

Church Staff

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Mike Erdley Vice President
Mindy Sawyer Secretary

Congregation Council

Linda Bingaman
Nevin Brungard
Loye Hallden
William Jacavage
Teresa Meisinger
Steve Mertz
Lee Miller
Bill Troutman

From the Interim Pastor

A Blessed Advent to you and yours!

The Advent season is here again, starting on November 29th, with Christmas soon approaching.

Although it is usually a joyous, heartfelt time, this year with Covid and other reasons, there are many people who will celebrate a blue holiday season this year, rather than the typical red and green. Blue is designated for the folks who are hurting during the holidays—hurting financially, or because of stresses, or because of illness, or because of the loss of a loved one. Further, this may be “blue” for many because of the pandemic. It is hard to be joyful and hopeful for these many reasons. If you are celebrating blue this year, know you are not alone. Know, further, that the church is praying for you. We pray God’s comfort and strength for you through this trying time. Also, there are resources to help you make Christmas, if not joyful this year, a meaningful time. Go online and search “blue Christmas.” If you need a pastoral care visit, now or anytime during Advent or Christmas, I am willing to come to you or meet you at the church office. My telephone number is 717-254-9866. My email address is revjericarlin@gmail.com



As a pastor, the first thing I would tell you if this year is blue for you is for you to acknowledge your pain and grief. Be honest with friends, family, and co-workers, who many times can also be good listeners. Be honest with God. God sees you and will come alongside you. Ask Jesus for that extra help this year. Something else you can do is provide the “empty chair” at your holiday gathering. (This can even happen this Thanksgiving.) The empty chair is the place where your loved one would have sat. Or, maybe it is a chair providing anticipated hope for better holidays in the future. You can also light a candle all during the season in honor of the one who is now not with you.

So, this is my prayer for all of us celebrating Advent this year—those celebrating the traditional bright red and shiny green, but, then, especially those celebrating a blue season—shared from the thoughts of Christian writer Christine Sine:

Dear God,

On this long dark night we await the coming of Christ.
We long for the light of his presence,
With us and in us.

When our souls are deeply troubled,
and our hearts break with the weight of sorrow,
may our grief be seasoned with love,
and our sorrow be buoyed by hope.

In our times of God-forsakenness and estrangement,
May we gaze on the innocent One, this Christ,
made perfect through suffering.

and see in him our vulnerable God,
who saves in weakness and pain.

May our suffering empty us of pride,
and lead us to true joy,

our only security,

in Christ the infinite depths of God's grace.

Amen.

*With Hope and Confidence in
Christ,*



Pastor Jerri

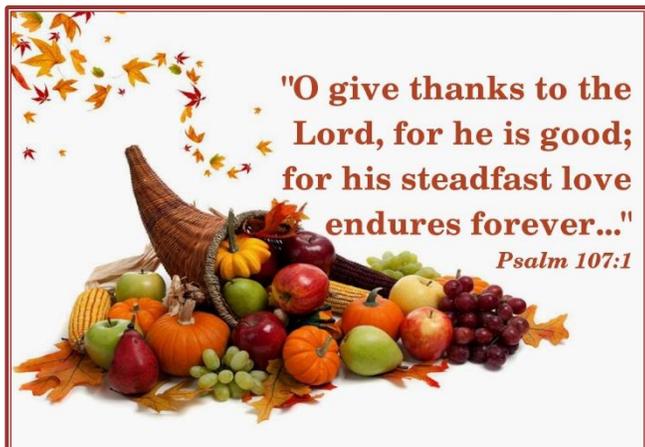
Other ideas for the season:

Go caroling!

Write letters.

Observe Advent more intentionally.

Give your church a special offering.



"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!"

(1Cor 1:3)

As we head into the holiday season, we know that this year will be a little different. As we recall all the difficulties of 2020 and the pandemic that we are still encountering, we are grateful that God's steadfast love has been with us and will continue to be with us always. Because of this steadfast love and all the blessings that God has placed in our lives, we give thanks and praise to God in all things.

Our church year concludes with the celebration of

Harvest Home, which is on Christ the King Sunday, and so we celebrate the blessings of the gifts we have been given including Jesus Christ our Lord. It is through God's abundance in our lives that we can then share what we have been given with our neighbors who are in need.

