



Notes From the Director of Music



O Come, O Come Emmanuel

The musical composition of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" plays a significant role in enhancing the themes of the upcoming Advent season. Here are several key aspects of its significance:

1. ****Melodic Structure and Mood****

The hymn is traditionally set in a minor key, which contributes to its somber and reflective mood. This choice of tonality aligns with the themes of longing and anticipation prevalent during Advent. The minor key evokes a sense of yearning for hope and redemption, mirroring the spiritual longing for the coming of Christ.

2. ****Repetitive Refrain****

The repetitive nature of the refrain, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," emphasizes the communal cry for Christ's presence. This repetition encourages congregational participation and fosters a collective sense of anticipation among worshippers, reinforcing the idea that Advent is a shared journey towards Christmas.

3. ****Use of Ancient Melodies****

The melody itself is derived from ancient Gregorian chant, which connects the hymn to centuries of Christian tradition. This historical link not only enriches the worship experience but also serves as a reminder of the continuity of faith through the ages. By singing this hymn, congregations connect with the generations of believers who have expressed their longing for Christ in similar ways.

4. ****Symbolism of Lyrics and Music****

Each verse of the hymn corresponds to different titles of Christ, reflecting various aspects of His identity — such as "Wisdom" and "Key of David." The musical composition complements these themes, allowing the congregation to meditate on the significance of each title while being enveloped in a hauntingly beautiful soundscape that enhances their emotional response.

5. ****Encouragement of Reflection****

The hymn's pacing and musical dynamics encourage introspection. As worshippers engage with the lyrics and melody, they are invited to reflect on their own lives and the ways they, too, seek Emmanuel in their everyday experiences. This reflective quality aligns with the Advent focus on preparation and self-examination.

6. ****Transition to Celebration****

Finally, the hymn serves as a poignant transition from the waiting of Advent to the celebration of Christmas. By singing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," congregations acknowledge the tension of waiting while simultaneously looking forward to the joy that Christ's birth brings. This sets the stage for the joyful celebration of Christmas, making the eventual arrival of the Savior even more significant.

In summary, the musical composition of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" enriches the Advent experience by embodying themes of longing, hope, and reflection, creating a powerful atmosphere for worship during this sacred season.

Submitted by

William (Bill) Jacavage

Director of Music

**The Church Office will be closed
Wednesday November 26 and
Thursday November 27.**



O Lord, there are not enough words of thanks for all your blessings. Our hearts overflow in praise and worship!

***Wishing everyone a very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving,
From the St. John's Staff and their families***

Pastor Karla will be on vacation November 26-December 3. Pastor Andy Weaver, United Lutheran Church, Sunbury, will be covering pastoral emergencies.

Thank You !

Thank you to Trudy Baker, Sharon Fleming and Don Steele for recently auditing the church's 2024 financial records. We appreciate you sharing your talent and volunteering your time to do this very important job.

We Are Grateful

Kate's Kupboard is grateful for all the monetary and non-monetary donations that they have recently received. As we continue to help so many people all donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for remembering Kate's Kupboard.

Thank You

Thank you to the S. Luther Savidge Charitable Foundation for the recent donation of \$3,254.29 to Kate's Kupboard. Typically, the number of people we help increases during the holiday season. We appreciate this donation as we stock our shelves for the months ahead.

NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

Kate's Kupboard was open on **October 18, 2025.**

We helped **614** people by distributing **196** household/personal care bags, **170** produce boxes, **196** packs of meat and **330** bags of groceries. We helped **115** babies and provided adult care products to **32** people.

The total cost was **\$5,002.86.**

We helped a family of 3 who had no food by providing 5 bags of groceries and 2 household bags. We also helped one baby between our September and October Kate's Kupboard. We continue to help people through Neighborlypa.com

Thank you to **ALL** the volunteers who helped with this Kate's Kupboard in any way.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

As we approach the end of the year, please be reminded that if you want your financial contributions to be recorded on your "Statement of Giving" for calendar year 2025 they must be received by **Sunday, December 28th**. Any contributions received after this date will be credited in 2026.



You Are Cordially Invited To Advent

The first Sunday of Advent, November 30th, will be the beginning of decorating and preparing the sanctuary for Christmas. Through progressive decorating, each week additional items will be dedicated through December 21st. This year's Advent Worship series is entitled *Out Of The Blue* from Barn Geese. We hope you will join us as we begin our journey to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Help needed – mark your calendar!

Bazaar set up, Wednesday, December 3 from 8 a.m. till ???

Bazaar cleanup/repacking Saturday, December 6, from 1 p.m. till ???

Any help, and hour or two, or more would be greatly appreciated.



Christmas Bazaar

Friday, December 5 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, December 6 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Crafts, gifts, basket raffle, Christmas décor, white elephant and pink elephant items.

The North Pole Diner will have a bake sale, hamburger BBQ, hot dogs, chicken salad sandwiches, and chicken corn, broccoli cheese and Italian wedding soup for sale.

Hope to see you there !!

