

Pastor's Note

Christmas is going to be different this year. We will not be able to have as many people gathering in warm, close celebration. We won't be able to sing Christmas carols in the same room. We will have to make due.

I remember stories of other Christmases that happened during hard times, when people had to make due—The Christmas truce of World War I; the Christmas during the Depression that my father always told about; Christmases during World War II; Christmas during the Vietnam era; Christmas after 9-11.

Strangely, these are often the stories that remind us of what Christmas really is about—a light in the darkness, an infant Savior in a hateful world.

So let's remember this: All the Christmas lights, the presents, the songs and decorations come from a very real, genuine joy. They express a love even deeper than that of family, from which the love of family comes. They express a love even deeper than that of life, from which the love of life comes. They express the love of God.

That love comes to us in the darkness as well as the light, in the fear as well as the joy. The angels sing even when the virus spikes, because their song helps us fight the virus. The Magi bring their gifts even when Herod rages, because their devotion helps us fight the hate.

God does not just come in happy days. God comes to us right now, at a manger, on the cross, in the midst of Covid-19. And God saves.

Treasure your Christmas this year. Whatever way you might make due, whether it's a tiny tree or a Zoom call with a friend, or the happiest time in your life. It all still points to the same deep Truth as always: God is with us. Hope is real. Christ is born.

God Bless,
Pastor Andy



Online Worship

Daily Prayer – 12:00 Noon Monday-Saturday
Sunday Worship – 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Visit our website for links to online worship via Zoom. To access Zoom via telephone:
Dial-in number – (301) 715-8592
Meeting number – 671 535 477



A Note of Thanks

My family and I would like to thank all the ladies of St. John's who prepared the wonderful dishes for us after Don's passing. We are so appreciative of the time you took to do this.

I know you are aware of the strength and good will this imparted to us. It was indeed a blessing. May God bless all of you, Alice Fugate and family



Wednesdays in Advent

Virtual Worship, 6:30-7:00 p.m. The theme will be Waiting for the Lord. On three of the Wednesdays, a leader from the Synod office will preach, and on the fourth, Pastor Andy will preach. Bishop Bill Gafjken: We Wait with Hope; Pastor Heather Apel: We Wait with Faith; Pastor Dan Fugate; We Wait with Love; Pastor Andy: We Wait with Peace. Please join us at our regular worship link.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

On Christmas Eve we will have Virtual Worship at our regular worship link at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Other plans for Christmas Eve remain dependent on pandemic conditions in mid-December.



Virtual Christmas Eve Dinner

We will have a virtual Christmas dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve at our regular worship link. If you would like a meal please call the church office to make a reservation. The deadline is Wednesday, December 16.



Christmas Poinsettia Orders

We are taking orders for Christmas Poinsettias. They are \$15.00 each and the colors are either red or white. The poinsettias will be used in the Chancel during the Christmas Season. Please call the office to place your order by December 7. You may drop payment off at the church or include it with your weekly offering noting payment on the memo line of your check or if cash include a note stating payment for poinsettias.

THE DEADLINE TO PLACE ORDERS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Eve Reading

All Families with Children and Youth: Would you be willing to read a portion of the Christmas Gospel lesson for Christmas Eve service this year? We would like to put together a video of various families reading portions of the Christmas reading from Luke 2:1-20. Small children can say short lines like, "Glory to God in the highest!" Older children and youth can read longer passages. We would like to use it as part of our Christmas Eve service. If you are interested, contact Pastor Andy or Whitney Adkins.



Please wear a mask.

Thank you for protecting yourself and others. 

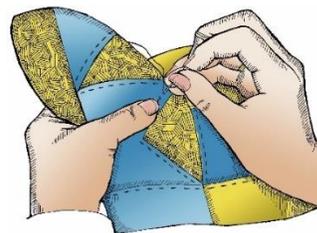
COVID-19 Guidelines

Please remember that if you have to visit the church **you must wear a face mask** while in the building. **Your face mask must cover your mouth and nose at the same time.** You must also maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from others. We love seeing you, but encourage you to stay home and stay safe. For the latest information on the coronavirus in Kentucky please visit www.kycovid19.ky.gov.



Gift Card Scam

Thank you so much for the wonderful generosity of so many of you when you provide gift cards and discretionary funds. They are used well and extend a message of God's love to many. A couple of people have received emails claiming to be from Pastor Andy, asking for gift cards for eBay and other commercial outlets. Requests for gift cards will only come from Pastor Andy through in-person requests, the newsletter, or weekly announcements. Please check with Pastor Andy or the office before buying gift cards requested in ways other than official church communication, or for sites other than Kroger. Thank you.