This year our Advent and Christmas celebrations will be a little different. Our hope is to be able to continue with both in person and online worship, knowing that we must make adjustments to be safe in this time of pandemic. This grants us the opportunity to be creative in our worship and to try some new and exciting things. Advent is a time of preparation, a time to slow down and prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christmas season. As we do this, we will be adding holiday decorations to the sanctuary each week of Advent and blessing them during worship to prepare for the coming of Messiah. Since singing is so much a part of our traditional celebration of Christmas and we cannot sing indoors, St. John's will be hosting *Caroling in the Park* twice during December at the King Street Park and we hope you are able to either join us in singing or come out and enjoy the festivities.

Finally, we will be hosting both Christmas Eve services with some safety modifications and disinfecting between services. For those that are not able or comfortable joining in person, we will have worship bags prepared with everything you will need to join us online via the Facebook page or the website. If it becomes unsafe for us to meet in person, we will resume the online services as we did previously which will be accessible via the Facebook page and church website. More details will be provided.

As we continue this journey of faith together, I pray that God keeps you all safe, granting you hope, peace, joy, and love. Wishing you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving and peaceful Advent!

Blessings,

Vicar Karla

Caroling in the Park

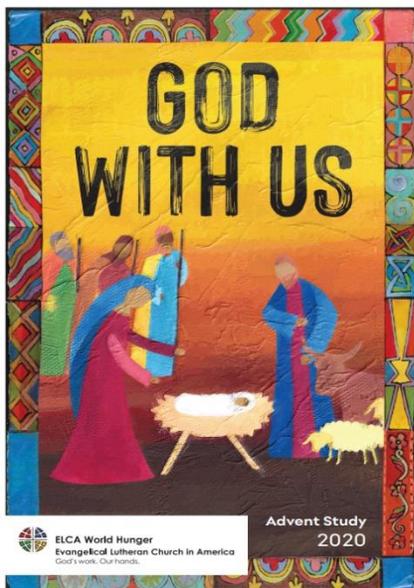
St. John's Lutheran Church

December 16th and 30th

7 pm

King Street Park, Northumberland

Masks and social distancing required.



Advent Weekly Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7pm

Online via Zoom

(link and instructions will be posted
to Facebook and church website)

Week 1, Dec. 1st: Keep Awake

Week 2, Dec. 8th: Prepare

Week 3, Dec. 15th: Comfort

Week 4, Dec. 22nd: Presence



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Nourishing ✚ *Serving* ✚ *Faith*

November 18, 2020

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 Jerri and Vicar Karla for all they have undertaken and guidance given here at St. John's and present them with a token of our appreciation. If you would like to contribute to a gift for either or both of them, please send your contribution by **December 18th** to:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Attn: Teresa Miller 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

Worship & Music



Congratulation to Janna, Lucas, Logan and Mason on their confirmation held on October 25th.

Worship Options

Sunday morning – 9:00 a.m. in person
Live streaming on Facebook
Watch on our website :
<https://www.stjohnslutherannorry.org>

Thank You...to everyone that contributed items to Harvest Home. Donations will be divided among our Mitten Tree Families for Christmas.



Hanging of the Greens

November 29 begins Advent. This year we will be doing a progressive Hanging of the Greens throughout all the Sundays in Advent. Join us each week as we bless added elements to our sanctuary.



christmas eve DECEMBER 24

6:30 Family Service with Communion
10:00 Candlelight Service with Communion

Join us in person or online.

Worship Service Assistants

December 6 - Brenda Herbert
December 13 - Dave Herbert
December 20 - Nancy Erdley
December 24 - Ginny Butler and Nancy Erdley (6:30)
December 24 - Nancy Erdley (10:00)
December 27 - Mindy Sawyer

Why Aren't We Singing In Church?

I'm sure by now you might be wondering why we continue to worship without the singing of hymns or any parts of the liturgy. Sometime in the early part of the summer Vicar Karla had shared with me that we will no longer be able to have any singing for our worship services. Of course I did not want to even hear this, yet alone believe the information that had been shared with me.

I was determined to find other studies or different data or even other sources somewhere that might prove otherwise. I had looked, searched, and read any article that I could find to demonstrate that singing can somehow be safely done. I did not find any study or data that tells us singing is safe during this pandemic.

