

DECEMBER 2020

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church Newsletter

Rev. Dr. John Richy, Pastor

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
18100 Wentworth Ave.
Lansing, Illinois 60438
Church Phone: 708-895-9240
Home Phone: 708 510-7334

Sunday Bible Study 8:15 a.m.
Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.
Website: stjohnlutheranlansing.org
Church e-mail: stjohnslansing@comcast.net
Fax: 708-895-9303

Dear Saints at St. John's:

Welcome Advent and Christmastide! Second only to the Resurrection of Jesus is His Birth during Christmastime. We, as Christians, reflect on God's gift to us, His only Son incarnate. Advent presents the message of hope come into our fallen world.



Image: clipartpanda.com

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth from me one who is to rule Israel, whose origin is from of old, from Ancient Days." Micah 5:2

We take time at this busy and stressful season to reflect on the meaning of Christ's birth. We need to pray strongly at this time, especially for the world to be at peace. Jesus was born during the "Pax Romana" – a Roman Peace which allowed things like safe travel as Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem. I suggest we pray for a "Pax Americana," a peace to calm the problems of a global world whirling through a chaos of violence and injustice.

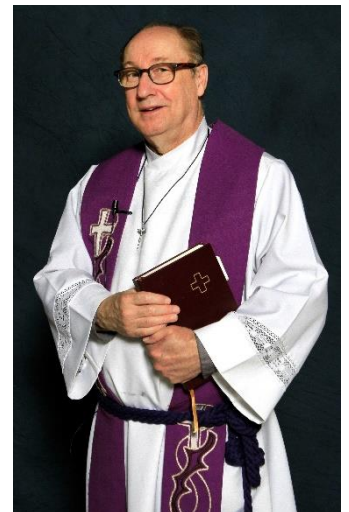
God brings peace through Jesus:

"Listen to me my people and give heed to me, my nation: for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples." Isaiah 51:4

Jesus brings peace through forgiveness and grace. Let us rejoice this season that we are forgiven and redeemed by grace through faith in the Christ Child.

May you all have a very peaceful, healthy, Christmas holy day and an especially blessed New Year.

**In Jesus' Name,
*Pastor John Richy***



CHURCH SPECIAL HOLIDAY SERVICE

This year, Wednesday Advent Services have been cancelled.

- **Advent “themed” services will be our Sunday 9:30 a.m. services: November 29, December 2, 9, 16**
 - **Nov. 29: Ponder** (Psalm 48:9): We consider ways in which we can ponder the meaning of the birth of our Savior through the reading of Scripture and through reflection. Mary serves as a model for us in this pondering in the Annunciation.
 - **Dec. 2: Pray** (Psalm 69:13): We think about ways in which we can take more time during this season to communicate to our God through prayer as we wait for Christ. Zechariah, who went to the temple to pray, serves as an example for us of how hard that waiting in prayer can be.
 - **Dec. 9: Praise** (Psalm 30:4): We celebrate the upcoming arrival of our Savior through songs and shouts of praise as we prepare for him. Elizabeth, in her greeting of Mary, provides a benchmark for rejoicing with others over the good news of salvation in Jesus, even as we wait.
 - **Dec, 16: Proclaim** (Psalm 145:6): We contemplate how we can prepare ourselves and others for the arrival of Jesus through our proclaiming. John the Baptist stands as the forerunner of all future proclaimers of Christ and gives us the courage to use our own voices to proclaim our devotion to the One who is born to save.



- **Dec. 24 Christmas Eve (Thursday)**
3:00 p.m. Candlelight with Holy Communion
11:00 p.m. Candlelight with Holy Communion
- **Dec. 25 Christmas Day (Friday)**
9:30 a.m. with Holy Communion

Images: Clipartpanda..com

Lutheran Ministries Media, In

5 Martin Luther Drive

Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4996



December 6, 2020 – Second Sunday in Advent

Psalm 85:1-7; 2 Peter 3:3, 5, 7-13; Mark 1:1-8

“Judgment Day Truths” - Sermon Text: 2 Peter 3:3, 5, 7-13 - Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

On Judgment Day God will destroy the universe with fire. That truth reveals other truths about God. All these truths give us believers great encouragement. We joyfully live for the Lord now and look forward to the Last Day.

