

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-16

The Lord's Covenant with David

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

GRADUAL Ps. 45:2a, 1b

You are the most handsome of the | sons of men;*
grace is poured up- | on your lips.
I address my verses | to the king;*
my tongue is like the pen of a | ready scribe.

Epistle: Galatians 4:1-7

¹I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ²but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Jesus Presented at the Temple

²²And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit it was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School (LCMS)

Est. 1864



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† **The First Sunday after Christmas** †
December 31, 2017

VERSE: Alleluia. The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Alleluia. (Ps. 93:1)

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, may Thy strong Word bespeak us righteous according to the life, death, and resurrection of Your anointed, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sermon: *"He Has Heard (and Obeyed)"* (Luke 2:29-32, 39-40)

Preacher: Pr. Matthew Johnson

Liturgist: Pr. Matthew Moss

Kantor: Dr. Crystal Rossow

Prelude: Let All Together Praise Our God (Charles W. Ore)

Offering: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (Paul Manz)

Postlude: Angels From the Realms of Glory (Robert Hobby)

Altar Guild:		Theresa Gaffer & Jill Gehl
Worship Assistants:	8:00 am:	Jerry Rogge
	10:30 am:	Ross Meyer
Acolytes:	8:00 am:	Adam Kiesow & Benjamin Kiesow
	10:30 am:	Colin Vetsch & Alex Vetsch
Ushers:	8:00 am:	Larry Jobes, Rod Priebe, Jack Schalo
	10:30 am:	Joel Johnson, Ben Kemna, John Meyer, Danny Schilling, Wayne Schutte
Money Counters:		Duane Abraham, Jon Bode, Mike McFerrin, Mark Radintz

THIS WEEK: The congregations in our circuit are praying for Rev. Dean Nadasdy, our District President, and all of our elected officers and board members in the MN South District.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL: This week we pray for our Safety Team, our PTL Members, and our Middle School English Teacher Gretchen Dolan.

SCHEDULE FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER: At the Reformation the Lutheran Churches celebrated the Lord's Supper *"every Sunday and on other festivals"* (Apology XXIV, 1). We follow this fine custom and so offer the Lord's Supper every Sunday at both morning Divine Services. Individual glasses are used in the 8:00 a.m. Divine Service on the first Sunday in the month and in the 10:30 a.m. Divine Service on the second Sunday in the month. All other celebrations use the chalice.

DAILY READINGS

December 31: Is. 60:1-22; Luke 1:39-56; **January 1:** Is. 61:1-11; Luke 1:57-80; **2:** Is. 62:1-12; Luke 2:1-20; **3:** Is. 63:1-14; Luke 2:21-40; **4:** Is. 63:15-65:7; Luke 2:41-52; **5:** Is. 65:8-25; Luke 3:1-20; **6:** Is. 66:1-20; Luke 3:21-38.

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TWO LARGE PRINT LSB HYMNALS NOW AVAILABLE: (4 NOTE-BOOKS) Please ask the ushers about the notebooks that are now available for those who have difficulties with small print hymns.

PARENTS: We're happy you've brought your children to worship today. Jesus says, "The kingdom of God belongs to such as these." If you must leave during the service for any reason, please be aware that there are also exits at the front of the sanctuary to the left and right; that you will be able to hear the service over loudspeakers in the entrance area and in the upper room to the left of the sanctuary; and that there is a changing table in the restroom near the elevator.

THE DIVINE SERVICE The Divine Service is the time when God serves His people with His forgiving grace in Word and Sacrament. It is not a time to be entertained. To show she is not a sect or cult the Lutheran Church retained the historic liturgy as much as was possible. The liturgical service makes no attempt to meet current cultural norms or personal needs but is the time when God comes in Word and Sacrament to meet our deepest spiritual needs. The Lutheran Church uses an ordered liturgy so that God's holy "priesthood" can participate and "declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). The Augsburg Confession concludes, "It is quite clear that among us nothing in doctrine or ceremonies has been accepted that would contradict either Holy Scripture or the universal Christian Church (AC, Conclusion).

