***Saint John Lutheran Church***

*We trust God and invite you to experience God’s inclusive love!*

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Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021 10:00 A.M.

**SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5**

**Sunday, December 5 Second Sunday of Advent**

**10:00 am Worship**

**11:15 am Drive-by Communion 3:30 pm Online Bible Study with Jill Roy**

**5:30 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Monday, December 6 Offices Closed**

**7:00 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**7:00 pm Easy Does It Al-Anon**

**Tuesday, December 7 7:00 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Wednesday, December 8 6:30 pm Worship**

**Saturday,** **December 11 5:30 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Sunday, December 12**  **Third Sunday of Advent**

**10:00 am Worship**

**11:15 am Drive-by Communion**

**11:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 1**

**12:00 pm Reception for Tidwells and Joan Thomas**

**3:30 pm Online Bible Study with Jill Roy**

**5:30 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**SERVING SAINTS**

Reader: Larry Schultz

Ushers: Jill Gates and Julie Gates

Altar Guild: Vaughn and Cheryl Maples

**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

*Please stand*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.**

**Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High,

inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

Our mission here at St. John is…

**We trust God and invite you to experience God’s inclusive Love**!

**Gathering Song** *Prepare the Royal Highway*  **(page 12)**

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

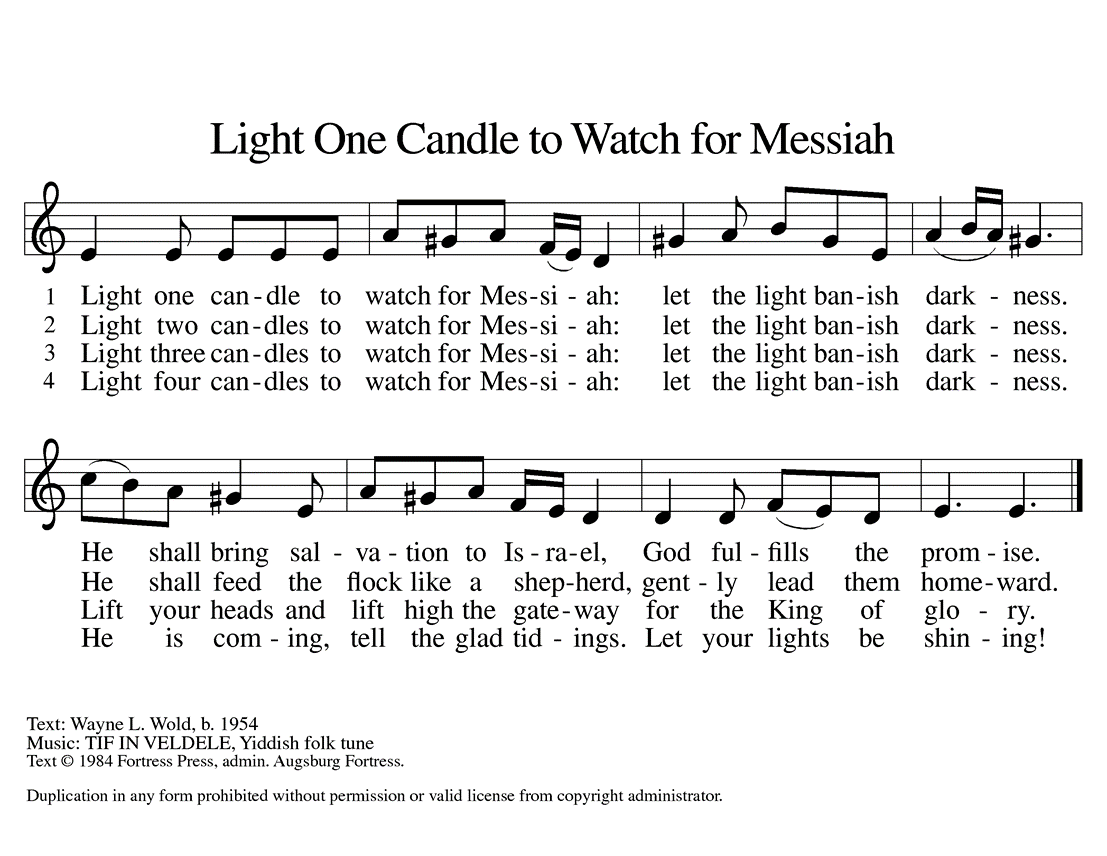
**Kyrie (page 13 & 14)**

**The Prayer of the Day**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

***Lighting of Advent Wreath*** (Verse 2)

**

**WORD**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

1See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2But 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; 3he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. 4Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