December 13, 2020 – Third Sunday in Advent

Psalm 126; Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28

“Giving Up for Advent” - Sermon Text: John 1:23 - Rev. Thomas Eggold

Jesus came to be the Way for those who were lost; and Jesus came to be the Truth for those who were confused; and Jesus came to be the Life for those who were dead. Jesus Christ came to save us sinners, to create new hearts, to cleanse consciences, and to change our lives. That is what God’s Son does with repentant heart...and that is why Advent message matters!

December 20, 2020 – Fourth Sunday in Advent *The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day Observed

Psalm 98; Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

“The Usual Christmas?” - Sermon Text: Luke 2:11 - Rev. Shayne Jonker

If we look into the manger and gush over the image of a sweet and pure child, but see no cross, we miss the whole point. If we forget that this precious child came to shed His precious blood for sin, then why are we even celebrating him anyway? For this is the perfect and spotless Lamb of God, appointed for sacrifice, to take away the sins of the world. This doesn't happen every day, but it did happen on Christmas and Good Friday.

December 27, 2020 – First Sunday after Christmas

Psalm 111; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40 “We Are Family” - Sermon Text: Galatians 4:4-7 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

The birth of a child is a special event for the entire family. The birth of our Savior was a special event that changed each person’s future. As a child and an heir, we have an eternal inheritance.

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.

5 Martin Luther Drive † Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4996
Tel: (260) 471-LOVE (5683) † Toll-Free: (888) 286-8002

info@WorshipAnew.org

BROADCAST

**Sunday 8:00 am- Comcast 184 OR WPWR
channel 50
Direct TV Sunday 10:30 am
TCT channel 377**

CHURCH ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

Monthly Averages:	2014 Sundays	2015 Sundays	2016 Sundays	2017 Sundays	2018 Sundays	2019 Sundays	2020 Sundays
January	73	93	92	94	95	73	62
February	100	88	94	87	65	101	74
March	113	88	132	93	95	83	64*
April	144	90	95	105	102	114	**
May	90	92	99	105	86	71	**
June	77	73	70	83	66	71	45***
July	83	75	73	68	67	64	37***
August	70	60	95	89	76	60	43
September	109	82	88	85	68	75	41
October	92	102	92	92	85	72	44
November	98	84	88	95	84	86	
December	92	95	91	109	83	78	
Yearly Average	95	85	92	92	81	79	

- * Only 2 Sundays in month (cancelled due to Coronavirus 19)
- ** No public services - cancelled due to virus
- *** Estimated numbers

RECENT FIGURES	WORSHIPPING	COMMUNION
October 4	46	43
October 11	45	-----
October 18	48	40
October 25 (Reformation Day - Observed)	35	33
November 1 (All Saints Day)	53	47
November 8	41	-----
November 15	34	34
November 22		
November 25 (Thanksgiving Eve)		
November 26 (Thanksgiving Day)		

WHO FIRST DECORATED THE CHRISTMAS TREE?

Legend has it that Martin Luther began the tradition of decorating trees to celebrate Christmas. One crisp Christmas Eve, about the year 1500, he was walking through snow-covered woods and was struck by the beauty of a group of small evergreens. Their branches, dusted with snow, shimmered in the moonlight. When he got home, he set up a little fir tree indoors so he could share this story with his children. He decorated it with candles, which he lighted in honor of Christ's birth.

C



LAN SING ILLINOIS

FOX POINTE

2020 Lansing Holiday Tree Display

- Registration Fee of \$50
- Trees must be purchased by November 30th by visiting the Lansing Municipal Center
- Sponsors can decorate trees between November 27th-December 4th
- Holiday trees will be on display at Fox Pointe for public viewing during select times in December
- Visit www.foxpointe.org for more details

Questions? Call (708)895-7204 or email to ttroncozo@villageoflansing.org



Please contact Eileen Gronewold @ 708 370-0947 if interested.