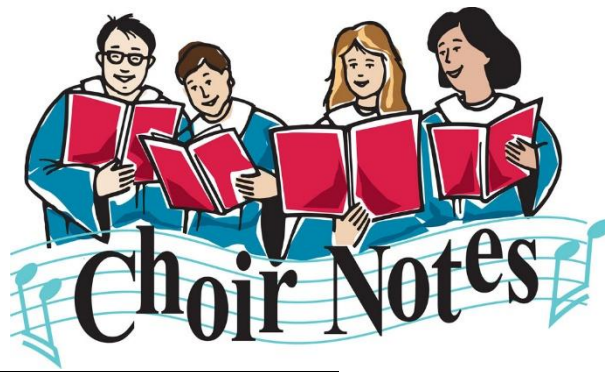
Calling all St. John's bakers!



We've got some of the best bakers around and we need your help. Baked good items are needed for the Christmas Bazaar. Please have items bagged/wrapped for individual sale. Bake sale items should be brought to the church by December 5th.

Altar Guild Help Needed

We are looking for 2 people to join an altar guild team to help set up and clean up communion and the altar for worship. If you are interested in this ministry, please call the church office or Crystal Reed, Coordinator, at 473-3371.



Christmas Eve Singers Needed

Do you enjoy singing and praising God through music?

On Christmas Eve we will be singing 2 songs. Rehearsal is Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone, young and old is invited to join us.

Similar to when the Every Voice Choir sings on a Sunday, you will be able to sit with your family during the service and come forward when it's time to sing.

If you are interested but can't make a practice, please see Bill for copies of the music.

Children and Youth Choir

We will be practicing on Sunday mornings in December during Sunday School for Christmas Eve. All children and youth are invited to come. Hope to see you there!



The **Mitten Tree** will be up and ready to be undecorated on November

23rd. We ask that all mittens be returned to the church office on or before **December 14th** so Santa's Elves can organize everything for delivery. ***Please have the mitten attached to the unwrapped gifts.*** We would also like to have all clothing items boxed please. This is a really big help when it comes to wrapping the gifts.

Social Ministry will have the Birthright Tree, located in the sanctuary, decorated on Sunday, November 23rd. Items need to be returned to the church by **Sunday,**

December 21st wrapped in white tissue paper. ***As always, on Christmas Eve during the Worship Service children may bring gifts for Birthright wrapped in white tissue to the altar.***



*Practice the pause. When in doubt, pause.
When angry, pause. When tired, pause. When
stressed, pause. And when you pause, pray.*



Holiday Concert

**Monday, December 15th
7-8:00 p.m.**

Fellowship Hall

Escape the hustle and bustle of the season and enjoying a relaxing respite listening to some wonderful holiday music. Presented by the Sunbury City Band. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



JOIN US

Wednesday, December 24

**Candlelight Service with Communion
7:00 p.m.**

**Festive Music begins at
6:30 p.m.**



2025	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Oct. Income:	\$ 19,114.95	\$ 21,209.76
Year to Date Income:	\$199,381.41	\$ 214,847.60
Oct. Expenses:	\$ 20,885.50	\$ 20,218.57
Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 198,343.93	\$ 215,434.62
Income Less Expense – Oct.		-\$1,770.55
Year to Date		\$1,037.48



PRAYERS: Trish Long

HOMEBOUND Mike Payne; Doug Manning; Jason Gulden; Kathryn Lebo; Jason Gulden; Helen Snyder; June Diehl; Mary Rogers; Nevin Brungard; Elaine Kohl; Nancy Hendricks; William Wagner; Betty Yerg; Jane Ressler; David Bartholomew; Marti Row



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Nourishing ✚ Serving ✚ Faith

November 19, 2025

Dear Member of St. John's:

As yet another Christmas season approaches, and we celebrate the birthday of our Lord, Jesus Christ, let us also rejoice and thank our God. We have been truly blessed this year by the generosity of our members who have helped to improve our church. Let us remember to thank those who have given so much to each of us through the year!

We would like to thank Pastor Karla for all she has undertaken and guidance given here at St. John's and present her with a token of our appreciation. If you would like to contribute to a gift, please send your contribution by **December 21st** to:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Attn: Tina Pontius or Barb Moyer
300 Queen Street
Northumberland, PA 17857

If you would like you can place in the offering plate and mark it "**Christmas Gift**". Please make checks payable to:

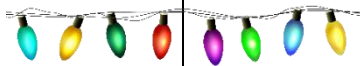
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The monetary gifts will be presented on Christmas Eve. Thank you for your generosity, and may you and your families have a wonderful Christmas season.

Yours in Christ,

St. John's Church Council

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 AA 7:00 p.m.	3 Bazaar Set up 8 a.m.-? Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.	4 Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	5 	6 
	*****Pastor's Vacation*****		Kitchen Reserved		Christmas Bazaar Fridav 9-5 Saturdav 9-1	
7 2nd Sunday Advent Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Children & Adults 10:15 a.m.	8 Finance 7:00 p.m.	9 	10 Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	11 Bishops Day @ Camp Mt. Luther 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Scout District Committee 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	12	13
14 3rd Sunday Advent Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Children & Adults 10:15 a.m. Catechism 10:15-12:15 MITTEN TREE GIFTS DEADLINE	15 Holiday Concert – Sunbury City Band 7:00 p.m.	16	17 Social Ministry 12:30 p.m.	18 Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Scout Roundtable 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	19 	20 Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m.
21 4th Sunday Advent Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Children & Adults 10:15 a.m.	22 	23	24 Christmas Eve Festive music 6:30 p.m. Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.	25  Fellowship Hall reserved	26	27
28 Lessons and Carols Worship Service 9:00 a.m.	29	30	31	January 1 	2	3 