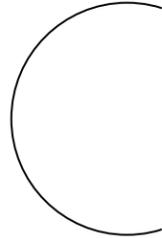


# St. John's Lutheran Church

3104 Main Street  
Green Lane, PA 18054

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY  
DATED MATERIAL  
Mailed: November 12, 2020

Non-Profit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Boyertown, PA  
Permit No. 11

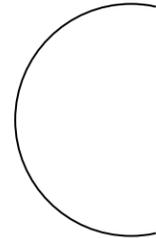


*Ignited by Spirit  
Growing in Love*

# St. John's Lutheran Church Sumneytown

www.stjsumneytown.org 215-234-4888 stj.stown@verizon.net Advent Issue 2020 Volume 26 Issue 4

Label Here



## *In Person Worship*

### *Join us Sundays*

### *at 9:30 AM*

## *Reservations required*

*by noon on Thursday each week  
215-234-4888 or stj.stown@verizon.net*



As I sit to write this reflection, it is the morning after the election. Election results are still pending in key locations and resolution seems a few days off. We are waiting, many of us very expectantly, for what the final results will be. Waiting. Watching.

Very appropriate given that these are watch words for us in the season of Advent that we as people of faith will enter into on November 29. In light of the current realities in which we are living – a seemingly endless pandemic, continued tensions in our communities and families around the election, rising tensions around issues of equality and justice for many of our brothers and sisters – I've heard that some churches are marking an elongated Advent season by starting in early-to-mid November.

But the season of Advent is typically four weeks leading up to Christmas Eve – it is usually a time of traditional activities that dot our journey to Bethlehem. At St. John's, that would include things like Christmas caroling, the Christmas Bazaar and Cookie Walk, a craft event with our youth group, the Valley Arts Christmas Carol Sing with the Suite Brass...all things that we will have to pass on this year due to the pandemic.

And while we are all getting quite used to modifying how we celebrate milestones and holidays in a pandemic, there are some things that do not change, even as so much else changes. Christ will still be born – even if we don't sing a single Christmas carol inside the sanctuary. Christ will still be born – even if our beloved traditions are set aside this year. Christ will still be born – even if we find ourselves filled with anxiety and fear for ourselves, our community and our nation and world. Christ will still be born.

That is the promise of this season of Advent – that Christ is coming, that Christ is indeed already here, around us, all the time. So perhaps as we wait and watch, we might also keep our eyes open to see him in new and different ways this Advent. Perhaps we will use the Advent in a Bag resources that you'll read about later in this newsletter to mark these four weeks of Advent. Perhaps we will engage in the Reverse Advent: A Spiritual Discipline of Reaching Out activity that you'll find in the Advent in a Bag and support and love our neighbors in tangible ways in this holiday season. And perhaps, while very different, this Advent season might bring us closer to the promises of God, might help us live more fully into the hope that the Christ child's birth brings – and maybe, just maybe – we will arrive on Christmas Eve with hearts and minds and spirits ready to open ourselves up to Christ's coming again in truly new and different ways.

Even as we watch and wait for resolution to this year's difficult election process, even as we prepare to walk into Advent with somewhat heavy hearts, let us do this work with hope – with faith – standing firm in the promises of Emmanuel, God With Us.

Advent blessings be with you,

*Pastor Becky*

## ADVENT WORSHIP NOTES

The liturgical season of Advent is the four weeks leading up to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Our worship on the four Sundays leading up to December 24 will speak to the growing anticipation of the coming Messiah.

### Advent Worship

Advent worship will be held each Sunday at 9:30 AM. As we continue to live into the pandemic, we do ask that you call or email the church office before 11 AM on Thursday mornings to secure reservations for worship each week. We would hate to have to turn people away if we reached maximum capacity for our space.