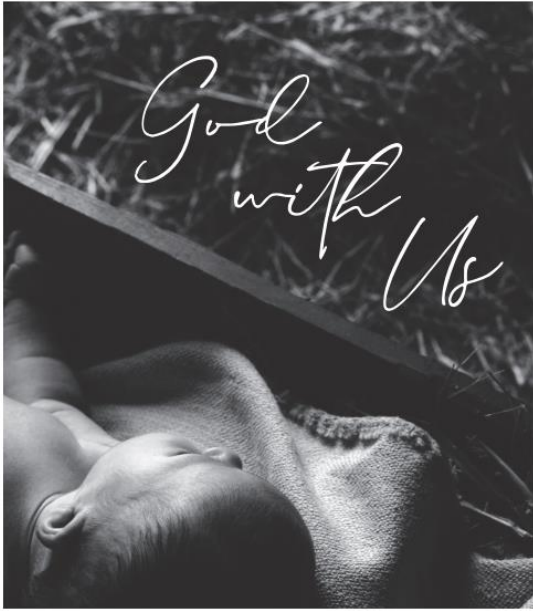
ST. JOHNS WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

ST. JOHN'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS (December -February, 2020-21)

DATE	ELDERS	LECTOR	USHERS	NAME OF SUNDAY/COLOR
December 6	Duane S.	Jack C.	Ray N.	2nd Sunday in Advent/Purple
December 13	Mike W.	Al E.	Ron O.	3rd Sunday in Advent/Purple
December 20	Al E.	Mary W.	Duane S.	4th Sunday in Advent/Purple
December 24	Rich G.	Sue O.	Paul B.	Christmas Eve 3:00 pm/White
December 24	Ray N.	Rick Z.	Ray N.	Christmas Eve 11:00 pm/White
December 25	Duane S.	Lori C.	Ron O.	Christmas Day 9:30 am/White
December 27	Mike W.	Jack C.	Duane S.	1st Sunday after Christmas/White
January 3	Al E.	Al E.	Paul B.	2nd Sunday after Christmas/White
January 10	Rich G.	Mary W.	Ray N.	The Baptism of our Lord/White
January 17	Ray N.	Sue O.	Ron O.	2nd Sunday after Epiphany/Green
January 24	Duane S.	Rich Z.	Duane S.	3rd Sunday after Epiphany/Green
January 31	Mike W.	Lori C.	Paul B.	4th Sunday after Epiphany/Green
February 7	Al E.	Jack C.	Ray N.	5th Sunday after Epiphany/Green
February 14	Rich G.	Al E.	Ron O.	Transfiguration of our Lord/White
February 17	Ray N.	Mary W.	Duane S.	Ash Wednesday/Blue
February 21	Duane S.	Sue O.	Paul B.	1st Sunday in Lent/Blue
February 24	Mike W.	Rick Z.	Ray N.	Wednesday Lent 1/Blue
February 28	Al E.	Lori C.	Ron O.	2nd Sunday in Lent/Blue

SEE OUR SERVICES ON YOU TUBE

Every Sunday service is on You Tube. Just go to You Tube and search "St. John's Church Lansing, IL" and look for the latest as well as past services. TELL YOUR FRIENDS WHO ARE NOT COMING TO CHURCH DUE TO THE VIRUS,



ADVENT DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

God with Us

What better news is there than to know that God is always by our side! In *God with Us*, we learn again what God the Father has done—He has kept His promise. In so doing, He has announced that grace and forgiveness are available to all, freely given in the birth of Jesus: God’s Son, our Savior. He is Immanuel, “God with us.”



