



St. John Journey

www.stjohnabingdon.org



Message from our pastor:

Dear St. John Lutheran,

Happy New Year!! It is my sincere hope that you all had wonderful Christmas celebrations and gatherings with your family and friends! As we still sit in the joy and hope that Christmas brings, we look ahead to the new year with optimism and energy to continue our ministry together.

While it is typically lost in the post-Christmas exhaustion and New Years celebrations, the feast day of Epiphany is one of my favorite church celebrations with some magical imagery and tradition. Epiphany is on January 6th, and it celebrates the arrival of the magi, or three wise men, and their meeting with Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Scholars have differing opinions on when their visit actually occurred; was it days after Jesus' birth or was it years? Either way we know that they traveled a long distance and were important people in their respective communities, important enough that they had an audience with King Herrod! This story of people from across the region and across many cultures coming to see the baby Jesus is an important reminder of what we here in the gospel of John, that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in him shall have eternal life." It was the entire world and all of its people that were impacted by the birth of Jesus and even in a time without telephones or social media the word spread to the far corners of the world and people rejoiced! What an amazing thing to remember when we look at those stars and figurines in our nativity scenes.

In this next year I am so excited to continue to grow together as a congregation and explore ministries and spiritual practices to enhance our lives together!

Blessed new year and happy epiphany!
Pr. Elise

January 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)

A note from the staff:

On behalf of the entire staff, we'd like to thank you all for your generous financial gift this Christmas! It is an honor and pleasure to serve you all and this ministry we are doing together. We appreciate all your love and care!

Pastor Elise, Wrenda, Jill and Pam

A note from the preschool staff:

Thank you for allowing us to be a service to the church. We appreciate the love and support. The financial gifts were a great blessing to us. Thank you!

Mel, Robin, Merrilee and Katelyn

Thank you to our Tech team:

You all may have noticed a few changes around the building in the last couple of months. If you haven't, allow me to tell you!

First thing is our new Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the building. These were installed strategically so that from the fellowship hall to the far reaches of our education wing there is a strong internet signal. This has improved the streaming quality of the service to the nursery and allows Bruce Alwood to make international zoom calls from his office! We also changed internet providers which is saving us over \$200 a month!

The second change is the installation of a television in the nursery which makes it possible for our families with small children to watch our service live and stay fully engaged while their children play!

The final and biggest change is the new sound system in the sanctuary. Brand new speakers were installed just in time for our Christmas Eve services and the difference is incredible! We were able to get those installed earlier than planned thanks to some generous donations from members and the hard work of the crew from Front Row Music.

But none of this would have been possible without the work of our amazing Tech Team! Lead by Adam Brock, this crew met to plan the best way forward for each of these projects and worked hard to make them happen. So next time you see these folks give them a big THANK YOU! Adam Brock, Chris Meacham, Jason Carrico, Dona and Michael Jenkins, Dave Morris, John Gifford, and Jim Lovett (our tv installer extraordinaire)!

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, 1/8 at 6:00pm.

Quilting for the New Year

Join us on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to Noon to make beautiful quilts for each other and the needy of the world. It is the time of the year that we often encounter issues with weather so if the Washington County, VA Public Schools are closed due to the weather (or on a remote learning day due to weather), we will NOT meet. From now to Memorial Day, the only Tuesday we definitely will NOT meet is April 15 (Holy Week).

If you can not join us on Tuesdays, we welcome any contributions to our work and fellowship. A few ideas are:

1. Donations of sheets which we use mainly for backs for the quilts.

2. Make quilt tops with 1/2" seams, measuring approximately 61"x81". Check [About Lutheran World Relief | Lutheran World Relief](#) to get more details or pick up a handout from Edie Hitebeitel's Kiosk box. They can also be whole cloth tops.

3. Financially by buying individual quilts or donations. The money is used to buy supplies to make and ship the quilts, support Pastor Elise with restricted Walmart gift cards for the needy, and donations to Southeast ELCA Synod and LWR for shipping expenses.

Thank you for all your contributions over the past 20+ years.
Edie Hitebeitel

Women's Group:

We are planning some outings to the Barter Theater in the next few months to see "Grandma Gatewood Took a Walk" and the "Book Club Play". Dates to be determined.

Tapestry Group:

Will meet via Zoom on Thursday, January 16th at 7:00pm. If you are interesting in the MLK celebrations in Abingdon, click [here](#) for the newsletter from APEC.



January birthdays

1/09- Katie Gifford

1/10- Katie Kluttz

1/11- Chris Dixon

1/29- Lisa Roberts

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!



✓ Produce bags

FROM THE STORE

✓ Store bags



✓ Ice bags



✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY

✓ Cereal box liners

✓ Case overwrap



✓ Bread bags



✓ Newspaper sleeves

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

✓ 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 January

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

| | Jan.5 | Jan.12 | Jan.19 | Jan.26 |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Livestream | Adam Brock | Adam Brock | Adam Brock | Adam Brock |
| Assisting Minister | Linda Garnett | Ken Croghan | Joan Shaver | Ed Davis |
| Acolyte | Chris Dixon | Spencer Wellenhoffer | Madison Wellenhoffer | Chris Dixon |
| Lector | Bill Spencer | Rose Mary Carrico | Michael Jenkins | Sandy Davis |
| Ushers | The Meachams | The Wellenhoffers | The Kroll's | The Giffords |
| Counters | Roger Nipper Jim Suhrbier | Chris Meacham Doris Vaught | The Kroll's | Helen French Bill Spencer |