

**First Sunday of Christmas  
December 29, 2024**



**PRELUDE  
WELCOME  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **\*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 Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

56

The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to  
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star Shin - ing  
3 And by the light of that . . . same star Three .  
4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, O'er . . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where .  
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; And to the . .  
Wise . Men came . . . from coun - try far; To seek for a  
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; And there it . .

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's  
earth it gave . . . great light, And . . . so it con -  
king was their . . . in - tent, And to fol - low the  
did both stop . . . and stay Right . . . o - ver the

*Refrain*  
night . that was . . . so deep.  
tin - ued both day . . . and night. No - el, No - el, No -  
star . . . wher - ev - er it went.  
place . where Je - sus lay.

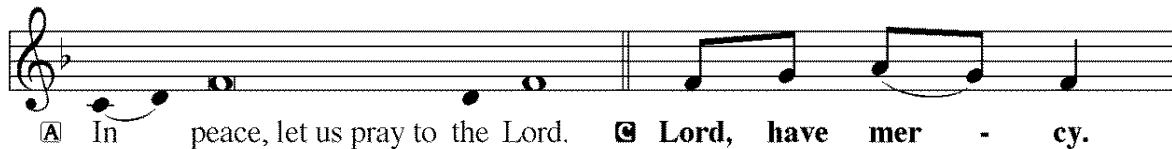
el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## \*GREETING

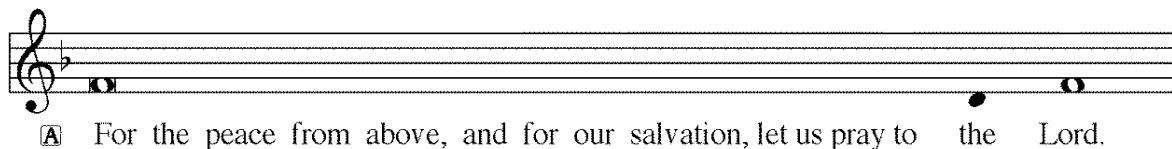
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**


## \*KYRIE



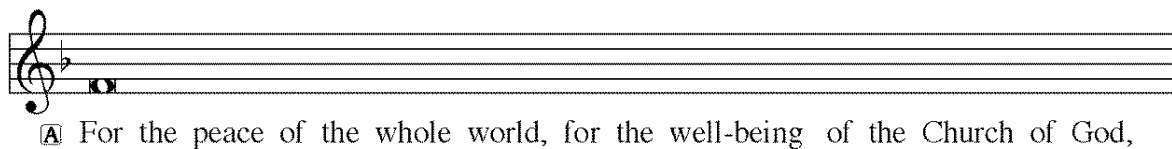
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



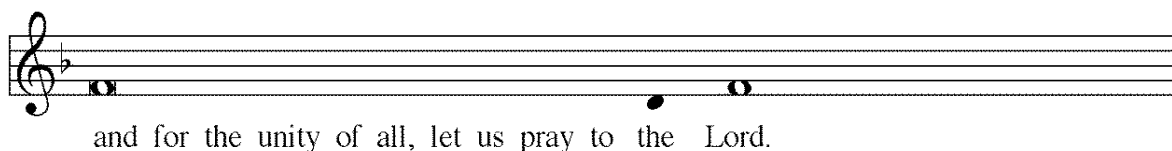
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



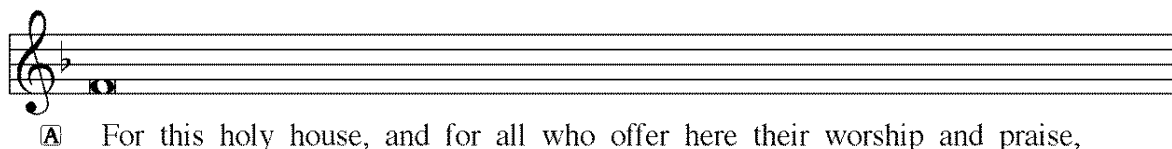
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



