

Pastor's Note

On Christmas Eve, we sang beautiful carols. We heard about the Christ Child in the manger and the shepherds and the angels. We prayed for peace and goodwill. We lit candles and sang Silent Night. We also laid bits of rubble around the Christ Child in

our manger scene, because Christ is with the children killed and buried in the rubble of conflict zones like Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Sudan, and any place where children are hurt or abused. Our point was that the love we share at Christmas is not just about us. It's not just for us. Nor does it just

come from us. It comes from God through us to the world.

So also, the love of God at Christmas does not just stay at Christmas. Here in January, we might practice what the Danes call "hygge" which means, comfort, soft pillows, simple living, candles, curling up under warm blankets with a book. Hygge can help us feel the love of God for us.

And how do we share the love of God for others? One first step is to remember. Remember that each person you see in person, on TV, through your car window on the street, is loved by God. We, however are not God. We are mortal, limited in time and energy. We cannot fully love everyone. So, pick one or two opportunities outside your comfort zone, outside your friends and

family, to love. It could be a group or an individual. It could be close by or on the other side of the globe. Learn about them. Listen to them. Pray for them. Work with them for God's dreams and God's life.

Christmas may be over. The love behind, beneath, within and around Christmas lasts forever. Thanks be to God.



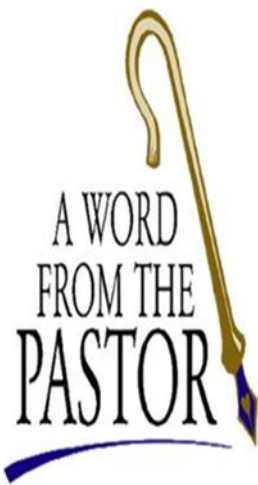
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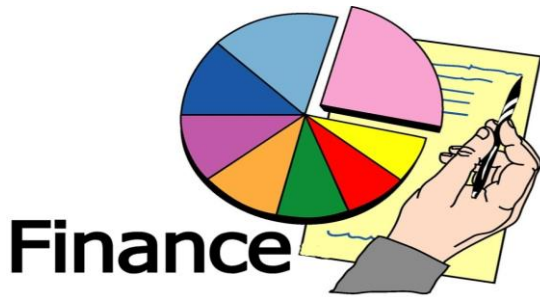
Please subscribe to and share with your friends images from our Instagram, Youtube and Facebook accounts. This is a way to share God's love happening here at St. John.



Visitor Pads

If you see someone you don't know at church, please greet them and ask them to sign one of the visitor pads in the pew beside the aisle. We will use the information to welcome them, pray for them and bring them bread. Thanks!





Finance

Finance Secretary

The job of finance secretary at St. John takes about 1 to 1½ hours a week, plus another ½ hour a month. Diane Kushman, our current finance secretary and president of council, says it's pretty easy. However, we would like to have someone take on the finance secretary role. If you are willing to consider this, please contact Pr. Andy or Diane Kushman at dpkushman@gmail.com. Thanks.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



ELCA National Youth Gathering

Youth from local ELCA churches will be gathering at St. John Sunday afternoon, January 7. These meetings happen each month as a way to build connection and community as we prepare for the ELCA National Youth gathering in New Orleans this summer.



Confirmation

Confirmation class will be January 21 in Room 2 from 1:00-4:00. We will examine Baptism and Holy Communion.



Church Decorations

Christmas Decorations

Please join us Saturday January 13 at 10:00 to take down Christmas decorations.



New Member's Sunday

January 21 we will have an Affirmation of Baptism for new members to join St. John. Anyone who wishes to join, please see Pr. Andy.



Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry

Could you use a little extra support, here in the winter months? A Stephen Minister can provide weekly listening and prayer that will bring strength and spiritual help. Over a million and a half people have had a Stephen Minister to walk with them during tough times. If you or someone you know would appreciate someone to talk with, someone to listen, someone to pray with, please contact Pastor Andy.



Friends in Faith

January 28, 11:15-12:15. We will have some games, a story and a craft about how the love of God that Jesus brings is stronger than crazy things.



Financial Update

Monthly Financial Update

| | Sep-23 | Oct-23 | Nov-23 |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| Income | \$23,478 | \$36,009 | \$36,294 |
| Expense | \$22,553 | \$25,720 | \$16,820 |
| Result | \$925 | \$10,289 | \$19,474 |

(Income less Expense)

Giving for November was a little higher than in previous years and the council elected to withdraw 3% from the endowment fund. Expenses continue to be moderate resulting in a positive end for the month of \$19K. Please note 25% of our benevolence was paid using funds from dedicated accounts. Our YTD deficit has been reduced to just under \$7K. This is a marvelous recovery and puts us on track to be in the black by the end of the year. Please continue with your generous contributions to help us achieve our goals! Thank you for your continuing support of the mission of St. John. Please continue to mail in your contributions. Feedback welcome and appreciated. Please reach out to Christi Elbert or Diane Kushman if you have questions or concerns. Thank you.



