

St. John Lutheran Church
1833-2023

*To you
is born this day
a Savior*

LUKE 2:11



December 24, 2023
9:30 AM, 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN.
6540 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221



Discover Joy. Share Love. Grow Faith.

St. John is a community which welcomes *EVERYONE* to know, share and grow in the joy of God's love through Jesus Christ. We are committed to worship, faith formation, community involvement and pastoral care. If you have any questions, desire pastoral care or are looking for a church home please notify our pastor, Scott Hannon. Hearing devices and large print bulletins are available.

SERVING TODAY

Missionaries: Each Participating Christian
Presiding Ministers: Rev. Scott Hannon & Rev. Debi Turley
Assisting Minister 9:30 Grayson Snyder
 3:00 Laura Maraschiello
 5:00 Joni Coté
Greeters 9:30 Kathy Wood
 3:00 Midge Davis
 5:00 Jim & Candy Pankow
Counters: Ellen & Jan

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott D. Hannon, Pastor | Rev. Charlie Greene, Visitation Pastor
Brigid Monica, Administrative Assistant | Mike Dempsey, Sexton
Cindy Lin, Music Director

CONTACT

St. John Office- 716-632-6557/office@sjlcamherst.com
Pastor Scott—pastorsscott@sjlcamherst.com

†GATHERING †

PRELUDE: *Fantasia on Greensleeves*

WILLIAMS,

D. SCHMUDE, CELLO

WELCOME

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

We stand.

GATHERING HYMN: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

ELW 283

ST. JOHN BELL CHOIR



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of life,

C **You promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of Your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

P Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: *God With Us*

ALL SONS & DAUGHTERS

Oh You've come | To bring peace | To be love | To be nearer to us

O You've come | To bring life | To be light | To shine brighter in us

O Emmanuel | God with us

CHORUS

***Our deliver, You are savior. | In Your presence we find our strength |
Over everything our redemption | God with us. | You are God with us.***

You are here. | You are holy. | We are standing in Your glory.

You are here. | You are holy. | We are standing in Your glory. (repeat)

To Chorus

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C **Amen.**

We Sit.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* DAVID SCHMUDE, CELLO

ADVENT PRAYER

P Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire
C **Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.**
P We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.
C **Amen.**

‡WORD‡

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

A¹ ¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him
¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATIVE ANTHEM : *O Holy Night*

5:00PM ONLY



SECOND READING: TITUS 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

A ¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Emmanuel

TOMLIN

*Go tell it on the mountain | The one that we've been waiting for
The king of our salvation | Born on this day our savior Christ the Lord*

***Go tell it on the mountain | Over the hills and everywhere | That we can be forgiven
he weight of all our sin he came to bear***

*Emmanuel God with us | Emmanuel King Jesus | The savior of the world is born
Emmanuel God with us | Emmanuel King Jesus | The savior of the world is born*

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P ¹In 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.

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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

SERMON

REV. SCOTT D. HANNON

HYMN OF THE DAY: 9:30: *Go Tell it On the Mountain*
3:00 & 5:00: *Go Tell it On the Mountain*

ELW 290
WILLIAMS

*While shepherds kept their watchin' | Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens | There shone a holy light*

Chorus

*Oh, I said | Go, tell it on the mountain | Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain | That Jesus Christ is born*

*The shepherds feared and trembled | When lo! Above the earth
Rang out an angel chorus | That hailed our Savior's birth*

*And down in a lowly manger | Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation | On that blessed Christmas morn'*

To chorus

*I was a lonely seeker | I sought both night and day
And I asked the Lord to help me | And he showed me the way
He made me a watchman | Upon a city wall
And if I am a Christian | I am the least of all*

To chorus



We Stand

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give Your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness especially those on our prayer list, prayer wall and those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to You, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all Your saints who have witnessed the appearing of Your grace, and who reveal to us Your salvation for all. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

C Amen.