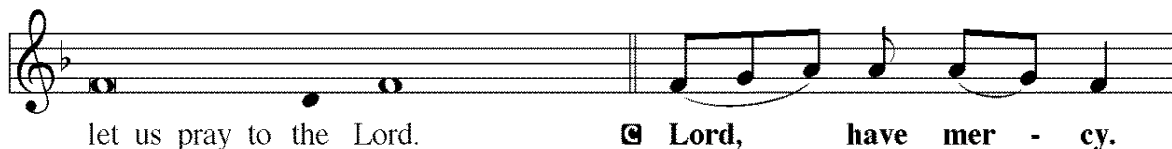
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



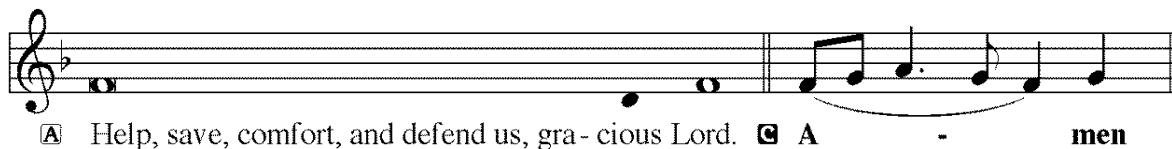
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

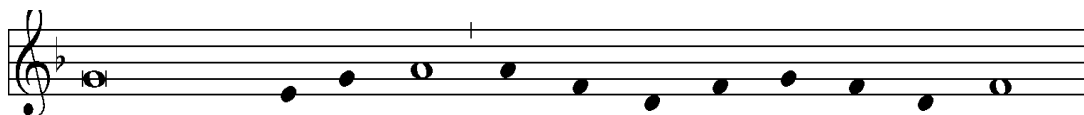


let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

## \*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** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray...

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

## LESSONS

Lector: The First Lesson is from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of 1 Samuel.

### First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD

repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup>Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

*after the reading*

Lector: Here ends the reading.

PSALM 148 ~ *read responsively*

**R The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven.**

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD <sup>1</sup> from the heavens;  
praise God <sup>1</sup> in the heights.  
<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you angels;  
sing praise, all you <sup>1</sup> hosts of heaven.**  
<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, <sup>1</sup> sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you <sup>1</sup> shining stars.  
<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heav- <sup>1</sup> en of heavens,  
and you waters a- <sup>1</sup> bove the heavens.**  
<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they <sup>1</sup> were created,  
<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not <sup>1</sup> pass away. R**  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD <sup>1</sup> from the earth,  
you sea monsters <sup>1</sup> and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, <sup>1</sup> snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do- <sup>1</sup> ing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup>mountains <sup>1</sup> and all hills,  
fruit trees <sup>1</sup> and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts <sup>1</sup> and all cattle,  
creeping things and <sup>1</sup> flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth <sup>1</sup> and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers <sup>1</sup> of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>**young <sup>1</sup> men and maidens,  
old and <sup>1</sup> young together. R**  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over <sup>1</sup> earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people  
and praise for all <sup>1</sup> faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.  
<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! R**

*after the reading*

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Lector: The Second Lesson is from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Colossians.

## Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule

in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*after the reading*

Lector: Here ends the reading.

## \*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.

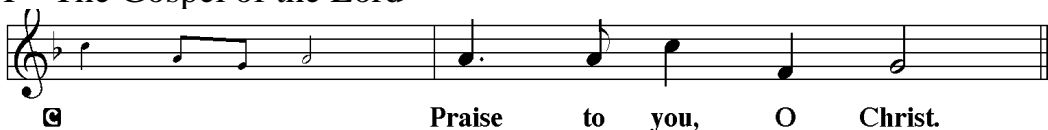
\*Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

*After the reading*

P The Gospel of the Lord



Praise to you, O Christ.