Well, as you can see we have been following every guideline, every recommendation that has been shared with churches of all denominations with the goal of keeping all members of our church family as safe as we can. Yes, it is a well-known fact that singing significantly increases the transmission of the disease (Covid)

We as Lutherans are a singing church. Our faith is expressed in song. I'm sure we miss our favorite hymns being sung. The medical professionals classify singing as a high risk activity due to the manner in which singing encourages aerosol spread. Aerosol particles are light enough to remain suspended in the air for hours at a time and can travel from three to twenty -seven feet from the "emitter" or singer. If the aerosol particles carry Covid they pose a risk for those unlucky enough to breathe them in.

Actually singers are therefore considered "super-spreaders". That certainly doesn't sound like a very nice name. However I think just hearing the name "super-spreader" might give us a better understanding why at this time singing is not safe. You might hear there are some churches that are singing. We truly would never want to create an atmosphere that is unsafe by choosing to continue a practice that has in many choirs resulted in the majority of choir members being diagnosed with Covid or even worse several church choirs have had members that died after being diagnosed with Covid-19. The members all attended the same choir rehearsals and shortly after the results were devastating.

At this time we will continue to not have any singing during our worship services. You may hum if you like but for the safety of all, we ask that you refrain from singing.

It certainly is a sad time that we are experiencing, however, we will sing again. For now, we will continue to make music in the best ways we can. We hope you will enjoy the organ/piano music and bell choir music provided at services.

All we do is for the glory of God, and even as we are silent God can still be praised!

William Jacavage

Director of Music

Social Ministry

Harvest Home

Harvest Home will be held on Sunday, November 22. We will be collecting non-perishable foods and personal care items. St. John's has been celebrating this tradition for more than 100 years.

Donations may be dropped off in the rear of the sanctuary or at the church office by November 18. This year's donations will be going to the Mitten Tree families at Christmas.



Worship & Music will decorate the altar for services that Sunday.



The **Mitten Tree** will be up and ready to be undecorated on November 22nd. We ask that all mittens be returned to the church office on or

before **December 13th** 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 22nd. Items can be returned to the church by **Sunday, December 20th** along with the gift tag. You may also bring them to the Christmas Eve Services and place in the boxes in the rear of the sanctuary. Items do not need to be wrapped.



NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

On **October 17th** Kate's Kupboard was open for the monthly give away. People were allowed to enter the building to receive their products. Temperatures were taken at the door, hand sanitizer was used and masks were required. Social distancing was practiced both inside and outside. Only 10 people were allowed inside at one time. All the volunteers wore masks.

138 people came to our doors and we helped **430** people. At the Baby Station, we helped **45** babies and **3** adults.

The cost for this giveaway was: **TOTAL: \$3,671.95** (Household items: \$483.00; Groceries: \$2,663.40; Baby station \$ 499.60; Adult Products \$25.95)

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

In each grocery bag we were able to include bread donated by Bimbo Bakery!

In addition to the numbers shown above, between our September and October giveaways we helped 10 people and 1 baby.

Property

Last month landscape work was completed at the Queen Street entrance by Lloyds Landscaping. A tree was removed and a new holly tree was planted, along with the trimming of the other tree, weeding, and new mulch.

Our own garden crew recently cleaned up the Hunter Garden and flower beds. Thank you ladies!

Our stained glass windows that had previously been painted are now having new protective plexiglass coverings installed by Orvis Long.

Work on the Adult Sunday School area will be occurring. The room will receive a facelift with wall repair and painting being done by Mr. Long.

For so long our bell tower has remained mostly quietly. Funds have been received and work on installing a chimemaster will begin. This automated system will surely help "ring" in our call to worship.

Christian Education

Childrens Sunday School – Children in preschool through 5th grade are invited to join us Sunday mornings following the children’s sermon in church for Sunday School. Teachers will walk the children up to the classroom or you can meet them there. Learn and share in God's love through crafts, lessons and games! We will be in the Sunday school room until 10 having fun.

Catechism Class – 10-11:00 a.m. for youth 6th grade and up. Begin your journey and explore your faith towards your confirmation.

