



Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

8:15 a.m. -spoken

10:30 a.m. ~ with music

Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell

Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com

610-277-1086

Staff:

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker, Director of Music

Ray Hopkins, Director of Youth and Family

Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator

Carrie Engel, Nursery School Director

Katie Myers, Webmaster

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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 252 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2021.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Parents with young children: Please know that your children are welcome and cherished in worship! Wiggles and all! If you find a need to step out with them during worship, we have arranged a special corner in the Great Room down the sanctuary stairs. We are working to connect our livestream to the TV in that space for you as well. As things improve with covid we will move back toward a staffed nursery room.

This service is livestreamed on the church's YouTube page.

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"My Heart Shall Sing" Advent Candle-Lighting by Barn Geese Worship is licensed under CC BY-NC 4.0. [edited for length].

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Order for Worship

Prelude~ ""Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God"

Duet - Deborah Swider and Joy Schauer

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God; Thy truth unseal, Thy love reveal.
Lord, hear thou in mercy our prayer to Thee.
Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God; for Thee we long, hear thou our prayer.
To Thee be glory now and evermore.

Text: Hal Hopson (adapted)

Music: G. F. Handel (from *Judas Maccabaeus*)

We ask that members and visitors please take a moment and sign in using the red information folders located in each pew and pass it on to your neighbor.

The assembly may rise.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God for whom we wait,

C: **in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
✠ your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: **Amen.**

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: Even when God is active in this world,
hope is a work in progress.

Each candle on our wreath
represents a person
or a place
or a moment in time
that still awaits God's goodness.

P: God, through your love,
C: **a familiar light
can banish the fear of the other;**

P: Through your love,
C: **the warmth of good cheer
can extinguish cold-hearted injustice.**

P: Through your love,
C: **the song of faith
can rekindle hope for the hopeless.**

P: We light this candle
as a small act of our great anticipation.

(10:30)



Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

A: Each candle we light
is a sign:
in a world so thirsty for mercy,
God's love
spreads like fire.

Each unlit candle remind us
that God's healing
has not yet fully spread
throughout the earth.
How long must this world wait
to see God's glory?

You are God's people,
called to serve this world
and to let your light shine.
Let the fire of justice burn in your heart,
for the dead still cry
for the flicker of new life we carry.

Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.
Children's Message

Word

First Reading: Malachi 3: 1-4

A: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(8:15 spoken/10:30 sung)

Psalm~ Luke 1:68-79

(Choir, then ALL)

Mark Mummert

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God, the
dawn from on high shall break up - on us.

Refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary*
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Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel who has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David. **Refrain.**

Through his holy prophets God promised of old, to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us. To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant. **Refrain**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation, by the forgiveness of all their sins. **Refrain**

Second Reading: Philippians 1: 3-11

A: I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly may rise.

Gospel Acclamation

Sung Once by All.

cresc. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Choir: Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.
(Repeat Alleluia)

Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

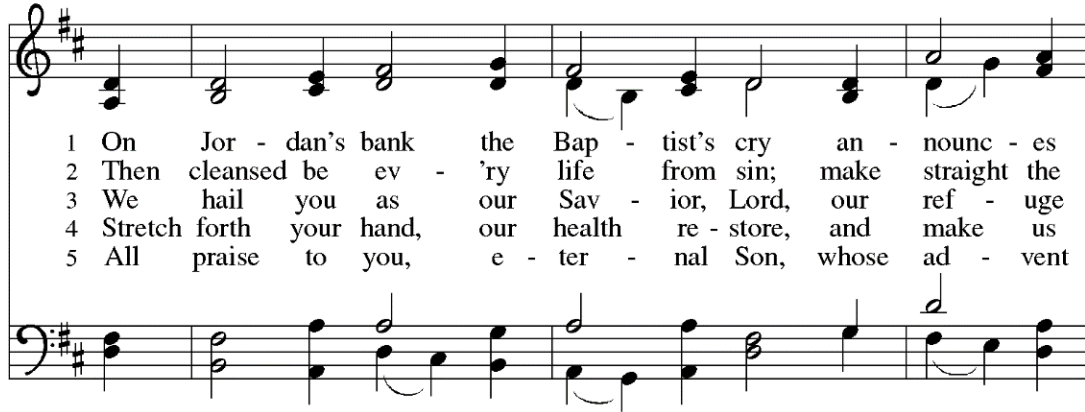
The assembly may be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

Following a time of silence for reflection, the assembly may rise.

