletin board
in the Gathering Area

ORDERS MUST BE PLACED
BY NOVEMBER 10TH!

Cash or checks can be brought to the
Office with your order form