**November 29** – The First Sunday of Advent – worship at 9:30 AM

**December 6** – The Second Sunday of Advent – worship at 9:30 AM

*This Sunday includes our Annual Congregational meeting business interspersed throughout our worship. All are welcome to attend but only confirmed congregational members are permitted to vote. Those attending worship online on Zoom will be able to participate in the annual meeting and vote as well.*

**December 13** – The Third Sunday of Advent – worship at 9:30 AM

**December 20** – The Fourth Sunday of Advent – worship at 9:30 AM

*This Sunday's worship will include a special focus for children, in lieu of our yearly Christmas pageant which would have been enjoyed in worship this Sunday. Families with young children are encouraged to be present, in person or online.*

### Advent To Go Bags

As we continue to live into this pandemic and mourn the loss of being together like we're used to in the season of Advent, we have Advent to Go Bags prepared for you to pick up and take home. Resources in the bag allow families and individuals to mark the four weeks leading up to Christmas in specific ways. Bags for families with children and bags for folks without kids at home will be prepared and ready for pick up in time for the start of Advent on November 29.



**Bags can be picked up at worship on Sunday, November 22 or at a special drive-thru pick up at the back entrance on Saturday, November 28 between 9:30 and 11 AM.**

### Advent Angel Tree



This year, St. John's will once again join in spreading holiday cheer and sharing the joy of this season with others. The Angel Tree will be available in the narthex and will host ornaments with gifts suggestions, as we have done in the past. Gifts this year will be for Pennsburg Manor and for a local Adopt-A-Family. Tags will be available on the tree as well as thru the link below on Sign Up Genius for those who do not feel comfortable coming to church.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-angel>

All gifts must be returned to St. John's by Sunday, December 13 with the gift tag from the tree securely attached. If you signed up for your gift on Sign Up Genius, please label each gift with the item inside ON A REMOVEABLE POST-IT NOTE – gift tags will be added at church before delivery.

## Remember our Home bound members this Christmas

### Myrt Beideman

(9/26)  
12 Lutheran Drive PC 126  
Telford, PA

### Doris Blair

(8/2)  
815 Maplewood Drive, Apt. 352  
Harleysville, PA 19438

### Sonny & Darlene Carlson

(7/12 & 12/4)  
329 Ashford Lane  
PO Box 603  
Hereford, PA 18056

### Marie Fretz

(1/14)  
4436 Upper Ridge Road  
Pennsburg, PA 18073

### Elmer & Phyllis Holsinger

(12/11 & 8/11)  
142 Oak Wood Court  
Lansdale, PA 19446

### Bob Moran

(6/19)  
50 Oak Street  
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

### Erik Ockenlaender

(12/24)  
2830 Burton Road  
Harleysville, PA 19438

### Arlene Rivers

(9/9)  
207 West Summit Street  
Parkview, Room 3505  
Souderton, PA 18964

### Jean Leister

(2/20)  
436 Main Street, 1st Floor  
Green Lane, PA 18054

### Nancy Terpoilli

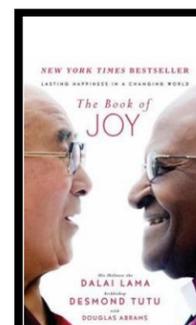
(6/7)  
1050 Main Street, B58  
Hellertown, PA 18055

### Carl & Doris Slonaker

(11/22 & 9/14)  
616 Main Street, 1st Floor  
Red Hill, PA 18076



## JOIN THE BOOK CLUB THIS MONTH!



*The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* is a book by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

In this nonfiction, the authors discuss the challenges of living a joyful life.

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84889463943?pwd=RkRoOEh4RGhpcXE5K0dvSGhWMFIRDz09>



### *Congratulations to our Confirmands*

Lindsay Renee Detwiler

Jacob Patrick Ernst

Aidan James Frederick

Braden Matthew Pierce



*Our Christian sympathies are extended to the following families:*

**Larry Shipe**, who died July 7, 2020.

**Irene Taglieber**, who died August 20, 2020.

**Melanie Vermillion**, who died September 3, 2020

**Alice Gregor**, who died September 12, 2020.

**Joanne Little**, who died September 17, 2020.



## Holy Baptisms

**Leena Madalin-Rose Cuevas**, daughter of Jacob Cuevas and Sommer Buno, was baptized on August 22, 2020.

**Avery Jessica & Emily Virginia Leska**, twin daughters of Andrew and Tara (Weber) Leska, were baptized on September, 19, 2020.

