

## Pastor's Note

It has gotten cold here, now Thanksgiving has gone by. Christmas decorations are up in many places—have been up since Halloween. It has even snowed, which is classic Christmas weather.

It is repeated often that the Christmas of shopping and parties and bright lights differs radically from the season of repentance and preparation we call Advent.

This is true but not absolutely true. In northern climates, the season of winter solstice has always been a time of light in the darkness, warmth in the cold. It has always been a time of hope that things will get better, warmer, brighter. So, the hope of God's presence at Christmas is consistent with many of the pagan celebrations that came before it, and that now come after it.

Here is what we have to offer: Are we willing to repent? Advent is a time of repentance. Are we willing to care about our neighbor? Are we willing to make a time of light and love for our friends and family, knowing that they can be an annoying and difficult bunch? Are we willing to forgive? Are we willing to hope in a power and a presence that blesses not just us and those we love but also strangers, even enemies? Are we willing to sing even if we are alone, and celebrate life even if we don't like ourselves very much?

Because Christmas has never been about us. It has always been about God coming to us in a manger, through a refugee family, by means of a pregnant teenager. Christmas is

about angels who appear to smelly shepherds, magi spending millions seeking truth, a fierce young Mary prophesying hope, a faithful Joseph trusting the God who calls him.

Christmas is about many things and it takes on many forms. But in the end, it comes from one place: the Christ child, the Word made flesh, the Holy Wisdom from on high, who has come to save.

God's Blessing,  
Pastor Andy

### Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship with Carols, 4:00 and 7:30 Monday, Dec. 24.

Please invite family and friends. All are welcome.

### Wednesday Worship in December

Advent Worship will take place at 7:30pm on December 5, 12 and 19.

There will be no Wednesday Bible Study or Worship on December 26.

Bible Study and worship will resume on Wednesday, January 2 at 7:30pm.

### Cantata Sunday

At both services on Sunday, December 16, after a brief homily, Choir will sing *Holy Light*, a special selection of Advent and Christmas songs.

### Christmas Pageant:

The Children's Christmas Pageant will take place December 9 at 11:00 worship.

Practice will be during the Sunday School hour on December 2 and at an as-yet-to be-determined time on Saturday, December 8.

### **Advent Animals:**

We will be selling ELCA World Hunger Appeal Good Gifts animals for people in the developing world again this Advent. Please purchase your ornament in the Narthex Sundays December 2, 9, 16 and 23. As usual, we will have honey bees, chicks, pigs, goats, sheep, and a cow available. Also, perhaps an extra surprise as well!

### **Ken Boehm Installation**

Sunday, Dec. 9 at 3:30pm Ken Boehm will be installed at Ascension Lutheran Church, 13725 Shelbyville Rd. Ken is known by many at St. John, and now celebrates completion of nearly two years of work to be the ELCA pastor at Ascension.

### **Christmas Concert Invitation**

The Women of St. John invite you to join them for a free concert by the Louisville Philharmonia at Beargrass Christian Church on Saturday, December 8 at 1:30pm. Please plan to carpool from St. John as parking at Beargrass is limited. There is a sign-up sheet so you can let the Women know you're planning to attend. Meet at church at noon on the 8<sup>th</sup> so we can leave by 12:15pm.

### **Blue Christmas**

Even if your Christmas isn't happy, it can still be holy. Blue Christmas is a worship service for those who do not feel merry at Christmas. It can be because of grief, divorce, general sadness, or a need to see the other side of jolly for a while. On Friday, December 21 at 7pm, Pr. Andy will preach for a Blue Christmas service at Ascension Lutheran Church on 13725 Shelbyville Rd. Everyone is welcome.

### **St. John friends,**

As of December 7, I will no longer be an employee of St. John. I am starting a new adventure at the Kentucky Science Center as the Visitor Experience Administrative Coordinator. This does not mean Jen and I are leaving St. John, this means we'll step back a little. We'll be here on the Sundays we "work" but otherwise we'll step back so I can let the person who replaces me have the space he or she needs to grow into the job.

