

**St. John's Lutheran Church
First Sunday of Christmas
Feast of St. Stephen
December 26, 2021**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome today as we imagine ourselves gathering in the parlor by the Christmas tree to share words of hope and songs of joy. Rather than a message or sermon today we will sing and hear the stories of some of the carols we have not had a chance to sing on our Advent Sundays. If there are any you'd rather choose or like to add that's fine too. The verses we will sing will be announced with each song.

CAROL: *Oh Christmas Tree*



O Christmas Tree

(O Tannenbaum)



1. O Christ-mas tree! O Christmas tree! you
 2. O Christ-mas tree! O Christmas tree! much
 O Tan - nen-baum, O Tan - nenbaum! wie



stand in ver - dant beau - ty! O Christ - mas tree! O
 plea - sure doth thou bring me! O Christ - mas tree! O
 treu sind dei - ne Blaet - ter! O Tan - nen-baum, O



Christ - mas tree! you stand in ver - dant beau - ty! Your
 Christ - mas tree! much plea - sure doth thou bring me! For
 Tan - nen-baum! wie treu sind dei - ne Blaet - ter! Du



boughs are green in sum - mer's glow and do not fade in win - ter's snow. O
 ev - 'ry year the Christ - mas tree brings to us all both joy and glee. O
 gruenst nicht nur zur Som - mer - zeit, nein, auch im Win - ter, wenn es schneit. O



Christ - mas tree! O Christ - mas tree! you stand in ver - dant beau - ty
 Christ - mas tree! O Christ - mas tree! much plea - sure doth thou bring me!
 Tan - nen-baum, O Tan - nen-baum! wie treu send dei - ne Blaet - ter,

WELCOME (from the celebrate)

Today we, like Samuel and Jesus, have returned to the house of God to learn from and enjoy ourselves with others celebrating God who has given us the Christ child, and gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, 'let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.' It is Christmas, still.

CAROL: *What Child is This*

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What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

GREETING

December 26 also celebrates the 'Feast of Stephen' when Good King Wenceslas went out into the snow to save a soul from the cold . . . (the story of the carol.)

CAROL: *Good King Wenceslas*

Good King Wenceslas

www.singing-bell.com

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen

when the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.

Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,

when a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.

PRAYERS (please read aloud parts in bold)

In this season celebrating the shortening of the night and the lengthening of the light let us celebrate the opportunities of darkness and light in our own lives, the opportunity of darkness as a time to hibernate, rest, restore prepare for spring, the opportunity of the light to look into our own darkness and realign our lives with Christ.

God of the gift of dark and light:

In this season, make us short on grumpy thoughts,

long on sharing of words of gentleness and encouragement

Make us short on being rushed, **long on attentiveness**

Make us short on only seeing what's right before us,

long on peering into the horizon.

Make us short on out-of-control to-do lists, **long on savoring kindness.**

Make us short on overlooking the dark sky, **long on gazing at the twinkling stars**

Make us short on tradition as a habit, **long on re-owning and re-creating.**

Make us short on ignoring the hungry, **long on bringing delicious meals.**

Make us short on rushing, **long on wondering and pondering.**

Make us short on walking past those sleeping in the cold,

long on sharing blankets and hot tea.

Make us short on longing for what's next,

and long on savoring what we cannot yet see.

CAROL: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

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Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find in our readings the boy Samuel and the young Jesus, both in the temple, each a rose growing in wisdom. May we grow in wisdom as we hear the Word in song and scripture today.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26

SECOND READING: Luke 2:41-52

CAROL: *The Twelve Days of Christmas*

On the first day of Christmas, My true love gave to me,
A partridge in a pear tree.