**Luke 1:68-79**

68Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
  you have come to your people and set them free.  
**69You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
  born of the house of your servant David.** 70Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
 **71from the hands of all who hate us,** 72to show mercy to our forebears,  
  and to remember your holy covenant.  
 **73This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:** 74to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
 free to worship you without fear,  
 **75holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.** 76And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
  for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,  
 **77to give God’s people knowledge of salvation  
  by the forgiveness of their sins.** 78In the tender compassion of our God  
  the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
 **79to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
  and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Philippians 1:3-11**

3I thank my God every time I remember you, 4constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21**

**12“See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. 13I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”  
  
  14Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.  
  16“It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”  
 17The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.”  
 And let everyone who hears say, “Come.”  
 And let everyone who is thirsty come.  
 Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.  
  20The one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”   
  Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!  
  21The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.**

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*Please stand*

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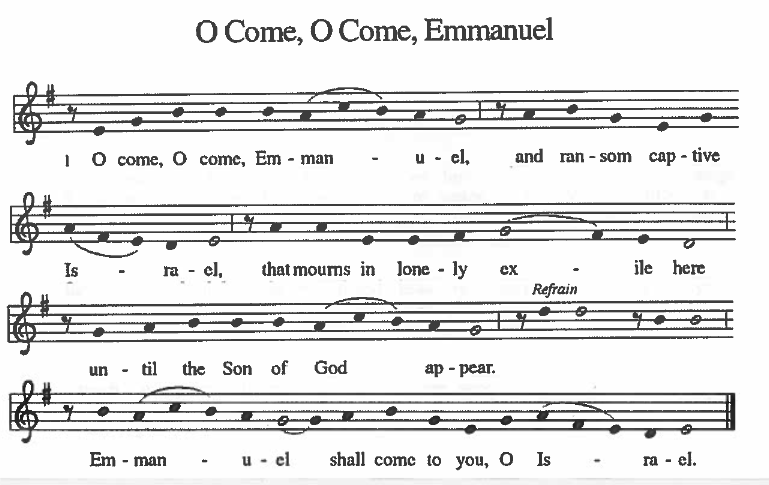
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**Gospel Acclamation**  

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Luke 3:1-6**

1In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,  
 “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
  make his paths straight.  
 5Every valley shall be filled,  
  and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
 and the crooked shall be made straight,  
  and the rough ways made smooth;  
 6and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

**John 21:1-19**

**1After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. 2Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 3Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.  
  4Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” 6He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. 7That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. 8But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.  
  9When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. 10Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” 11So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. 12Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. 13Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.  
  15When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. 18Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” 19(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”**

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The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*Silence is kept for reflection*

**Hymn of the Day** *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry* **(page 15)**

**Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

#### Prayers of Intercession

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace.  Bless the ministry of Agustinian Lutheran School, Guatemala and St. Johannes, Bavaria. We pray for Grace Missions and Chez Moi Orphanage, Haiti. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. We pray for protection of those who serve in the military, especially ***Chantz*** *Roche and* ***Sequoya*** *McLendon**.*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill, especially, ***Cathleen*** *Dahl,* ***Charlie*** *Parks,* ***William*** *Panick,* ***Bob*** *Keener,* ***Susan and David*** *Friend,* ***Maureen*** *Caldwell,* ***April*** *Kennedy,* ***Andy*** *and* ***June*** *Harnack,* ***John*** *Bennett,* ***Sarah*** *Lanier,* ***Catherine*** *Campbell,* ***Terry*** *Emlet,* ***Bill*** *Tidwell,* ***Marcus*** *Loner,* ***Charlie*** *Norman,* ***Gary*** *Larson,* ***Kay*** *Pedrotti****, Janet*** *Kindred and family.* Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless those celebrating birthdays, ***Heather*** *McVey;* those celebrating baptisms, ***Jennifer*** *Durham,* ***Forrest*** *Durham*; and expectant parents,***Heather and Marcus*** *Loner.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We lift up all others we name in our hearts or on our lips….. *(Pause).*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

**MEAL**

**Offering Hymn** *Give Thanks* **(bulletin page 16)**

**Offering Prayer**

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives

to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham and Sarah you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise;

and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,

who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup

we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming

in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**SENDING**

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

People of God, you are Christ’s body, bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, ☩ one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* **(page 17)**

**Peace of the Lord**

**Invitation to Communion**

All who hunger and thirst, come.