St. John is in an exciting place of transition and impending growth. Pastor Andy has been here for almost 4 years and is hitting his stride as the leader. We have agreed to take part in the Connect Transformational Ministry process. We have elected a new Congregation Council and approved a budget for 2019. Committees like Evangelism and Fellowship are pushing the boundaries of our church community into the surrounding community with events like Oktoberfest and partnerships like magazines for Baptist Hospital and food prep and delivery for West End School.

My five-plus years with St. John as your Administrative Assistant have been rewarding and fulfilling. I've felt appreciated and a part of something bigger than myself. Thank you for making me feel those things. I hope the person who fills this role after me feels the same appreciation you showed me.

Thank you for what you have given me. I have been proud to call this place my work-home. I will continue to call it my church home.

~~Rebecca Dimon



### **Sunday School Schedule 2018-2019**

Dec. 2 Christmas Pageant Practice  
Dec. 8 (Saturday) Christmas Pageant Practice  
Dec. 9 Christmas Pageant at 11am worship  
Dec. 16 No Sunday School  
Dec. 23 No Sunday School  
Dec. 30 No Sunday School  
Jan. 6 **First Day of Winter Term**  
Jan. 13  
Jan. 20  
Jan. 27  
Feb. 3  
Feb. 10  
Feb. 17  
Feb. 24  
Mar. 3  
Mar. 10 Lent begins  
Mar. 17  
Mar. 24  
Mar. 31  
Apr. 7  
Apr. 14 Palm Sunday  
Apr. 20 Easter Egg Hunt  
Apr. 21 Easter Sunday No Sunday School  
Apr. 28  
May 5 After Derby  
May 12 Mother's Day  
May 19  
May 26 Last Day of Sunday School - Wrap up party :)

### **The Ornament Exchange**

6:00pm, December 14

First...seek, find and purchase the most "ostentatious" ornament you can acquire!!

Then...wrap it, bring it and prepare to Escape with your favorite ornament!!

While you negotiate, fill your soul with food, fun, and laughter!! See you there!

### **Collection Room**

The small room off the Sanctuary that used to be the Prayer Room is now the Collection Room. This room will be used for some storage but mostly for those times we collect things and don't have a good place to put them. For instance, in the summer, VBS items will be collected into this one location instead of leaving them in various places around the building.

### **Stephen Ministers**

St. John has been blessed to become a part of the Stephen Ministry Program thanks to the support and encouraging leadership of Dr. Robert and Carol Goodin. This ministry, founded in 1975, has trained more than 600,000 lay people across the United States, Canada, and 30 other countries to be available to those struggling through difficult times in life with compassion and confidentiality. More than one and a half million 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.

## 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
Norah McCollum	12/7
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
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

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

### A Note from Pr. Nancy Nyland as we begin our Connect Transformational Ministry Process

Welcome to the Transformational Ministry Journey!

Thank you for taking a leap of faith as a congregation and as individuals to participate in Connect, the IK Synod's Transformational Ministry process!

In Romans 12, Paul challenges the church with these words: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." Transformed by the renewing of your minds..... it is a powerful image and a powerful action: renewing of minds in order that you may discern God's will. This always requires prayer, and it also nudges an openness to the movement of the Spirit, a willingness to grow and risk, a commitment to the common good, a yearning to join God in God's work in the world, and an eagerness to love and serve neighbor.

Welcome to the wondrous journey of congregational transformation! And it IS a journey.... a journey of beautiful scenery, hills and valleys, twists and turns, slowing down to enjoy the roses and speeding up to get to the next experience, asking for directions, arriving at forks in the road, experiencing moments of awe and wonder, getting to know traveling companions and strangers along the way, and many asks of "Are we there, yet?"

"As you go on your way, may God go with you,  
May God go before you to show you the way.

May God go behind you to encourage you,  
Beside you to befriend you,  
Above you to watch over,  
Within you to give you peace.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit.

