



By Pastor Koenig

**S**ure, we all know that Advent is a time of waiting, and preparing, for things that are yet to come. And we do that pretty well. ...Do we ever do that too well? That's what Paul kept trying to tell the congregation in Thessalonica: they were getting so caught up waiting for Christ's return that they forgot to act at all!

**T**oo many of us really do *too much* waiting. Waiting for things to slow down. Waiting to have more time. Waiting for the right moment. Waiting for things to change. Well, some things don't change much, and although we have plenty of urgency in our lives, we often seem to lose the urgency to act. Perhaps it is easier to wait, because then we do not feel as responsible for the outcome. What are you waiting for, this advent?

**A**re we waiting in our spiritual life, too? Waiting for the right moment to go back to church? Waiting until we are less angry so that we can prepare to reconcile with someone? Waiting for that quiet moment to restart our prayers? Waiting for the world to change its wayward ideas? Waiting for someone to call you to check in? Waiting to be invited? What are you waiting for, this advent?

**R**esurrection thinking changes the way we wait *and* the way we prepare. Paul tells us to resume our lives and act, because the point is not merely that Christ will come again; the point is, Christ already rose for us. So, no matter what happens in the world, you yourself have already been redeemed, so there is no judgment you have to wait around for. And, whatever ultimately happens to the bad guys at the end of the world doesn't matter, because you have been saved by grace. Jesus tells us to *already be* prepared at all times, because you do not know when he will return.

**T**he only way to be already prepared, is to act. Waiting ...is an *action* word! However, action is almost always hard, because it requires accountability, commitment, trust, patience, and love. Nevertheless, Jesus says, the time is now. So don't wait; make a fresh start this Christmas and New Year! Take action in your life, in your relationships, and in your world. And you, too, will make all things new! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us to all of you!

## DEACON'S CORNER

As we journey down the road of Advent together let us be mindful of what we are looking for. While we wait for the coming of Jesus' birthday we get time to reflect on what it is that we are doing. Why are we waiting, does it mean anything to us, are we just going through the motions as we have done every year, or is this year going to be different? I hope it will be different, I hope you will remember why we celebrate Christmas. The faith we put into our looking forward to Jesus' birth.

We Remember the story that we know of how Jesus will die for our sins and then rise for our forgiveness. I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to Jesus' birth as a starting place for our faith. We need this now, we need Jesus in our lives to help straighten out all the bad that is going on. We also need to see all the good that is happening and to embrace it and lift it high for all to see. We need to rejoice in the good things that Jesus is doing and go out as Disciples and preach the Good News to all. Act as Christians in all that we do and help one another as brothers and sisters do.

As we start a new year we need to wipe the slate clean and try, yes try, to do better. I know that we can do it, with the help of Jesus we can do anything. Just let Jesus lead your life and follow him. Don't get sidetracked, keep looking for the prize. Everlasting life with Jesus is what we want, all else is just fluff. Things that we think are of major importance are not. In the whole scheme of things our goal is to be with our heavenly Father who loves us unconditionally. Warts and all that is our goal.

So this Christmas season do some in depth thinking and let Jesus into your lives and just follow Him. He will lead you to a place you have never been and then just enjoy it.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Your servant in Christ,  
Deacon Rich



## HOSPITALITY MT

Save the Date - December 8, 2019. After the 10 am service the Hospitality MissionTeam will be presenting the Third Annual Christmas Extravaganza. Plan to come and meet Mrs. Clause, see a play put on by the young people of the parish, sample holiday goodies and much more. Mark your calendar as we are looking forward to seeing you.