Adult Sunday School – NEW – Beginning December 6th from 10-11:00 a.m. Held the first Sunday of each month, Pastor Jerri will lead “Daily Discipleship,” a practical study on the day’s Gospel reading and how it relates to our everyday lives. Join us in the Luther Library.



Pictured is the bulletin board at the end of the hallway by the office, decorated by the Children’s Sunday School. Great job!!

Finance

As we approach the end of the year, please be reminded that if you want your financial contributions to be recorded on your “Contribution Statement” for calendar year 2020 they must be received by **Sunday, Dec. 27th**. Any contributions received after this time will be credited in 2021.

In addition to your weekly contributions, funds are also being collected through the Monthly Pink Envelope and Quiet Cash collections.

Due to In keeping with safety recommendations, pew envelopes have been removed. Please mark on your envelope or check to designate to the Pink Envelope collection. The Monthly Pink Envelope for November is for the **Mitten Tree**; December is for **Birthright**.

Our Noisy Coin collection took on a new name – **Quiet Cash**. The other change with our Quiet Cash donations is that this will be a weekly collection. You may place Quiet Cash in the yellow bucket in the rear of the sanctuary or mail in your contribution and mark on the envelope or check for Quiet Cash. This quarter’s collection (Oct-Dec) is being designated to **Brian Palmer, ELCA Missionary in Liberia**.

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
October Income:	\$ 10,301.83	\$ 18,627.16
Year to Date Income:	120,139.42	194,427.60
October Expenses:	\$ 11,941.98	\$ 17,535.67
Year to Date Expenses:	117,861.89	192,630.45
Income Less Expense: October	\$ - 1,640.15	
Year to Date:	2,277.53	

Announcements

Congregation Meeting

The annual congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, November 22nd. Please plan to attend.

The following members are being nominated for 3 year council terms.

Judy Dunkelberger
Mike Erdley
Jennifer Long

The 2021 budget will also be reviewed and voted on.



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

The Church Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27.



THANK YOU

Thank you to the S. Luther Savidge Charitable Foundation for the recent donation of \$13,100.00 to Kate's Kupboard. Although Kate's Kupboard has made numerous grant applications that have been declined, this Charitable Foundation has been faithful in its support of Kate's Kupboard for many years. The committee sees the need that exist in our community. We appreciate their support and pray for their continued support in the future as we continue to help those in need.



It will soon be that time of the year.

Church Services – If the Borough of Northumberland declares a State of Emergency due to inclement weather, services will be cancelled.

Determination in case of other questionable inclement weather for Church services will be made in consultation between the Vice President of the Council, Chairperson of Worship & Music and the Vicar. Notification will be made through WKOK and WQKX radio stations.

The Church Office will follow the Shikellamy School District's weather delays and closings. Office hours will be adjusted if the Shikellamy School District has:

- has a one hour delay
- has a two hour delay
- early dismissal or,
- cancels school - we will also be closed

What is the difference between a chicken and a turkey?

Chickens celebrate Thanksgiving!!

A GLANCE BACKWARDS

An article from The Northumberland Press, November 20, 1903

Thanksgiving Day Dinner

The Aid Society of St. John's Lutheran Church will give one of its famous dinners on Thanksgiving Day in the Band Hall. The cost is small – only 25 cents. These dinners have been liberally patronized in the past and no doubt the coming dinner will be equally as well patronized by the community.

Article from November 27, 1903

Thanksgiving was quietly spent by the people of Northumberland. On account of the scarcity of turkeys, many people did away with their usual turkey dinners and attended dinner served by the Ladies Aid Society of Lutheran of the Lutheran Church.



MEMBERS

Brian Cunningham; Carol Diehl

PRAYER REQUEST:

Oliver Auman; Steve Reich; Patty Lightner; Linda Williard; Tim Lebo; Melody John; Joanne

Sneidman; Dave Delong; Judith Kurtz; Tianne; Kim Metzler; Keith Rogers; Doug Mertz; Judy Michael; Kevin Lahr; John Brown; Leslie Walter; Jane Ramer; Sherry Metzler; Scott Yorty; Bob Hynick; Ronald Neitz; Ed Auman; Billy Lewis; Beulah Reynolds; Marti Row; Marlyn Deihl.