INTROIT Ps. 93:1, 3-4; antiphon: Ps. 93:5, 2

Your decrees are very | trustworthy;*
holiness befits your house, O Lord, for- | evermore.
Your throne is established | from of old;*
you are from ever- | lasting.
The Lord reigns; he is robed in | majesty;*
the Lord is robed; he has put on strength | as his belt.
Yes, the world is es- | tablished;*
it shall nev- | er be moved.

The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice;*
the floods lift up their | roaring.
Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves | of
the sea,*

the Lord on high is | mighty!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Your decrees are very | trustworthy;*
holiness befits your house, O Lord, for- | evermore.
Your throne is established | from of old;*
you are from ever- | lasting.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

† **The First Sunday after Christmas** †

- *Since the Lord's Supper is testimony of our unity in the faith, the Sacrament is reserved for members in good standing of congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.*
- *Visitors from sister LCMS congregations who agree with our doctrine and practice should announce your desire to commune to a pastor before joining us at the Lord's Table.*
- *Members may prepare by reading Luther's "Questions & Answers for those who intend to go to the Sacrament" (LSB 329-340).*

OPENING HYMN: LSB 372

CONFESSION: LSB 184

INTROIT: (bulletin) – conclude
with Gloria Patri on LSB 186

KYRIE: LSB 186

GLORIA: LSB 187

SALUTATION:

P: The Lord be with you

C: **And with thy spirit**

COLLECT: bulletin

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Gradual: bulletin

Responses: LSB 190

CREED: LSB 191 (*or inside back cover*)

HYMN OF DAY: LSB 389

SERMON

OFFERTORY: LSB 192 (*"Create in Me"*)

THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

COMMUNION LIT: LSB 194ff

DIST HYMNS: LSB 367; LSB 938

CLSG CANTICLE: LSB 199

(*"Nunc Dimittis"*)

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 374

**BIRTHDAYS THE WEEK OF
December 31 – January 6**

SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY
Carol Eastbourne Scott Johnson	Erika Beck Nicholas Klesk
MONDAY	THURSDAY
JoAnn Manthei Danny Schilling	Isaiah Beck Cathy Besel Sawyer Dolan Karen MacMillan
TUESDAY	FRIDAY
Larry Dalchow Tyler Gehl Kayla Gravning	
	SATURDAY

If you notice an update is needed, kindly advise the church secretary to make sure we have the correct information to publish.

Jr./Sr. High Youth

GET CONNECTED: Are you in 6th-12th grade? Are you a parent of a youth in 6th-12th grade? If you answered yes to either of those questions, then I want to hear from you! We have many youth group events throughout the year and I want to make sure YOU know about them. Please email me (Jayme Kruse) so that I can put you on the email list and keep you informed throughout the year! - jayme.kruse@gmail.com Also, be sure to request to join the "St. John's Youth Group" private group on FB!

BIBLE CLASS TOPICS

12/31: The Wise Men visit Jesus and bring 3 gifts. How many Wise Men were there? Come and see the 3 gifts: gold (from Alaska, not Africa or Asia), frankincense (What is it? How is it used? Where in the world is it extracted today? How precious is it?), myrrh (What is it? How is it used?) Gold, frankincense, and myrrh will be on display in class. Bring lots of questions and think about how this should increase your faith. We'll include practice for Pastor Briel's retirement party program. Last chance to be in the youth video for Pastor Briel.

1/7/18: Why is Epiphany called the Gentile Christmas? What countries celebrate Christmas on January 6 (Epiphany) instead of December 25? Who is a Gentile? Are we Lutherans considered Gentiles? Why or why not? Should Mrs. Kliche give out Christmas gifts to all who come to class on Epiphany? Why or why not?

