

**Announcements for the week of
December 4, 2016
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Pastor's Office Hours: Generally Tuesdays & Thursdays – 9:30-1:00 pm
Wednesdays – 9:30-11:00 am “Coffee Hours” at Mars Brew House
Available other times by appointment.**

This morning's music is a mix of familiar Advent hymns (*Comfort, Comfort Now My People* and *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*), some hymns not usually associated with Advent (*Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* and *O Day of Peace*), and at least one new Advent song, *Maria Walks amid the Thorn*. The choir sings an arrangement by contemporary German composer Siegfried Strohbach (b. 1929). The text tells the story, somewhat indirectly, of the pregnant Mary's journey to visit her cousin Elizabeth, recounted in Luke's Gospel. Both text and tune were well-known by the early 17th century; based on the inclusion of the repeated phrase “*Kyrie eleison*,” the text likely dates to the Middle Ages, which is indicative of the first German religious folk songs.

Advent Service of Lessons and Carols & Congregational Meeting – Today

Today, there is only one worship service at 9:00 am as we hold an Advent Service of Lessons and Carols.

Immediately following the service there will be a short congregational meeting for the election of the Vestry for 2017. A light breakfast will be available after the meeting in the greeting area and Sunday School will also meet at that time.

Mission Planning Task Force Commissioning -Today

Today during worship, we will be commissioning our Mission Planning Task Force. Individuals who have committed to a time of prayerful discernment and conversation to be able to bring before the congregation a mission plan that will guide our ministry for the next few years. This will be an 8-10 month process of prayer, study, and conversation with the community and congregation. Please keep Matt Claus, Jacob Gordon, Denise Hager, Cindy Knauff, Janmarie & George Leikauf, Nancy McCormick, and Jamie Weaver in your prayers.

Final Set-up and Rehearsal – Today

After our meeting and light breakfast today we will be doing the final set-up and a rehearsal for the Night in Bethlehem program.

Christmas Poinsettias for the Church – Last Day to Order!

There are forms available on the table in the greeting area if you wish to purchase poinsettia plants to help decorate the church for the Christmas season. ***Deadline to order is TODAY. Cost is \$7.25 for each 6.5” plant***, and you may choose red, pink, white or marble plants. Please return your order form with payment.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will not hold a regular meeting today, but after the Night in Bethlehem rehearsal any youth that are available can go to Supremo's Pizza for food and fellowship.

Newly Elected Vestry

The newly elected vestry will have a combined meeting on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Two key agenda items will be the election of council members and setting a date for a council day of retreat.

Angel Tree

During this holiday season, we sponsored an Angel Tree for the residents at Glade Run Lutheran Services in Zelienople. If you have taken a tag, ***Please return your gift TODAY, December 4, and check off your name.*** We are also collecting socks, underwear and toiletries for Glade Run Lutheran Services. If you purchase these, place them in the appropriate bins in the greeting area. Socks and underwear need to be adult sizes. The children prefer bikini or low-ride for girls and boxers or boxer briefs for boys. They prefer low-cut or no-show socks. Hopefully you can find it in your heart this holiday season to help those who are less fortunate. Thank you for your participation, the kids will really appreciate it. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Hager.

A Night in Bethlehem - December 10

A family interactive event - A Night in Bethlehem will be a unique experience for adults and kids alike as they discover Jesus in Bible-times Bethlehem! There is no fee for this event, but we request that you register ahead of time so we may plan accordingly for crafts, etc. There is a sign-up sheet in the greeting area or you may call the church office at 724-625-1830 or register online at www.stjohnchurchmars.org. Any questions, see Denise Hager. *Please note, the church basement will not be available for use through December 10 due to set-up for this event.*

2017 Communion Bread Schedule

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the church office for anyone who would like to choose a month to provide the communion bread for worship services.

This Week at St. John

Sunday – December 4	Advent Lessons & Carols & Holy Communion Congregational Meeting Light Breakfast in Greeting Area Sunday School	9:00 am After Service After Meeting After Meeting
Tuesday – December 6	Newly Elected Vestry Meeting	7:00 pm
Wednesday – December 7	Bible Study	Noon
Sunday – December 11	Worship (Third Sunday of Advent) Sunday School Worship (Third Sunday of Advent)	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am