**3rd Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023**

 St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

4527 Second St. P.O. Box 206
Port Hope, MI 48468

stjohnsec@stjohnporthope.org [www.stjohnporthope.org](http://www.stjohnporthope.org)

Church Office: 989-428-4140Pastor home/parsonage: 989-428-3305

Pastor: Rev. David A. Dodge Secretary: Sally Arndt

**WELCOME**! It’s our privilege to have you join us in being in the Presence of our Lord and Savior! At St. John, we follow the historic Liturgy of the Christian Church, which highlights the Biblical understanding of the True worship of God: *first and foremost*, that He Comes into our presence to give us His Saving Gifts (“Divine Service”) in His Word and Sacraments; and then, in *response,* we thank and praise Him in word and song, and pray for His continued Blessings.

**Who should receive Holy Communion at St. John?:** *All Confirmed members* are invited to Commune, who are sorry for their sins and wish to be Forgiven and Strengthened. Also, *visitors from other L.C.-M.S. and T.A.A.L.C. churches*, who fit the same description, are welcome. So that no one else might eat and drink in Judgment of their sins (1 Cor. 11:29), *all others are asked to refrain* from Communing. If you’re in doubt, please see Pastor or an Elder.

Prelude

**Opening Hymn:** “Sing Praise to the God of Israel”” ~ ***LSB* #936**

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** “Divine Service, *Setting 3”* ***LSB* pp.184ff.**

 *Introit* (see 1st white insert**;** read responsively by half Verse)

 “Growing as One” (see blue insert)

 Readings (see back white insert)

 Gradual (see front of same insert; read responsively by half Verse).

**Hymn of the Day: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”** ~ ***LSB* #345 (memory)**

**Sermon**: “Not an Impersonator!” *John 1:6-8,19-28*

**Distribution Hymns:**

“Arise, O Christian People” ~ ***LSB* #354**

“When All the World Was Cursed” ~ ***LSB* #346**

“Once He Came in Blessing” ~ ***LSB* #333**

**Closing Hymn:** “Lift Up Your Heads,Ye Mighty Gates” ~ ***LSB* #340**

Postlude

**Flowers on Altar:** God’s Blessing to Madison and Alex Graham on their marriage from Grandparents, Harlan and Ann Reinke.

**Christmas Program:** The annual Christmas Program will be on **Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, at 7:00 pm**. Members of all ages are welcome to participate. Please contact Albert Bender (989-553-4484) or Sally Arndt (989-553-4386) if you’d like to be a part of this annual event. **Practice will start TODAY** during Sunday School time at 9:00.

**STEWARDSHIP OF PARTICIPATION**

**DATE: SERVICE             ATTENDANCE   COMMUNION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 12-10: 8:00 | 75 | 56 |
| 12-10: 10:00 | 53 | 40 |
| 12-10 Total |  128  | 96 |
| 12-10: S.S. / B.C. | 3 / 4 |  |
| 12-13: Bible Study | 5 |  |
| 12-13: 12:00 | 30 |  |
| 12-13: 7:00 | 25 |  |

 **STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE**

**TODAY**

**Organist**: Kristen Weiss

**Ushers (8/10):** Marv Woodke, Larry Johnson, Jeff Kowaleski / Greg Woodke, Ty Woodke

**Elder(s) (8/10):** Joe Landenberg / Larry Reinke

**Acolyte** **(8/10):** Jett Zimmerman / Brady Iseler

**Altar Guild**: Vicki Koglin

**NEXT SUNDAY****Organist:** Kristen Weiss

**Ushers (****8/10):** Marv Woodke, Larry Johnson, Jeff Kowaleski / Greg Woodke, Ty Woodke

**Elder(s) (8/10):** Greg Woodke / Les Weiss

**Acolyte** **(8/10):** Maddix Thoms / Brady Iseler

**Altar Guild**: Vicki Koglin

 **LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY**

**READINGS** **HYMNS**

**Psalm**:19 934
O.T.: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 **357**

**Epistle:** Romans 16:25-27 359

**Gospel:** **Luke:1:26-38** 719;350;356

336

 **January – March *Portals of Prayer*** are available in the entryway basket.

The **December *Lutheran Witness*** (with ***Michigan In Touch***) is available on the entryway table.

**December newsletters** are in your mailboxes.

**A friendly reminder: Newsletter submissions** are due to the

 church office by the 15th of the month preceding the month for

publishing. **Bulletin announcements** are due to the church office by Thursday (9:00am) before the Sunday to be published, in writing.

