

St. John Lutheran Church



“The King Shall Come
to Give Us Peace”

Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday Morning Worship @ 8:00 and 10:30 A.M.

Sunday School and Bible Classes @ 9:15 A.M.

Holy Communion Celebrated Every Sunday at Both Services

December 9, 2018

St. John Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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Massillon, Ohio 44646

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Rev. John L. Telsoni, *Pastor*

Dr. Lewis P. Porter, *Organist/Choirmaster*

Sherrie Zagorc, *Pastor's Secretary/Office Manager*

Ms. Elizabeth Kulick, *Bookkeeper, Payroll Manager*

Mr. Dennis Brown, Sr., *Custodian*

All Members of St. John's, Ministers and Disciples of Christ

St. John Lutheran Church



“One in the Spirit: United in Christ and with Each Other”

‘... that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.’

(Colossians 2:2-3)

Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2018 - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

“The King Shall Come to Give Us Peace!”

AS WE GATHER

Preparation is probably on your mind. Christmas is only weeks away. There are presents to buy, visits to plan, decorations to put up, lights to see, food to cook, and so much more! As we prepare for Jesus to come, we reflect on John the Baptist's words to people who asked what they should do to prepare for the Messiah's coming. John says we are to *“make His paths straight”* by sharing food and clothing, by not taking advantage of people, and by being content with what the Lord has given us. In the midst of your busy preparations, consider these words.

DIVINE SERVICE

Setting Two, LSB (pp. 167 ff.)

In the Name of Jesus

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

OPENING VOLUNTARY: *“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”*

— *Nicolas Lebègue*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: *“Prepare the Royal Highway”*

LSB # 343

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Based on Luke 3:4–6

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!
People: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord.
People: **Make His paths straight.**

Pastor: Every valley shall be filled,
People: **and every mountain and hill made low.**

Pastor: The crooked shall become straight,
People: **and the rough places shall become level ways.**

Pastor: All flesh shall see the salvation of God.
People: **We wait for Christ's return and the resurrection of all flesh.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!
People: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Luke 3:6; Psalm 66:1–2

Pastor: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. As we wait for His coming, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence, how crooked our world has become, and how unjust are our relationships. We come before the Lord in humility.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,
People: **we confess that we have strayed from Your path. We have been selfish and cruel. We have treated our**

neighbors with injustice and prejudice. We have oppressed the weak in order to gain power. We long to return to You, but how are we to return?

Pastor: As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, he said, "All flesh shall see the salvation of God." God sent Jesus to bring salvation to the world through His death and resurrection. This salvation is complete, and Christ comes to you once again with forgiveness, life, and salvation. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. "Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!"**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: **And also with you.**

(The people greet one another with Christ's peace.)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

ENTRANCE PSALM FOR ADVENT 2

(sung)

Pastor: **Restore us, God, and make Your face
A light to shine in this dark place**

All: **To save us from our sins that we
May praise Your Name continually.**

Men: **Hear us, O Shepherd of the flock,
Your throne is perched upon the Rock,**

Women: **You make a vine burst through the core
And fill the land from shore to shore.**

All: **Praise to the Father and the Son
And to the Spirit, Three-in-One,**

**Just as it was, is now, and then
It will forever be, Amen.**

**All: Restore us, God, and make Your face
 A light to shine in this dark place,
 To save us from our sins that we
 May praise Your Name continually.**

*(Words by John L. Telloni, © 2000, based on Ps. 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7.
Tune: Von Himmel Hoch.)*

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

(pp. 168-169, LSB)

Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



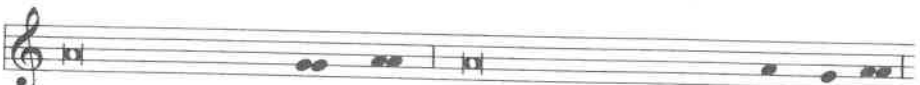
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



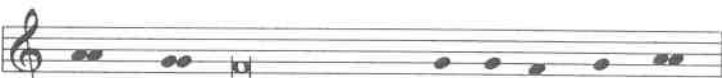
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

ADVENT CANTICLE: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

**Oh, come, oh, come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

(Veni, Emmanuel, French processional, 15th cent.)

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

(p. 172, LSB)



P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



C And al - so with you.