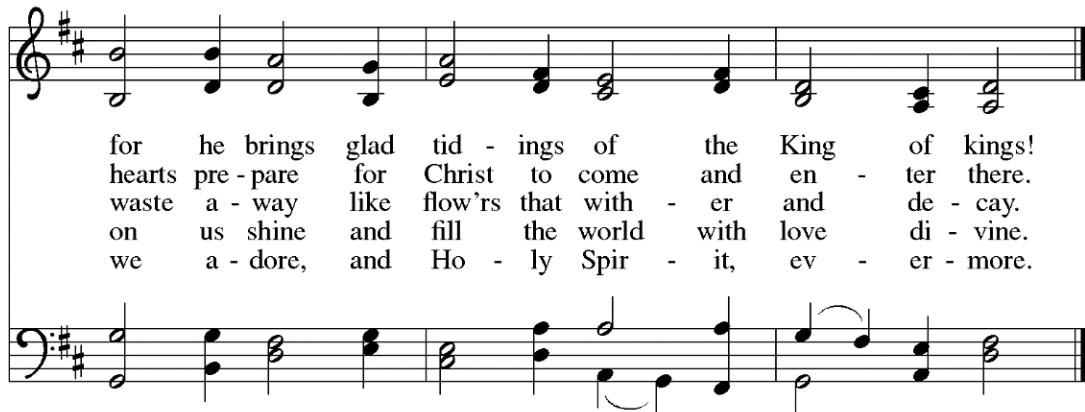
(10:30) Hymn of the Day ~ "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

The assembly may rise.

Apostles Creed

P: *Together, let us confess our faith:*

C: **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.**

Prayers of Intercession

A: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A: You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill especially, Marilyn, Marie, Diana, Gerry, Amy, Melissa, Tom, Kimberly, Jim, Joshua, Carolyn, Jean, Lois, Dick, George, Robert, Tim, Kate, Susan, Randy, Dorothy, and Donna. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

(10:30) Anthem~ "What is the Crying at Jordan?"

Chancel Choir

What is the crying at Jordan? Who hears, O God, the prophecy?
Dark is the season, dark our hearts, and shut to mystery.
Who then shall stir in this darkness, prepare for joy in the winter night.
Mortal in darkness lie down, blind hearted, seeing no light.

Lord, give us grace to awake us to see the branch that begins to bloom.
In great humility all heaven is hid in a little room.
Now comes the day of salvation, in joy and terror the Word is born.
God gives himself into our lives; O let salvation dawn!

Text: Carol Christopher Drake

Music: ST. MARK'S BERKELEY, arr. Bret Heim

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During this time, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:

- 1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this (stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com).*
- 2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.*
- 3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).*
- 4. You may make use of the offering plate located on the table in the back of the sanctuary.*

***For communion:** Be sure to take a pre-packaged cup/wafer from the usher on your way into worship. If you forgot please alert an usher who will help bring you one. Pastor will indicate when in the service we will receive the elements together. All are welcome to Christ's table.*

The assembly may rise.