The table is ready.

**Dismissal**

As we go on our way, let us remember…

**Through Jesus Christ, we are an equipping and responding church**

**that continues to grow, impact, and transform lives.**

Go in Peace, May the Holy Spirit guide you. **Thanks be to God!**

**Communion**

*Communion will begin in front of the altar. You may dispose of your cup in the waste basket outside the nave. We ask that you leave the sanctuary after taking communion.*

*The offering plate and noisy change bucket located outside the nave.*

**The congregation is encouraged to sing during the distribution:**

*By Your Hand You Feed Your People*  **(page 18)**

*Around You, O Lord Jesus* **(page 19)**

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**Kyrie**A picture containing chart

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**IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK – DECEMBER 5, 2021**

**Cathleen Dahl, Charlie Parks, William Panick, Bob Keener, Susan and David Friend, Maureen Caldwell, April Kennedy, Andy and June Harnack, John Bennett, Sarah Lanier, Catherine Campbell, Terry Emlet, Bill Tidwell, Olga Fields, Marcus Loner, Charlie Norman, Gary Larson, Kay Pedrotti.**

**BIRTHDAYS**  **BAPTISMS**

12/6 Heather McVey 12/5 Jennifer Durham

**EXPENTANT PARENTS** 12/5 Forrest Durham

Heather and Marcus Loner **MILITARY**

Sequoya McLendon, Chantz Roche

**Family and Friends**: **Liz and Bob** Sherliza, **Deb** Tutson, **Claudette** Gallman, (Friends of Saint John); **Jennifer** Jones and **Kyle** (friends of Amy Droegmiller), **Haley** Olinger (friend of Terry Emlet);**Ruby** Reid (family of Gwen Flowers-Taylor); **Brian and Shiy** (family of Steve and Sandra Harwood); **Charles** Harper, **Tim** Kennedy (family and friends of April Kennedy); **Nancy** Osteen, **family of** **Joel** Puzder (friends of Janet Kindred); **Kim** Lothrop, (family of Connie Klopfenstein); **Brian**, **Susan** St. John, **Deborah** Lanier, **Scott and Kimberly** Lanier (family and friends of Sarah Lanier); **Isaac** Russell (family of Marcus Loner); **Richard and Sue** Tomsovic, (Uncle & Aunt of Tish Martin); **Melissa** Roy, **Mary Donna** Harris (family of Jill Roy); **Doug** Maxwell, (Brother of Debbie Sakmar); **Whitney** O’Connor Hawk (granddaughter of Larry Schultz); Helen Carter (family of Peggy Thomas), **Jeanie Tidwell** (mother of Bill, Tidwell); **Ron and Kathy** Ballek (brother and sister-in-law of Sharon Willard).

**MASKS**

While masks are not required in the building, we strongly urge you to wear one. We also ask that you maintain social distancing.

**BAGS NEEDED**

Plastic grocery bags are needed for the mat weaving class. If you have extra bags, please consider donating them. We are especially looking for colorful bags, but will take any color. All mats are donated to the homeless.

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS BAGS**

The elves are ready and now we need your help with some items for a little gift bag for those in need in our community. We could use the following items: travel sized soap, shampoo, and hand lotion, gloves and combs. Please bring them to church no later than December 12th. We will be preparing the bags on the 16th.

A box will be in the narthex to collect these items. Thanks for helping us reach out to those in need in our community this Christmas. See Pastor Mary if you have any questions.

**Help needed for Worship on Christmas Eve, December 26th and January 2nd!**

Christmas Eve services will be held on Friday, December 24th at 7 p.m. In order to plan ahead, we need help for that service as well as December 26th, and January 2nd. Please see the sign-up sheets, and sign up where you can help. If you are new to helping, we will make sure to provide you training.

**December Cracklin and change bucket- Youth ministry**

Our December Cracklin and change bucket will go to help our children and youth attend summer camp or Affirm, in the summer of 2022.  Thanks for your support all year for the bucket. Your change really makes a difference, and we thank you so much!

**Wednesday Evening Advent services- 6:30 p.m.**

Please join us in person or online for Holden Evening service and devotions.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Dear Voting Member(s) of Saint John Lutheran Church,

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, December 12, 2021,

at 11:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will be followed by a reception for Bill

and Cherie Tidwell and Joan Thomas.