Pastor: Let us pray: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His second coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT: Malachi 3:1–7b (*God promises to send a messenger to prepare the people for the Messiah's coming.*)

1 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. 5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. 6 “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. 7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Philippians 1:2–11 (*St. Paul prays that God would complete the good work He began in us when our Lord returns.*)

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(10:30 a.m. only)

ANTHEM: *"The Moon with Borrowed Light"* - S. M. Hyslop
(Adult Choir, Dr. Lewis P. Porter, Choirmaster)

ALLELUIA and VERSE

Common

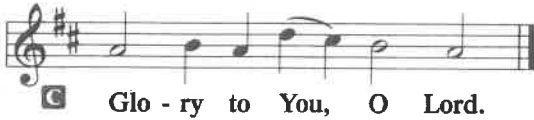
John 6:68

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1–20 (*Prepare for the coming of the Messiah.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. the 3rd chapter.



1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

7 He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” 11 And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” 13 And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” 14 Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

15 As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, 16 John answered them all, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy

Spirit and with fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

18 So with many other exhortations he preached the good news to the people. 19 But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY: *"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

LSB # 344

SERMON: "The Day We've Been Waiting For!"

(Malachi 3:1-7b; Luke 3:1-20)

NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Luke 19:38

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs: Dear heavenly Father, as we prepare the way for Christ to come, we proclaim: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Lord, we have kept our distance from You. Our repentance and return has been halfhearted and imperfect. Forgive us, and return to us despite our failures, for "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Lord, we have kept our distance from our neighbors, from the suffering and forsaken, from the widow and the orphan, from the foreigner and refugee. Strengthen us to serve our neighbors, and strengthen them in their trials. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Lord, heal the sick, injured, and recovering among us, [*especially . . .*]. Strengthen them with Your gracious hand and with Your unwavering presence. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Lord, console the grieving with Your presence. [*Today we remember the families and friends of . . .*] Comfort them with the hope of resurrection life that is ours in Christ Jesus. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Lord, gladden the hearts of those who rejoice and direct their praise and thanksgiving to You. [*Today we rejoice with . . .*] Grant that their rejoicing lead us all to say: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Lord, help us to live under Your perfect care. Prevent us from turning aside to idols and distractions. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus that we evermore proclaim: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.

People: **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Voluntary at the Offertory: "*Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People*"
— M. Drischner

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE & PROPER PREFACE (p. 177)

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy* (p. 178)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (p. 178)

LORD'S PRAYER

(p. 179)

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

(pp. 179-180)

PAX DOMINI ~ The Peace of the Lord

(p. 180)

AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God

(p. 180)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

"Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"

LSB # 347

"Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring"

LSB # 353

"Jesus Comes Today with Healing"

LSB # 620

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

(p. 181)

Thank the Lord

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
 He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
 joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
 es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

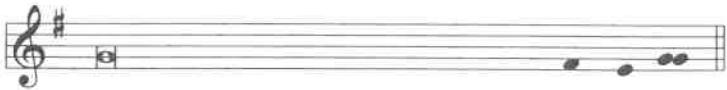
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray: Merciful Father, in this Sacrament, we have tasted and seen that You are good! Filled with the saving grace and perfect peace of our Savior, send us forth to share what we have been given; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: "Arise, O Christian People"

LSB # 354

SILENT PRAYER

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY: "Riccercar for the Time of Advent"
— J. F. K. Fischer

To God Alone the Glory!

WELCOME to all worshipers, especially visiting friends. If you have come seeking blessings, this is the place, where God's Word is proclaimed and sung on the Lord's Day as we celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection that delivers forgiveness, life, and salvation! If you are a visiting friend, please sign the guest register in the narthex. If you have no church home, we invite you to worship with us again and find out more about our Family of Faith.

THE LORD'S SUPPER is celebrated here in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PROCEDURE: *The Pastor will distribute the Host (bread) by placing it in the open, cupped hands of the communicant. A Lay Server will then offer the individual cups, and an Elder will immediately follow with the common cup. People who receive the individual cups should keep theirs visible so that the Elder can tell whether they have communed.*

SPECIAL COMMUNION NOTICE: Do you need assistance in walking to the communion rail or desire to commune at your pew? Please ask an usher who will be happy to provide assistance.

LARGE-PRINT HYMNALS are available at the west end of the narthex. They come in 7-volume sets. Ask an usher for a copy.

NURSERY (Family Room) is available in **Room # 104** in the main hallway for family needs (*nursery or private area*).

