

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021**

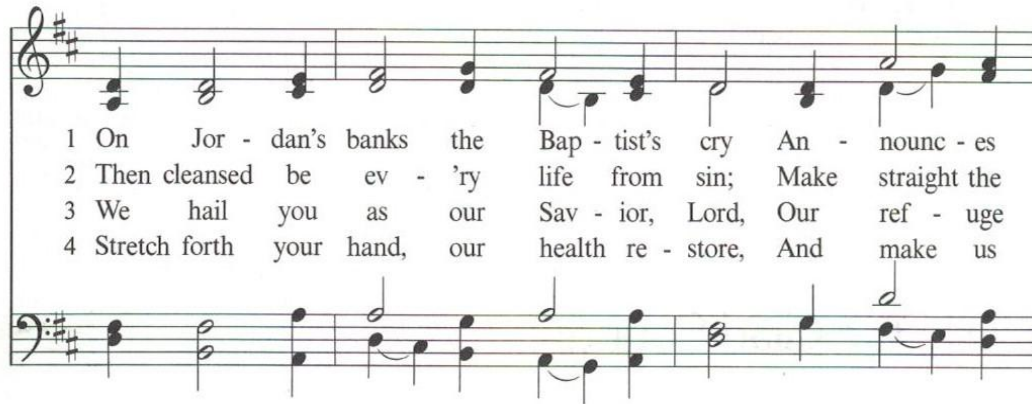


**PRELUDE
WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

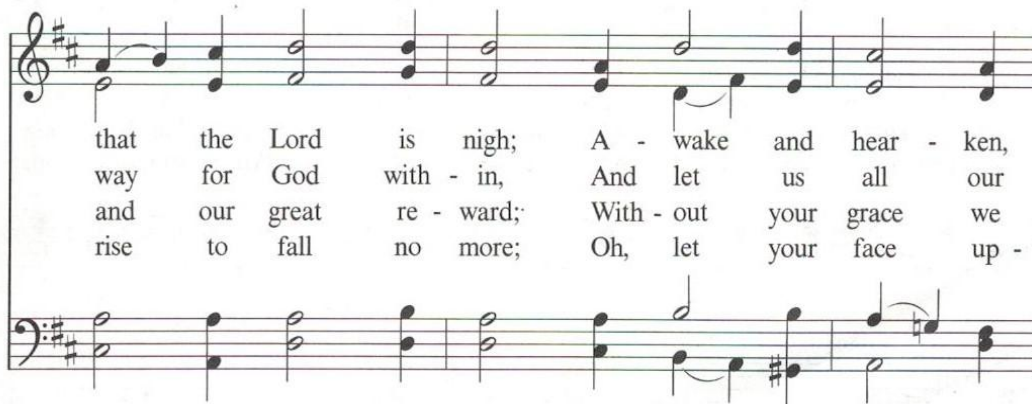
*HYMN ~ *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*

LBW # 36

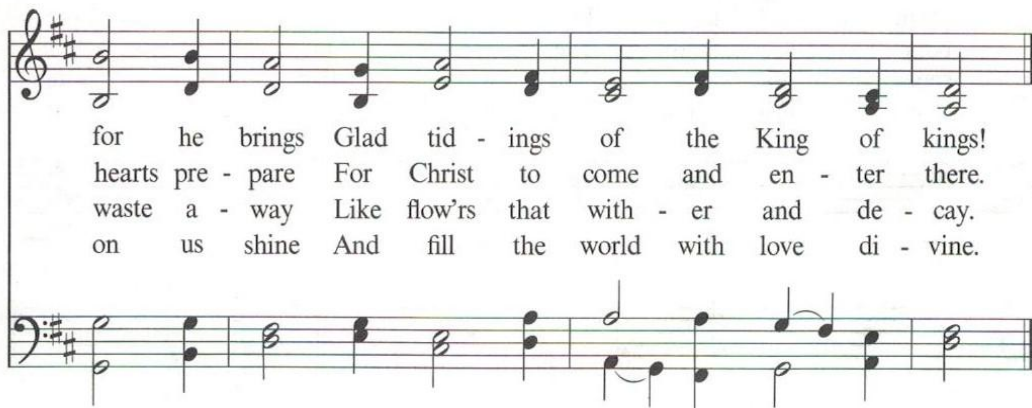
36

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry


1 On Jor - dan's banks 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



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 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 -



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.

- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
 Whose advent has our freedom won,
 Whom with the Father we adore,
 And Holy Spirit, evermore.

***CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

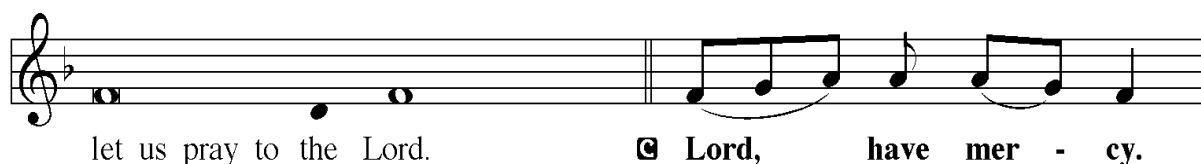
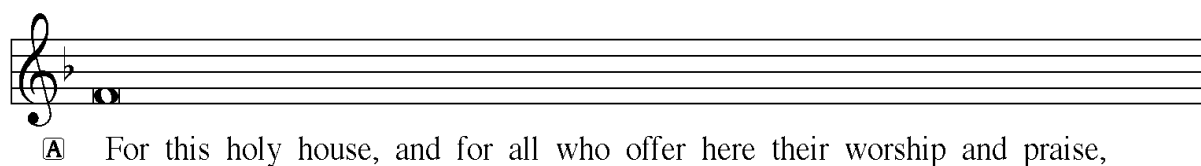
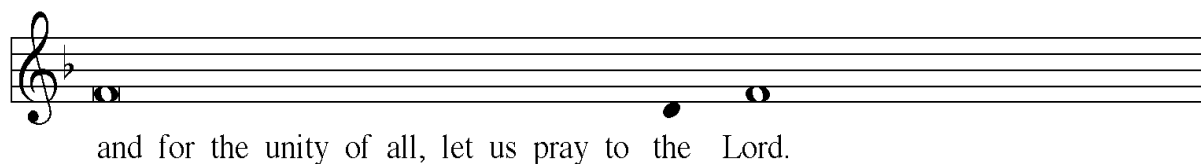
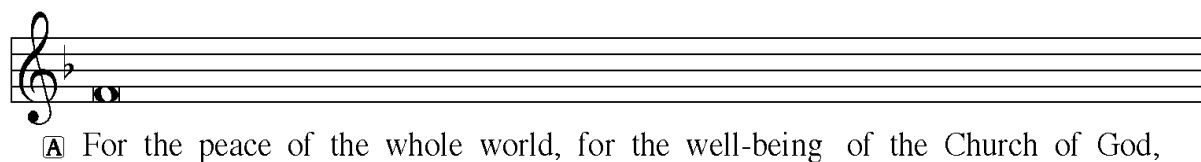
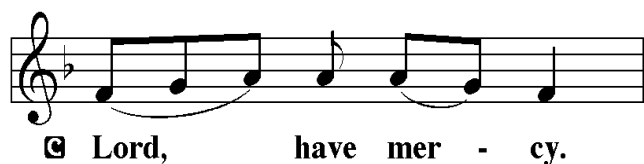
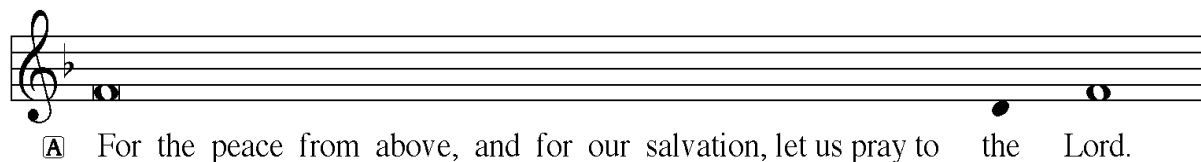
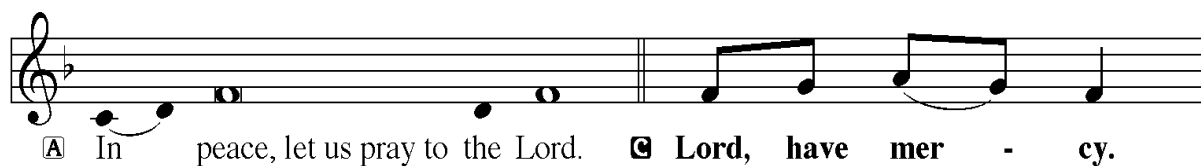
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

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.**

***KYRIE**

***HYMN of PRAISE**

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison)**



P Let us pray...

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. Amen.

LESSONS

First Lesson ~ A reading from Malachi 3:1-4

after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody Luke 1:68-79 ~ *with response*

The psalm is announced, organ plays response 1x, cantor or pastor sings 1x, people join to sing response, then as psalm is read, congregation sings response at each R.