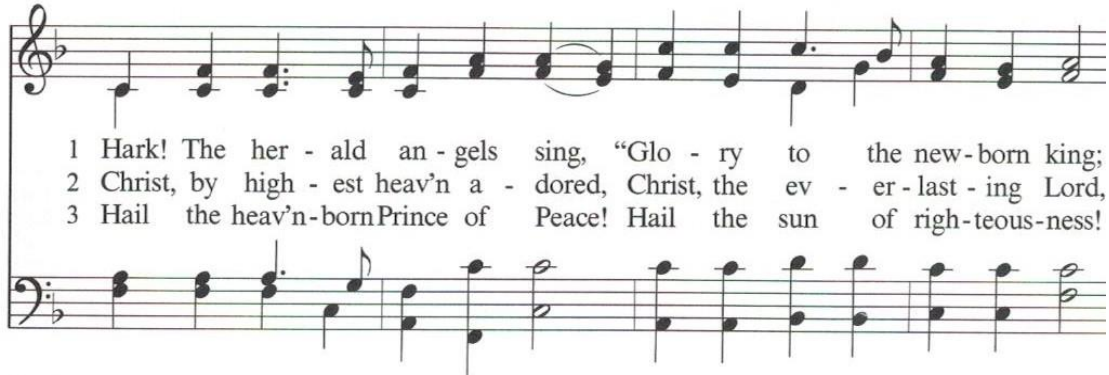


# MESSAGE

## HYMN ~ *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

60

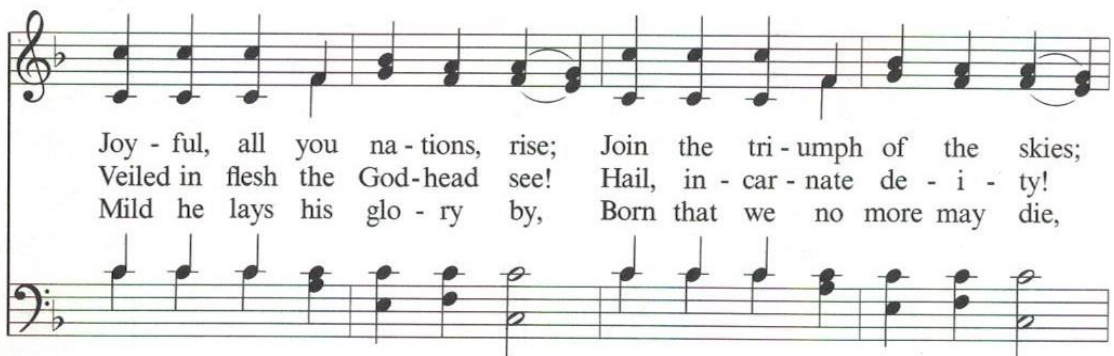
# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



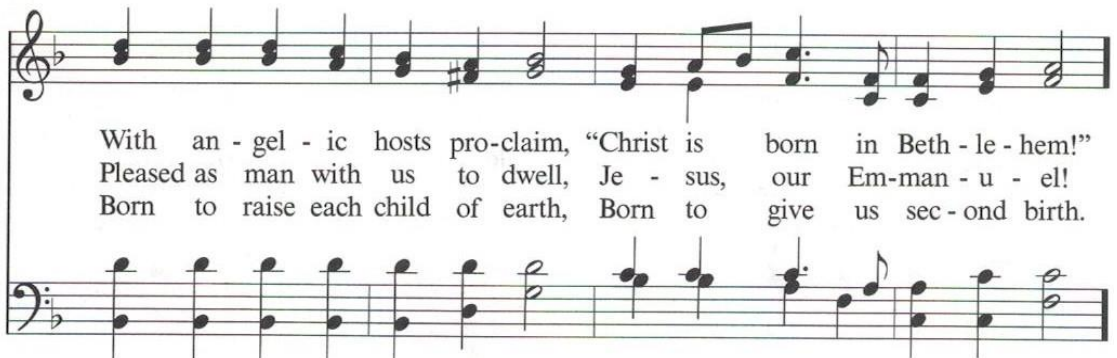
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



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.