St. John's Lutheran Church
18100 Wentworth Ave.
Lansing, IL 60438,
708 895-9240
stjohnslansing@comcast.net

The story of God coming to earth as a human child is a profound one. In *God with Us*, we find no aloof divinity who is unconcerned and remote

somewhere in the cosmos. Rather, He is deeply involved in all our affairs—our joys as well as our heartaches. He *knows* us for He became one of us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Lord of the universe, Savior of the world, Shepherd of our lives.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home. Seasonal Devotions for Advent and Lent are also available in both English and Spanish. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.

If you wish to have a printed copy, let Doug know and he'll run off a copy for you. Otherwise go to <https://www.lhm.org/advent/> for more information.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Here are our current shut-in addresses if you would like to brighten up their day...they would love to be remembered all year.

Andy Banas Jr.
3640 186th Street #302
Lansing, IL 60438

Shirley Campbell
(no address provided - anyone know?)

Irma Deichen
Cedar Creek Health Campus #508
18375 Burr Street
Lowell, IN 46356

Harvey Jensen
81 Sigwan Dr.
Fairfield, CT 06824

Sandra Luecke
17725 Arcadia Ave., #203
Lansing, IL 60438

Shirley Odegaard
17041 Grant St.
Lansing, IL 60438

Linda Poppe
Hearth Stone Assisted Living
1175 E. Luther Dr. Room 14
Crown Point, IN 46307

Pastor Richy and the following elders are available and can be contacted via e-mail if you have questions or wish to talk to someone:

Pastor Richy stjohnslansingchurch@comcast.net 708 510-7334 (personal)

Al Erke AErke@aol.com

Hal Gronewold halmargron@aol.com

Mike Winters mikew3709@sbcglobal.net

OR simply call the office @ 708 895-9240 (Tues.- Fri. 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.)

Prayer for our shut-ins:

Being unable to go out among our friends and church family is difficult, Lord. Remind us that we are still members of Your Body, the Church, and send visitors to share encouragement, hope and most especially, Holy Scripture. Let us likewise give encouragement and love as we are able. Grant us patience during this season of life, and surround us with Your presence, for the sake of Christ. Amen.

OFFICIAL ACTS IN 2020

RELEASED: John Nicholson (January 17, 2020)

SELF-EXCLUSION: Darryl Warburton (October 16, 2020)

FUNERAL: David Costello (February 1, 2020); Arnold Vierk (May 9, 2020); Thomas Cornwell (July 8, 2020); Lois Cornwell (September 15, 2020); Tom Vierk (October 9, 2020); Kevin Hesterman (October 17, 2020)

JUNIOR CONFIRMATION: Morgan Elizabeth Kleidon; Theresa Naomi Labahn; Michelle Margaret Mary Planer (August 2, 2020)

CONFIRMATION 2020-2021

Confirmation classes will be held Wednesday, Dec. 2, Dec. 9, and Dec. 16 on ZOOM. We have 5 second year students: Haley Dovich, Aiden Kleidon, Alan Kuzmar, Brideen Nimon, and Richie Nimon. Confirmation will be Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, at the 9:30 am service.

LOVING HANDS CIRCLE

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR: Here is a schedule for our requested Food Pantry items as well as counting down the days to Christmas. Please drop off these items when you can. Thank you.

December 1 - box of cereal	December 13 - canned beans
December 2 - peanut butter	December 14 - box of crackers
December 3 - stuffing mix	December 15 - package of rice
December 4 - baked potatoes	December 16 - package of oatmeal
December 5 - macaroni and cheese	December 17 - package of pasta
December 6 - canned fruit	December 18 - spaghetti sauce
December 7 - canned tomatoes	December 19 - chicken noodle soup
December 8 - canned tuna	December 20 - tomato soup
December 9 - dessert mix	December 21 - can of corn
December 10 - jar of applesauce	December 22 - can mixed vegetables
December 11 - canned sweet potatoes	December 23 - can of carrots
December 12 - cranberry sauce	December 24 - can of green beans

GIFTS GIVES TO THE GLORY OF GOD

(October 29 - November 27)

MEMORIALS: GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN REMEMBRANCE OF:
Garnett Banas' birthday (Nov. 8) by Andy Banas Jr.