On the second day of Christmas, My true love gave to me,
Two turtle-doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the third day of Christmas, My true love gave to me,
Three French hens, Two turtle-doves
and a partridge in a pear tree

On the fourth day of Christmas, My true love gave to me,
Four calling birds, Three French hens, Two turtle-doves
and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the fifth day of Christmas, My true love gave to me,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds Three French hens, Two turtle-doves
and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the sixth day of Christmas, My true love gave to me,
Six geese a laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds, Three French hens, Two turtle-doves
and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the seventh day of Christmas, My true love gave to me,
Seven swans a swimming, Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds Three French hens, Two turtle-doves
and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the eighth day of Christmas, My true love gave to me,
Eight maids a milking, Seven swans a swimming, Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds, Three French hens, Two turtle-doves
and a partridge in a pear tree.

Continued

On the ninth day of Christmas, My true love gave to me,
Nine ladies dancing, Eight maids a-milking,
Seven swans a-swimming, Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds, Three French hens, Two turtle-doves
and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the tenth day of Christmas, My true love gave to me,
Ten lords a-leaping, Nine ladies dancing
Eight maids a-milking, Seven swans a-swimming, Six geese a-laying
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds, Three French hens, Two turtle-doves
and a partridge in a pear tree.

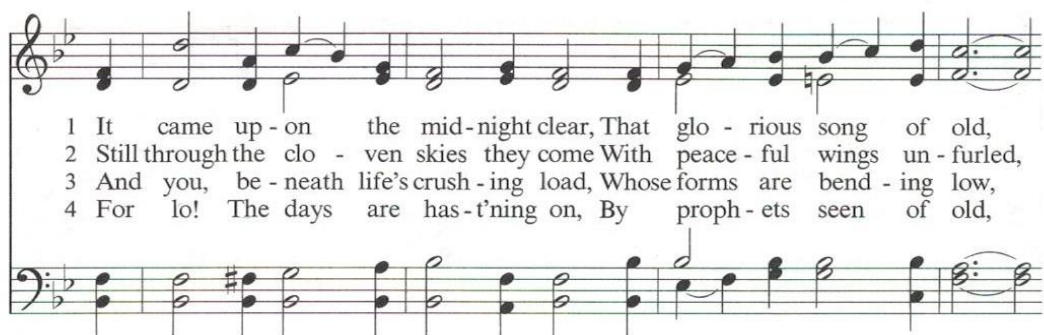
On the 11th day of Christmas, My true love sent to me
Eleven pipers piping, Ten lords a-leaping
Nine ladies dancing, Eight maids a-milking,
Seven swans a-swimming, Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds, Three French hens, Two turtle-doves
and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 12th day of Christmas, My true love gave to me,
Twelve drummers drumming, Eleven pipers piping,
Ten lords a-leaping, Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a-milking, Seven swans a-swimming, Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds, Three French hens, Two turtle-doves
and a partridge in a pear tree.

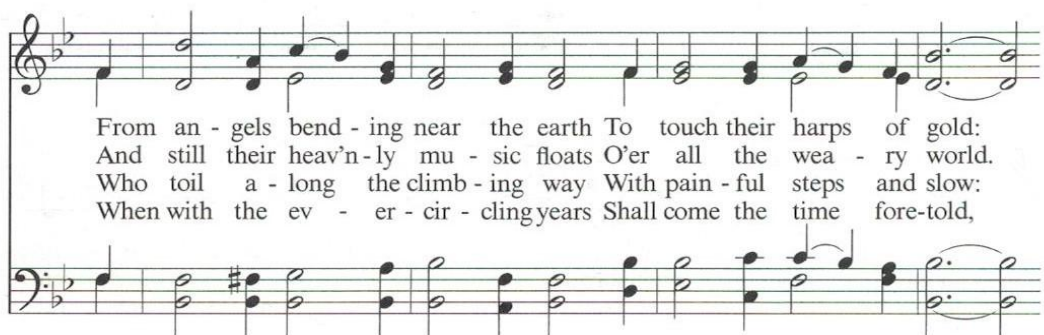
CAROLS of ANGELS: Story of the Carol, Singing the Carol