QUILTING GROUP

Quilting Group

The quilt group has completed the long-awaited Raffle Quilt. You can get tickets from the church office. We are raffling 120 tickets for a profit of \$500. The drawing will be held when all tickets are sold. Pastor will draw out the winning name after the closest service. The profit will be used to buy supplies and materials from local quilt shops to make more quilts for our refugees.

If you would like to join the Quilt Group, we meet from 10:00 - 2:00 on Wednesdays in Diehl Hall. Contact Laura Meier about volunteer opportunities! We do more than sew. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have helped us make this and other quilts.

We would like to thank the Popcorn Station in Jeffersontown, KY, for their continued support. We have been selling masks and other made objects for contributions to Kentucky Refugee Ministries. They have sold over \$1000 of goods. They do not charge us for using their space. Please patronize their store and mention your connection to St. John Lutheran to Dana the owner.

We would like to thank the congregation for all of their support.

ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS
CATALOG



ELCA Good Gifts

Greetings All,

Happy to announce that we have 6 animals available for gifting this year. This is the ELCA program designed to grow the Church, fight

hunger, and transform lives. For several years we at St. John have pooled purchases of animals for a congregational donation. This year ELCA has eliminated the ornaments that we traditionally used to acknowledge the gift, and for sending to your gift recipient. Good news is we have a supply on hand of ornaments for 4 animals, as noted below.

Even better, Laura Meier has graciously offered to make ornaments for the other 2 animals.

We have ornaments - last chance for these ELCA Collectors' Items - discontinued - When they're gone, they're gone!

Honeybees - \$20

Pigs - \$30

Goats - \$50

Cows - \$500, or \$50 for a share

Laura Meier Special Edition Collector's item ornaments:

Chicks - \$10

Fish Farm - \$250 or \$50 for a share

We are taking orders November 29 - December 20. Of course, the set up will be a little different this year. Please order by putting a note with a check in the offering plate with your request, or mailing to the church office. You can also use Tithely on the church website for a one-time donation. Please indicate what you are buying in the "notes" box on the online form. All will be credited to your annual giving statement. We will distribute the ornaments by having them at church the following Sunday; picking up at the church office; or we will mail out to you - indicate your choice on your request note.

I am available to answer any Qs about this fun program.

John Burford

johnburford9@gmail.com

502-905-1366



Financial Update

The finance team would like to be more transparent with the congregation regarding the state of our finances. To that end, we will be including financial reporting each month in the Journal. While we continue to be slightly in the hole, we expect contributions to increase with the holidays on the horizon. Thanks to your generous contributions, we continue to pay the bills and keep the lights on! Please continue to mail in your contributions.

	October	YTD 2020
Income	\$22,715	\$275,992
Expense	\$23,596	\$281,116
Result	-\$880	-\$5,124

(Income less Expense)

No benevolences paid in October. Feedback welcome and appreciated. Please reach out to Christi Elbert or Jim Kushman if you have questions or concerns. Thank you.



Kentucky Refugee Ministries

I would like to introduce you to our newest neighbor, Mikeyeki Aoci. We are co-sponsoring him through Kentucky Refugee Ministries. Aoci (Ae-OH-chee) was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo 25 years ago, but his family moved to a refugee settlement in Tanzania when he was only two years old. He said that life was hard there because there was little food or money for basic necessities. Aoci is the fourth born of seven children, and the first

person in his family to immigrate to the U.S. Both of his parents died, so his siblings all hope someday to come here to start new lives.

Aoci has expressed gratitude for all that the people of St. John Lutheran Church have done for him, and he hopes to begin Zooming in for our Sunday worship services soon.

If you would like to help support Aoci, you are welcome to contribute by sending a check designated for St. John Lutheran's benevolence fund. If you have an interest in helping Aoci learn English by participating in Zoom meetings with an interpreter, text Laura Meier @ (260) 273-2279.



December Birthdays

Chloe Cox	12/01
Samantha Bright	12/04
Beth Coleman	12/04
Brenda Lind	12/04
Robert Meyer	12/04
Brent Florence	12/05
Brandon Lowen	12/05
Jeanette Gettelfinger	12/06
David Janes	12/06
Rosalie Wiebusch	12/06
Norah McCollum	12/07
John Gray	12/08
Holly Smith	12/08
Henry Huber, Jr.	12/09
Norma Gruen	12/10
Holly Perry	12/10
Pete Dallas	12/15
Michael Murray	12/15
Donis Hukee	12/17
Thomas Reinking	12/17
Jennifer Blair	12/19
Alexander Burtnett	12/19
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
Melissa Weber	12/23
Mark Bartow	12/25
Phillip Heslin	12/26
Allison Oost	12/26
Xander Florence	12/27
Alex Jackson	12/27
Bella O'Dell	12/28
Elijah O'Dell	12/28
Shawn Ottman	12/28
Herb Reeser	12/28
Lindsay Romer	12/28
Jackson Eaton	12/29
Paula Eaton	12/29
Allison Greer	12/29
Brayden Hovell	12/29
Jackson Huber	12/29
Destiny Nordstrom	12/29
Haley Tabler	12/29
Savannah House	12/30
Lisa Thirlwell	12/31



