

Pastor's Note

As we prepare for Christmas this Advent season, many of you have told me various customs and memories that touch you this time of year. It occurs to me that we come to Christmas from very different places.

Some of us look forward to a familiar Christmas. We put out the regular manger scene which we have seen our whole lives, and we are comforted that, yes, something miraculous undergirds our everyday routine. We sing familiar carols amidst the Christmas trees and lights, and are reminded that the vulnerability of the cross undergirds our greatest power. We put up the same old ornaments as ever, and soon the changes and uncertainties that seemed to threaten everything we believed in now begin to fade in the solid light of faith.

Some of us come to Christmas from a place of grief. We have lost dreams, beloved family members, abilities that we once had. The light in the darkness, the star in the night whispers that, yes, this darkness is real. Grief is real. But it is also holy. The light makes it holy, not by driving out the darkness, not by drowning out the grief, but by holding it in love.

Some of us come to Christmas from a place of bondage. We or our family members cannot seem to shake addiction. We look at a world in which authoritarian dictators rise in Russia, China, the Philippines, Turkey and Venezuela. We see fear and resentment and not much love.

And yet it is in just such a world that Mary sings to God, "You have cast the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly." The angels sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace. . ." Yes, there was bondage at the first Christmas. There is bondage now. But the Christmas promise cries of freedom, and Mary's song roars hope.

Whatever our experience of Christmas, it is always the coming of God as a human being, the presence of Christ as a tiny baby. It is always alive, and it always draws us towards its heartbreaking, infuriating, terrifying and absolute joy.

In Christ,
Pastor Andy

December 24th Worship

4th Sunday of Advent Worship – 10:30am

Christmas Eve Worship – 4:00pm and 7:30pm

There will NOT be a Nursery Attendant for the 10:30 am Sunday service on Christmas Eve. We will have a Nursery Attendant for the 4:00 pm and 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Services.

Worship Note

Beginning in January, acolytes will put out the candles at the end of service during the closing hymn. We will then have the dismissal, "Go in peace, serve the Lord," and the organist will play the postlude.

What Are the Youth Up To?

November:

- On November 5th, the youth made a trip to House of Boom trampoline park, where they joined youth from several other churches in our Conference. A good time was had by all!

- Throughout the month of November, the youth were collecting Thanksgiving donations on behalf of St. MAM. On November 19th, several of our youth assembled these donations into baskets that were delivered to St. MAM the next day, and were then distributed to families in need. Between the donations from our congregation and some assistance from Thrivent, we were able to donate 25 baskets. Thank you to everyone who donated!

December

- On Sunday, December 3rd after late service, the youth and the choir will be going caroling together to visit a few of our homebound members. All are welcome, so please let Whitney know if you would like to join!

- St. John will be hosting a Conference-wide youth meeting about the National Youth Gathering on Sunday, December 10th, at 2:00 pm. The youth will continue to get to know the others that they will travel to Houston with, while the adult leaders will continue to discuss logistics and fundraising.

- In December, the youth are planning a community can drive. They will be going door-to-door in the nearby area to collect cans for donation. They are currently

planning to make their rounds on Saturday, December 16th.

January

- Next month, the youth will be playing Broomball at Iceland Sports Complex on Friday, January 19th. They will be joined by youth from throughout the Conference. Please let Whitney know if you are interested in participating!

St. John Christmas Pageant December 10th



There is a part for everyone big or small in this year's Christmas pageant to be performed at the 10:30 worship service on December 10th. There will be plenty of parts for kids who would like to have a speaking role as well as those of you who would rather be transformed into a shepherd, angel or baby lamb!

Practices:

Dec. 3rd during the Sunday School hour

Saturday, Dec. 9th from 10 am – 12 pm

Dec. 10th during the Sunday School hour

Women of St. John

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
for making this year's Craft Fair & Café a success! Whether you worked it, donated to it, shopped it or ate at it-we appreciate your support immensely! It was a nice day with steady shopping traffic and a number of vendors said they did better this year than last. So...THANK YOU!

At our October meeting, we voted to resume responsibility for the God's Work, Our Hands project. Evangelism took it this year because we were in transition. It was also voted to keep the present officers. President-Diane Kushman, VP-Margi Hahn, Secretary- Marlene Klingeman, Treasurer-Patti McNellis.

Our next general meeting is January 21st after second service. Of course, a small meal will be provided.

The Women of St. John wish you all a blessed and Merry Christmas!

Christmas Décor Setup - Volunteers Needed!!

- Dec 3rd - Set up and "fluff" Christmas tree after 11:00 service
- Dec 10th - decorate Church and Tree after 10:30 combined service
- January 7th (or that week) - Take down all Christmas Decor

Book Club

We continue to meet the *second Tuesday* of each month at 6:30pm at Homemade Pie and Ice Cream Kitchen on Lexington Road. We are skipping Dec. due to all the events of the month.

We welcome all readers, even those who just want to hear about the books.

Our 2018 books:

Jan. 9th – *Isaac's Storm* by Erick Larson, a favorite author and due to the recent hurricanes seems a great read.

