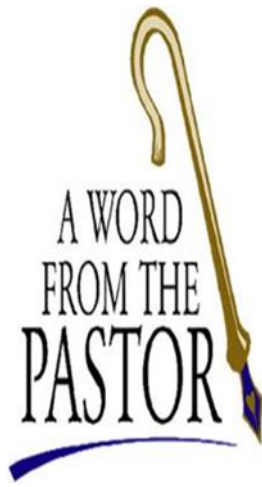


**Pastor's Note**

Christmas is a wonderful time, full of lights and celebrations and food and gifts and charity. These are real blessings, and reflections of the truth beneath all things, the reality to which we are going. At the same time, and without diminishing the other, we also need to take time at Christmas for quiet, for peace, and sometimes for grief.



It is easy to get so wrapped up in our everyday busyness, and now especially our Christmas busyness, that we forget that we are sad, or scared, or lonely. Indeed, sometimes we

use our busyness, whether Christmas or otherwise, to cover up our fear, to numb our sadness.

Strangely, the truth of Christmas meets us exactly in those painful parts of ourselves that we use Christmas to run away from. God comes to us as a light in the darkness, a baby in a manger, a refugee family, a homeless child, us.

That's where God meets us. And because God meets us there, where we are human, we can rejoice even if we are sad. We can sing even if we are lonely. We can have compassion for others even if we aren't doing well ourselves. And if we are doing well, if we are happy, thankful, compassionate, then our joy is even deeper because we know that this is our destiny, this

is the truth beneath all things: “. . . Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” “. . . the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. . .” “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace. . .”

**ELCA  
GOOD  
GIFTS**



**Advent Animals**

Starting December 3, Advent animals will be available for purchase in the Narthex. We purchase an ornament with chicks, honeybees, goat or other animals on it, and ELCA World Hunger Appeal provides that animal to a family in the developing world, so that they can raise food. So, stop by the Narthex and buy a goat for Christmas!

Join Us at  
**Advent Worship**



**Advent Worship**

6:30-7:00 Wednesdays Dec. 6, 13 and 20.  
A quiet service based on some of our favorite Advent hymns.



**Ornament Exchange**

Start December out right by stealing, er, EXCHANGING, ornaments. It'll be a rockin' good time! Save the Date: Friday, December 1 at 6 pm, Diehl Hall. Bring an appetizer to share and a new wrapped ornament (dazzling, fun, themed, precious, just don't get too attached).

**Adopt-A-Child**



**St. MAM Adopt-A-Child**

St Mams Adopt-A-Child is underway. St. John is collecting \$25 Walmart gift cards or checks made out to St. MAM with Adopt-A-Child on memo line, for St. Matthews Area Ministries Adopt-A-Child Christmas program. Please place donations in an envelope label St. MAM no later than Sunday, December 3rd. I will deliver all donations to St. MAM . If you have any questions please reach out to Patti Gray at (502) 896-6796 or pegray2@juno.com



Potluck-Carolina-Hot Chocolate  
**Potluck, Caroling, & Hot Chocolate**

After Church, Dec. 10. We will eat, go to some of our homebound folks to sing Christmas Carols, and then have hot chocolate (or other yummy things to drink) afterwards. Please come and bring a friend.



**Hiking at Clifty Falls**

Activities group will meet at St. John at 10:00 to drive up to Clifty Falls and hike the beautiful trails there. Please join us.



**Photos of Mothers**

While cleaning his office (Gasp!) Pr. Andy has found several photos of people's mothers from our Mother's Day prayers. If you brought a photo last May, please pick it up in the office. Thanks.



# Share Your Stories

## St. John Stories

As of November 15, we are at 121 Invitations: 29 to go to reach our goal of 150 invitations or stories about God’s work at St. John, shared with someone outside the congregation, BY CHRISTMAS. Invite someone you care about to the ornament exchange, Christmas caroling or Christmas Eve. Fill out a card in the pew rack and put it in the offering or E-mail Pr. Andy, pastor@stjohnlutheranky.org to let us know. We can do this, folks!



## Outreach!

We are now posting news, worship, announcements, thoughts of encouragement, pictures of track meets, etc. on Instagram and YouTube. As with our God Moment of the Week, these are offered as opportunities for every one in the congregation to pass on thoughts of encouragement and hope, invitation and welcome to friends and family. Please subscribe at Youtube@st.johnlutheranchurch2993 and Instagram@stjohnlutheranlouisville.