HOMEBOUND AND SPECIAL PRAYERS

Esther Stamm; Teresa Meisinger; Doug Manning; Mary Rogers; Connie Lahr; David Hauck; Millie Lennon Blyth; Elaine Kohl; Eleanor Williamson; Bart Bartholomew; Frances Brouse; Nickolas Chiarkas; Tina Pontius; Shirley Gautsch; Nancy Hendricks; John Hendricks; Peg Feaster; Dixie Wagner; William Wagner; Elsie Mae Meehan; Sally Lewis; Arlet Hummel; Phyllis Gordon; Mike Payne; Betty Yerg; Harold Billman; Margaret Rantz; Joyce Shearer; Carol Wilks

Pray for our military

Colton Brouse; Logan Brouse; Kale Gallo; Wyatt Kohl, Russell Haddon III



Daily Scripture Readings

November 21	Philippians 4:2-3
November 22	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
November 23	Philippians 4:4-7
November 24	Luke 17:11-19
November 25	Matthew 15:1-13
November 26	Matthew 25:14-30
November 27	Revelation 3:14-22
November 28	Luke 12:35-40
November 29	Matthew 14:36-44
November 30	John 1:35-42
December 1	Philippians 2:5-11
December 2	Revelation 21:1-6
December 3	Isaiah 11:1-6
December 4	Psalms 25:1-15
December 5	Hebrews 2:10-18
December 6	Isaiah 7:10-14
December 7	John 10:22-30
December 8	John 10:11-16
December 9	Hebrews 4:14-16
December 10	2 Corinthians 12:1-10
December 11	Revelation 5:6-14
December 12	1 Kings 8:47-51
December 13	Matthew 18:21-35
December 14	John 14:25-31
December 15	John 1:43-51
December 16	John 1:14-18
December 17	Philippians 4:4-9
December 18	1 Corinthians 15:41-49
December 19	Galatians 4:4-7

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Bible Study AA 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	2 Cadette Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.	3 Junior & Cadette Scouts 6:00 p.m. Worship & Music 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Alanon 7:00 p.m.	4	5
6 2nd Sunday in Advent Worship w/Communion 9:00 a.m. ***Childrens Sunday School following Childrens Sermon Catechism Class 10-11:00 a.m.	7 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. Finance 7:00 p.m.	8 Bible Study AA 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	9 Cadette Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	10 Messenger Deadline 2:30 p.m. Junior & Cadette Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Alanon 7:00 p.m.	11 	12
13 3rd Sunday in Advent Worship w/Communion 9:00 a.m. ***Childrens Sunday School following Childrens Sermon Catechism Class 10-11:00 a.m.	14 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.	15 Bible Study AA 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	16 Messenger Folding 9:30 a.m. Cadette Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Caroling in the Park 7:00 p.m.	17 Social Ministry Junior & Cadette Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Alanon 7:00 p.m.	18	19 Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m.
20 4th Sunday in Advent Worship w/Communion 9:00 a.m. ***Childrens Sunday School following Childrens Sermon Catechism Class 10-11:00 a.m.	21 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m..	22 Bible Study AA 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	23	24 Family Service 6:30 p.m. Candlelight Service 10:00 p.m. *Office Closed*	25 Merry Christmas	26
27 Worship w/Communion 9:00 a.m. ***Childrens Sunday School following Childrens Sermon Catechism Class 10-11:00 a.m.	28 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.	29 AA 7:00 p.m.	30 Caroling in the Park 7:00 p.m. 	31 New Years Eve Alanon 7:00 p.m. 	JAN 1, 2021 HAPPY NEW YEAR! 	2
*****Office Closed*****						

St. John's Lutheran Church, 300 Queen Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857
Periodical postage paid at Sunbury, PA.
POSTMASTER: Send address change to St. John's Messenger,
300 Queen Street, Northumberland, PA 17857.

Periodicals-
Monthly
Sunbury, PA

ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER
Volume 100, Issue 11

November 18, 2020

**St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church
570-473-3770
sjelc300@ptd.net**

Address Label



Sundays at St. John's

9:00 a.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary
(Children's Sunday School following Children's Message at Worship)
10-11:00 a.m. Catechism Class

Church Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Fri 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.