



St. John's Weekly Email

December 21, 2020



Advent is one of the shortest seasons of the church year but it is rich with meaning and symbolism. The color is blue and symbolizes our waiting and watching - and the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. Join us in worship and watch as we light a new candle each week, as the light grows brighter and brighter, while we wait and prepare for the coming of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, to be born.

If you have any information to include in the weekly email, please submit it to the church office by 7 PM on Sunday evening.

WORSHIP UPDATE

The church council has voted to continue worshipping online. The council will re-evaluate this decision at the January council meeting on the 11th.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Thursday, December 24

3 PM Online Worship

[Click here](#) to connect on Zoom for this Christmas Eve worship service

6:30 PM Live Nativity

Drive-thru, no-contact live nativity with live animals

7:30 PM Outdoor Worship

Stay in the safety of your car, tune in to the service on your car radio, sing, worship, share communion and celebrate Christ's birth

Watch for a separate email blast with volunteer needs for Christmas Eve worship and nativity!



Join us Sunday, December 27

**for a service of
Lessons and Carols**

[click here](#) on the 27th to worship



Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers:

Alex Kunkel, Bob Moran, Betsy Rodger, Robin Seasock, Paige Seasock, Peyton Seasock, Nancy Terpoilli, Brian Allebach, Glen Van Dyke, Charles Krupp, Donna DiDio, RuthAnn Jadick, Jean Leister, Kenny Nace, Tom Ciesielka, Abigail and Eric Hails, Sonny Carson, Frank Puskoskie, Patricia Wheeler, Ann Brown Hager, Alyssa Gegan, Steve Sanko, David Mounts, Cathy Sweeney, Ann Lewis, Carolyn Iris and Melissa Snyder.

CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARIES

*Pandemic cannot stop us shining the light of Christ
into our community on Christmas Eve!*

YPO will gather on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24 at 12 noon to set up luminaries, complete with battery-operated candles.

Clean up of luminaries will take place on Sunday, December 27 at 12 noon.

*Anyone is welcome to join the YPO
in setting out and cleaning up the luminaries.*

Bring your mask and help us shine the light!



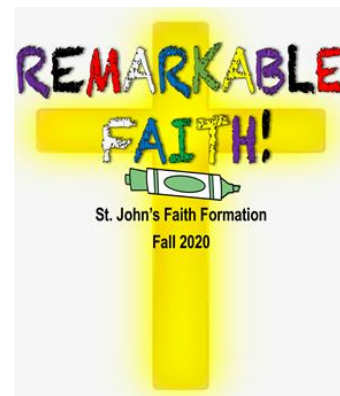
Thank you for your generosity! 22 gifts for Adopt A Family and 40 gifts for Pennsburg Manor were received yesterday from our Angel Tree! Gifts will be delivered this week to their recipients! Thank you for helping to share the Christmas spirit



Remarkable Faith Encounters

A new Remarkable Faith Encounters video has been added to the website that tells the Christmas story using works of art. Check it out and share with family and friends!

[Check it out here!](#)



St. John's Christmas Virtual Art Gallery

Submit pictures of your works of art inspired by the Christmas story by [clicking here.](#)

Pageants Past Project

Mrs. Hovanec is working on a project and she needs your help. If you have pictures of previous year's Christmas pageants – no matter how far back they go – please share those pictures with Julie by December 24th. She will put them together into a presentation that will not only bring joy to all of us who missed the pageant this year, but will also provide a wonderful trip down memory lane. And it might just hold us over till next year.



Have pictures to share? [Click here](#) to send them to Julie by December 24th.

Worship Assistants Needed

As we prepare for a return to in-person worship that is also live-streamed through Zoom, we are creating two new teams to support our worship. The two groups are defined below. If you feel that you could offer your gifts and skills to either team, please contact Vikki Shelor in the church office (stj.stown@verizon.net or 215-234-4888).

- **Zoom Hosts** – the Zoom host is the person who oversees the Sunday morning worship Zoom. This person will admit folks into worship from the waiting room, make sure that participants are muted prior to the start of worship, record the online Zoom service and then advancing the Powerpoint that is used to guide our online worshipers through the service.
- **AV Team** – the responsibilities for our audio team have grown with the addition of live-streaming worship. Once our new live-stream system is fully installed, we will be training people to run both the audio and visual aspects of our in-person and online Sunday worship.

Training will be offered for both teams and a willingness to be in-person for Sunday worship is necessary.



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)

Food Collection

Saturday-9-11 AM to the back entrance- Jan 2nd



Top Food Pantry Needs

- Canned Tomato Products
- Canned Soups and Stews
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Chili
- Canned Beans (Dark Beans, Light Beans, Pork & Beans)
- Canned Vegetables (Green Beans and Canned Potatoes)
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Meats
- Cereal
- Rice
- Pasta/Rice Sides
- Canned Tuna
- Pancake Mix
- Soups

Top Personal Items Needed

- **Feminine Hygiene Products**
- **Hand Soap**
- **Dish Soap**
- Tooth Paste
- Body Wash
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Paper Towels
- Cleaning Supplies
- Hand Sanitizer

If you don't feel comfortable going to the grocery store, monetary donations are always welcomed and then we can do the shopping for you! Please donations for Open Link Thanksgiving Collection in an envelope - make checks payable to Open Link.



Financial Update



First, thank you to everyone who has continued to maintain or even increase their giving during the pandemic. Reopening for Sunday morning services has given those that feel comfortable the opportunity to attend worship in person.

Our recent hoagie meal outreach provided us with the opportunity to give back to our community.

Our committee teams have prepared their 2021 budget with the expectation that we will return to a greater level of normalcy next year building in the internal and outreach events we have been unable to do in 2020. We will share the 2021 budget in the coming weeks. Your support is important to our 2021 plans.

We continue to receive most of our offering through the mail. You are certainly able to continue sending you gifts to St. John's. Our mailing address is 3104 Main Street, Green Lane, PA 18054.

Please recognize that we are currently counting offering twice a month - so please understand if there is a small delay in cashing your check.



You can also choose to give online!

Online your gifts can be designated to general or specific places and can be made one time or set up to repeat. Thank you to all our new online donors! If you have any questions on how to set up online giving, please call the office at 215-234-4888 for help.

We encourage the congregation to prayerfully consider your ability to continue supporting God's work here at St. John's as we continue to live through this pandemic.





December 21

Matthew Frank

December 22

Shirley Johnson

Alec Pritchard

Shannon Raezer

December 23

Ryan Barndt

Alec Sprouse II

December 24

Jennifer McDermott

Erik Ockenlaender

Carolynn Urban

December 25

James Bivighouse

Emily Davis

Gennifer Martin

Rachel Mosera

Mia Randazzo

Larry Walker

Kathy Zepp

December 26

Eileen Andreoli

Lee Ruth

December 27

Elaine Reed

Leslie Sofa

[Visit our Website](#)