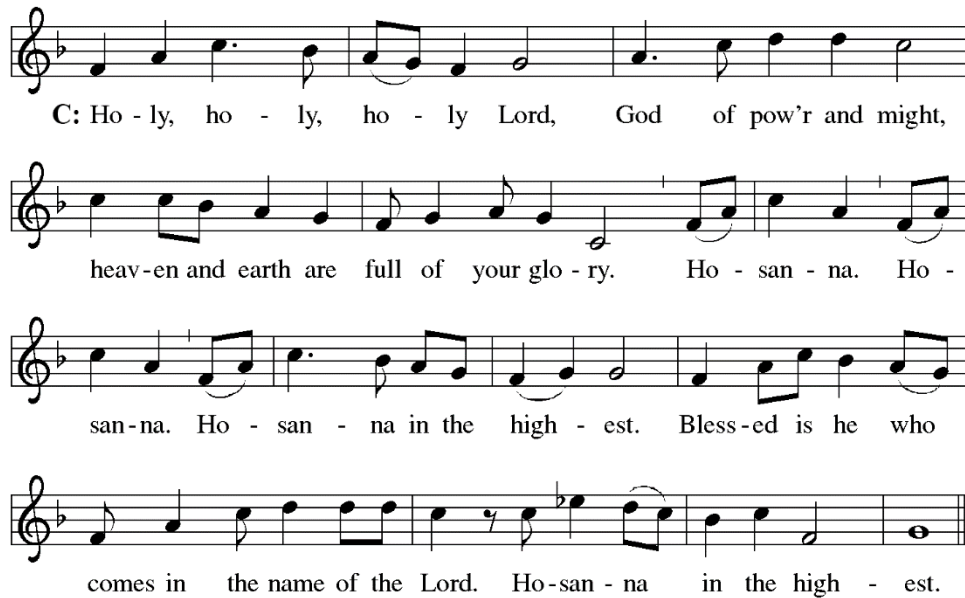
Offertory Prayer

- P:** God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope
as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.
- C:** **Amen.**

The Meal

- P:** The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **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.**

The meal is shared together with the pastor leading with the words, "The body of Christ, given for you." then, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

The assembly may be seated.

(10:30) Communion Hymn~ "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Announcements

The assembly may rise.

Benediction

P: The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C: **Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude~ “Hark! The Glad Sound”

Paul Manz

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector 8:15

Lector 10:30

Wreath lighters 8:15

Wreath lighters 10:30

Soloists

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Linda Maurer

Vande Berg family

Scherffel and Simpkins families

Deborah Swider and Joy Schauer

Our Prayer List is printed separately from the bulletin. You may find a copy of the list in the Great Room.

Flowers are given today by the Wood family in honor of Makayla's birthday.

Announcements

Giving Envelopes- 2022 Envelopes for Congregational giving are now available and will be placed out in the Great Room for you to pick up starting this Sunday. We give thanks for your continued support of our ministry together!

Christmas Collection for our Staff

There are envelopes on the table at the bottom of stairs in the Great Room. Please return by placing your envelope in the offering plate. Thank you for remembering our staff.

Advent Resources- You'll find in the Great Room a number of resources for Advent. There are calendars and weekly studies from World Hunger as well as a daily devotional from Society of St. Andrew, and resources from the ELCA Good Gifts. Pastor Rachel will be sharing a brief weekly prayer service through video for midweek devotion every Wednesday for you to take time to be still in your busy week/season. (Check Facebook and emails.)

Good Gift Advent Program is buzzing! This year's Good Gift Advent challenge is going to the bees! Not the birds, but to those sweet, little, buzzing insects. You know, the producers of delicious honey. They offer a unique food to eat and to sell. Our support also provides new hives of bees which aids in reducing the disappearance of another of God's creatures. Stop by the yellow bee table in the Great Room and make a donation to this project. Our goal is five new hives for \$100.00. Buzz buzz buzzzzz means Thank You in bee language!

Sponsor Poinsettias- You can sponsor/dedicate a Poinsettia for Christmas. Envelopes are out in the Great Room to sponsor a small (\$7.50), large (\$25), or very large (\$35) plant for around the font. Envelopes can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the office.

St. John Collectible Pint Glasses & Facemasks- We have St. John Collectible etched 16 oz. pint glasses for sale just in time for the holiday season. We have glasses left from our order for the Oktoberfest Events and all funds raised will benefit the Youth Ministry program for youth in grades 6 - 12th and events for 2022. You can pick up (1) for \$12 each or (2) for \$20. We will make these available while supplies last. There are also reusable tie-dyed masks remaining for a \$5 donation. Two ways to share St. John with your family and friends this year!

First Communion- Is your child ready to begin receiving communion? Please get in touch with Pastor Rachel as she tries to schedule a learning session and other dates.