## SOCIAL MINISTRY MT

The Social Ministry Mission Team wishes to thank the Congregation for the generous donations of canned goods and turkeys for our Thanksgiving Baskets. We were also helped with this project by an Action Grant from Thrivent Financial. Thanks also for the homemade jam, and goodies for the Baskets. If you know of a family in need, please nominate them for a Basket for Christmas, and add the ages of the children for a Christmas gift. We will be collecting gifts until Dec 8th. Gift cards especially appreciated. The "Wrapping Party" will be Dec. 10th at 11AM in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served. The Baskets will be assembled Dec. 12th at 5:45PM in the Book Nook. Everyone is welcome to join us. It only takes about an hour. If you want to donate a ham, please let Jan Viola know at [jviola9@aol.com](mailto:jviola9@aol.com) or 845-485-4756. Baskets will be delivered by the Youth Group and parents on Sunday, Dec. 15th between 9:30 and 11AM (in the city or close by towns) For anyone in outlying areas, baskets can be picked up that day, or on Tuesday, Dec. 17th from 11AM until 3PM near the Book Nook.



We will also be collecting gifts for the folks at Lutheran Care Center, some of whom have no family left. These should be unwrapped (staff will sort and wrap). These gifts can be left in the box in the Narthex. Suggested items include new blouses or shirts open in front, pajamas, slippers, wraps, lap blankets, CD's or DVD's. No outdoor wear, please. The deadline for these is also Dec. 8th. Thank you for your help with these projects.

## INTERFAITH MUSIC

The 44th Interfaith Music Festival "*Sing to the Lord!*" was held on Sunday, November 3, 2019.

Three members of St. John's Lutheran Church received special recognition for their contributions every year to this Festival. Maris Kristapsons, Conductor and Composer, Amy Huber, Children's Choir Conductor and Andy Huber, Pianist were honored for their hard work and dedication. In addition Amy and Andy sing Alto and Tenor in the Interfaith choir every year.



## JOURNAL DEADLINE

February – January 12th

Please note that the Journal deadline is the 2nd Sunday of the Month. Please make sure all submissions are in by that date.

When submitting, please forward in Microsoft Word or an e-mail. Please send submissions to Carol Versace ([carolav\\_nd@yahoo.com](mailto:carolav_nd@yahoo.com)) Please include name and phone number in case of questions.

## ALL SAINTS DAY

On All Saints Day, November 3, 2019, a candle was lit and a bell tolled as we remembered all the saints from this congregation who have died over the past year.

**Therese Cameron, Jack Feldborg**

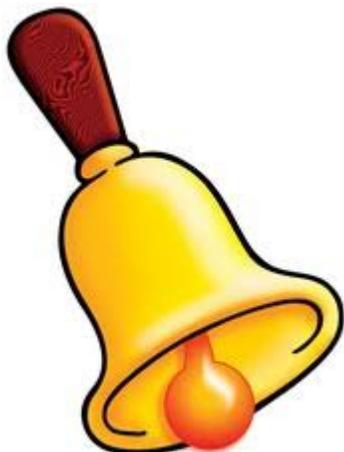
**Mary Freytag, Lois Hoger**

**Gina Madsen, LeslieAynn Miller**

**Christine Nelson, Dorothy Otte**

**Walter Reynolds, Beverly Schline**

**John Smith Jr., Muriel Zipser**



## ADVENT WREATH OF PRAYERS

There is a paper “**Advent Wreath of Prayers**” outside the chapel that we will be using all through the weeks of Advent. Each week has a different theme (Week 1=HOPE, Week 2=PEACE, Week 3=JOY, Week 4=LOVE). JAM kids and the congregation are invited to write a word, phrase or sentence on the holly leaf that will be inserted each week into the bulletin and handed in at the end of each worship service. These leaves will be prayed for and glued onto appropriate section of the Advent wreathg. When Advent is over we will have a full wreath made up of many Advent prayers connecting us to God as well as one another.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

\*Nave=Main Worship Space

Food Pantry is open 1st & 3rd Sundays, 9-11am in Church Office. **Church Library** is open every Sunday morning & Wednesdays from 12-2pm.