December Anniversaries

Sherley & Rose Mary Sample	12/09
Russell & Dawn Perry	12/12
John & Mary Frances Gray	12/13
Bill & Gail Workman	12/16
Paul & Lisa Konar	12/19
Steven & Katy Gray	12/21
Eric & Kim Hahn	12/21
Chet & Barbara Gentry	12/26
Bernard & Doris Hukee	12/26
Jerry & Rosalie Wiebusch	12/28
Russell & Sabrina Bent	12/30

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		12pm - Online Daily 6:30pm - 6:30pm - Property	10am - Sewing 12pm - Online Daily 4pm - Online Book 6pm - Cancelled - 6:30pm - Cancelled -	Council Reports Due 9am - Cancelled - 12pm - Online Daily 6:30pm - Executive	12pm - Online Daily 5pm - Ornament 6pm - Ornament	8pm - AA (ABC) @
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:15am - Cancelled - 8:45am - Online 9:30am - Cancelled - 10am - Cancelled - 11am - Online	POINSETTIA ORDER 10am - Cancelled - 12pm - Online Daily	Feast of the 12pm - Online Daily	10am - Sewing 12pm - Online Daily 4pm - Online Book 6pm - Cancelled - 6:30pm - Cancelled - 6:30pm - Online	9am - Cancelled - 12pm - Online Daily 6:30pm -	12pm - Online Daily	Feast of Our Lady of 8pm - AA (ABC) @
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:15am - Cancelled - 8:45am - Online 9:30am - Cancelled - 10am - Cancelled - 11am - Online	10am - Cancelled - 12pm - Online Daily	Journal Deadline 12pm - Online Daily 7pm - Christian	VIRTUAL 10am - Sewing 12pm - Online Daily 4pm - Online Book 6pm - Cancelled - 6:30pm - Cancelled -	9am - Cancelled - 12pm - Online Daily 6pm - Worship &	12pm - Online Daily	8pm - AA (ABC) @
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:15am - Cancelled - 8:45am - Online 9:30am - Cancelled - 10am - Cancelled - 11am - Online 12:15pm - Cancelled 12:15pm - Cancelled	10am - Cancelled - 12pm - Online Daily	12pm - Online Daily	10am - Sewing 12pm - Online Daily 4pm - Online Book 6pm - Cancelled - 6:30pm - Cancelled - 7pm - OA (ABC) @	Christmas Eve Christmas Eve 9am - Cancelled - 12pm - Online Daily 4pm - Christmas Eve 6:30pm - Virtual 7pm - Cancelled -	Christmas Day Christmas Day Office Closed 12pm - Online Daily	8pm - AA (ABC) @
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
8:15am - Cancelled - 8:45am - Online 9:30am - Cancelled - 10am - Cancelled - 11am - Online	12pm - Online Daily	12pm - Online Daily	10am - Sewing 12pm - Online Daily 4pm - Online Book 6pm - Cancelled - 6:30pm - Cancelled - 7pm - OA (ABC) @	New Year's Eve 9am - Cancelled - 12pm - Online Daily		

DECEMBER 2020 WORSHIP TEAM

12/6	12/13	12/20	12/24 Christmas Eve	12/27
<u>Assisting Minister</u> (same person will serve at <u>both</u> services)				
8:45 & 11:00	Diane K Terri M	Jen S & Rebecca D	<u>4:00</u> <u>7:30</u>	Mark L

Crucifer/Communion Asst (not needed until further notice)
11:00

Lector

8:45	Diane K	Terri M	Jen S/Rebecca	<u>4:00</u> Mark L	Mark L
11:00	Dee L	Sherley S	Connie S	<u>7:30</u> Patti M	Betty M

Ushers (not needed until further notice)
8:45
11:00

Acolyte (not needed until further notice)
11:00

Altar Guild

Dina H, Brenda P

Communion Prep (not needed until further notice)
8:45
11:00

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 emailed or mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Lorraine Beyer
Merle Dahl
Annabelle Krupp
Vivian Lenberger

Phyllis Neumayer
Skip Stearman
Shirley Whonsetler

St. John Lutheran Church

901 Breckenridge Lane
Louisville, KY 40207

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www.stjohnlutheranky.org

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DECEMBER 2020

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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.

Online Worship at St. John

Sunday
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Monday-Saturday
12:00 p.m.
Also 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 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
Whitney Adkins
**Youth Project
Coordinator**
Dr. Maggie Owens
Choir Director
Dr. Denine LeBlanc
Organist