Second Lesson ~ A reading from Philippians 1:3-11

after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLES

Second Sunday in Advent - Peace

This Sunday, the second in Advent, we light the candle of Peace. As we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace, we're reminded that God's timing is always perfect and His provision is always sufficient.

C: (unison) *"Behold, I send 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, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.*

(2 Thessalonians 3:16)

L: Peace is the flame given by God to be a light in the darkness.

P: The flame of peace is the promise of God.

L: Peace is the flame, given by God to bring justice to the world.

P: The flame of Peace is righteousness and equity

L: Peace is the flame, given by God to bring righteousness and equity.

P: The flame of peace enters the world again with the birth of the Prince of Peace

The candles are lit

L: Let us pray

P: Source of Light shine in our lives and in our world with your everlasting peace. Through Jesus Christ we pray. AMEN

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (to tune of #328 Green Hymnal - *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*) Organ will play once then we will sing these words to that tune)

VERSE 1

We lift the light of hope, O God,
Your presence burning bright.
In praise we sing the gift You bring:
Our hope complete in Christ.
In praise we sing the gift You bring:
Our hope complete in Christ.

VERSE 2

We lift the light of peace, O God,
The Lord of truth and right.
In Your domain let justice reign
And bring us peace in Christ.
In Your domain let justice reign
And bring us peace in Christ.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read. After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

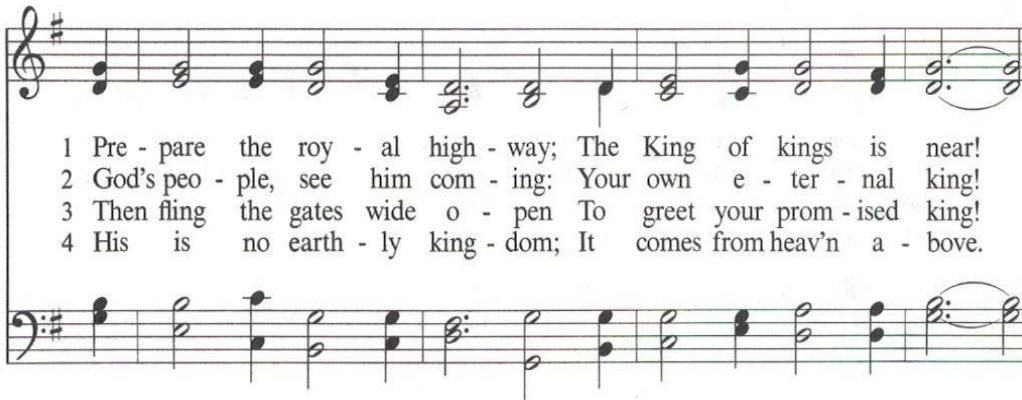
MESSAGE

HYMN ~ *Prepare the Royal Highway*


LBW # 26

Prepare the Royal Highway

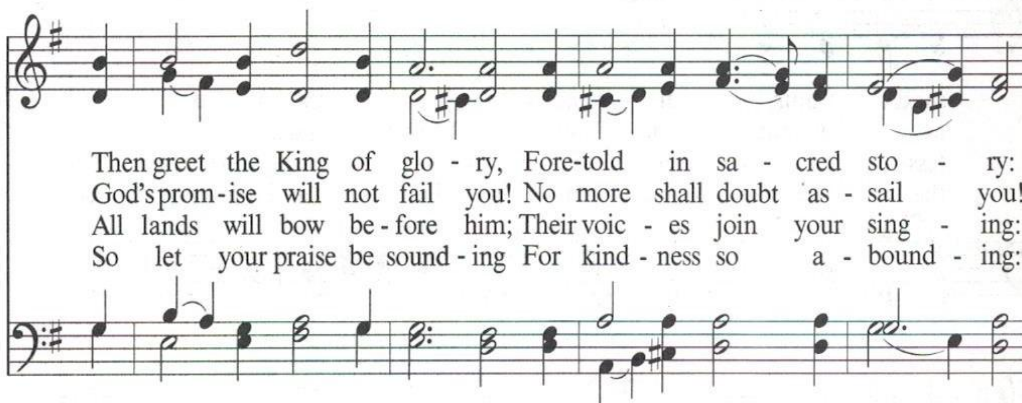
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1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; Their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho-san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 the PEOPLE ~ *See Celebrate

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

A brief silence.

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING ~ you may leave your gifts in one of the offering plates at the end
of the front and back pews on your way out.

