

SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24 - 31, 2023:

SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

9:00 am Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 am Fellowship – (Friendship Hall)
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary)
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary)

MONDAY: Blessed Christmas Day to one and all!

Church office closed
No Chair Yoga and No Bible Study



TUESDAY: 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting (Friendship Hall)
7:00 pm Scout Troop #7419 (Room 113)

WEDNESDAY: 9:00 am Yin Yoga (Friendship Hall and on-line)
11:00 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)
11:45 am Fellowship (Narthex)

THURSDAY: 9:00 am Pastors Pericope Study (Conference Room)
6:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting (Friendship Hall)

SATURDAY: 12:00 pm ECHO Community Meal (Friendship Hall)

NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday of Christmas - New Year's Eve

9:00 am Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 am Fellowship (Friendship Hall)

NEXT MONDAY: Happy New Year!

Church Office Closed
No Chair Yoga and No Bible Study



OPPORTUNITIES FOR VIEWING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE:

A live-stream of our worship service can be viewed on Sundays at 9:00 am on the congregation's YouTube Channel, accessible from the congregation's web-site, www.sjlc-elca.org/worship-online/ . Video recordings of worship services are available for viewing at the congregation's web-site, www.sjlc-elca.org The Sunday worship service is broadcast one week delayed on JATV, cable channel 994, on Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

PRAY FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION:

Skip, Carl L., Patty M., Erin V., Shelly V., Jon V., Jared F., Jeanene W., Rachel D., Terrin, Kealy, Tom W., Jim L., Olaf H., Patricia V., Shawn, Boyd C., Dave K., Buck W., Bob W., Billie B., Chris D., Susan H., Roy P., Jennifer H., Trudy, Carl L., Lori B., Bill E., Penny J., Dennis, Blaine, Judi M., and all of our brothers and sisters in need of prayer.

Please call the congregation office if you or family members are hospitalized. The hospitals cannot be relied on to inform us.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2024 are here! We are asking that you pick up your envelopes when you are here for worship, instead of having them mailed. Boxed sets of envelopes for the entire year are provided for each household. The boxes are in the Narthex. If you do not see a set of envelopes with your name, please call the church office at 608-752-3159. We have extra sets in the office and will be happy to prepare a box of envelopes for you. We also want to correct the database if there are errors. Thank you for your help!



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Thank you to all those who participated in this year's hanging of the greens and Christmas decorating. We will extend our Christmas adornments one day past the Epiphany of our Lord. **De-decorating will take place following worship service on January 7, 2024.** Because many hands make light work, we hope you can join us for a few minutes that day.

GIVING TREE 2023

The Giving Tree is right there in the Narthex as usual, complete with envelopes. Choose the organization that you would like to support, take an envelope from the tree, mark the envelope to designate your gift (there's even a line to add your choice of organization if they aren't already on the envelope), insert cash or a check into the envelope (make checks out to "St John Lutheran Church, and write the name of the organization in the memo line), and drop the envelope into the collection plate or bring it to the church office. Be sure that you put an ornament on the tree in place of your gifting envelope. Thank you for your generosity!



JUST A REMINDER: Any contributions that you wish to have recorded on your contribution statement for 2023 MUST be in the church office on or before noon on December 28, 2023.

The office will be closed at noon on December 28th. Any contributions received after 12:00 p.m. on the 28th will be credited to your 2024 statement of contributions. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Merry CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

- 9:00 am, Sunday, December 24, 2023 – **4th Sunday in Advent** – Holy Communion.
- 4:00 pm, Sunday, December 24, 2023 – **Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve** – Carols, Candlelight, and Holy Communion.
- 7:00 pm, Sunday, December 24, 2023 – **Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve** – Carols, Candlelight, and Holy Communion.
- No worship service Monday, December 25, 2023.
- 11:00 am, Wednesday, December 27, 2023 – **St. John, Apostle and Evangelist** – Holy Communion.
- 9:00 am, Sunday, December 31, 2023 – **1st Sunday of Christmas** – Holy Communion.

FLOWERS AND WREATHS FOR CHRISTMAS

Our congregation is using evergreen wreaths as part of our decorations for our sanctuary this year. The wreaths are being purchased from the Scouts and are \$36.00 each. Can you help to cover the cost for these wreaths? There are just a few donation envelopes left on the counter in the Narthex; just take one, insert a check (labeled “wreath” in the memo line) or cash, and drop it in the collection plate or at the office. Several individuals or families are welcome to contribute together. If you don’t have one of these special envelopes, just write in the memo line or enclose a note with your gift.



Also, several people have expressed an interest in providing altar flowers for this Christmas. Choose a holiday plant that you like and bring it with you on or before December 24th, and place it at the altar. Flowers may be picked up from December 26-31st and taken home to bless your home and family. Thank you for helping us to prepare for Christmas!

Sunday Dec. 24 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:46b-55, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the rightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Mon – Dec 25 – Christmas Day

Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Tue – Dec. 26-Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Readings: 2 Chronicles 24:17-22, Psalm 17:1-9, 15, Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60, Matthew 23:34-39

Prayer of the Day: We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of Stephen the first martyr, who looked to heaven and prayed for his persecutors. Grant that we also may pray for our enemies and seek forgiveness for those who hurt us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Wed – Dec. 27- John, Apostle and Evangelist

Readings: Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31, Psalm 116:12-19, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 21:20-25

Prayer of the Day: Merciful God, through John the apostle and evangelist you have revealed the mysteries of your Word made flesh. Let the brightness of your light shine on your church, so that all your people, instructed in the holy gospel, may walk in the light of your truth and attain eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Thu – Dec. 28 – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Readings: Jeremiah 31: 15-17, Psalm 124, 1 Peter 4:12-19, Matthew 2:13-18

Prayer of the Day: We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. Receive into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims. By your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Fri – Dec 29

Isaiah 49:5-15

Matthew 12:36-50

Psalm 148

Sat – Dec 30

Proverbs 9:1-12

2 Peter 3:8-13

Psalm 148

Sunday Dec. 31 — First Sunday of Christmas

Readings: Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.