## \*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.

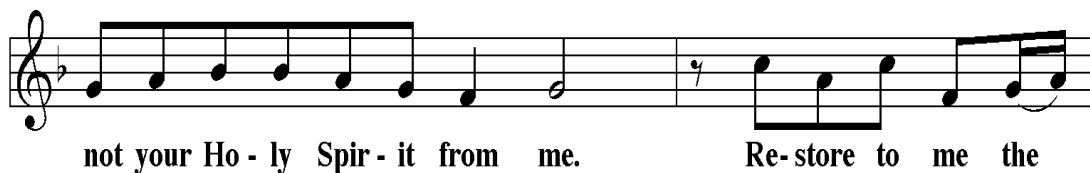
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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

## OFFERING

### \*OFFERTORY



## \*PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders (*specific institutions or instructors may be named*) in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands (*places of war and conflict may be named*). God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill (*especially*). Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the ministry of this place (*the local congregation or ministry setting may be named*), we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## \*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

## \*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 ~ *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*

**\*DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord

**R Thanks be to God**

**POSTLUDE**

**Today**

**Greeter/Lay Reader:** Jami Zook

**Elevator:** Joe Kanagy; **Sound:** Ed Bilich

**Next Sunday, January 5**

**Comm:** Brenda Boring; **Greeters:** Mike and Michele Harshbarger

**Elevator/Lay Reader:** Mike Harshbarger

**Sound:** Ed Bilich

**Pastor:** Rev. Mike Sigler Ph. # 717-437-7007

**Office Hours** ~ Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00am-Noon

(Subject to change to accommodate meetings, hospital visits, etc)

**Organist:** Rick Cole

**Church Office:** 935-2032; **Email us** [secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org)

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

***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 Jim and Georgianna Buchanan in honor of  
their grandchildren, Noelle and Elliott Dolin.

Please remember in prayer ~ Patty Loudenslager, Charlie Murphy, Anne Peachey, Desa Keiser, Elliana Byler, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Dorie Remensnyder (VVH), Reba Harmon (Elmcroft), Joyce Stuck and Betty Harmon (Greenwood Village).

**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

**TODAY** Pastor Doug Pierce preaching/leading worship

**TUESDAY** No Bible Study ~ Daycare closing at 1:30pm

**WEDNESDAY** New Year's Day

**NEXT SUNDAY** Holy Communion ~ Council installation

We welcome Pastor Doug Pierce to St. John's this morning. He will be preaching and leading our worship service. Thank you for sharing God's Word with us.

Pastor Sigler is away through this Thursday. Pastor Ken Longfield is covering for emergencies and can be reached at 717-250-6696, or contact the church office.

**Please note** ~ since this is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday month, all loose offering this morning will be directed to St. John's Discretionary Fund.

The January newsletter can be found in the mailboxes of those members who do not receive it by email.

St. John's has Meals on Wheels this week and next. Needed this week are cherry pie filling/Tuesday and 5 dozen cookies/Thursday. If you signed up to provide these items please have them at the Community Hall by 9am the day they are needed. Monetary donations for pies and cheesecakes are still needed. If you can help in this way, please see Sue Lynch or the church office.

Due to the pastor's vacation, Bible Study will not be held this week. It will resume again on January 7.

There are still a few poinsettias in the sanctuary and narthex including the hanging ones. **They all need a good home. PLEASE** feel free to take for yourself, deliver to a shut-in, or someone you know who may enjoy having one.

### ***In the Narthex...***

~ The 2025 church birthday calendars. Please help yourself.

~ Altar Flower sign-ups. **There are still several dates available.** The cost remains at \$40.00.

~ The *Mitten Tree* for your donations of hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and slipper socks for children/adults.

~ Social hour sign-up for anyone interested in hosting this monthly time of fellowship...**PLEASE!**

Last week's attendance ~ 40      Offering ~ \$2,405.00