"BUSY BAGS FOR TOTS" are available in the narthex for parents with young children for use in the sanctuary during the worship service. After the service, please return the Busy Bag to the basket! (Note: We kindly request that parents use these items and refrain from allowing children to write on the offering envelopes and Communion cards in the pew racks. Thank you!)

ALTAR FLOWERS: The white poinsettia altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Gail and Jim Mizeres in honor of their grandchildren's - Chase and Malia - birthdays. Thank you!

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET, "*The Coming King,*" courtesy of Lutheran Hour Ministries, is available in the narthex or on the desk in the Gathering Place. See the information page on the back cover. May the devotions of Word and prayer enrich your personal and family life in the upcoming holiday season!

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR HEALING will be offered this morning for the following: Jim Mizeres, who is at home recovering from surgery; Mark Sturm, who is in rehab at Mercy Medical Center in Canton; Tricia Parker, who is a patient at Aultman Hospital in Canton; Richard Bednar, who is at Altercare of Navarre; Jon McFarren; Jeff Houston; Betty Minch; Russ Halco; David and Karen Fisher; Rebecca Floom, granddaughter of Kim and Luther Russert; and Steve and Debbie Marker. Also we pray for Betty Slinger and her family, who are awaiting word about Betty's missing daughter, Christine Slinger. Please remember these folks with your prayers and cards!

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE will be held this **Wednesday, December 12th,** at **12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m.** The sermon series to be presented is entitled, "*Who is Jesus*", based on Matthew 1:1-17. This week's sermon is entitled, "Jesus Is the Son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1). We look forward to our fellowship around the Word and Prayer as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's Coming on Christmas! Our final midweek service will be held on December 19th. Please make plans to attend!

LATE SERVICE GREETERS NEEDED! Please contact Judy Mantyla or the office if you would be willing to greet all who arrive, especially visiting friends, for worship on Sunday mornings. Thank you and God bless!

YOUTH ACOLYTES: Kids in the 4th grade and up who would like to serve as acolytes in our worship services are encouraged to sign up now! An Instruction Booklet will be handed out, and a training session conducted by Mike Krnach will be scheduled in the near future. This is a wonderful opportunity for service!

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia(s) to decorate the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one, please place your information on the sign up sheet on the front bulletin board. Cost: \$7.00 per plant.

THANKS to all who decorated the sanctuary and hallways and outside the church for Advent and Christmas – the placing of wreaths, decorating trees, putting up banners, installing the outdoor manger scene, and other seasonal adornments. May the Lord bless each helper with His grace!

Spiritual Growth ...

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS! Pastor Telloni is leading a study and conversation of the ADVENT GOSPELS – all Lessons from St. Luke’s Gospel! – appointed for the Sunday’s in Advent, with a look at the real people, places, and events and their connection to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. If you would like to become familiar with the truths surrounding and supporting our faith in the Christ of Christmas, please feel free – and get into the spirit of the season! – to join the group as we search the Scriptures and consider the truth and history of God’s action in our world to rescue sinful mankind from sin, death, and the devil. The session begins around 9:15 and ends at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday. Today’s focus are Luke 3:1-20, and the Old Testament Lesson from Malachi 3:1-7b.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is available for kids of all ages at 9:15 a.m. Please go to Room 109 for an hour-long Bible lesson – it’s all about Jesus! We have two teachers ready to lead: Mary Kay Pershing, for preschool and primary grades; and Janet Graber, for intermediate grades. Questions? Please see Superintendent Rosemary Sedjo.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS will be held on **Sunday, December 16th**, after the late service in the Fellowship Hall. Any party planners interested in helping, please see Rose Sedjo.

LIFE WITH GOD is a brief program led by Pastor Telloni to assist those who would like to participate more in the worship and service life of our congregation. Resources used are the Scriptures and Luther’s Small Catechism. A new group of get-together’s is planned if there is enough interest. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the front bulletin board. Please include a phone number in addition to your name! Thank you!

PARENTS OF 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS! If you have not picked up the curriculum materials for the Pre-Confirmation Parent/Child Program, please see Pastor Telloni! Lutheranism 101 for Kids; Luther’s Small Catechism; and a gift Study Bible. Get started now!

NEW BOOK! *“Why Am I Joyfully Lutheran? Instruction, Meditation, and Prayers on Luther’s Small Catechism,”* by **Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison**, President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. This devotional treatment of the Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism centers on joy, specifically identifying what it means to be fully Lutheran, and joyfully so—Joy:fully Lutheran. If you would like a copy, please contact Pastor Telloni or the Church Office. Cost: \$14.99.