*(John Ylvisaker, 1983)*

*Written by: Pastor Nancy Nyland  
Director for Evangelical Mission,  
Indiana-Kentucky Synod*

St. John Lutheran Church, Holidays in United States

Dec 2018 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 8:45am - Worship 9:30am - Coffee and 10am - Choir Rehearsal 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship 12:45pm - Confirmation	26	27	28	29	30	1 10am - SOKY - YAC 10:30am - SCCC - DH 8pm - AIAnon
2 8:45am - Worship 9:30am - Coffee and 10am - Choir Rehearsal 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship	3 10am - Women's Bible 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC	4 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 6:30pm - Evangelism	5 9:45am - Bridge Group 11am - Prayer Team - Rm. 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - OA Meeting 7:30pm - Advent Worship	6 9am - Walk & Talk @ Mall 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 6:30pm - Executive 6:30pm - Quest Stars	7 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 6pm - School Rental	8 10am - SOKY - YAC 2pm - Rental - YAC 8pm - AIAnon
9 Children's Christmas 8:45am - Worship 9:30am - Coffee and 10am - Choir Rehearsal 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship 12:45pm - Confirmation	10 10am - Mom's Club - DH 11am - Care & Concern 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC	11 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 6:30pm - Book Club 6:30pm - Property	12 11am - Prayer Team - Rm. 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - OA Meeting 7:30pm - Advent Worship	13 9am - Walk & Talk @ Mall 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 6:30pm - Congregation	14 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 6pm - Ornament Exchange	15 Journal Deadline 10am - SOKY - YAC 8pm - AIAnon
16 Christmas Cantata 8:45am - Worship 9:30am - Coffee and 10am - Choir Rehearsal 11am - Worship 12:15pm - Youth Council	17 10am - Women's Bible 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC	18 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 7pm - Christian Education	19 11am - Prayer Team - Rm. 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - OA Meeting 7:30pm - Advent Worship	20 9am - Walk & Talk @ Mall 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 6pm - Worship & Music	21 12pm - School Rental - DH 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC	22 10am - SOKY - YAC 8pm - AIAnon
23 8:45am - Worship 9:30am - Coffee and 10am - Choir Rehearsal 11am - Worship	24 Christmas Eve 4pm - Christmas Eve 7:30pm - Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 11am - Prayer Team - Rm. 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 7pm - OA Meeting	27 9am - Walk & Talk @ Mall 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 7pm - SCCC - DH	28 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC	29 10am - SOKY - YAC 8pm - AIAnon
30 8:45am - Worship 9:30am - Coffee and 10am - Choir Rehearsal 11am - Worship	31 New Year's Eve 11am - Blood Drive - DH	1 New Year's Day Office Closed 6:30pm - Evangelism	2 9:45am - Bridge Group 11am - Prayer Team - Rm. 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm - Bible Study	3 9am - Walk & Talk @ Mall 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC 6:30pm - Executive 6:30pm - Quest Stars	4 5:30pm - OLOL - YAC	5 10am - SOKY - YAC

## **What Are the Youth Up To?**

### **November:**

In November, the youth collected Thanksgiving donations to assemble into baskets for St. MAM to be distributed to less fortunate families. Thanks to the work of our youth and the generous donations of our St. John members, we were able to donate 23 Thanksgiving baskets! Thank you to all who contributed!

### **December:**

On Saturday December 1, the youth will be going to Lazer Blaze along with the rest of the youth throughout our Conference for a morning of fun and bonding! Afterwards, they will join the rest of the Conference for lunch at the Fall Meeting, where they will discuss their experiences in Houston.

On Sunday December 2, the youth and members of the St. John choir will be visiting a few of our homebound members for Christmas Caroling! All are welcome to join!

### **January:**

Coming up in January, the youth will be participating in the annual YouthQuake weekend in Cincinnati, from Friday, January 11 through Sunday, January 13. The weekend will include musical performances, guest speakers and workshops, and is open to students in middle and high school. If you are interested in attending, please let Whitney know!