**Jaxon Theodore Papay**, son of Aaron Papay and Alexa Mack, was baptized on September 20, 2020.

**Emelyn Marie Reber**, daughter of Andrew and Tiffany (Detwiler) Reber, was baptized on October 17, 2020.

**Emily Grace Quinque**, daughter of Geoffrey and Amanda (Gordon) Quinque, was baptized on November 7, 2020.

**Noah Matthew Renner**, son of Matthew & Katelyn (Burns) Renner, was baptized on November 8, 2020.

**Lacey Evelyn Gerth**, daughter of Andrew and Rebecca (Kelly) Gerth, was baptized on November 15th, 2020.

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP NOTES



### **Christmas Eve – December 24**

The Christmas Eve worship schedule attempts to provide an opportunity for everyone to worship in a way that feels comfortable and safe as we continue to live within this pandemic. Please know that all worship plans are subject to any changes necessitated by rising numbers in Montgomery County and any local or state changes to our current ability to gather for in-person worship.

### **3 PM Christmas Eve Worship – in-person in the sanctuary and on Zoom**

This Christmas Eve service will be a service of scripture and song (provided by instruments or soloists). Communion will be celebrated. The service will also be recorded and posted to St. John's website as soon as possible for folks to watch that evening.

### **6:30 PM Christmas Eve Live Nativity Drive-Thru**

A Live Nativity will be set up in front of the church for folks to drive thru. We ask that you not park and get out of your vehicles. This nativity precedes our outdoor worship service, so we invite folks to drive around the back of the church to the main side lot and find a parking spot for outdoor worship.

### **7:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship – outdoor drive-in style**

This Christmas Eve service will be one for the books! The service will include communion, candlelight, singing and Christmas spirit as we gather for worship outdoors. Watch the website and weekly emails for more details.

### **The First Sunday of Christmas – December 27**

Worship for this Sunday will be a pre-recorded service of Lessons and Carols featuring our young adults. The service will be available on St. John's website on Saturday, December 26 for viewing on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **The Second Sunday of Christmas – January 3**

Worship for this Sunday will be a pre-recorded service focusing in on our 2020 star words. Join us as we reflect on God's presence and promise in 2020 and look forward to a new year of faithfulness and hope in 2021.

#### **Star Word Reflections Needed**



Did you pick out a star word in January 2020? Have you been paying attention to how God has been at work in, through and around that word? Do you have some reflections that you'd be willing to share with the congregation on your star word?

Our worship for January 3 will include reflections from the congregation around your 2020 star word. If you would be willing to record a short reflection about your star word, please let Pastor Becky know. All star word reflections will need to be submitted by Sunday, December 20. If you're interested in participating, please email Pastor Becky at [pastorbecky74@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbecky74@gmail.com).

### **Epiphany Sunday – January 10 – worship at 9:30 AM in-person and online**

The wise men, as they are referred to in the gospel (Matthew 2:1-12) are never numbered, but because they brought gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense, we have assumed there were three.

#### **King Pictures Needed**

In preparation for our **Epiphany** celebration, we invite you to send in pictures of your kings – your family, your children/grandchildren, pets, etc. dressed as kings. All pictures should be emailed to the church office ([stj.stown@verizon.net](mailto:stj.stown@verizon.net)) by Sunday, January 3 – please include names of those pictured.



### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please save the date – Sunday, December 6 – and join us for our annual congregation meeting worship service at 9:30 AM. All confirmed members of the congregation have voice and vote! The meeting business will be interspersed with worship, which will be held both in-person and live-streamed on Zoom. All online worshippers will be able to participate in the meeting with the ability to both ask questions and vote when needed.

