



CHRISTMAS EVE
BULLETIN FOR
ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE ERIE LUTHERAN PARISH

2216 PEACH STREET, ERIE PA 16502
814.456.7596 WWW.STJOHNSERIE.ORG

YOU BELONG HERE

Welcome to St. John's!

We are glad you are joining us this Christmas Eve! Please make yourself at home in our worship, as there is always room at God's table for you. If you have questions about our beliefs, practices, or if you want to know more about who we are and what we do as a community of faith (including how to become part of it), please visit our webpage (www.StJohnsErie.org) or contact the church office. Once again, welcome to St. John's – you belong here!

#YOUBELONGHERE
@STJOHNSERIE

CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT
CHRISTMAS EVE

4PM 7PM 11PM

You are invited to worship with us in person or online (go to www.StJohnsErie.org and click on the "Worship With Us" tab).

Worship with us via



search "StJohnsErie"

We hope the light of Christmas is everything you need it to be. If we can help that light shine a little brighter, that is what we are here for.

Meet Our Staff

If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know — that is why we are here.

- ◆ Rev. Ralph Mineo, Supply Pastor
- ◆ Rachel Tilburg, Office Administrator
- ◆ Kathy Swanson, Music Director
- ◆ Joe Gonzalez, Sexton
- ◆ The Members of St. John's, Ministers

† ST JOHN'S VISION STATEMENT †

Loved by God, alive in Christ Jesus, and guided by the Holy Spirit, St. John's unconditionally serves God's people and shares Christian love.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:**“O COME O COME EMMANUEL” (Red Hymnal #257, v.1-5)**

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

4 Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

5 Oh, come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

INVOCATION

We worship this holy night in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY AND PRAYER

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

The light no darkness can overcome.

Stay with us Lord, for it is evening,

And the day is almost over.

Let your light scatter the darkness,

And illumine your church.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

“OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL” (Red Hymnal #283, v.1-3)

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

- 2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

THE CHRISTMAS PROPHECY - Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CHILDREN'S SERMON**“A LIGHT HAS SHINED”****“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM” (Red Hymnal #279)**

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,

and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

- 3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

THE BIRTH OF JESUS - Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

“HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING” (Red Hymnal #270)

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS - Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

TONIGHT'S MESSAGE

“God Is With Us”

PASTOR RALPH MINEO

“JOY TO THE WORLD” (Red Hymnal #267)

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess together that which we believe in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy

Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please share God's peace this Christmas Eve using the resources you have available.)

WE REMEMBER JESUS IN THE BREAD AND THE WINE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

“SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT” (Red Hymnal #281)

Verse 1: German* / Verses 2-4: English

** St. John's Lutheran Church was founded by German immigrants over 200 years ago. We remember their gift to us in this place tonight as we sing the first verse in German much like they would have done so many years ago – a sign of the same hope held throughout the generations.*

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth. Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

*The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace this Christmas Eve.*

Amen.

Go in peace to serve the newborn Lord.

Thanks be to God!



Christmas Garden

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, we give the gift of remembering and honoring loved ones and friends by decorating our sanctuary with beautiful red and green poinsettias. Many have contributed in honor, memory, or in celebration of individuals they know and love. After Christmas day, these plants will be taken from the sanctuary and delivered to church members and friends that are homebound, hospitalized, or living in assisted living facilities, so they too can enjoy their beauty, remembering the Good News of Christmas. The following is the list of dedications made toward the Christmas Garden this season:

Brian & Carol Vollant in memory of Harry and Patricia Honard Jr.

Frank & Pam Gildersleeve in memory of Judy Sweeney.

Robert & Bonnie Schlaufman in memory of Al & Lavina Schlaufman, Josephine Burdick, and Pauline & August Zielsdorf.

Simon Lindvay and Bill & Arline Watson in memory of Joe & Estella Lindvay.

Olivia, Harper, & Clara Rae Watson in memory of their beloved dog, Franklin.

Bill, Arline, Olivia, Harper, Clara Rae, James, and Katie Watson in memory of Robert & Betty Watson.

Nancy Varner in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Carl Gonser and John Varner.

Susan, Becky, and Emma Carlson in memory of Leona & Harold Bender, Bea & Gil Carlson, Don Carlson, Chuck Reichert, and Susan & Carl Zwilling.

Carl & Margie Gehrlein in memory of Marie & Albert Gehrlein, Bill Gehrlein, and granddaughter Olivia Grace Schmidt.

Allyson, Joey, and Ella Mino in memory of our Dad & Papa, Bill Schrimper.

Scot & Julie Zoumbaris in memory of Russ Titus, Alex Zoumbaris, and Steve Zoumbaris.

Carolyn Sturtevant in honor of all who preach the good news and in memory of Elaine & Claude Sturtevant.

Thomas Tell in honor of Emmanuel "God is with us" and in memory of Robert, David, and Jean Tell.

Jim Crain in memory of Barbara Lou Crain.

Sharyn Roberts & Family in memory of David Roberts Sr. and Doris Seachrist.

Cathy Goellner & family in memory of Bill Goellner.

Barbara & John Huff in memory of Vivian M. & William E. Huff, William A. Huff, Marilyn Stafford; Phyllis, Clifford, and Michael Jones.

William, Charlotte, & Howard Krack in memory of Clarence & Lydia Krack, Elmer & Alice Krack, and Gladys Getschow.

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Holly & Mike Jodon & Family, Sue & Mark Hedlund & Family, Jill Taccone & Family, Rob Kohlwey & Carter Family in memory of Verle & William H. Lander III, Deborah Lander-Kohlwey, Shauna Jodon, Jaime Hedlund, Luella Askounes, Helen Lander, Chuck Lander, Terry & Peter Barthelmes, Emma Potter, and Mabel Hedderick.

Doug & Audrey Boam and Alice Adler in memory of William & Ella Adler, Raymond & Dorothy Adler, William & Jeanne Adler, and William & Hattie Boettiger.

Mark & Susan Eller in memory of Robert W. & Marjorie Eller and Gilbert & Allene MacMichael.

Roger Seman in honor of Marilyn Hilinski.

John & Nancy Durst in honor of our children and grandchildren.

Phyllis R zodkiewicz in memory of Marguerite & Edward R zodkiewicz.

Diane, Bob, & Brian Bestvina in memory of Aunt Sissy who passed away on Thanksgiving Day this year.

In memory of Melvin & Charlotte Kraus and Dwight & Laura Olsen.

Paul Rapela, Kevin, Erin, Erika, and Jaden Harper in memory of Erika, Edward, Raymond, and Phyllis Rapela, Harry & Elsie Giese, Walter & Mary Rapela, and Patricia Ann Harper.

Lynn Schrimper & Family and Gary & Brenda Eller & Family in memory of Bill Schrimper, Mr. & Mrs. Edward P. Eller, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Myers, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Schrimper, Mary Christenson, Sue Simonetti, Aaron Haffley, and Cindy Weber.

Lynn Schrimper in honor of her children and grandchildren: Allyson, Alan, Joey, Ella, Michelle, & Carson.

Ron, Anthony, and Laura Simonetti in memory of Susan, Esther, & Joe Simonetti, Howard & Margaret Mischler.

Karen Haffley & Family in memory of Paul & Thelma Amon, Dale & Florence Haffley, Samantha Haffley, Bill Schrimper, and Susan Simonetti.

Thank you to Diane Gehrlein and the Chancel Choir for their gift of music at this evenings' services. 🎵