

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE EAGLE

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DECEMBER 2021

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## From Our Pastor

My Dear Family in Christ,

December includes the four Sundays of Advent (“to come”, or “appear”) as we prepare for Christmas the celebration of the Incarnation or “enfleshment” (see John 1:14) of God’s Son, Jesus the Christ, born of the Virginia Mary at his 1st Coming.

All of this is Gospel (“Good News”), a familiar phrase for Christians, but in the world outside the Bible, the Greek words we translate “bringing....good news” (Luke 2:10) were used to announce a new emperor over the vast Roman Empire. Emperor Augustus commands that the world be counted, with the result that those with the least are required to do the most to fulfill the requirements of those in power (has much changed?).

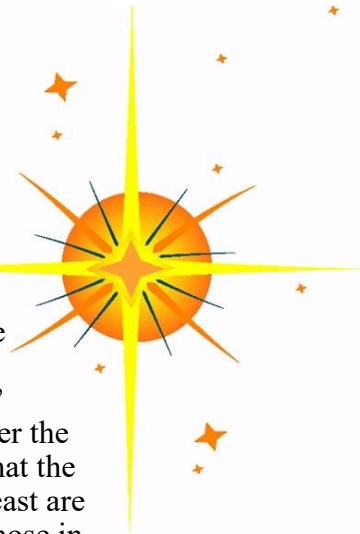
The scene at the manger, however, is anything but imperial. In Bethlehem, God’s power is revealed in weakness and humility, and the people who count include even the migrant workers, the shepherds, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

In the infant Jesus, God declares a new way of being, a new standard for power, a word of hope “good news of great joy” (Luke 2:10) for all who are weak, all who are overlooked, all who are despised, all who are abandoned, all who are homeless, all who are hovering between life and death (of which we have witnessed so many times during the Pandemic). The Festival of the Incarnation is indeed “salvation (wholeness, completeness, peace, forgiveness, new life, restoration in God’s love) to ALL.”

And ALL ARE WELCOME as we celebrate this joyous festival on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th at 6:00 pm here at St. John. On that evening we’ll gather to celebrate the Christ Mass (“Christmas”) as we sing joyous carols and feast upon Jesus’ Body and Blood in the Holy Communion or Lord’s Supper. I hope you can be present. God’s blessings to you for a Holy and Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year of 2022.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Don

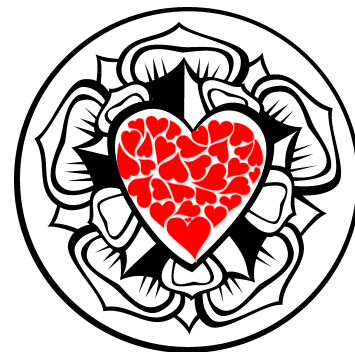


## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:30 am  
Worship Service

## OUR MISSION

*We are a family  
of Christ,  
committed to serving,  
teaching, welcoming  
and loving  
all God’s people.*



Visit us on  
Facebook



**From Our Council President**

Exciting times here at St. John! Advent is upon us. We are resuming some pre-pandemic activities - please participate as you feel comfortable.

Work continues on our church building. We are determined to fix the roof leaks! Your Council considers each proposal and corresponding cost. We want to be good stewards of both our members financial support and the need to maintain our aging structure. A special thanks to Deb Midgette for spearheading these projects. The newly formed "kitchen rejuvenation group" is ready to begin the task of assessing and recommending upgrades. As you deliberate your 2022 pledge/giving, please keep in mind we are spending money on much needed repairs.

I look forward to continuing our forward steps and am grateful for your faith in me and your elected Council to make wise decisions. We will hold our Council election at the December Congregational Meeting this month.

It has been brought to my attention that the fence gate around the Columbarium was left open. Those with loved ones in this final resting place have keys; there is no reason for this to be left unlocked. If visiting your loved ones, please remember to lock the gate when you leave.

Peace, Gail Davidson, Council President

**Council Minutes - October 11, 2021****ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: K. Sutton, J. Byers, M. Hoyt, E. Wilson, T. Taffe, G. Davidson, D. Midgett, T. Garvin, Pastor Wilson

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Roof leaks repaired by Jim Ripley
- B. New lawn service: new lawn service to start right away.
- C. Update on stove: no new updates
- D. Update on Parsonage: repair of washing machine leak. A leak from the bathroom was coming thru the bathroom floor to a ceiling light downstairs. This was also fixed.
- E. Tree removal: cost was \$2250 from Great Scott. Date scheduled for removal.
- F. Nov. 1st a phone vote was taken for another leak in the roof, approved for \$3800. All voted for approval except those who were unable to be contacted( M.Hoyt and J. Byers)

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Update on building repairs: New AC locks, outside doors repainted, new floor for the school, new door bells installed. Estimate on bi-fold doors
- B. Coffee hour: will start with WELCA the 1st Sunday of month
- C. Home Communion: Margie Gish arranging this.
- D. Update on rodent issue and Getem is scheduled for Oct. 26, at 11:30
- E. Considering hosting a Thanksgiving dinner after church early to mid November: checking on CDC guidelines.
- F. A request from Susan Posey (former member) to use St. Mathias Hall for the 1st weekend in Dec. for Fair Trade event. Over 1500 people are expected for that weekend. This might be a conflict with the wedding already scheduled and Advent Open House. Church already has that date filled with wedding
- G. Anne will be on vacation from Oct. 16th to 24th. Phone messages will be checked periodically. She will print the weekly worship books prior to her leaving.
- H. Web site: Council looking into updating and contacted Ken Whitaker for input his offer was \$2250. Gathering more info before starting. T. Taffee volunteered to help out with web site.