### **Brief Advent Services**

Wednesdays at Noon in the Sanctuary

## **Altar Flower Chart**

The 2019 Flower Chart is up and ready for you to sign up for flowers for special Sundays. Each Sunday has two slots available. You may take both slots or just one. Each slot is \$22.50 (\$45 for both). After second service on your Sunday of choice you may take your flowers.

The chart is in two places this year – the Narthex and the usual bulletin board on the way to Diehl Hall from the Sanctuary. Please include your phone number so an Altar Guild member can call you.

## **Women of St. John**

Please check the bulletin board by the Diehl Hall entrance for Holiday activities.

On Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, everyone is invited to go with us to the Mega Caverns for Lights Under Louisville. It's a huge wonderful light display. We will meet at church at 6 pm and carpool since you pay by the car. When we return to church, we will have drinks and snacks. The famous hot chocolate will be there again!

On New Year's Eve, we will be sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive in Diehl Hall from 11 am to 3 pm. Please consider coming out to donate. Blood is always at a shortage during the holidays.

### *Looking forward to January -*

The Executive committee will meet January 7th at 11:30am at Red Lobster in DuPont.

Our quarterly meeting is January 13th after second service and the yard sale group will feed us. In previous meetings we have discussed helping the Nakosi school. Sara Meierding has agreed to come talk to us about the school and what we can do to help them at this meeting.

Merry Christmas Everyone from The  
Women of St. John!

## DECEMBER 2018 WORSHIP TEAM

**12/2**

**12/9**

**12/16**

**12/23**

**12/30**

**Assisting Minister**

8:45 Rebecca D  
11:00 Terri M

Jen S  
Patti M

Mrs. Shawn H  
Mark L

Diane K  
Mr. Shawn H

Mrs. Shawn H  
Terri M

**Crucifer/Communion Asst**

11:00 Jake M

David J

Amber L

Nicholas S

Jake M

**Lector**

8:45 Rebecca D  
11:00 Patti M

Mary Lou F  
Lois D

Dinah H  
Denise P

Marlene K  
Sherley S

Mrs. Shawn H  
Connie S

**Ushers**

8:45 Lisa Y

Barry & Nancy F

Mary Lou &  
Don F

Dinah & Paul H

Larry &  
Christi E

11:00 Lisa D, Ann H  
Tom J, Dan L

Edie M, Margi H  
Terri and Jake M

Sherley S  
Ann H, Rosie W

Matt & Whitney A  
Ann H, Mark L

Edie, Dan  
Ann, Tom

**Acolytes at 11:00am**

Madelyn B

Lauren J

Holly P

Ben S

Madelyn B

**Altar Guild**

*Month of December – Altar Guild*

**Communion Prep**

8:45 *Month of December – Jane B*

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

**Christmas Eve**

4:00pm

Asst. Min. – Diane K  
Crucifer – David J  
Acolyte – Lauren J  
Lector – John N

7:30pm

Asst. Min. – Patti M  
Crucifer – Jake M  
Acolyte – Holly P  
Lector – Marco H

Ushers – check the  
bulletin on Sundays

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.**

Barbara Huber  
Vivian Lenberger  
J. Herman Mahaffey  
Lorraine Beyer  
Ott & Dot Pollei  
Nancy Robinson

# St. John Lutheran Church

901 Breckenridge Lane  
Louisville, KY 40207

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## DECEMBER 2018

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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*

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

### *Wednesday Bible Study with Communion*

5:15-6:15pm or 7:30-8:15pm

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

### Office

### Staff

Pastor Andy Rutrough

#### *Pastor*

Rebecca Dimon

#### *Administrative Assistant*

Whitney Adkins

#### *Youth Program Coordinator*

Maggie Owens

#### *Choir Director*

Dr. Denine LeBlanc

#### *Organist*

Mr. David Alcorn

#### *Custodian*