**Please lock all doors before leaving this building.
If you unlock to enter, please lock as you leave!**

SCHEDULING CHURCH AND SCHOOL EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S! Please remember to check with the church/school secretary about scheduling any event! The Secretary keeps a main calendar and all church and school events need to be coordinated through this main calendar!

**† The First Sunday after Christmas †
December 31, 2017**

SPECIAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK AND NEXT: **December 31 (today)—Eve of the Name of Jesus** Old Testament—Isaiah 30:(8-14) 15-17 Psalm 90:1-12 (antiphon v. 17) Epistle—Romans 8:31b-39 Gospel—Luke 12:35-40 Hymn of the Day—LSB 899 ("Across the Sky the Shades of Night"). **January 1 (tomorrow)—Circumcision and Name of Jesus** Old Testament—Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 (antiphon v. 9) Epistle—Galatians 3:23-29 Gospel—Luke 2:21 Hymn of the Day—LSB 896 ("Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year").

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Members who are sick and in need of healing and comfort— Rick Bymark (wife Jackie, son Hank), Lynn Slauson, Bill Radintz (son of Paul & Diane), Bill Wacker, Dorothy Schutte, Gail Ledstrom>moved to West Virginia (her address can be found on the printed homebound/military list), Pam Linton (daughter of LaVerne & Arlene Bagne), Doris Gangelhoff, and Katie Titler (daughter of Joe & Cilla Nadeau). Our Lord Jesus, who reached out to heal and comfort the sick and dying, continues to reach out with His healing Word through us. Cards, phone calls, and prayers are always appreciated. If you know of someone who is sick or hospitalized, please inform your pastors.

Our homebound members are Linda Bredenberg, Dorothy Cooper, Sue Erickson, Audrey Hansen, Marlys Johnson, Inez Koehler, Steve Orbin, Gerald Oswald, Mark Pruhs, Amy Schalo, Betty Schmiege, Ilene Shepherd, and Bill Wacker.

All those serving in our Armed Forces—Agena Hamilton (Oklahoma), Nicholas Malikowski (California), Kevin Mazurowski (Idaho), Nathan Mazurowski (Texas), Brian and Veronica Pruhs (Hawaii), Joseph Radintz (home), Marty Schiltz (home), and Andrew Zupfer (home).

Those who have lost loved ones during the past year—Jane Kothrade and family (at the loss of her father Loren Zander), Karen Orth (at the loss of her mother Elaine Larson), Tim Kanz & family (at the loss of his father William), the family of Harold Bauermeister, Lori Kaiser & family (at the loss of her father Raymond Kinzler), Ed Kemna & family (at the loss of his brother Ted), the family of Marcella Faue, the family of Elaine Underdahl, Katy Briel & family and Erik Preus & family (at the loss of their mother Donna Preus), Dan Kolander & family (at the loss of his father Donald), Marv Cummins & family (at the loss of his brother Larry), Gloria Burns & family (at the loss of her mother LaVonne Richert), the family of Caroline Christophersen, and Mark Coombs & family (at the loss of his father Paul).

And we remember those who have recently lost loved ones— Karen MacMillan & family (at the loss of her mother), the family of Alex Hansen, and Scott Gehl & family (at the loss of his father William).

THE SERVICE OF INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION is available the first Thursday of every month in the sanctuary from 6:30 until 7:00 pm or by appointment. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear God's Word of forgiveness spoken to you individually in Jesus' Name. "If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

EACH QUARTER: FIVE COPIES OF LARGE PRINT PORTALS OF PRAYER will be available to share with those who need this magazine in larger print.

"LUTHERAN HOUR" this week on WCCO 830 AM at 6:00 a.m., WWJO 98.1 FM at 7:30 a.m., and KRWC AM Buffalo at 9:30 a.m.

MISSION: See Pastor David Preus's Fall Newsletter on the narthex table for the latest updates. Remember also the Rev. Daniel Jastram and his wife Joan who have been deployed to Japan and the Rev. Charles Wokoma in Nigeria. Your regular financial gifts are desperately needed by these missionaries; with your prayers and financial gifts you take part in our Lord's great commission to make disciples of all nations.

