

December 2024



St. John Journey

www.stjohnabingdon.org



Message from our pastor:

Dear St. John Lutheran,

Advent blessings to you all! While the next weeks will surely fly by, I hope that you will all take the time to sit in wonder at the birth story of our Lord Jesus Christ. Church traditions can be countercultural in many ways, but it is the most obvious during the season of Advent. As we frantically decorate, shop, cook and clean while bouncing from school events to holiday parties it can be one of the most active times of the year! And yet in our church tradition Advent is meant to be a time of quiet meditation and waiting. Hopefully you all will find the time to do just that, to sit back and absorb all that is going on around you this holiday season, all of the joy and grief that can accompany this time of year is worth your time and attention as we await the incarnation of our Lord.

Here at church we are offering opportunities for each of you to take some time out of your busy schedules and sit in wonder at the season! Besides our weekly Sunday service, we will have two other options throughout the week. On Monday evenings Kathy Alwood will lead us in guided meditation called "Come to the Quiet" where we will ponder scripture and the meaning of Advent with prayer, discussion and times of silence. Kathy has written a more detailed description that you will find here in the newsletter. On Wednesdays at noon, we will offer a worship service called the Holden Prayer Service. This is a beautiful service written by Marty Haugen that is primarily a sung liturgy with a short reflection on scripture.

As we move through December and let us remember that the quiet reflective moments of Advent will lead us to the joy and celebration of Christmas and welcoming Jesus into the world!

Blessings,
Pr Elise

December News

Be sure to look at our online calendar for the most up to date information on things happening this month at the church. (stjohnabingdon.org)

Monday nights 7-8pm Come to the Quiet:

Advent is a wonderful season to make more room for God... to intentionally open the door of the 'inn' of our lives a little wider to His love knock... to give Him the gift of our undivided attention... to listen for the Voice that calls us 'Beloved'.

In writing about Advent as the Church's season of waiting on God, Henri Nouwen put it this way:
“(It) leads to a growing inner stillness and joy, allowing me to realize that He for whom I am waiting has already arrived and speaks to me in the silence of my heart.”

With this in mind, you are very welcome to 'Come to the Quiet' at St John's this Advent! From 7-8pm in the sanctuary, for the four Mondays of Advent, we will practice listening together through a guided Scripture reflection followed by a time of communal silence.

Contact Pastor Elise or Kathy Alwood (865) 203-7374 if you have questions!

Wednesdays 12:00-12:45pm: Holden prayer service

News from our Tech team:

We have a new WIFI address. For St Johns Public, the password is Lutheran807. We are also in the process of getting our new sound system installed.

Preschool News:

We had a very successful fundraising night last month. We raised over \$2200.00 to keep the preschool running for 2025. They had a very tight budget this year, so it is a huge help! Thanks to all that donated items, came to the dinner and/or bought the auction items.

Choir News:

Choir will meet every Sunday morning, at 8:45am. There will also be a monthly evening rehearsal. The next one will be Wednesday, 12/18 at 6:30pm.

Quilting Update from Edie:

With Christmas and New Years Day coming up, I wanted to remind you that we will not be meeting December 24 and 31 for Christmas. Dutch Treat lunch will be Dec 10 at 11am. We will meet at 9:30 at the church for some quilting and then carpool to the restaurant. The volunteer gift exchange will be on Dec 17 to include Helen Findley who will not be at our luncheon.

I'm looking forward to seeing you quilting from 9:30 to 12:00 on Tuesdays Dec 3, 10 and 17 for fellowship and knot tying

Edie can be reached at home (276) 628-5533, text (276) 447-9692, or email to ehilte67@gmail.com. PS - I don't check my email every day.

Women's Group:

We are planning an outing to see "Wicked" at the Abingdon Cinemall on Friday afternoon, December 6th. Contact Jill in the office if you're interested in joining us.

Book Group:

We will meet on Sunday, December 15th at 2:00pm to discuss The Women of Christmas by Liz Curtis Higgs. Please bring a Christmas treat to share.

Tapestry Group: Will not meet in December.

Notes of thanks:

From Carolyn Church to my St. John Family:

Words are inadequate to express how grateful I am for the multiple acts of kindness, caring and love shown to me, Dallas and our family during our ten year journey with dementia. Your kind words, notes of hope, hugs and encouragement were always timely and received with gratitude. From Pastor Elise visiting me and Dallas on her first day as our new pastor in March to Ken Croghan helping to move Dallas into Memory Care to food from Dave & Jill, lenten soup delivered by Doris, flowers from Charlie & Linda, Helping Hands Support Group members and so much more. Your support before, during and after his funeral service was truly amazing. Blessed to have Pastor Elise and Pastor Kent lead the service and musical talents of Ed and Wrenda. The Hospitality Committee members under Sue's leadership provided a sumptuous feast. It meant so much that many of you came to the service. I am truly blessed to be part of this remarkable family.

From Kelly and Paul Read:

Thank you to our St. John "family" for all the love and support you have shown us during Mom's illness and passing. We felt your prayers which gave us strength and your kind words, cards and hugs gave us comfort during these past few weeks. We are truly blessed with a church home who supports us during the difficult "seasons of life" and for that we will be forever grateful.



December birthdays

12/18-Sandy Davis

12/19-Julie Kroll

Please email Jill in the office know if we missed your birthday so it can be added to our database.

NexTrex Plastic Recycling Update

We are beginning a new cycle for collecting and will again be aiming to collect 1000 pounds in a year! If so, we can get a bench for the preschool playground! Ask you friends and relatives to save their plastics and bring them in!

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!



FROM THE STORE



✓ Produce bags

✓ Store bags

✓ Ice bags



FROM YOUR PANTRY



✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags

✓ Cereal box liners

✓ Case overwrap

✓ Bread bags



FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR



✓ Newspaper sleeves

✓ Dry cleaning bags

✓ Bubble wrap

✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue



NexTrex

trex.com/recycling 1-800-Buy-Trex

Volunteers for December

If you are unable to serve or have changed with someone, please let Jill know as soon as possible.

	DEC 1	DEC 8	DEC 15	DEC 22	DEC 24	DEC 29
Livestream	Adam Brock	Adam Brock	Adam Brock	Adam Brock	Adam Brock	Adam Brock
Assisting Minister	Helen French	Linda Garnett	Joan Shaver	Ken Croghan	Ed Davis	Helen French
Acolyte	Sharon Meacham	Chris Dixon	Sharon Meacham	Chris Dixon	Sharon Meacham	Chris Dixon
Lector	Rose Mary Carrico	John Gifford	Kent Peterson	Doris Vaught	Dave Morris	Helen French
Ushers	The Krolls	The Giffords	The Spencers	Rose Mary Carrico Doris Vaught	The Croghans	Jim and Sharon Meacham
Alter Guild						
Counters	Roger Nipper Jim Kroll	Chris Meacham Jim Suhrbier	Helen French Doris Vaught	Bill Spencer Jim Suhrbier	Chris Meacham Sandy Davis	The Krolls

--St. John Lutheran Church | 807 E. Main St. | Abingdon, VA 24210 US