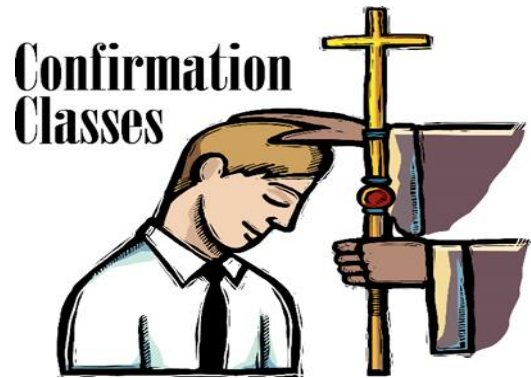
## Financial Update

### Monthly Financial Update

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23
Income	\$22,443	\$23,478	\$36,009
Expense	\$25,362	\$22,553	\$25,720
Result	(\$2,918)	\$925	\$10,289

(Income less Expense)

Our prayers have been answered! We have a positive result of more than \$10K and our level of giving was the second-highest it has been in the last two years! Thank you for your generosity. The bad news is we are still in the hole by more than \$26K for the year, but that number has significantly improved since last month. At this rate we can end the year with positive results. Please keep it up 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.



## Confirmation Classes

### Confirmation Class

1:00-4:00 Dec. 17 at Ascension Lutheran Church. We will explore World Religions, Christian Denominations, Lutheran Worship Practices and Sharing Your Faith.

# CHRISTMAS



## PAGEANT

### Christmas Pageant Practice

10:00 Dec. 16 Kids, youth and adults will practice the Christmas pageant we have written. We will present to pageant to the congregation at sermon time Dec. 17.

### Christmas Pageant Play

Sermon time, Dec. 17, St. John kids, youth and adults will present a Christmas pageant based on their ideas. Please bring a friend for this fun sharing of the good news about Jesus.



### Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas

12:30 Dec. 16, anyone who can come is requested to lend a hand decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. Many hands make light work. Light snacks will be provided.



## Worship Schedule for Christmas

### Christmas Worship Schedule

December 24 is a Sunday. We will celebrate Sunday worship, Fourth Sunday of Advent at 10:00 A.M. on December 24. Then we will celebrate Christmas Eve worship at 4:00 and 7:30 P.M.



## Pastor's on Vacation

### Pastor On Vacation

Pr. Andy will be out of the office December 25 through Jan. 1. Rev. Scott Meier will preach and preside December 31. Pr. Andy will be back in the office January 2.



### Order Christmas Poinsettias

We are taking orders for Christmas poinsettias. They are \$13.00 each, with a choice of either red or white. The poinsettias will be used in the chancel during the Christmas Season. The deadline to place orders is December 7, 2023. You may download the order form from the weekly eNews, or pick up a paper form.



**December Birthdays**

Beth Coleman	12/04
Brenda Lind	12/04
Brandon Lowen	12/05
David Janes	12/06
Rosalie Wiebusch	12/06
Norah McCollum	12/07
Henry Huber, Jr.	12/09
Norma Gruen	12/10
Holly Perry	12/10
Pete Dallas	12/15
Michael Murray	12/15
Paige Frystak	12/16
Aasha Green-Kalyan	12/16
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	12/22
Melissa Weber	12/23
Allison Oost	12/23
Xander Florence	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
Brayden Faust	12/29
Jackson Huber	12/29
Destiny Nordstrom	12/29

Haley Tabler	12/29
Donna Gladstone	12/30



**December Anniversaries**

Russell & Dawn Perry	12/12
Bill & Gail Workman	12/16
Paul & Lisa Konar	12/19
Eric & Kim Hahn	12/21
Chet & Barbara Gentry	12/26
Jerry & Rosalie Wiebusch	12/28
Russell & Sabrina Bent	12/30



