

December  
2021

ST. JOHN  
CHURCH SERVANTS

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Matt Coté

Vice President  
Jennifer Goehle

Secretary  
Lee Dryden

Treasurer  
Ellen Pancoe

Financial Secretary & Report  
Ginny Hohl

Building & Grounds  
Rick Bosch

Christian Education  
Don Reidell & Jason Ekberg

Finance  
Ginny Hohl

Mutual Ministry  
Lee Dryden

Personnel  
C.J. Ullrich

Social Ministry  
Judy Nitchke

Stewardship  
Rev. Marsha Irmer

Welcoming/Fellowship  
Judy Nitchke

Worship & Music  
Larry King & Lee Dryden

Permanent Endowment  
C.J. Ullrich

Cemetery  
Jenn Goehle

# The Eagle

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR SCOTT...

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving I went to a year-round Christmas store for fake snow and was told I was too early. They said it wasn't the season yet and that I'd have to come back... tomorrow.

Let me repeat that...

The *Tuesday before Thanksgiving* I went to a year-round Christmas store for fake snow and was told I was **too early**. They said it *wasn't the season* yet and that I'd have to come back... tomorrow.

(Before we continue, please consider the following facts...

Real snow had already fallen.

Christmas decorations have been up in stores since September.

Christmas decorations certainly ought to be available the week of Thanksgiving.

Christmas decorations should always be in stores called "The Christmas Decoration Store".)

Sensing my confusion, the store employee clarified that they had the fake snow and that I was *ironically* standing directly next to it – it was just still in the box and not on the shelf yet. I asked (politely, I promise) if there was any reason, they couldn't just open the box so I could buy it. One clerk said yes; the other said no. And thus began the longest 10 minutes of my life.

I waited awkwardly while the employees huddled up to discuss my seemingly outlandish request. Managers were called in. I assume someone called corporate. In the meantime, the snow was removed from the box and presented to me with the caveat that they weren't sure if I could purchase it or not. In the end the original clerk relayed their decision:

You can buy the snow.

What (you may be wondering) does any of this have to do with church or faith. Maybe nothing. But for my part, I felt in that uncomfortable situation, the experience of Advent. See in this sacred season we are waiting for that which is already here. We look for light and life and peace and joy on the horizon. We expect these things to arrive later. We hope to possibly, quite literally, unwrap it in just a few weeks. And many times, we don't realize that what we long for is already here... right next to us.

Sometimes it is concealed.

Sometimes we just don't see.

Sometimes the world tells us we can't have it.

But you can. You can buy the snow. And, you can have what is promised on Christmas today. Light is your gift today. Life is yours now – breathe it in and breathe it out. Peace can be experienced even in the less than wonderful times of the year. Joy to the world can be sung (should be sung) on the darkest nights.

# Angel Tree

On Sunday, **December 5th, from 8:30 AM - 12 PM** there will be a drive thru collection for the Angel Tree gifts for Cleveland Hill SD.



# Life Passages



Carmella Jefferson, Mya Carson, Delaney Hannon, Timothy Mayer, & Andrew Goubski received first communion on November 14, 2021.



con't from page 1.

After his conversion, Ebenezer Scrooge makes a promise. He doesn't promise to celebrate Christmas every year or to be generous only on that day. He promises to honor Christmas in his heart and try to keep Christmas all year long. Now, that isn't equivalent to looking for fake snow out of season. But it may be equivalent to expecting light and life today, tomorrow, and all the year. To opening God's gifts daily and being God's gift daily too.

Love has come. | Love is present. | Love will come again.

In the Way,  
PSDH

# Fellowship Event

All adults are invited to join us on Friday, December 10th in the Gathering Place for the "kick-off" of our Soup Luncheons.

We will meet from 11 AM to 1 PM on the second Friday of each month throughout the winter months.

It will be a time for socialization and sharing of good news while enjoying a hot bowl of soup and a few other goodies to satisfy our spirits.

We hope you will consider coming out to participate. The meal will be provided; just show up for some good fellowship and maybe even a few laughs.

If you would like transportation, please contact the church office at 716-632-5667. See you there!



# Congregational Meeting

## Sunday 12.19.2021 @ 10:30 AM

Please join us as we elect new council members & approve a budget for 2022.