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

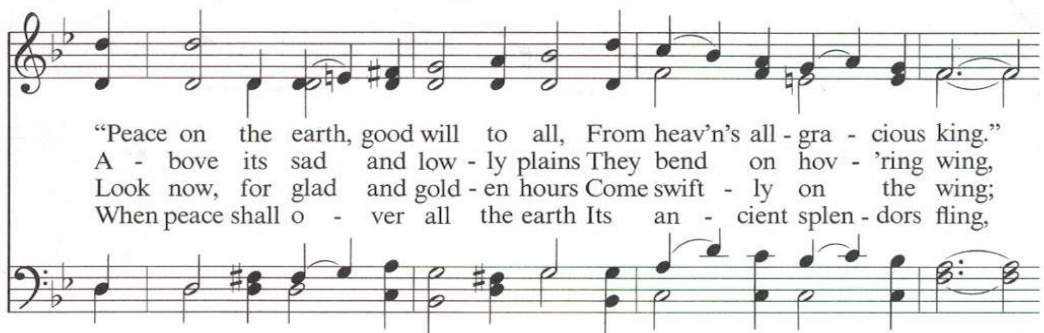
54 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



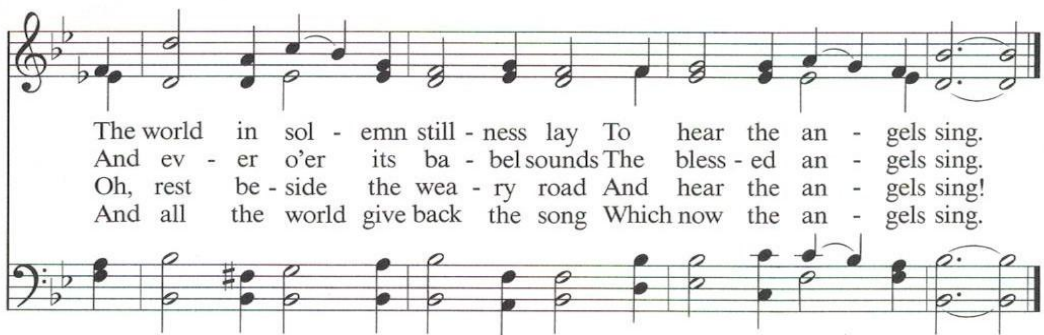
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, By proph - ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.
 Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow:
 When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Shall come the time fore - told,



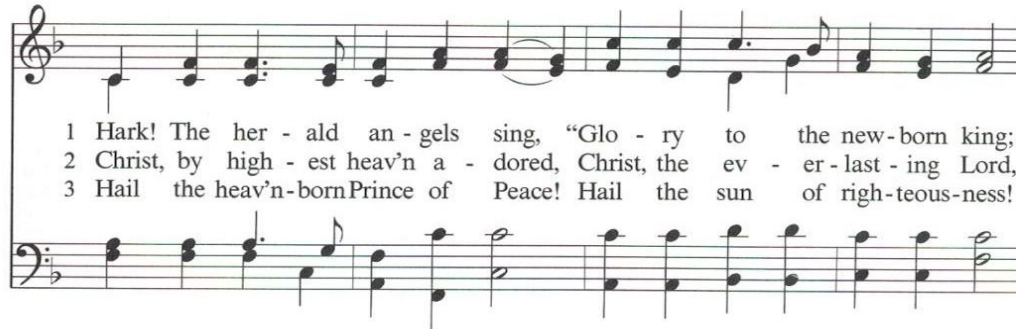
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 Look now, for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing;
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,



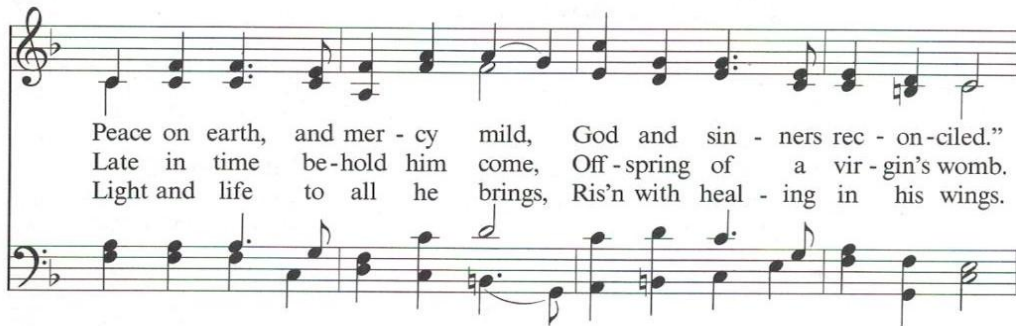
The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 Oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road And hear the an - gels sing!
 And all the world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