ELCA Camp

Please think ahead toward camp this summer. Lutheran Hills is a great experience for children and young folks to have fun and grow. Set in a beautiful hills near Morgantown, Indiana, Lutheran Hills provides camp experiences for kids grades 1-12. Scholarships are available. For details, go to lomik.org.



Lutheran Hills Retreat

Living in God’s Abundance, Lutheran Hills Retreat: Age 21 and over: “Learn about God’s abundance through Bible study and worship while experiencing God’s abundance through fellowship, tours and tastings, and delicious catered food.” Feb. 9-11, \$150.00. Contact Kathy at kathy@lomik.org or call at 812-988-2519. “Space is limited. . . You won’t want to miss LOMIK’s Bougiest Retreat.”

thank you

Thank You

Pastor Andy and Thyne would like to thank everyone for all the kind cards and gifts you have provided for us this Christmas. We are truly warmed by your expressions of care and love.



Women in the Bible

Join the Rev. Dr. Joy Schroeder for a six-week study of Christian women through the ages starting on January 16, 2024!

Ever since the beginning of Christianity, women have been teachers, writers, and preachers of the Gospel. Learn about the struggles and accomplishments of six exemplary women from church history:

- Perpetua (d. ca. 202), North African martyr and visionary writer
- Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), Saxon nun and theologian
- Argula von Grumbach (ca. 1492-ca. 1554), Bavarian Lutheran reformer and pamphlet writer
- Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648-1695), Mexican nun and poet
- Jarena Lee (1783-1864), African American preacher
- Pandita Ramabai (1858-1922), Indian Bible translator and founder of women's shelters

Dr. Schroeder will discuss these women's inspirational lives and writings.

The Rev. Dr. Joy Schroeder, an ELCA pastor, is Professor of Church History at Capital University, where she teaches in the Department of Religion and Philosophy and Trinity Lutheran Seminary. The class will meet on six consecutive Tuesday evenings:

January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2024 from 7:00 - 8:15pm ET via Zoom. This course is open to all adults, both laypeople and rostered ministers, and is free of charge. Sessions will be recorded and available to registered participants. Registration is required and will close on January 5, 2024. Check St. John Happenings or call the office to register.



PUZZLE

HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

| JANUARY 2024 | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | God | night | word | in | love | Jesus |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| glory | therefore | speak | give | light | Christ | a |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| saw | beginning | anyone | waters | help | is | many |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| he | again | through | earth | made | while | back |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| new | if | and | creation | | | |

The second Monday _ _ _ _ _

The last Monday _ _

The 16th _ _ _ _ _

One day before the 20th _ _

The day before the first Friday _ _

The last weekday of the second week _ _ _ _ _

The day after the 20th _ _

The day after 18th _ _

The first day of the second weekend _

The last Sunday _ _ _

The last day of the month _ _ _ _ _

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

January

BIRTHDAYS

January Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| David Gladstone | 01/01 |
| Don Finley | 01/02 |
| Debbie Holt | 01/05 |
| Jim Kushman | 01/05 |
| Margaret Hugues | 01/06 |
| Marshall Coleman | 01/07 |
| William Coleman | 01/07 |
| Ran Florence | 01/07 |
| Krysta Moore | 01/07 |
| Jonathan Jones | 01/08 |
| Meghan Kushman | 01/09 |
| Steve Njos | 01/09 |
| Madelyn Bartley | 01/10 |
| Isiah Phillips | 01/10 |
| Gail Workman | 01/10 |
| Anna DuFour | 01/11 |
| Renee DuFour | 01/11 |
| Hannah Stemler | 01/11 |
| Linda DeVore | 01/12 |
| Gavin Bent | 01/13 |
| Carleigh Newman | 01/15 |
| Alen Coleman | 01/16 |
| Paul Konar | 01/17 |
| Christopher Kushman | 01/17 |
| Kate Mattingly | 01/18 |
| Sydney Harvey | 01/19 |
| Jan Jensen | 01/20 |
| Natalie Lowen | 01/20 |
| Coleman Geraci | 01/21 |
| James Williams | 01/21 |
| Laura Novak | 01/23 |
| Rica Brown | 01/24 |

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Joe Dye | 01/24 |
| Lola Howard | 01/24 |
| Debbie Lambert | 01/24 |
| Abigail Brown | 01/26 |
| Christian Rapp | 01/26 |
| Leland Caswell | 01/27 |
| Sarah Ward | 01/27 |
| Jose Zellers | 01/27 |
| Collin Hovell | 01/28 |
| Channa Newman | 01/30 |
| Kayla Abbott | 01/31 |