In-person & on Zoom

Meeting ID:  
862 0597 2631

Passcode: SJLC2022

Masks are required inside of the building.

# COUNCIL UPDATE

The November church council meeting was held on November 16th at 7:00 PM via Zoom. The meeting began with devotions and prayer. The agenda and the previous month's minutes were approved.

The pastors reported noted fellowship events(including the LCLC retreat), ongoing worship (online and in-person), pastoral care (including visits), and faith formation events (Youth Nights and Confirmation). There was one baptism, one funeral, two committals, and 5 of our youth received their First Communion.

The committees offered the following reports:

**Worship & Music** – the 10:30 service featured the bell choir for the first time in over six years. The choir will sing in Advent. One Experience Advent service will be held on Wednesday, December 15 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. After discussion, it was determined that masks would be required for worship on December 19th and Christmas Eve. (NOTE: since meeting new requirements necessitate masks inside the facility at all gatherings.) One worship service will be held on Sundays, December 19 & 26 at 9:30 AM. Christmas Eve will take place in-person at 3 & 5 PM.

**Christian Education** – Attendance for the first trimester averaged 12-14 kids. The next trimester begins on January 9th. Christmas Pageant practice is currently taking place.

**Youth** – There will be one Youth Night in November and another in December for grades 5 – 9.

**Personnel** – End-of-the-year reviews and appropriate conversations will take place in the coming weeks.

**Building and Grounds** – The heat in the fellowship hall has been repaired. The Hanging of the Greens will start Sunday, November 21.

**Stewardship** – A letter and pledge card have been mailed. Members may also pledge online. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger will be solicited in December.

**Cemetery** – The finances were reviewed, and investment strategies were discussed with our advisor. The insurance check to repair the main sign has been received. The scattering garden is still in the works.

**Finance** – The financial position of the church was reviewed and discussed. Financially we are in good shape. In the business portion of the meeting, the new council was discussed. Members were encouraged to reach out to Lee Dryden with their willingness to serve another term or not. The annual meeting of the congregation has been called for Sunday, December 19th at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held in person and via Zoom. The agenda is to consider committee reports, elect new council members, and approve the 2022 budget.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20PM and concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,  
Lee Dryden

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## BAGS OF CHEER DRIVE THRU

A huge THANK YOU to all who participated in this event. It was a huge success! We received 145 Bags of Cheer that were distributed to residents of the Greenfields, Heathwood, and Canterbury Court Adult Care Facilities. A special thank you to Oaklie Zydrojewski and her fellow classmates at Clarence Central High School for their participation. Your hard work and response to this valuable cause is greatly appreciated.



### Psalm 118:29

**"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."**



We are so grateful for all that you do. Thank you for making Carmella's First Communion so special

The Jefferson Family  
(Eric, Jodi, Jack and Carmella)



## Many thanks to all those who helped us "hang the greens!"

Pastor Scott & St. John,

Thank you for your gift received on Monday, November 22, 2021, in support of our 2021 Leadership council campaign. Over the past twenty-two years, our Leadership Council campaigns have raised over 7.9 million dollars for the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation, and your compassion and generosity make this all possible!

This year is a pivotal one for the Niagara Lutheran Health System, as we prepare to meet oncoming challenges and seek support for our vision for the future, in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic.

Thank you again so much for the wonderfully generous support provided by you and St. John again this year! This gift truly makes a difference!

Best,  
David McMullen  
Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation

Dear Friends -

Thank you so much for the overwhelming show of support and appreciation on November 21st. The cards, thoughtfulness, and kind gestures and gifts moved us to tears. We feel so blessed to have St. John as our church home and look forward to making many more memories together.

It is an absolute honor, privilege, and joy to serve as your pastor. Thank you for your ministry of hospitality and love towards our family. Together, we will continue to not just survive, but thrive even in the midst of pandemics and all of life's challenges. To God be the glory!

Yours in Christ,  
Scott & Kate Hannon

# Experience Advent

On Wednesday, Dec. 15th from 6:30-7:30PM the sanctuary will be open for prayer and peace. Prayer Stations will be set up & sacred music will be provided.

This year's Experience Advent is "drop-in" style. Come anytime in the hour and stay for as long as you like.