Worship Assistance Help Needed EVERY WEEK - We are looking for volunteers to act as ushers, readers, flower/bulletin sponsors and technology team volunteers. Get in touch with the Church Office if you can help in any way.

Flower & Bulletin Dedications - You can sign up on a physical sheet at the church or soon we will have an online link to use. Dedications need to be to the office by end of day on Wednesdays.

Evangelism News- We are once again decorating the outside tree on **December 12**. Bags will be ready for you to take home after services today. Each bag will contain the materials and directions to complete several different ornaments. One of each for you to use at home and one of each that can be used to decorate our outdoor tree. We ask that you return your completed "church" ornaments for our decorating party at **2 p.m.** on Sunday, **December 12**.

Christmas Eve Services- On Christmas Eve, we are intending to have a 4 p.m. Family service, as well as a 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Traditional service. More details will be coming in December.

Coat Collection for MLK Day of Service - St. John will be hosting a coat collection as part of January's MLK Day of Service. Coats and winter gear will be given to economically insecure adults working in the Mural Arts Program. Coat collection will begin **January 1**. Also, Rita Stock has kits for no-sew blankets for one of the MLK projects. See her for details.

Youth News...

Youth Group today at 5 p.m. We are having a trivia and puzzle night for grades 6-12.

Upcoming Dates – Dec. 19 (The Advent Party)

Christmas Cookie Time is Here! An order form is available for placing orders for cookie dough. Deadline for ordering is **today**. Cookie dough will be available on December 12 for pick up between 2 and 4 p.m. All funds raised will go to the National Gathering fundraising efforts to get our group to Minnesota in July 2022.

Winter Retreat Event- Depending on interest of our teens and families, we are considering attending the Southeastern Penn Youth **Tuscarora Retreat at the Tuscarora Retreat Inn on March 25 - 27, 2022**. It is open to all 6-12 grade-youth but will require vaccination verification to attend. If interested in knowing more, talk with Ray.

National Gathering Group News- Monthly news will be coming via the constant contact emails, so please keep your eyes peeled. We will be ramping up with more details and dates after Jan 1. There are a few notes below:

Cookie Dough Mixing and Packing- Saturday Dec. 11 from 10 - 3 p.m. If you are registered to please check your email later this week for an email from Ray with details. We have had a great response from the congregation and need all the help we can gather to make and package dough.

Final Call for Paperwork and Payment- Forms and your \$150 deposit was due Nov. 21. If you have not turned in any piece, please have it ready this weekend. Ray needs the information and deposit payment. All those who confirmed their interest are registered and we will be traveling with a small team from St. Andrew's in Audubon as well this July.

Wednesday, December 8

9:00 Nursery School
9:30 Spirit Walkers [Wentz Park]
12:00 Nursery School [Sanctuary]

Thursday, December 9

9:00 Nursery School
12:00 Nursery School [Sanctuary]
12:30 Yoga [FH]
6:30 Cub Scouts [MPR]
6:30 Handbell Choir [TR]
7:30 Chancel Choir [TR]

Friday, December 10

9:00 Nursery School
12:00 Nursery School [Sanctuary]

Saturday, December 11

10:00 Youth Cooking Baking [FH]

Sunday, December 12 Third Sunday in Advent

8:15 Worship
9:15 Adult Bible Study
9:15 Sunday School for Children & Youth
10:30 Worship

This Week at St. John...

Sunday, December 5 Second Sunday in Advent

8:15 Worship
9:15 Annual Business Meeting
9:15 Sunday School for Children & Youth
10:30 Worship
11:30 Annual Business Meeting
5:00 Youth Group

Monday, December 6

9:00 Nursery School
9:30 Quilting Group [YC, MPR]
12:00 Nursery School [Sanctuary]

Tuesday, December 7

9:00 Nursery School
10:30 Nursery School [GR]
10:30 Pastor's Bible Study
12:00 Nursery School [Sanctuary]

Locations:

[FH] Fellowship Hall
[TR] Troster Room
[GR] Great Room
[YC] Youth Classroom