The following business will be conducted:

1. Review and adopt the proposed budget for 2022 – the budget is enclosed.
2. Elect the 2022 Nominating Committee
3. Elect voting members to the Congregation Council to fill a 3-year term.

The Nominating Committee recommends the following: Vaughn Maples.

1. Elect two voting members (one male, one female) to the Southeastern Synod Assembly, June 5. The Nominating Committee recommends Don Taylor and Gwen Flowers-Taylor.

The meeting will adjourn in continued session and reconvene on Sunday, January 23, 2022, at 11:30 am, to receive annual reports from officers and committees.

**All voting members are encouraged to attend these meetings.** **The Constitution defines voting members as “confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.”**

God has richly blessed us with an abundance of gifts, and the Holy Spirit is equipping and sending us to do God’s Work with Our Hands.

In Christ,

Don Taylor, President

**Synod Advent devotions**

Luke 13:31-35

How often I’ve longed to gather your children,  
    gather your children like a hen,  
Her brood safe under her wings—  
    but you refused and turned away!

In this passage, Jesus is warned to flee because Herod is after him. But Jesus shares that he is busy healing others and clearing out the demons as Jesus is wrapping things up. Then Jesus laments his relationship with Jerusalem and her people. He shares from his heart that he so wants to gather the people of Israel and protect them like a hen who gathers her children under her wing.

How often do we read this passage and miss that Jesus is comparing his care and protection for God’s people to a female animal who is known for her love of her babies? I relate to this passage as a farm girl who had the chore of feeding our chickens and collecting the eggs throughout my growing up in Illinois. I saw the care that the hens gave to their little ones. How comforting to know that Jesus wants to take care of God’s children in such a warm and caring way.

In this season, there are many parents who wish they could care for their children, and adult children who wish to care for their elderly parents but may not be able to for any number of reasons. It could be anything from living a long distance away to being short on funds, and everything in between. As Christians, we have been given the sacred work of being Christ’s hands, feet, and care on this earth.

There are many ways you can reach out and be of comfort to others. You can reach out to friends and church members who are alone this time of year to send a card, say a prayer, or spend time with them. You can help foster children, adults with special needs, and new immigrants to our area by providing coats or gift cards this season. ([www.weinspirit.org](http://www.weinspirit.org)) You can visit a nursing home or volunteer at a senior center near you. You can give a gift of chicks, pigs, or fill a backpack with food for a child in need through the ELCA good gifts catalog. ([www.goodgifts.elca.org](http://www.goodgifts.elca.org))

Whatever you decide to do, remember that you are bringing God’s love and comfort to those who need some extra care this season. Also, may those of you reading this who need to know God’s comfort this season receive it in a real and tangible way!

**Saint John Lutheran Church**

**1689 Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway**

**Griffin, GA 30224**

**Church Phone: 770-228-0662**

**Email:** [**stjohnelca@bellsouth.net**](mailto:stjohnelca@bellsouth.net)

**Website:** [**www.stjohngriffin.org**](http://www.stjohngriffin.org)

**Facebook: Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner**

[**Pastor\_st.john@yahoo.com**](mailto:Pastor_st.john@yahoo.com)

**Cell 309-212-0888**

**Support Staff**

Lynn Jones, Administrative Assistant Amy Droegmiller, Youth Leader

Marilyn Droegmiller, Organist Gayle Harvil, Praise Team Director

Joan Thomas, Choir Director Heather Loner, Nursery Attendant

Jennifer Durham, Choir Accompanist

**Congregation Council**

Don Taylor, President Todd Droegmiller Enid Mswia

Bailey Harvil, Vice-President Phyllis Hutchings Russ Rines

Catherine Park, Secretary Rita Johnson Sarah Sanders

Tish Martin, Treasurer Donna Milam

Mark Miller

**Ministry Contacts**

Altar Guild: Sandra Harwood Member Care: Sarah Lanier, Cherie Tidwell

Education: Phyllis Hutchings Property: John Sanders

Fellowship: Laura Miller, Martha Dansby Social Ministry: Jill Gates, Don Taylor

Finance: Tish Martin Stewardship: Mark Miller

Gifts and Memorials: Tish Martin Worship: Sandra Harwood

Glocal Mission: Larry Schultz Youth/Children’s Ministry: Amy Droegmiller

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