✠MEAL ✠

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need

We sit

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: 3:00 & 5:00 *Christmas Calypso*

ST. JOHN CHOIR

We stand

OFFERING PRAYER

- A God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at Your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of Your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
- C **Amen.**

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

We sit

DISTRIBUTION

ALL ARE WELCOME at this feast of the baptized! Communion will be distributed at the head of the center aisle. Communion wine will be distributed by intinction. Children and adults who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. This church affirms CHRIST'S FULL ABIDING PRESENCE in, with and under the elements of bread and wine. Grape juice, instead of wine and gluten-free wafers are available.

COMMUNION ANTHEM: O Come, O Come

MERCY ME

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A God our redeemer, You have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As You have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C **Amen.**



We stand.

SONG OF LIGHT: *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

ELW 281



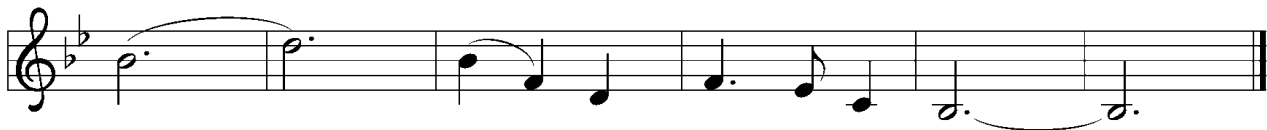
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

BENEDICTION

P God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C Amen.



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

P Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C **Thanks be to God**

POSTLUDE: *We Three Kings*

arr. BISH

ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST

Hospitalized and Homebound

Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry, Wayne Yendall

Bereavement

Tobia/Lochead family of Cathy Tobia.
Family of Patti Waugh, Aunt of Terry Slaper

Thanks Be to God

Judy Nitchke, Jan Vincent

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

**Rick Bosch, Bob Tiffany, Gayle Bosch, Jerry Szykowny,
Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak, Millie Webb, Rich Traina,
Lamar Todd, Larry King, DeWayne James, Susan Ott**

Robert and Judie Pufpaff, friends of Jane D'Agostino
Joan Goudy (and daughter Ellen), friend of Marsha Irmer.
Marie Hewett, friend of Marsha Irmer.
Brian Fullam, brother-in-law of Lois Robinson
Audrey Crimian & Amy Riemenscheider, sisters of Candy (Jim) Pankow
Sue Pickett, friend of Marsha Irmer
Shelley Diakun, sister-in-law of Jim & Kate Olson
Carrie Eberly, Christie Guadagno, Tom Hughes, Sandy William, family of Bobbie Traina
Bonnie Beebe, friend of Sue Hadala
Nohl Michael Heitzenrsater, infant, friend of Karen Caton
Colleen O'Connor friend of Jean Delamere & Barb King
Phylis Dryden, sister-in-law of Lee Dryden
Gene Overdorf, family of Mike Dempsey
Doris Curtin, family of Emily Dryden Curtin
Suzanne Kelly, sister of Lee Dryden
Carol Dixon, sister of Joni Coté
Carol Allison, sister of Deni Krantz
Guy & Mary Wilcox, friends of Marsha Irmer
Jen Diakun, daughter of Kate & Jim Olson
Miriam Benson, friend of Kate & Jim Olson
Joyce Geary, friend of Barb King
Jill & Ken Porter, friends of Marsha Irmers
Charlene Ferrara, Family of Christine Ferrara

For the Sake of the World

- ✠ For wise governing dealing with political tension, suffering, and peace for our nation and the world
- ✠ Healing, comfort and strength for those seeking refuge from natural disasters.
- ✠ Those victimized by homelessness, hunger, loneliness, violence, racism, antisemitism, abuse in any form, coercion, and addiction.
- ✠ For the youth, who struggle with anxiety and other issues of Mental Health.
- ✠ Those who grieve over the senseless acts of mass shootings.
- ✠ For those who have no one to pray for them.