**December 23, 24, 25, 31 & January 1** Office Closed

**December 1** Youth Cookie Baking for Christmas Extravaganza 5-8pm, Offsite

**December 8** Christmas Extravaganza 11:15am, Fellowship Hall  
*(Including "The Gingerbread Hunt" A Christmas Play by JAM Kids)*

**December 6-8** Youth at Advent Camp

**December 10** Wrapping Party for Basket Gifts 10:45am, Location TBD

**December 12** Christmas Basket Assembly 5:45pm, Book Nook

**December 15** Christmas Basket Delivery by the Youth 10am  
Christmas Service of Lessons & Carols 3pm, Nave\*

**December 21-22** Youth Group Lock-in

**December 24** Family Christmas Eve Service *(Blessing of Nativity/Pop-up Pageant)* 12:30pm  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 7 & 11pm, *(All Services in Nave\*)*

**December 25** Christmas Day Worship Service 10am, Nave\*

**January 5** JAM Epiphany Party  
College Recognition Sunday 10am Worship Service, Nave\*

**January 12** Budget Hearing 11:15am, Book Nook

**January 26** Congregation Potluck & Annual Meeting 11:15am, Fellowship Hall

### Ongoing Collections:

Love Inc Personal Care Products & Linens  
Food for St. John's Pantry

## SYMPATHY

*We extend our prayers of sympathy and concern to the family and friends of*



**Muriel Zipser**, who died on October 14th.

**William Beck**, son of Joan and Bill Grassi's friend.

**Neila Mangum**, cousin of Carla Hill, who dies on October 27th in North Carolina.

**Robert Trimble**, uncle of Abby Dux, who died on November 1st.

**Bill Pelzek**, husband of Laurie Pelzek, who died on November 1st.

**Don Miller**, father of Lisa Miller, who died on November 5th.

**Christine M. Schaubhut**, former member, who died on October 29th.

**Beth Ann Baumert**, former member, who died on October 6th.

## POTLUCK AND ANNUAL MEETING

The church potluck and annual meeting will be held **Sunday, January 27**

Potluck 11:15 AM

Annual Congregation Meeting 12:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall



## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols, 3PM**

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Eve Services 12:30\*, 7:00 & 11:00PM**

*12:30PM-"Pop-up Pageant", all children welcome to participate*

*Extended Preludes at 6:30 & 10:45PM*

**Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Day Service at 10AM**

**Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Worship Services 8AM & 10AM**

*(No JAM, children may worship with their families)*

## BIRTHS

*We extend prayers of congratulations to*

**Erich and Barbara Hespeneide** on the birth of their first grandchild, **Nathaniel Honorof Hespeneide**. **Nathaniel Honorof** was born on October 14th in Santa Barbara, California.



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We welcome you to share your Christmas greeting to our St. John's family. If you have a Christmas card from your family you would like to share, please give it to Jeanne Jones, put it in the church office or send it to:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
55 Wilbur Blvd  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



## THE GINGERMAN HUNT

### *A Children's Christmas Play*

JAM kids and middle School JAM alumni will be putting on a JAM Christmas Play called "The Gingerman Hunt" **December 8 at 11:30am** at the Christmas Extravaganza event on the Fellowship Hall stage. The play is about 10-15 minutes long so we hope you will support the JAM kids and come see their show! After the play the Christmas Extravaganza will continue so there is plenty of time to join us for some family fun and holiday cheer to start the season right!

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

### **Special Info: Christmas Eve 12:30pm Family Worship Service**

All ages are welcome to come to the Family/Kid Christmas Service, **December 24 at 12:30pm**, but children will have a special chance to participate.

**Pop-up Pageant** -meet at 12:15pm in chapel to pick costumes.

**Bless the Baby Jesus**- Bring a baby Jesus from your nativity at home to be blessed.

**Ushers (Take the Offering)**-contact Abby by Dec. 15 if your child wants to usher Abby 452-1550 [abby@stjohnselc.org](mailto:abby@stjohnselc.org)

**Prayers**- Children (JAMers) will write the prayers during JAM Chapel time.

Please consider having your child participate during this special kid-friendly service and proclaim the joy of Jesus to the congregation and the world!