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
<p><b>First Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p>9am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>3pm - Eben-Ezel</p> <p>6pm - AA Group 19 (Diehl)</p>	<p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6:15pm - Evangelism &amp; Property</p> <p>6:30pm - Property</p> <p>7:30pm - Technology</p>	<p>9:30am - Bridge Club</p> <p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6:30pm - Advent Worship</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - OA (ABC) @ ABC</p>	<p>Council Reports Due (1st)</p> <p>Poinsettia Order Deadline</p> <p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6pm - Executive</p>	<p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>5:30pm - FS Winter</p> <p>6pm - Ornament</p>	<p>9am - SOKY Basketball</p> <p>8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC</p>	<p>9am - SOKY Basketball</p> <p>8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>9am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>3pm - Eben-Ezel</p> <p>6pm - AA Group 19 (Diehl)</p>	<p>Feast of Our Lady of</p> <p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>10am - Sewing Group</p> <p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6:30pm - Advent Worship</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - OA (ABC) @ ABC</p>	<p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6pm - Congregation</p>	<p>Journal Deadline</p> <p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>9am - SOKY Basketball</p> <p>10am - Pageant Practice</p> <p>12:30pm - Decorate</p> <p>8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC</p>	<p>9am - SOKY Basketball</p> <p>10am - Pageant Practice</p> <p>12:30pm - Decorate</p> <p>8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>9am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>3pm - Eben-Ezel</p> <p>6pm - AA Group 19 (Diehl)</p>	<p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's Group</p>	<p>10am - Sewing Group</p> <p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6:30pm - Advent Worship</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - OA (ABC) @ ABC</p>	<p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6pm - Congregation</p>	<p>Journal Deadline</p> <p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>9am - SOKY Basketball</p> <p>10am - Pageant Practice</p> <p>12:30pm - Decorate</p> <p>8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC</p>	<p>9am - SOKY Basketball</p> <p>10am - Pageant Practice</p> <p>12:30pm - Decorate</p> <p>8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>9am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>1pm - Confirmation Class</p> <p>3pm - Eben-Ezel</p> <p>6pm - AA Group 19 (Diehl)</p>	<p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6:30pm - Christian</p>	<p>10am - Sewing Group</p> <p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6:30pm - Advent Worship</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - OA (ABC) @ ABC</p>	<p>4pm - Worship &amp; Music</p> <p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>9am - SOKY Basketball</p> <p>8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC</p>	<p>9am - SOKY Basketball</p> <p>8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>9am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - Friends in Faith</p> <p>12pm - Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's Group</p>	<p>10am - Sewing Group</p> <p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - OA (ABC) @ ABC</p>	<p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>5pm - OLOL Basketball</p>	<p>9am - SOKY Basketball</p> <p>8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC</p>	<p>9am - SOKY Basketball</p> <p>8pm - AA (ABC) @ ABC</p>
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>9am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>3pm - Eben-Ezel</p> <p>6pm - AA Group 19 (Diehl)</p>						

## DECEMBER 2023 WORSHIP TEAM

	<b>12/3</b>	<b>12/10</b>	<b>12/17</b>	<b>12/24</b> <u>10:00 AM</u>	<b>12/24</b> <u>Christmas Eve</u>	<b>12/31</b>
<b><u>Assisting Minister</u></b>						
10:00	Mark L	Cindy L	Renaë B	Ann H	4:00 Patti M 7:30 Diane K	Diane K
<b><u>Lector</u></b>						
10:00	Dee L	Denise P	Renaë B	Patti M	4:00 Lauren J, Nathan J, & Alex B 7:30 Diane K, Patti M, & Ann H	John T
<b><u>Youth Lector</u></b>						
10:00	Maggie M	Alex B	Emilia M	---	---	Lily B
<b><u>Cantor</u></b>						
10:00	Laura R	Cindy L	Cindy L	Laura R	4:00 Diane K 7:30 Diane K	Diane K
<b><u>Crucifer</u></b>						
10:00	Melvin D	Trey L	Melvin D	Patti M	4:00 Melvin D 7:30 Trey L	Trey L
<b><u>Acolyte</u></b>					<b><u>Torch Bearer</u></b>	
10:00	Maggie M	Alex B	Emilia M	Ann H	4:00 Lauren J, Nathan J 7:30 Patti M, Ann H	Lily B
<b><u>Usher</u></b>						
10:00	Joanne N	Eddie M	Melissa W	Ann H	4:00 Joanne N, Melissa W, Sherley S, Haley 7:30 Ann H, Jennifer S, Eddie M	Melissa W
<b><u>Communion Prep</u></b>						
10:00	Brenda P	Brenda P	Brenda P	Brenda P	Brenda P	Brenda P
<b><u>Altar Guild</u></b>						
Dinah H, Brenda P						

# St. John Lutheran Church

901 Breckenridge Lane  
Louisville, KY 40207

Visit us on the web  
[www.stjohnlutheranky.org](http://www.stjohnlutheranky.org)

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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.**

### 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](mailto:stjohn@stjohnlutheranky.org)



Visit us on the web at  
[www.stjohnlutheranky.org](http://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**