FELLOWSHIP: As a sign of our Christian hospitality, refreshments are served in the “*Gathering Place*” all morning. Please stay and enjoy the fellowship!

ALTAR GUILD NEED: 2 people to clean up following communion after late service. It takes 15 minutes. Please see or call Mickie Krnach 330-837-9915.

PRAYER GROUP continues to meet each **Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** in Room 104. Please feel free to come and participate in their sessions. Join Mickie, Debbie, Bonnie, Janet, and Marchaela.

PRAYER CHAIN: For prayer requests, please call the church office or Gloria Pavelzik (832-7379). For those who face hospitalization or in emergencies, please call the Church Office (837-4645) or Pastor Telloni’s home (830-2179).

MARTHA SOCIETY HOLIDAY LUNCHEON will be on **Sunday, December 16th, at 12:30 pm**, at the Canal Grill, 2223 Locust St. (in the Giant Eagle Plaza) in Canal Fulton. A sign-up sheet for those attending is located on the front bulletin board. (Note: There will be no meeting **tomorrow.**)

THE MOBILE SNACK COMMITTEE met Wednesday, November 28th and delivered 24 desserts. Thank you, Beth Davis, for the pear bundt cake. Drivers included Gloria Pavelzik, Jerry Roseman, Rosemary Sedjo, Deb Stocker, Dennis Lillich and Gene Stocker. We will mobilize again after Christmas Day, December 26th, at 11:00 am. If you would like to help in the kitchen or make home deliveries, please see Debbie Stocker or Rosemary Sedjo.

PIPE ORGAN: Our church’s Pipe Organ is in need of some minor and expected maintenance. Contributions to the on-going *Pipe Organ Fund* are greatly appreciated!

WANT TO MAKE A BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR JESUS AT HOME?

1. Make the cake round - because Jesus’ love for us goes round and round and never ends.
2. Make it chocolate - like the darkness of our sins.
3. Cover it with white frosting - like Jesus covers our sins and makes them white as snow.
4. Top it with a yellow star and an angel - the first ones to let people know about Jesus’ birth.
5. Put 12 red candles on top - for the 12 months of the year that Christ is our light.
6. Add drops of red food coloring - for the blood Jesus willingly shed for us.
7. Encircle this loving cake with evergreens - the symbol of everlasting life.
8. Sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus - cut the cake, enjoy, and remember the real “Reason for the Season.”

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS: Pick up your contribution cards in the Gathering Place. Food items will be needed for 7 families. Please return to the church by **December 19th**. The food deliveries will be handled by the Elders on Sunday, December 23rd. Thank you and blessings in Christ for your kindness and generosity.

CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE for Student Pastors: Thank you for your gifts for the students and their families at Concordia Theological Seminary at Fort Wayne. The gift cards and cash totaled \$310.00! Thank you!



40-MONTH NOTE AT 4%

Over the last 40 years, our investors have made it possible for Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to support the work of tens of thousands of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod individuals and ministries through loans and ministry support services.

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund, you'll join over 60,000 investors who have discovered the joy of helping and supporting ministry work.

To meet future loan demand and help support growing ministry opportunities, we need to raise an additional \$100 million. Which is why we invite you to a special, limited-time investment opportunity: our 40-month 40th anniversary note at 4%.

**Visit lcef.org/40month or call
800-843-5233 to learn more.**

Application Forms are available in the narthex.

This Week at St. John's ...

Today	8:00 am	Divine Service
	9:15 am	Education Hour
	10:30 am	Divine Service
Monday	6:00 pm	Cub Scouts
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Wednesday	12:00 pm and 7:00 pm	Midweek Advent Services
Thursday	10:00 am	Prayer Group
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
Saturday	10:00 am	Catechism Class
	8:00 pm	AA Group
Sunday	8:00 am	Divine Service
	9:15 am	Education Hour
	10:30 am	Divine Service
	12:00 pm	Birthday Party for Jesus
	12:30 pm	Martha Society Holiday Lunch @ Canal Grill
	2:30 pm	Girl Scouts

Consecration Sunday was observed November 25th. Thank you to all who turned in Commitment Forms! Your 2019 commitment to the Lord of your time, talents, and treasures will assist in our congregation's and ministry. Your generosity will further our service to children, youth, older adults, the sick, the shut-ins, our staff, our facilities, and our outreach to the community and world around us.