January

ANNIVERSARIES

January Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Don & Mary Lou Finley | 01/05 |
| Michael & Jennifer Jarrett | 01/28 |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 31 Choir Rehearsal 10am - Worship 3pm - Eben-Ezel 6pm - AA Group 19 (Diehl) | 1 New Year's Day Office Closed 5pm - OLOL Basketball | 2 5pm - OLOL Basketball 6:30pm - Property 7:30pm - Technology | 3 9:30am - Bridge Club 5pm - OLOL Basketball 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - OA (ABC) @ ABC | 4 Council Reports Due (1st) 5pm - OLOL Basketball 6pm - Executive | 5 5pm - OLOL Basketball | 6 Epiphany 9am - SOKY Basketball 8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC |
| 7 9am - Choir Rehearsal 10am - Worship 3pm - Eben-Ezel 6pm - AA Group 19 (Diehl) | 8 5pm - OLOL Basketball 6:30pm - Men's Group | 9 5pm - OLOL Basketball | 10 10am - Sewing Group 5pm - OLOL Basketball 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - OA (ABC) @ ABC | 11 5pm - OLOL Basketball 6pm - Congregation | 12 5pm - OLOL Basketball | 13 9am - SOKY Basketball 10am - Remove 8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC |
| 14 9am - Choir Rehearsal 10am - Worship 3pm - Eben-Ezel 6pm - AA Group 19 (Diehl) | 15 Journal Deadline Martin Luther King Jr. 5pm - OLOL Basketball | 16 5pm - OLOL Basketball 6:30pm - Christian | 17 10am - Sewing Group 5pm - OLOL Basketball 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - OA (ABC) @ ABC | 18 4pm - Worship & Music 5pm - OLOL Basketball 6:15pm - Evangelism & | 19 5pm - OLOL Basketball | 20 9am - SOKY Basketball 8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC |
| 21 9am - Choir Rehearsal 10am - Worship 1pm - Confirmation Class 3pm - Eben-Ezel 6pm - AA Group 19 (Diehl) | 22 5pm - OLOL Basketball 6:30pm - Men's Group | 23 5pm - OLOL Basketball | 24 10am - Sewing Group 5pm - OLOL Basketball 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - OA (ABC) @ ABC | 25 5pm - OLOL Basketball | 26 5pm - OLOL Basketball | 27 7am - Via de Cristo Team 9am - SOKY Basketball 8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC |
| 28 9am - Choir Rehearsal 10am - Worship 11:15am - Friends in 12pm - Stephen Ministry 3pm - Eben-Ezel 6pm - AA Group 19 (Diehl) | 29 5pm - OLOL Basketball | 30 5pm - OLOL Basketball | 31 5pm - OLOL Basketball 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - OA (ABC) @ ABC | 1 Council Reports Due (1st) | 2 | 3 |

JANUARY 2024 WORSHIP TEAM

| | 1/7 | 1/14 | 1/21 | 1/28 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>Assisting Minister</u> | | | | |
| 10:00 | Cindy L | John N | Diane K | Patti M |
| <u>Lector</u> | | | | |
| 10:00 | Todd H | John N | Eric H | Connie S |
| <u>Youth Lector</u> | | | | |
| 10:00 | Magdalene M | Alex B | Emilia M | Lily B |
| <u>Cantor</u> | | | | |
| 10:00 | Cindy L | Laura R | Diane K | Laura R |
| <u>Crucifer</u> | | | | |
| 10:00 | Trey L | Melvin G | Trey L | Melvin G |
| <u>Acolyte</u> | | | | |
| 10:00 | Magdalene M | Alex B | Emilia M | Lily B |
| <u>Usher</u> | | | | |
| 10:00 | Melissa W | Edie M | Rosie W | Melissa W |
| <u>Communion Prep</u> | | | | |
| 10:00 | Brenda P | Brenda P | Brenda P | Brenda P |
| <u>Altar Guild</u> | | | | |
| Dinah H, Brenda P | | | | |

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

Vivan Lenberger
Betty Pauley
Nancy Robinson
Skip Stearman
Maxine Wines

St. John Lutheran Church

901 Breckenridge Lane
Louisville, KY 40207

Visit us on the web
www.stjohnlutheranky.org

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JANUARY 2024

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



St. John Journal

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

Worship at St. John

Sunday

10:00 a.m. Online & In-person

Monday-Friday

12:00 p.m. Online

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Lunch 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Church Telephone

& Fax Number

Phone: (502) 895-9320

Fax: (502) 895-3979

Email

stjohn@stjohnlutheranky.org



Visit us on the web at
www.stjohnlutheranky.org
or scan the QR code.



Staff

Reverend Andy Rutrough

Pastor

David McNease

Office Administrator

TBD

Youth Project

Coordinator

TBD

Choir Director

Dr. Denine LeBlanc

Organist