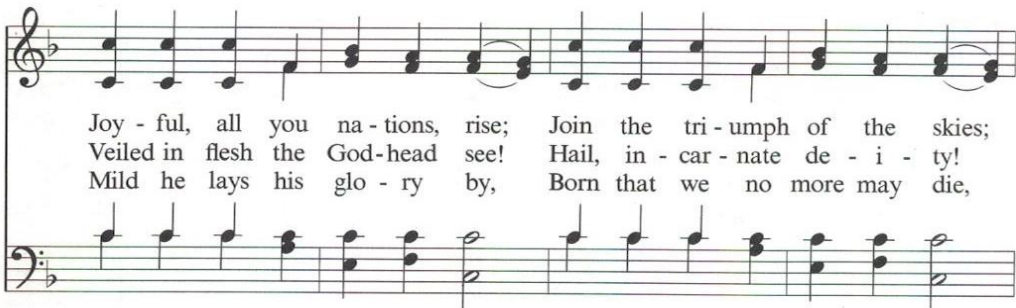
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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing


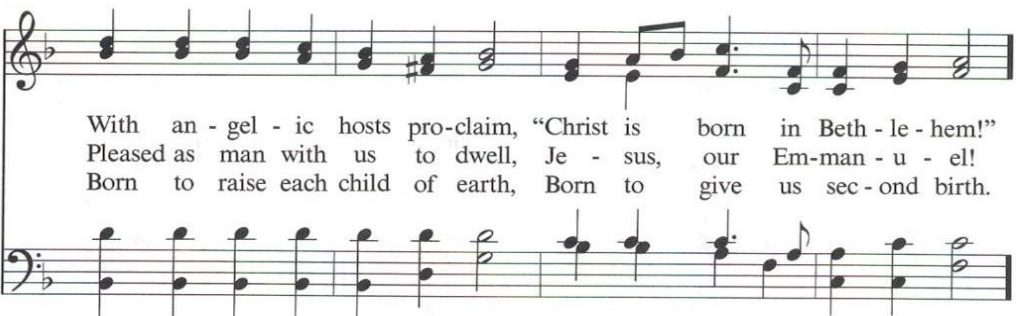
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled."
 Late in time be-hold him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



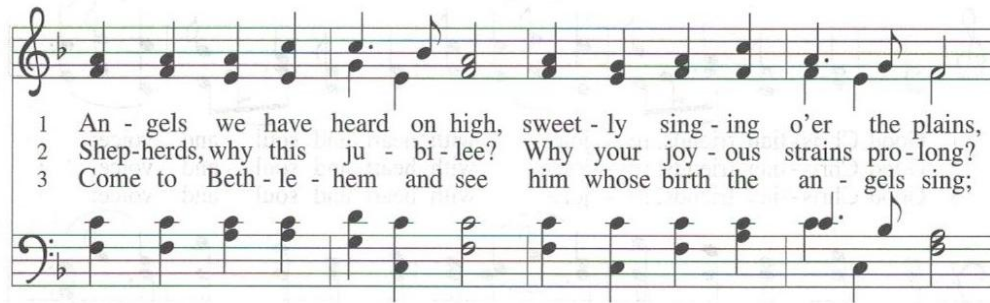
With an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!
 Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