Image: clipartpanda.com

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



BIRTHDAYS

Rick Zimmerman, 12-01
Joe Scanlon, 12-02
David Niven, 12-05
Irma Deichen, 12-06
Lori Costenaro, 12-11
Kris Davy, 12-11
Kyler Mayerak, 12-13
Kari Nimon, 12-15
Suzanne Ruebe, 12-15
Ronald Eicke, 12-16
Deborah Boyd, 12-17
Paul Steinweg, 12-18

Len Lute, 12-20
Ellen Lavin, 12-20
Cheryl Gericke, 12-21
Jami Kooi, 12-23
Christopher Marino, 12-23
Tom Vierk, 12-23
John Dovich, 12-23
Darryl Von Behren, 12-24
Caitlin Winters, 12-26
Frederick Nimon, 12-26
Margaret Von Behren, 12-27
JoEllen Reich, 12-29
Toya Jackson, 12-30

DATES FOR DECEMBER 2020

Dates for worship.....COLOR OF BACKGROUND INDICATES COLOR OF
PARAMENTS AND CHURCH SEASON

Dec. 2	Confirmation via Zoom 5:30 pm
Dec. 5	Men's Bible Class 7:30 am
Dec. 6	Adult Bible Class 8:15 am / Advent Worship w/Communion 9:30 am / Sunday School
Dec. 9	Confirmation via Zoon 5:30 pm
Dec. 13	Adult Bible Class 8:15 am / Advent Worship 9:30 am /Sunday School
Dec. 16	Confirmation via Zoom @ 5:30 pm
Dec. 19	Men's Bible Class @ 7:30 am
Dec. 20	Adult Bible Class 8:15 am / Advent Worship w/Communion / Sunday School
Dec. 21	Winter begins (shortest day of the year)
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Services 3:00 and 11:00 pm, both with Communion
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion 9:30 am

HELP BEAUTIFY OUR CHURCH WITH POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

I wish to glorify God's Altar & Chancel with a poinsettia plant.

Y/N I will pick up a plant(s) _____ quantity

_____ Total quantity - \$20.00 per plant

_____ Total Amount Enclosed



You may order by:

Placing this order form and money in an envelope to the attention of "Altar Guild" and placing it in the offering plate. If payment is made by check, please make your check payable to St. John's Altar Guild. Deadline to order will be Sunday, December 13, 2020.

Note:

All plants will be delivered to the church. You are to pick up your poinsettia plant(s) after the Christmas Day worship service. Any poinsettias not picked up will be left on the Altar until Epiphany. Please contact Eileen Gronewold (708 895-3387), if you have any questions.

Name _____

Phone _____



CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2020



In our Savior's birth, God has given us the greatest gift of all, "Life Eternal." It is a gift that we cannot buy for ourselves and cannot give to someone else. It can only come from God and is given to us by our Savior. This Christmas Season, let us thank the Lord for his extraordinary gift to us with a special Christmas Gift to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ here at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church.

**Your gift is not about what we need -
it is about what God has given you this year!**

As we come to the end of another successful year, we want to thank those who have contributed to our success and ask if you will help us once again. The holiday season is the perfect time to show those around you how much you care. For those who are hard to buy for, consider making a donation in their honor or in memory of someone special as a gift this season. In return, your donation will be recognized in a future St. John's Newsletter and Bulletin. Making a donation is simple, fill out the enclosed form and mail it to the church or drop the donation in the offering plate. Thank you and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, 'God with us.'"

(Matthew 1:21-23)

My Special Christmas Gift to My Lord (PLEASE DETACH)

Knowing and understanding the great love God showered us by sending His one and only Son into our world to be our Savior, I (we) would like to make a special Christmas contribution to the mission and ministry of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in the amount of:

\$500.00 ___ \$200.00 ___ \$100.00 ___ \$50.00 ___ Other \$ ___

Name _____

Envelope Number _____