***OFFERTORY**

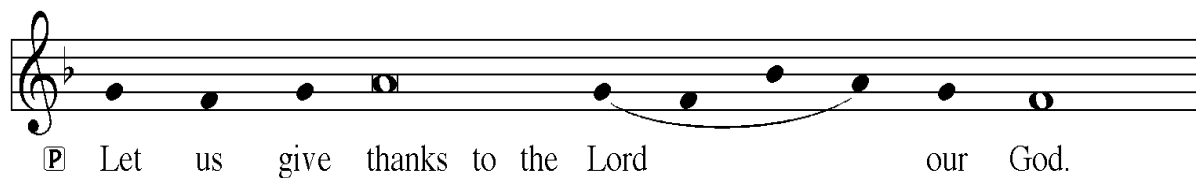

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



***PREFACE**



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.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

Maintaining social distancing we will each come forward to take the bread and wine from the plates. Remaining standing you may pause for blessing and prayer before returning to your seats. A receptacle for the cups will be at the end of the front pew.

Invitation to Communion:

P Partake of the banquet, for all is now ready, taste and see that the Lord is good.

P The Bread of Life. The body of Christ, given for you;

C Amen.

P The Cup of the Covenant: the blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen.

(After all are seated)

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

***POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**

☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you refresh us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

***THE BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen

*HYMN ~ Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LBW # 30

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

30

Gm Dm Gm F Gm

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;

Gm Dm Eb Bb Dm Gm

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.

Gm Bb Gm Dm Eb Bb Gm Dm

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;

Gm Dm Gm Dm Gm Eb F Gm

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.

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord

R Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

Organist: Seulki Susie Yoo

Church Office: 935-2032 **Email us at** secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org

St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Today

Greeter: Volunteer Needed; **Lay Reader:** Rosalie Smith

Next Sunday, December 12 ~ Congregational Meeting

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger; **Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich

Our Mission Statement

*We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share
the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

Our Vision Statement

*To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community
through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.*

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Don and Rosalie Smith in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Please remember in prayer ~ Susan Keller, Scott Plank, Steve Rodgers, Steve Weikel, Stacey Spicher, Kim Aumiller, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Joyce Stuck (Ohesson), Vivian Plank, Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Ev Young (Zion Home, Lititz), Pastor Kramm, Don Wolfe, Carol Yoder (VVH).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Ed Bilich for leading worship, and to Harold Sharp for delivering the message these past Sundays' Pastor Ela has been off. Also, to Pastor Rosalie Smith, for blessing the elements, and helping with the communion distribution during this morning's service.

The congregational meeting will be held next Sunday, following worship. Information pertinent to the meeting was mailed to all active members, who did not pick theirs up last week. If you did not receive a packet, please contact the church office.

Available in the narthex next Sunday, December 12 ~ 2022 offering envelopes Please contact the church office if you did not receive or would like to have one. 2022 church birthday calendars. There is no cost, feel free to take one or more.

There have been many comments of how nice the service honoring Rosalie's ordination anniversary was. The uplifting music and especially Laura Klick's message, where she shared of Rosalie's life, and how God used it to call her into His ministry. If you could not attend or would like to listen again, CD's of the service can be found in the narthex.

Poinsettia order forms were included in the December newsletter and can be found in the narthex. Only 24 will be purchased and displayed throughout the church. If you would like to place one, please return the form by Monday, December 13.

If you have not already, please fill out an updated member information forms for the address directory, and return it to the church by next Sunday. They were once again included in the December newsletter, and additional copies have been placed in the narthex.

We would like to have them out before the end of the year. Thank you!!

Pastor Kramm will be celebrating his 92nd birthday on December 9. Let's help to brighten his day by sending him cards and well-wishes.

Reverend Thomas Kramm
C/O Valley View Retirement Community
4702 E. Main Street
Room 210
Belleville, PA 17004

In the narthex, are sign-up sheets for anyone who would like to place Altar flowers next year. We will once again refrain from using them during Lent beginning March 2 through Palm Sunday, April 10.

Please remember to notate if you would like to keep the flowers or have them delivered. At this time, the cost remains at \$40.00.

The Social Ministry Committee is collecting items for the Shelter Service and the “Mitten Tree”.

Shelter Service ~ (place donations on the grey folding table in the narthex)

canned goods, bottled juices
non-perishable foods including cereals, pasta, etc
paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues,
shampoo, body wash/soap for children and adults

Mitten Tree ~ (found in the narthex)

mittens, gloves, scarves, hats,
and new this year, socks for children/adults
slipper socks and children’s slippers

January 1 thru December 1, 2021

Last week’s attendance ~ 23 Offering ~ \$1,030.00
St. John’s ~ Income \$ 191,508.34 Expense \$ 185,815.63
Net Income \$ 5,692.71

Daycare ~ Income \$ 308,947.91 Expense \$ 279,265.54
Net Income \$ 29,682.37