## WRAPPED IN LOVE

WRAPPED IN LOVE is a Knit/Crochet-for-a-Cause Group whose goal is to serve the needy and/or support charitable organizations both local and national. If you knit or crochet and would like to join us we meet the second Wednesday and Saturday of each month from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Even if you can't come to the regular WIL meetings, you can still be involved in the ministry by working from home on projects the team is doing. For more info email: [aidahart@gmail.com](mailto:aidahart@gmail.com).

**Next Meeting Dates:** Wednesday, December 11 & Saturday, December 14, 1-4pm



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please fill out a form found in kiosks and in the Church Office-white folder labeled "**Christmas Flowers**". Put both the form and contribution in the folder.

Checks payable to:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

**To have names in Christmas Bulletin, forms must be received by Sunday, December 8.**



## LAY MINISTRY

### Advent Wreath of Prayer

I have always loved the "themes" of the Advent wreath. They are not universal; different people/churches may use different words or use them in a different order, but HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE have been the themes I have adopted for use in teaching the JAM kids as well as for my own personal prayers during the 4 weeks of Advent.

Four years ago I wanted to create a project that would be multi-generational and that would connect us together at St. John's, through prayer. I made a giant "Advent Wreath of Prayers" and congregants and JAM kids all helped build it, adding a new section each week filled with "themed" prayers people had written on paper holly leaves. Each week after I collected all the prayers, some helpers and I read/prayed them and then we glued them to the wreath. It was a lot of work to set up and maintain each week, but the rewards were great as people enthusiastically (even passionately) desired to have their prayers as part of our communal wreath.

I have decided to do this project again this Advent season and look forward to our St. John's family connecting to God and one another through these special Advent prayers. There are several things you can do to help:

1. I need a lot of holly leaves cut out. If you are willing to help with this, come to the church office and take a baggie with leaf sheets in it. Cut out the leaves at home and bring them back to the church office so we can use them each

week to hand out to people.

2. Look for the holly leaf in your worship bulletin (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22) and write a word, phrase or sentence as a prayer using the theme of the week. Hand in your leaf on the way out of church so we can pray for it and glue it on the wreath. *(Be kind to our ushers and be sure your holly leaf doesn't fall out of the bulletin onto the church floor for them to have to clean up!)*

3. Check out the wreath (outside the chapel ) each week to see how we are connecting with each other in prayer, and perhaps say your own prayer for all who wrote things on the leaves.

4. Check the St. John 's Facebook page each week for pictures of the wreath as it progressively gets build throughout Advent. Consider posting it on your own Facebook page for possible community involvement as well!

5. Think about having your own Advent wreath at home to extend these themes in your daily life.

May the hope, peace, joy and love of the Advent season be visible through this special wreath of prayers and manifest in our daily lives as we serve the Prince of hope, peace, joy and love, born on Christmas Day.

Jeanne Jones

DLM (Director of Lay Ministry)



On October 27th we had four young people affirm their faith during worship; Emma Parvar, Ava Hildwein, Philip Lamberton, and Kari Horos. This huge step was made after three years of attending worship (and taking notes!), attending confirmation classes and retreats, acolyting, and doing service projects. These things are all geared to help them grow in faith and develop a relationship with God. One of the final things that we ask them to do is write a Faith Statement. This year's group also did a collective Faith Statement. Though their individual faith statements showed individuality and personal doubts their collective faith statement shows a bold fierceness.

**We want to be confirmed today because...**

**We want to be close to the church and Jesus.**

**We want to be close to God.**

**We want to be treated as adults in the church.**

**We want to have more input into the church's life and future**

**We want to feel like coming to church is our own choice and not that our parents are making us.**

**We want to feel like we will be with God forever.**

**We want to remember that God always loves us.**

**We want to take our faith into our own hands.**

**We want to know that our faith is our own**

**We want the church to know that we want to be here.**

**After Confirmation...**

**We still want to be part of this church and continue to do things for this church.**

**We still want to acolyte.**

**We still want to be part of the life of the congregation**

**We still want to hang out with people our age.**

**We still want to help with coffee hour**

**We still want to be a part of youth group**

**We still want to worship God.**

**We still want to get to know people from the congregation.**

**With the help of God, we want to be part of the future of St. John's.**

BE FILLED  
WITH THE  
HOLY  
SPIRIT  
*Continuously*

# Christmas Lessons & Carols



**Sunday, December 15, 2019**  
**3 o'clock PM**

*Scripture and Christmas Carols will tell the story of God's plan for our salvation in the birth of Jesus. Music provided by **LeeAnne Andrew, Organ; St. John's Recorders** and **St. John's Bell Choirs.***