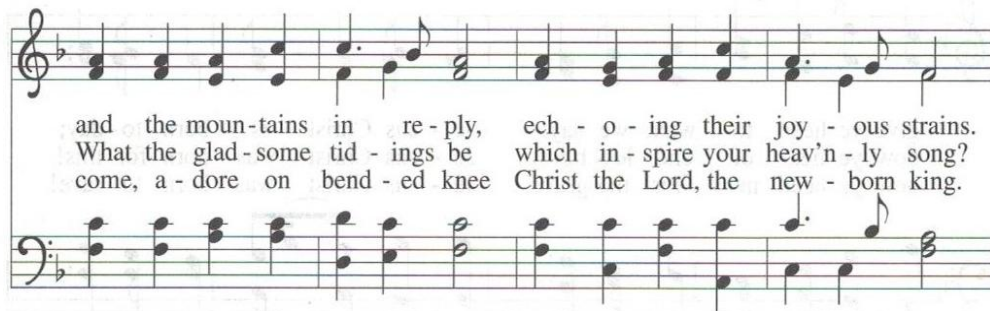

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Angels We Have Heard on High

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Angels We Have Heard on High


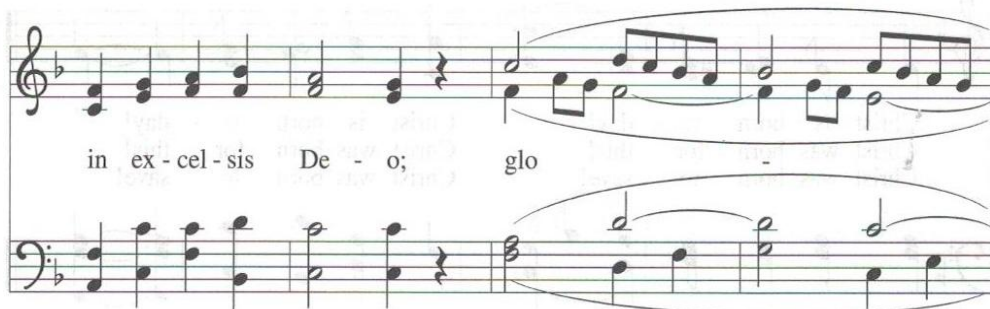
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain
Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

GLORIA
77 77 and refrain

SENDING SONG: *Go Tell it on the Mountain***Go Tell It on the Mountain****70**

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night, Be -
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When, lo, a - bove the earth Rang
3 Down in a lone - ly man-ger The hum - ble Christ was born; And

hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Refrain

BLESSING

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

Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

Next Sunday, January 2

Greeter: VOLUNTEER NEEDED; **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
by Kathy Elliott, Alan “Butch” Shaffer, Kelly Winters and families,
in loving memory of Eugene and Shirley Shaffer.

Please remember in prayer ~ Don F. Smith, Camden Peachey (grandchild of Regina Peachey) 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).

FROM the PASTOR

UPCOMING SERVICES

January 2 - Epiphany celebrated. The visit of the Three Kings. Communion

January 9 - Baptism of the Lord, Remembering our Baptism, a service of Healing and Wholeness. Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder to all council members ~ Installation will be held next Sunday, during worship. You are asked to remain for the brief meeting following the service.

Volunteers are needed to help with Sunday morning duties. PLEASE prayerfully consider serving our church in this way. The sign-up can be found on the table in the narthex. **In January ~ Greeter for next Sunday, Altar Care, Altar Flower and Bulletin Delivery.**

As we all know, on the night of December 10, a devastating outbreak of more than 30 tornadoes swept through six states. If you would like to donate towards the relief effort, Disaster Relief envelopes are available in the narthex, or you can notate "Tornados" on your check or envelope.

There are still several dates available to place altar flowers. At this time, the cost is still \$40.00. If interested, please call or sign-up in the narthex.

The 2022 offering envelopes are available in member mailboxes, and the 2022 birthday calendars are available in the narthex. There is no charge for the calendars. Please feel free to deliver the envelopes to a church family member, who may not be here to pick theirs up.

January 1 thru December 23, 2021

Last week's attendance ~ 30 Offering ~ \$1,255.00
 St. John's ~ Income \$202,091.54 Expense \$201,671.97
 Net Income \$419.57

Daycare ~ Income \$323,630.24 Expense \$308,284.16
 Net Income \$15,346.08