If you have not turned in a Commitment Form, there is still time to do so. Forms are on the table in the narthex. Just place your completed forms in the offering plate or return them to the Church Office.

Commitments thus far: \$86,804.00 from 14 Giving Units ...

Other Notes of Interest ...

ISSUES, ETC., is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL, and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen at www.issuesetc.org and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

LUTHERAN HOUR: "Redeemer with a Capital R" – Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. When people use the word "redeem" outside of religious context, they tend to use it in a commercial sense-redeeming points from purchases or casino tokens for cash. In the Bible, the word "redeem" is used in a family setting. In the story of Ruth, Boaz is a "kinsman redeemer," who points to Jesus, our capital-r-Redeemer. Jesus has done more than pay our points. He redeems by bringing us into his clan, his people, his household, that we might be with him forever. (Ruth 3-4)

The Lutheran Hour is available on the following stations:

WTAM Cleveland, OH 106.9 FM Sun 6:30 AM

WTAM Cleveland, OH 1100 AM Sun 6:30 AM

WBTC Uhrichsville, OH 1540 AM Sun 6:04 AM

"WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS" has a new name - **"WORSHIP ANEW"** is broadcast on TCT Network on MCTV channel 13 and TWC channel 13 every Sunday from 11:30 to 12 noon and also on their website Page 24 hours a day.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE: "The very best light show comes from the smile on the Baby's face in the manger. He is smiling because He likes you and has come to rescue you. 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life' (John 8:12 NIV)." Rev. Mark Jeske, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

DEBT REDUCTION FUND

Goal: \$ 50,000.00

Special Gifts Received to Date: \$27,930.00

(Note: This fund was established by the Board of Directors to retire the balance due for the Credit Line provided by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.) Thank you for your prayers and gifts! You are invited to participate by giving a gift so that, without a deficit, our congregation may move forward in the mission and ministry of Christ! Deadline for Gifts was November 30th (although gifts will still be happily received!). Thank you!

“Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” When the world starts to fall apart, when things go badly, when nation rises against nation, Jesus tells us to lift up our heads because redemption is nigh. What a wonderful reminder that we Christians really have nothing to fear. Jesus has conquered, and He will deliver the full victory to us in His Second Advent. Therefore, we are free to live godly, generous, faithful lives here and now. We have nothing to fear.

Luke 21:38

The Lord’s Accounts: Time and Treasures

Attendance:		Offerings:	12/02/18
12/02/18	29/39(68)	General Fund	\$3,461.00
Communion:		Adult Sunday School	\$ 12.00
12/02/18	28/34 (62)	Care & Share	\$20.00
Sunday School:	18	Pipe Organ Fund	\$100.00
Year-to-date Offering:			
2017 Total:	\$185,089.22		
2018 Total:	\$195,043.10		

Serving The Lord With Gladness In Worship

GREETERS:	* Karen Surbeck ** Luther and Kim Russert
ELDERS:	* Cal Shunk **Cal Shunk
LAY SERVERS:	* Larry Meyer ** Steve Marker
LAY READERS:	* Cal Shunk ** Kim Russert
ACOLYTES:	Ushers (both services)
USHERS:	* Bob Carr, Mark Kulick, Larry Meyer, Bill Parker, Cal Shunk, Grant Minor, Quentin Minor **Gene Stocker, Keith Graber, Jim Mizeres, Ron Gemma
ALTAR GUILD:	* Mike and Mickey Krnach ** Judy Mantyla and Denise Ryder
TELLERS:	Lillich/Stocker

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



JULY

What is the date today?

Usually when someone asks this question, you might look to a calendar for the answer. The date might help determine what to wear, where to go, and what you might do. For example, if the date were January 15, you might decide to wear warm winter clothes. If it were July 12, your family might have a picnic. Calendars help keep things in order.



What does this have to do with the Divine Service?

The Church's calendar determines much of what happens in worship each Sunday (like the colors in the Sanctuary, or the readings for the day). The Church has its own calendar and its own seasons. The Church's seasons are based on the different events in the life of Christ and His Church. Instead of Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring, the Church's calendar has Advent, Christmas, Lent and many more. This calendar helps put order to the seasons and festivals of the Church.



Parents: Before or after the service, direct your children to the front of the hymnal to find the liturgical calendar. Go through the calendar and discuss the different seasons. Remind them that many of the special dates we have on our everyday calendars come from the liturgical calendar, i.e. Christmas, Easter, etc.