Military

Matt Newman, Drew Steinhilber, Ben Hoyt, Maj. Kurt Wasilewski



Merry Christmas from Pastor Scott & the Staff

December 25, 26, 27

OFFICE CLOSED

December 31

9:30 SERVICE

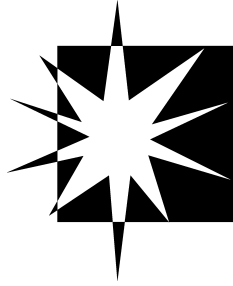
January 1, 2

OFFICE CLOSED

SJLCAmherst.com

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:

Charles Platzer 12/24; Jared Kachelmeyer 12/25; Andrew Ekberg 12/27; Danielle May 12/27



LOOKING AHEAD:

Fellowship Hall	FH
Conference Room	CR
Gathering Space	GS
Kitchen	K
Nursery	N
Youth Room	YR
Outside Ministry Center	OMC
Sanctuary	S
Music Room	M
Zoom	Z

Monday: ARC (FH) 8-9 AM, 1-3 PM; PE (FH) 11:00AM-3:00PM
Pastor Scott's day off; office closed.

Tuesday: ARC (FH) 8-9 AM; Gayle (K) 10 AM -12 noon; PE (M) 4-8PM;

Wednesday: PE (FH) 11am-4:30pm; PE (FH & GS) 6:30pm-10:00pm

Boy Scouts (FH) 7PM

Thursday: ARC (FH) 8-9AM, 1-3PM; Cub Scouts (FH) 6:30PM

Friday: ARC (FH) 8-9 AM. 1-3pm

Saturday: Men's Group (CR) 9AM; PE (FH & GS) 2pm-5pm;

PE (FH & K) 5pm-10pm

Sunday: 9:30 AM Service of Lessons and Carols



ALTAR FLOWERS:

are given by
The Favale Family in honor of the birth of our savior Jesus Christ

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lessons & Carols: Sunday, 31 Dec 2023 9:30AM

St. John will join with **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** <https://shpbeds.org/chapter/ny-buffalo/> to provide children ages 3 to 17 a safe place to sleep. Our Congregation will be collecting: **twin size sheets, comforters and pillows & pillowcases** for the Buffalo chapter. The Christmas tree in the Narthex holds ornaments with various donation suggestions. Please bring the donations unwrapped and leave under the table in the Narthex until **Jan 6, 2024**. Financial donations are always welcome, please label for Sleep in Heavenly Peace and leave in the collection plate.

Help Wanted: We are currently looking for volunteers to run the equipment for **live streaming** of the Sunday services. This could be an excellent opportunity for youth community service hours. Training is provided.

St. John Lutheran Church community is collecting money to support purchasing food for **Friends of Night People**. Please make your checks out to St. John with "feeding friends" on the memo line.

Children's bulletins are available for kids ages 3+ & 7+.

New Year, New Donation Envelopes: Please pick up your new box of donation envelopes from the table in the Narthex even if you give on-line. Please be sure to notify the office if you do not find your name on a box of envelopes.

Altar Flowers Calendar for 2024 is open and set up on the table in the Narthex, feel free to reserve your requests .



Poinsettias

are given by:

Jean Delamere in honor of Charles Platzer's 80th Birthday

Jean Delamere in Memory of Mary Platzer, Doug Pulfer & loved ones

Laura Kachelmeyer in memory of Thomas H. Kachelmeyer

Laura Kachelmeyer in memory of David & Eleanor Scott

Ellen Pancoe to the Glory of God

Ellen Pancoe in honor of Melissa Licht

Ellen Pancoe in honor of Jessica Licht

Ellen Pancoe in memory of John R. Pancoe

Joan Oles in memory of Natasha Cassick

Midge Davis in memory of all loved ones

Cary & Melissa Haller in memory of Calvin Haller

Cary & Melissa Haller in honor of Yvette H. Haller

Candice & James Pankow in memory of our Parents

The Goehle Family in memory of Paul & Dotty Goehle

The Goehle Family in memory of Nana Jean, Papa Sid & Daddy

Janet Horton dedicated to the Glory of God

Dave & Judy Nitchke in honor of our loved ones

Rev Scott Hannon & Family for the Glory of God