Happy Advent Season!! This is a busy time in the life of the church. On December 1st and for the following three Wednesday nights weeks we are holding our mid-week Soup and Bread Supper followed by a Vesper Service. Advent Open House is December 5th after our Worship Service. Our School Director, Sheila, shared that some of the school children would like to sing carols during the Open House. Lee also volunteered to provide music. This year we voted to have soup and bread rather than only sweets for this event.



Per vote from the congregation, our Christmas Eve Service commemorating the birth of our Lord will be held at 6:00 pm on December 24th.

Margie Gish ensures those desiring Home Communion can receive it in a non-contact manner. Please contact Margie or leave a message with our Church Secretary if you or someone you know would like to participate in this ministry.

We are grateful to those volunteering to serve as part of the Worship Services. Another Altar Guild team would be welcomed, training is available. Lectors and Communion Assistants are always appreciated. I am hopeful as we enter 2022 that this will be a year filled with blessings for this faithful congregation.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Davidson, Chair

### A Bootcamp at St. John

Last month St. John received a request from Torrie Creamer to use St. Matthias Hall to conduct her ladies bootcamp. Her group is well know in the Ocean View area and beyond. You may have seen them at the OV band pavilion working out. Winter forces the ladies inside. She will be paying us to use our hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 6:00 am to 7:00 am and Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Her group of 20-30 women will also be here Saturday mornings from 8:00 am to 9:30 am. Her hours of use are not when our school is in session. Council approved her request not just for her fee but to open our Church to our community. She understands that St. John's needs for the hall use are a priority but COMMUNICATION is the key. When an activity at St. John conflicts with her schedule, please bring it to Sheila Sanchez' attention so that Torrie can be notified as soon as possible. She has to move her session to a different time or space. Sheila will be her point of contact. I plan to meet with Torrie after two months to see if this arrangement is working for Torrie's Bootcamp and St. John.

Deborah Midgett, Vice President

### Worship Attendance

| Date             | Congregation | Choir/Assistants | Nursery | Total |
|------------------|--------------|------------------|---------|-------|
| October 3, 2021  | 18           | 7                | 0       | 25    |
| October 10, 2021 | 18           | 9                | 0       | 27    |
| October 17, 2021 | 17           | 6                | 0       | 24    |
| October 24, 2021 | 20           | 7                | 0       | 27    |
| October 31, 2021 | 20           | 6                | 0       | 26    |

## DECEMBER EVENTS



### Annual Advent Open House

Sunday, December 5th \ following Worship  
Join us for Fellowship in St. Matthias Hall  
for a meal of Soup and Bread with desserts,  
and maybe even some caroling!

12 Noon - 2:00 PM

Sign-up Sheets are on the bulletin board.

### Advent Soup Suppers and Worship

Wednesday Nights

December 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd

Soup Supper at 6 PM in St. Matthias Hall.

Worship at 7 PM in the Chapel.

Sign-up Sheets are on the bulletin board.



### Decking the Halls

Saturday, December 11th at 9:00 AM  
Come and help spruce up the Church!

### Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 12th following Worship

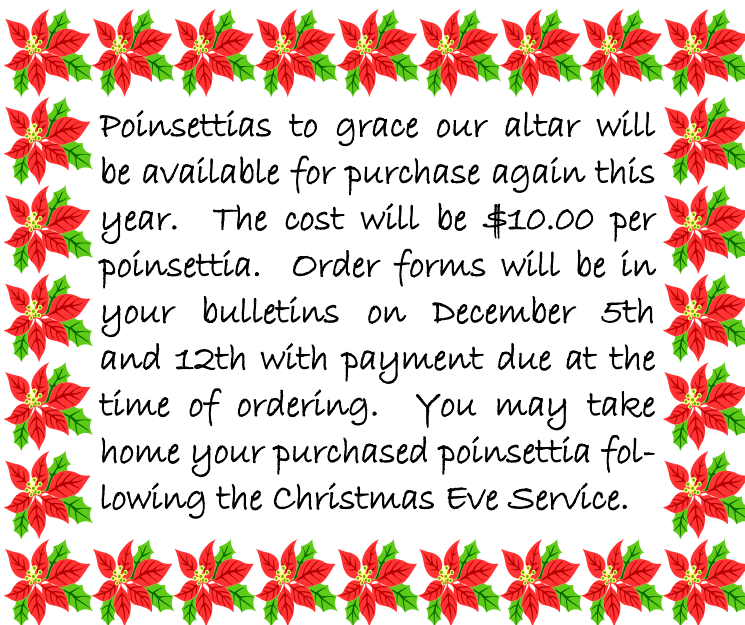
### Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th

Worship Service with Communion  
at 6:00 PM



*The Greatest Gift*



Poinsettias to grace our altar will be available for purchase again this year. The cost will be \$10.00 per poinsettia. Order forms will be in your bulletins on December 5th and 12th with payment due at the time of ordering. You may take home your purchased poinsettia following the Christmas Eve Service.