Feb. 13th – *The Red Garden* by Alice Hoffman

Mar. 13th – *The House on the Lagoon* by Rosario Ferret

Apr. 10th – *Victoria and Abdul* by Shrbani Basu

May 8th – *Brain on Fire* by Susannah Calahan

June 12th – *Boone* by Robert Morgan

July 10th – *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande

Aug. 14th – *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan

Sept. 11th – *Seven Lessons from Heaven: How Dying Taught Me to Live a Joy-Filled Life* by Mary C. Neal

Oct. 9th – *Endurance* by Scott Kelly

Nov. 13th – *Martin Luther* by Eric Metazis

A fun filled year of reading!

Notes from Fellowship

Thank you for signing up to provide items for pastry hour. All baked items can be placed in the freezer to be used for this fellowship time.

December 8 - ornament exchange, 6:00 pm, Diehl Hall. Bring an ornament to exchange, a dish to share and BYOB.

December 10 - Christmas pageant reception in Diehl Hall after the ONE service.

December 17 - Christmas Cantata Breakfast provided at 9:45 am for choir members and their families in Diehl Hall.

Save the date...

January 21, 2018 - baby shower for Whitney Adkins, after 2nd service. Be on the lookout for an invitation!!

December Birthdays

Beth Coleman	12/4
Brenda Lind	12/4
Brent Florence	12/5
Brandon Lowen	12/5
David Janes	12/6
Rosalie Wiebusch	12/6
John Gray	12/8
Henry Huber Jr.	12/9
Norma Gruen	12/10
Holly Perry	12/10
Pete Dallas	12/15
Mike Murray	12/15
Paige Frystak	12/16
Donis Hukee	12/17
Matt Janes	12/19

Candice Hann	12/20
Dee Lynch	12/20
Sherrill Williams	12/21
Aaron Lind	12/22
Teresa Jones	12/23
Sarah Nehring	12/23
Phillip Heslin	12/26
Thomas Irwin	12/28
Lindsay Romer	12/28
Jackson Eaton	12/29
Paula Eaton	12/29
Destiny Nordstrom	12/29
Haley Tabler	12/29
Donna Gladstone	12/30

December Anniversaries

Sherley & Rose Mary Sample	12/9
Russell & Dawn Perry	12/12
Bill & Gail Workman	12/16
John & Mary-Frances Gray	12/13
Paul & Lisa Konar	12/19
Chet & Barbara Gentry	12/26
Bernard & Donis Hukee	12/26
Jerry & Rosalie Wiebusch	12/28
Andy & Thyne Rutrough	12/30

Good Gifts Tree

We will be doing Good Gifts again this year. This ELCA program helps grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Contribute to giving a goat, pig, nest of chicks, school of fish, honey bees, duck, alpaca, sheep or cow to a family in need in the developing world. Bring home a cardstock ornament for your tree and help put an ornament of the giving tree for each animal we receive.

Good Gifts will be available on three Sundays: December 3, 10, & 17.

DECEMBER 2017 WORSHIP TEAM

12/3

12/10 - 10:30

12/17

12/24 - 10:30

12/31

Assisting Minister

8:45 Rebecca D

Jen S

Diane K

11:00 Patti M

Mrs. Shawn H

Patti M

Patti M

Mark L

Crucifer/Communion Asst

11:00 Holly P

Amber L

Jake M

Ally L

Lector

8:45 Susan B

Rebecca D

Mary Lou F

11:00 Denise P

Dinah H

John N

Marlene K

Lois D

Ushers

8:45 Dinah H

10:30

Christi & Larry E

10:30

Lisa Y

Barry F

worship

worship

Linda H

11:00 Terri & Brian P

Terri M, Jennifer S

Rosie W, Maryjo S

Ann H

Chet L, Mark L

Bill & Gail W

Marty & Lisa D

Tyler L, Ann H

Whitney & Matt

Acolytes at 11:00am

Jake M

Amber L

Holly P

Haley T

Altar Guild

Month of December – All Altar Guild

Communion Prep

8:45 *Month of December – Jane B*

11:00 *Month of December – Ann H and Mary S*

Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 pm

Assisting Minister - Carol

Crucifer - Ally

Lector - Lola H

Ushers

Acolyte - Nicholas

7:30 pm

Assisting Minister - Patti

Crucifer - Holly

Lector - Marco H

Ushers

Acolyte - Jake

Send a cheerful note to our members who are “under the weather” and/or can’t make it to church services or church events

If you would like a copy of the addresses, please let Rebecca know and she can email or mail the list to you.

Joy LaRue
Barbara Huber
Vivian Lenberger
Sylvia Grass
J. Herman Mahaffey
Lorraine Beyer
Ott & Dot Pollei
Warner Wicke
Rose Mary Sample
Nancy Robinson
Ed Meyers

St. John Lutheran Church

901 Breckenridge Lane
Louisville, KY 40207

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DECEMBER 2017

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St. John Journal

St. John Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered, grace-based
community proclaiming the gospel through word and deed.

Staff

Pastor Andy Rutrough

Pastor

Rebecca Dimon

Administrative Assistant

Whitney Adkins

Youth Project Coordinator

Maggie Owens

Choir Director

Dr. Denine LeBlanc

Organist

Mr. David Alcorn

Custodian

Worship at St. John

Sunday

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Worship on Wednesday

at 7:30 p.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Church Telephone & Fax Number

Voice: 502-895-9320

Fax: 502-895-3979

E-mail

stjohn@stjohnlutheranky.org

Office