



St. John Journey

www.stjohnabingdon.org



Message from our pastor:

Dear St. John Lutheran,

Did you know that there are six words for love in ancient Greek language? Agape, which means deep, unconditional love; eros, which is a passionate, romantic love; philia, which is love between friends; storge, which is a familiar love; and xenia which is love of the stranger or love shown through hospitality.

When we talk of the love we receive from God it is agape love, unconditional in every way. God's love is a free gift given to us in order to free us from sin so that we can share that love with the world, from our closest friends and family to the strangers in need in our community and across the world.

In February we celebrate Valentine's Day, a holiday/ feast day whose origins are unclear, but one story is that Valentine was a priest who defied the emperor by performing weddings for Christian soldiers who were normally not allowed to marry because their commanders wanted them ready to fight at a moment's notice with no ties back home. Valentine was eventually martyred for his actions and has gone down in history as the saint of love. Valentine's Day has, of course, become commercialized but it is still an opportunity to celebrate love of all kinds from the love in our families, to the love in our romantic relationships, the love we have for our friends and the love of God that we both receive and are called to give away.

Blessings all!
Pr. Elise

February 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)

Upcoming Events! Mark your calendars!

February 9th:

- New member interest meeting after the service

If you have been visiting and would like more information about membership at St. John, please sign up on the sheet by the front door

-“Souper Bowl Sunday”

We will collect food for Faith in Action and the backpack program.

There will be tables labeled with the team names in the narthex.

Lists of items requested are on the tables now.

February 10th -14th: Food Pantry

We will be serving Monday and Friday mornings from 9:45am-1:00pm and Tuesday afternoon from 3:45pm-6:00pm. You do not have to come for the whole time but it's usually busiest at the start of the shift. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

March 2nd: New member and anniversary celebration potluck lunch

We will celebrate our new members and the first anniversary of having Pastor Elise with us!

Important information from the Property Committee:

This year has been challenging for the property, especially this winter! The electric and gas bills certainly back this up.

In order to keep the equipment functioning and keep costs down, we need your help!

Thermostats are being left turned up, lights left on and the doors between the zones of the church left open far too frequently. The heating and cooling units operate by zone, and each zone is controlled by its own thermostat. All interior doors are "fire doors", which, when closed, will help if there is ever a fire. If heating or cooling is required in an area, it's fine to be comfortable but remember to turn them to the original set point, noted on each thermostat. Be sure all lights are turned off and doors closed. Also, try to choose an area to use that is appropriate to the group size. (The conference room costs a lot less to heat or cool than the fellowship hall for a small meeting.)

If you have any problems or questions, feel free to contact any of the property committee (Ken Croghan, Jim Lovett, Jim Kroll).

Choir News:

Choir will meet every Sunday morning, at 8:45am. There will also be a also be a practice after the service on February 2nd.

Quilting News:

Do you have sheets you no longer use or need? We use all sizes in most any condition and even pillowcases. Just drop them in the bin in the fellowship hall, on the right just inside the double doors. Thanks

for helping us out.

The quilters meet Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to noon in the fellowship hall for community and assembling of the quilts. Come and lend a hand at tying knots, laying out quilt layers (back, batting and quilt tops) and fellowship.

Tapestry Group:

The Tapestry group will be joining others on Monday, February 24th at 7:00pm for a movie discussion.

Participants are asked to watch the movie before the event. The discussion will be about the 2024 film *The American Society of Magical Negroes*, which is available on Amazon Prime and other streaming services. The film is an American comedy that follows a young man who struggles with the American Society's mission to please specific people.

Click [here](#) to register by February 19th. A Zoom link from the organizers will be sent out to those registered.

Upcoming in March- Lent Well Spent!

Confirmation fun without the memorization or stage fright! If you need a refresher on Lutheran history and theology or want to learn about it for the first time, this is the class for you! We will spend time talking about church history, Luther's antics, what makes us Lutherans different from other denominations and what makes us the same! It will be a fun discussion and all are welcome!

It will start on Sunday March 16th at 11:45a.



birthdays

2/02-Carla Proffitt
2/04-Linda Garnett
2/08-Edie Hildebeitel
2/13-Sarah Wellenhoffer
2/15-Josh Kroll
2/17-Spencer Wellenhoffer
2/22-Sid Vaught
2/24-Alexis Padden
2/26-Carole Ann Rosen

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! We are off to a great start as we collected 308 pounds in January! Ask you friends and relatives to save their plastics and bring them in **IMPORTANT!** Please be sure that the plastic is clean and dry before putting it in the box.

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 February

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

	Feb.2	Feb.9	Feb.16	Feb.23
Livestream	Adam Brock	Adam Brock	Adam Brock	Adam Brock
Assisting Minister	Helen French	Linda Garnett	Ken Croghan	Joan Shaver
Acolyte	Madison Wellenhoffer	Chris Dixon	Sharon Meacham	Spencer Wellenhoffer
Lector	Kent Peterson	John Gifford	Rosemary Carrico	Charlie Garnett
Ushers	Sue Croghan Doris Vaught	The Spencers	The Giffords	The Krolls
Counters	Chris Meacham Doris Vaught	Roger Nipper Helen French	Sandy Davis Bill Spencer	The Krolls