## December Anniversaries

11 ~ Chris ♥ Lynn Page

17 years

14 ~ Bill ♥ Carolyn Moran

30 years

23 ~ Don ♥ Ellen Greene

42 years



## December Birthdays

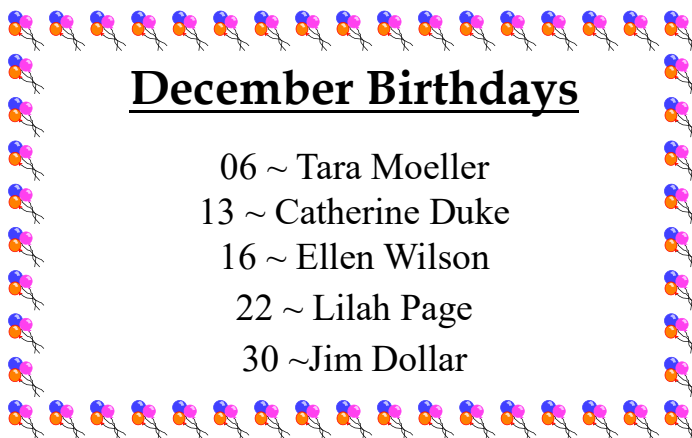
06 ~ Tara Moeller

13 ~ Catherine Duke

16 ~ Ellen Wilson

22 ~ Lilah Page

30 ~ Jim Dollar





## Annual Christmas Party

The Senior Group at St. John will celebrate Christmas with a luncheon at the Royal Garden Restaurant in the Ocean View Shopping Center on December 15th at 11:30am. Anyone over 55 is welcome to attend. Please let Emily Kircheval know if you plan to attend so that adequate seating can be arranged. Food will be your choice from the menu.

In October, Diakonia did Trick or Treat bags for the St. John School children. It made all the children very happy and was much appreciated by the school.

## DIAKONIA

Service  Opportunities

Diakonia hosted the Advent Open House on December 5th. Soup and Bread along with Yummy desserts were enjoyed by all.

We want to thank all who have helped throughout the year and wish you a very Merry and Blessed Christmas along with a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Peace and Love to all,  
Deborah McLaughlin  
Regina Starling



**NEW LIGHT**  
HAS DAWNED

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.  
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness  
has not overcome it. —John 1:4-5

MY GIFT for ADVENT    Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Advent Offering folders are available in the Narthex.**

If you would like to take one (or more!) please do!

Filled folders may be placed in the Offering Plate during the  
Worship Service on Christmas Eve.

ST. JOHN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*1953 & 1978*  
SCHOOL

*Celebrating 68 years of Ministry!*

8918 Tidewater Drive  
Norfolk VA 23503

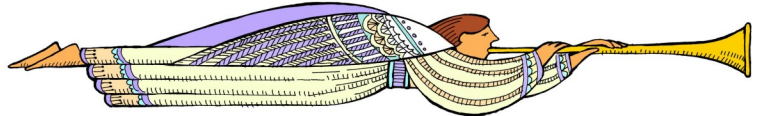
757/ 588-7381 Church  
757/ 588-8227 School

Email: [churchoffice@stjohnnorfolk.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnnorfolk.org)

Website: [www.stjohnnorfolk.org](http://www.stjohnnorfolk.org)

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

President: Gail Davidson  
Vice President: Deborah Midgett  
Council Secretary: Ellen Wilson  
Financial Secretary: Karen Sutton  
Director of Music: W. Lee Hendricks  
School Director: Sheila Sanchez  
Parish Bookkeeper: Carolyn Moran  
Parish Secretary: Anne Combes



Merry Christmas from your Parish Staff:  
Pastor Wilson, Lee, Anne & Carolyn!

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
FOR  
2022 PROPOSED CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET  
DISCUSSION AND VOTE  
AND ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021  
FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**IF YOU ARE AN ACTIVE VOTING MEMBER OF ST. JOHN,  
PLEASE PLAN ON BEING HERE AND STAYING AFTER WORSHIP ON THIS DAY.**

**IF WE DO NOT HAVE A QUORUM, THE BACK UP DATE WILL BE  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021 FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.**

**THIS NOTICE SERVES TO INFORM YOU OF THIS MEETING  
IN LIEU OF A SEPARATE MAILING.**