*No charge for admission; a free-will offering will be taken.*

## St. John's Leaders Contact Info

<p><u><b>Church Council</b></u>  <b>Pastor Jeffrey Koenig</b>  <b>Art Upright</b> – President  <b>Lee Pagones</b> – Vice President  <b>Mary Heller</b> – Secretary  <b>Bob Knapp</b> – Treasurer  <b>Kaitlin Feldweg</b> – Discipleship  <b>Amy Huber</b> – Worship  <b>Karen Olson</b> – Fellowship/Property  <b>Sue Van Oss</b> – Ministry  <b>Patti Thompson</b> – Evangelism</p>	<p><u><b>Mission Team Chairs</b></u>  <b>John Dux</b>- Adult Ministry MT  <b>Pat Keeley</b>-Children's Ministry MT          Communications MT          Evangelism MT          Finance &amp; Admin. MT  <b>Stephannie Shad</b> -Financial Secretary-  <b>Irene Landi</b>- Hospitality MT  <b>Janice Viola</b>- Parish Care MT  <b>Gerd Pfeiffer</b>-Property MT  <b>Susan Lamberton</b> - Social Ministry MT  <b>Andy Huber</b> -Stewardship MT  <b>Deacon Rich Ferolito</b>-Worship &amp; Music MT  <b>Melanie Potter</b> -Youth Ministry MT</p>																		
<p><u><b>St. John's Staff &amp; Journal Volunteers</b></u></p> <table> <tr> <td><b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Jeffrey Koenig</td> <td>revkoenig@stjohnselc.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Deacons:</b> Richard Ferolito &amp; Gloria Taylor</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Director of Music:</b> Susan Guse</td> <td>sguse@stjohnselc.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Director of Lay Ministry:</b> Jeanne Jones</td> <td>jjones@stjohnselc.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Contemporary Worship Team Leader:</b> Jeanne Jones</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Youth Ministry Leader:</b> Abby Triebel</td> <td>abby@stjohnselc.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Office Manager:</b> Diana Magel</td> <td>dmagel@stjohnselc.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Bookkeeper:</b> Alison Schlak</td> <td>aschlak@stjohnselc.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Editor &amp; Layout:</b> Carol Versace</td> <td>carolav_nd@yahoo.com</td> </tr> </table>		<b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Jeffrey Koenig	revkoenig@stjohnselc.org	<b>Deacons:</b> Richard Ferolito & Gloria Taylor		<b>Director of Music:</b> Susan Guse	sguse@stjohnselc.org	<b>Director of Lay Ministry:</b> Jeanne Jones	jjones@stjohnselc.org	<b>Contemporary Worship Team Leader:</b> Jeanne Jones		<b>Youth Ministry Leader:</b> Abby Triebel	abby@stjohnselc.org	<b>Office Manager:</b> Diana Magel	dmagel@stjohnselc.org	<b>Bookkeeper:</b> Alison Schlak	aschlak@stjohnselc.org	<b>Editor &amp; Layout:</b> Carol Versace	carolav_nd@yahoo.com
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### St. John's Lutheran Church Mission Statement

*“Encountering,  
 Connecting,  
 Responding  
 to Jesus Christ.”*

Articles for publication in the Journal may be submitted through email to carolav\_nd@yahoo.com.

**Deadline is the second Sunday of the month for the following month's Journal.**

Published monthly by volunteers of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**Church Phone: 845-452-1550**