## Lessons & Carols

A service of lessons and carols will be held on Sunday 12.26.21 @ 9:30 AM

To order a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one please visit:  
[www.sjlcaherst.com/christmas](http://www.sjlcaherst.com/christmas)

# Christmas Pageant

Our pageant will be held on Sunday, **12.19.21 @9:30AM.**  
One service only. Children grades pre-k through 6 are encouraged to participate.  
Rehearsals will be held on Sunday, December 5 at 9:30 and Saturdays, December 11 & 18 at 9AM.  
If you are interested in playing musical instruments on that day please contact Cindy and Elena through the main office.  
[office@sjlcamherst.com](mailto:office@sjlcamherst.com)



O Come,  
Let us adore  
Him!

## Christmas Eve Worship

In-person Christmas Eve worship will be held at  
**3PM & 5PM**  
on Friday, 12.24.21

O Come All Ye Faithful.



**MASKS ARE REQUIRED INSIDE OF THE BUILDING.**



into the forest I go,  
to lose my mind  
and find my soul.

JOHN MUIR



SJ @ LC  
LC LC

# ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST

## St. John Prayer List

Hospitalized and Homebound  
Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry

Loss and Bereavement  
Family and Friends of Harvey Menzies, father of Dale Menzies

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns  
Bob Tiffany, Theo Slaper, Wayne Yendall, Helen Smith, Gayle Bosch, Merv Moore, Ellen Manthey, Gordon Steinhilber, Jerry Szykowny, Ed Utz, Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak, Ruth Bertini, Ethel Semrau,  
Bob & Joyce Hewitt, cousin of Ray Hohl  
Alan Murray, friend of Ken & Pam Figel  
Jennifer Volhozer, daughter of Karen Caton  
Linda Nichols & family, friends of Pat McCarty  
Nancy Borouki, friend of Ellen Lohead  
Diane Martin, friend of Pam & Ken Figel  
Kurt Yeager, son in-law of Marie Palermo  
Amy Deboth, friend of Iris Reece  
David .McCarty, son of Pat McCarty  
Sandy Williams, sister of Bobby Traina  
Ann Giuseppetti, sister in-law of Brenda and Dave Burow  
Sharon Donahue, daughter of Pat McCarty  
Carol Traina, Rich and Bobbie Traina's Daughter-in Law  
Christie Guadagno, sister of Bobbie Traina  
Vicki Altenoeder, sister of Bobbie Traina  
Karen Sunick, Sister Bobbie Traina  
Carol Dixon, sister of Joni Coté

For unity, peace, and the healing of our nation.

Healing, comfort and strength for those seeking refuge from world events and natural disasters.

Parents, children and educators as schools reopen.

The homeless, hungry, cold and lonely.

Those victimized by any form of violence, abuse, coercion, and addiction.

Military: Matt Newman, Drew Steinhilber, John Wendelin, Nicholas Ford, Ben Hoyt

**Names will be kept on the prayer list for 4 weeks, if you need your loved one on for longer please let the office know and we will be glad to keep them on.**



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

David Schmude	12/2		
Charles Rojek	12/4		
Donald Reidell	12/4	Midge Davis	12/13
William Lawniczak	12/4	Ellen Lohead	12/14
Nancy James	12/5	Vincent Tobia	12/14
Nicole Favale	12/5	Lois Robinson-Fullam	12/18
Emily Reid	12/7	Eric Gerstung	12/21
Helen Smith	12/8	Rebecca Roll	12/21
Mary Ellen Utz	12/8	Chuck Platzner	12/24
Scott Lawniczak	12/9	Jared Kachelmeyer	12/25
Delaney Hannon	12/10	Marie Palermo	12/26
		Andrew Ekberg	12/27
		Danielle May	12/27



## STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott D. Hannon, *Pastor* | Rev. Charlie Greene, *Visitation Pastor*  
Cindy Lin, *Traditional Music Leader* | Elena Erokhina, *Contemporary Music Leader*  
Sara Accardi, *Administrative Assistant* | Jared Bulinski, *Sexton*



St. John Lutheran Church of Amherst  
6540 Main Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221

716-632-6557 | office@sjlcamherst.com | www.sjlcamherst.com