† **Announcements** †

BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR MOSS: The Book of Exodus has been called "the Old Testament of the Old Testament". It sets the stage for everything that comes after it! In it we hear of God's deliverance of His chosen people from slavery and death. Countless prophets and poets of the Old Testament look back to the events recorded in this book even as they look ahead to the coming of the Christ for the final deliverance from slavery to sin and Death. Join us in between services as we cull out the Charleton Heston version of Moses (and the Christian Bale version for more recent movie-goers) and learn about the real man, Moses, drawn up from a watery death in the Nile to lead God's people out of slavery and to the very land God promised to give to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. This week: The Call of Moses & Name of "the LORD" (Ex. 3)
Next week: Exodus 4

† **UPCOMING SERVICES AND PROGRAMS** †

Saturday, January 06 7:00 pm: *Epiphany Divine Service*
Sunday, January 07
 8:00 & 10:30 am: *Celebrating the Festival of the Baptism of Our Lord (Divine Services)*
 Following the 2nd service: *Retirement Celebration Dinner and Program Honoring Pr. Briel*
Sunday, January 21
 8:00 & 10:30 am: *The Transfiguration of Our Lord (Divine Services)*

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION: A celebration in honor of Pastor Briel is planned for January 7, 2018. Following the second service there will be a dinner and program. For questions, contact Gretchen Kliche or any SEWAC Board member. **RSVP** via the printed invitation in the narthex OR online here: <https://tinyurl.com/PastorBrielRetirement>

CONTRIBUTIONS STILL APPRECIATED: Pr. Briel's Nigerian trip this coming February to teach at Pr. Wokoma's Lutheran seminary is in need of funding for his travel expenses and the cost of instruction materials. Overages will benefit the seminary. If you are able to help with this special cause, kindly make your donation payable to St. John's and please clearly identify "Briel Feb Trip" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity and continued support!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL resumes normal 9:15 schedule TODAY, December 31st.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CATECHISM resumes normal 6:00pm schedule this Wednesday January 3rd.

BRASS PRACTICE resumes normal 6:15pm schedule this Wednesday January 3rd.

CHOIR PRACTICE resumes normal 7:00pm schedule this Wednesday January 3rd.
We lead two festivals back to back January 6th and 7th.

This Week at St. John's Lutheran

TODAY 8:00 am: Divine Service with Lord's Supper
 9:15 am: Sunday School
 9:30 am: Bible Study
 10:30 am: Divine Service with Lord's Supper
 4:00 pm: Adult Open Gym

MON: New Year's Day - Office Closed

TUES: 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study
 5:00 pm: Lego Prep for sectionals

WED: School Resumes
 6:00 pm: Public School Catechism
 6:15 pm: Brass Practice
 7:00 pm: Choir Practice
 7:30 pm: Adult Open Gym Basketball

THUR: 6:00 pm: Lego Prep for sectionals
 6:30 pm: Ind. Confession/Absolution
 7:15 pm: Table Tennis

FRI: 8:00 am: Chapel~6th Grade Sings

SAT: 7:00 pm: Epiphany Divine Service

SUN: 8:00 am: Divine Service with Lord's Supper
 9:15 am: Sunday School
 9:30 am: Bible Study
 10:30 am: Divine Service with Lord's Supper
 Pr. Briel Retirement Celebration following service
 4:00 pm: Adult Open Gym

Those Serving This Week, Saturday, Epiphany, January 6th:

Worship Assistant: 7:00 pm: John Radintz
 Acolytes: 7:00 pm: Eric Toelle & Miranda Blanck
 Processional: Crucifer~ Luke Walton, Candlebearer~ Carter Cate

Those Serving Next Week, Sunday, January 7th:

Altar Guild: Jan Steig & Lois Anderson

Worship Assistants: 8:00 am: Joe Koehler
 10:30 am: Dean Noren

Processional: 8:00 am: Crucifer~ Rolf Preus
 Trchbrs~ Maddy Gangelhoff, Bella Paguio
 10:30 am: Crucifer~ Kaitlyn Eder
 Torchbearers~ Ashlee Eder, Jared Rainy

Acolytes: 8:00 am: Noelle Dolan & Andrew Wandersee
 10:30 am: James Wicht & Evan Pulju

Ushers: 8:00 am: Dan Kolander, Matt Kolander,
 Mike McFerrin, Rich Oakland
 10:30 am: David Giefer, Ed Kemna, David Kliche

Money Counters: *Dave Giefer*, Tim Lodholz,
 Bob Stashenko, Jack Wold

HOLIDAY SEASON OFFICE HOURS: Will be on a limited schedule. Please note the office is closed on Monday, January 1st, New Year's Day. Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays to All!

CROSS...FOOD NEEDS: Each month CROSS collects food items to be donated to the needy. Items desired from STJL during the month of **JANUARY** are: Kidney Beans/Chili Beans and Hand Soap. Thank you for helping when you can; your contributions placed in the narthex area are greatly appreciated.



2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: The new boxes are available for use in the coming year and have been placed in members' church mailboxes. If you would like a church mailbox, please contact the secretary.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN EVENT: The Youth Group is organizing a FMSC event and we want YOU to attend! Our goal is to connect the youth, congregation members, school families, staff, faculty - anyone that is connected to STJL - in an event that includes fellowship as well as giving back. We reserved 140 spots and would like to fill them all! The event is on Saturday, January 27. We will have a potluck at STJL from 12:00 - 1:15 or so and then head over to FMSC in Coon Rapids for a shift from 2:00 - 4:00. Sign up on the large sign-up sheet in the Narthex or by contacting the office or Jayme Kruse!

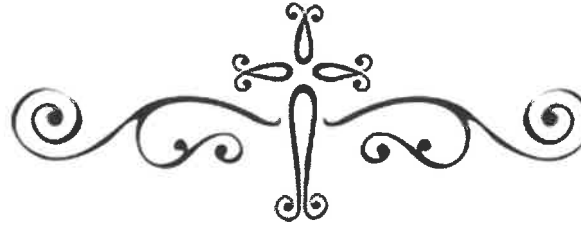
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday, December 24th: 9:00 am: CT: 135 CM: 113
 3:00 pm: CT: 356 CM:
 5:00 pm: CT: 175 CM:
 Monday, Christmas Day, December 25th: 10:00 am: CT: 216 CM: 173

FINANCIAL UPDATE	Month-to-date	Year-to-date
	12/24/17	since 07/01/17
Offerings Received	\$ 35,085	\$ 359,065
Amount Needed	\$ 13,635	\$ 354,510
Amount Ahead (Behind)	\$ 21,450	\$ 4,555
% Ahead (-Behind)	157%	1%

Please contact BOA Deacon Mike Gaffer, BOA Deacon Tom Eversman, or Church Treasurer Chad Brown if you have any questions on St. John's financial condition.

A BIG THANK YOU to all the people who donated to the pregnancy centers. We recently visited and they were so appreciative of all the gifts we brought.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Items received by the end of the day on Wednesday will be included in the Sunday bulletin. If there is an accompanying flyer or insert, kindly provide the information by the Monday beforehand to allow appropriate processing time to accommodate your posting. Thank you!!



Our celebration in honor of

Pr. Briel's retirement

is

NEXT SUNDAY,
January 7th, 2018

*Join us for
the Dinner Reception that will follow
the 10:30 am service
right here at St. John's!*

RSVP TO CHURCH OFFICE
by January 2nd, 2018
763-420-2426

Your involvement is requested:

There's still time to volunteer your services ...

Please see the register in the narthex to sign up to help out with the event