In preparation for the meeting, the 2021 proposed budget will be available in the back of the church and on the church website. Two Financial Forums will be offered for members to join our treasurer, Mike Herm, for conversation about the proposed budget. Those two conversation times are listed below:

Monday, November 16 at 7 PM (virtual meeting on Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86804824819?pwd=Zkt5NURtaDNrb3Rza0JCOUpOM0Q4QT09>

Sunday, November 22 following the 9:30 AM worship service – the meeting will take place in the sanctuary. Folks interested in staying should simply stay in their pews when worship ends.



### NEWS FROM THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Friedens Union Cemetery Assoc. held its annual board meeting on July 14. At that meeting, it was decided to increase the cost for cemetery lots. This will be the first increase in price since 2006, 15 years. Since 2006, we have incurred multiple increases in operating expenses that make this decision necessary. This increase continues our goal of providing affordable cemetery pricing for all members while remaining competitive versus other cemeteries in the area for non members. We are asking both churches to place this information in their newsletters for September, October, November, and December. This price increase will be effective January 1, 2021, giving members a chance to purchase cemetery lots prior to the increase.

The **current price** for members is \$500 per full lot and \$250 per cremation lot. Non-members \$1000 per full lot and \$500 per cremation lot

The prices **after January 1, 2021** will be \$750 per full lot for members and \$1500 for non-members. The cremation lot will be \$350 for members and \$650 for non-members.

If anyone is interested in purchasing or if you have any questions, please contact Evey Koffel at 215-541-0674. Or email her at [eveyk56@gmail.com](mailto:eveyk56@gmail.com). You may also contact Hank Clare at 610-639-6575 or email at [hank.clare@gmail.com](mailto:hank.clare@gmail.com).

### COMMUNITY MEAL



On Monday, January 4, St. John's will host the First Monday Meal of 2021 at Pennsburg UCC. This meal will be drive through, like it was back in August. As we continue to live into this pandemic, our community is relying even more on these meals. Volunteers will be needed in two shifts – the first shift, from 3:00-5:00 PM, will do food prep in the kitchen at Pennsburg UCC with the second shift serving those who show up from 5:00-6:30 PM. All volunteers will be masked and gloved.

Donations of certain items for the meal will be available on Sign Up Genius and general monetary donations can also be shared to offset the cost of items that will be purchased for the meal.

To sign up for a volunteer time slot, please visit the Sign Up Genius page below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-community2>

To sign up to donate food items needed for the meal, please visit the Sign Up Genius page below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-community1>

Any monetary donations to offset additional costs of the meal can be sent payable to St. John's Lutheran Church. Please put COMMUNITY MEAL in the memo line of your check.

If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Ernst (215-960-8340).



Church Members ~Thank you all for the delicious lunch your provided and especially for thinking of us. In these days of hardship for all, it is heartwarming to know someone cares. Loved your card! *Catherine Richter*

Dear St. John's congregation, Thank you for the delicious bagged dinner. I really didn't expect this. I was moved here in March. So happy I did. Thank you for putting me in your prayers! *Linda Barndt*

Thank you St. John's Church for your hoagie bag lunch, that was the best Hoagie lunch ever. Special Comments: The hoagie detail was the best- a bag for each part. Cookies topped it off and water was a great idea. Thanks again, *Bob and Jan Stahley*

A sincere thank you to my family and friends for the lovely birthday cards you sent me. Sincerely, *Loretta Diehl*

To the members of St. John's Church, What a thoughtful, kind gift that was! Those hoagies were delicious. One of the best I ever had. I loved the soft roll. The entire meal was wonderful! If only we had more people in the world like you, what a Great World this would be. May God bless you all! Thank you, *A resident at Upper Perkiomen Manor*

My good friend, Sara Shellaway, past away a few months ago during this pandemic. I was not able to go the memorial service for her. I wanted her relatives to know she will be remembered as a kind caring good friend. I wish I could have spent more time with her the last couple of years. I will miss her. God Bless, *Barbara L. Mader* (former Lioness member with Sara)