 **2024 Offering Envelopes** are available in the entryway.

**Choir Practice** will take place **between services** **today** in the church balcony.

**THIS WEEK at ST. JOHN**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sun.: | 8:00 | Divine Service w/ Holy Communion, pp.184ff. |
|  | **9:00** | **Christmas Program Practice**/Bible Class/**Choir Practice** |
|  | 10:00 | Divine Service w/ Holy Communion, pp.184ff. |
| Mon.: | 6:00 | Finance Board |
| Tues.: | 7:00 | Trustees |
| Wed.: | 10:30 | Bible Study |
|  | 12:00 | Advent service, pp.260ff. |
|  | 7:00 | Advent service, pp.260ff. |
| Next Sun.: | 8:00 | Divine Service w/ Holy Communion, pp.184ff. |
|  | **9:00** |

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| --- |
| **Christmas Program Practice**/Bible Class/**Choir Practice** |

 |
|  | 10:00 |

|  |  |
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| --- |
| Divine Service w/ Holy Communion, pp.184ff. |

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|  | **7:00** | **Christmas Program,”H**ark the Herald Angels Sing**”** |
|  | **11:00** | **Christmas Midnight Candlelight Divine Service w/ Holy Communion, pp. 203ff.** |

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday (*Pastor*): **9am – 1pm; 2 - 3pm** *(Sally)* **9am – 12pm**

Tuesday (*Pastor)*: **9am – 12pm**

Wednesday (*Pastor & Sally*): **9am – 12pm**

Thursday *(Pastor)*: **9am – 12pm**

Friday *(Pastor & Sally)*: **9am – 12pm**

Please call ahead to ensure that someone is in at (989) 428-4140

**2022 Debt Fund**

|  |
| --- |
| **January - December 31, 2023** |
| Total NeededReceived (11-27-2023) Received year to date Amount Still Needed  |  $ 27,000.00 $ 220.00  $ 4,970.00  $ 22,030.00  |

**BUDGETED FINANCE REPORT - *Not Including Special Accounts***

|  |
| --- |
| **January - December 31, 2023** |
| Needed per count Received (11-27-2023) Needed year to date Received year to date  |  $ 8,540.00 $ 7,650.00 $ 179,340.00  $ 161,940.00  |

Bulletins provided by Ramsey Funeral Home, Harbor Beach, MI Phone 800-251-8699

**PRAYER LISTS** The following members and friends areknown to be in the

hospital, ailing or recovering and are in need of our prayers, cards, and visits.

**MEMBER PRAYERS:**
Rosemary Koglin; family of Ann Drews

**SHUT-INS:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Yvonne Fuhrman   | Jack Noble (Meadow Lane, B.A.) | Jeffrey Schave |
| Norma Johnson | Jeanette Piotter(Lakeview E.C., H.B.) | Sandy Struble(Meadow Lane, B.A.) |
| Joyce Koglin (Meadow Lane, B.A.)  | Erwin Schave(Lakeview E.C., H.B.) | Jeannie Woodke (Huron Co. Medical) |
| Elmer/Ruth Leese | Gary Schave(Meadow Lane, B.A.) |  |

 **FRIENDS:**

Isabel Mix (great-granddaughter of Elmer & Ruth Leese)

Reecilyn Joy (daughter of Michael and Julie Joy)

Gordon Summers

Karen Kreh (daughter of Joyce Koglin)

Daryl Sengstock

Natalie Morgan (daughter of Shannon Popour’s co-worker)

David Sias (great-grandson of Elmer & Ruth Leese)

Debbie Pokora (sister-in-law of Mary Eggert)

Jaxon Bates (infant great-grandson of Elmer & Ruth Leese)

Ryder Finkel (6-year-old grandson of Don & Linda Finkel)

Daniel Polega

Madison Graham (daughter of Harlan and Ann Reinke)

Huron County Right to Life is sponsoring a pro-life t-shirt design contest for teens. The winning designer will receive $200 cash. The winning entry will be given out to all attendees of the 2024 Pro-life Teen Rally in March.  Entry deadline is January 5, 2024. Please submit your prol-life t-shirt design with slogan to HURONRTL@gmail.com.

If you missed the **Ladies Aid Christmas party**, you missed a great time and a wonderful opportunity to be giving. 16 generous ladies and 3 auctioneers (Harold Collings, Pastor Dodge & Larry Finkel) convened for a night of chuckles and charity and raised **$904**. **Ladies Aid has matched** that amount and donations of $603 each have been made to St. John Barnabas Fund, Huron County Safe Place and Harbor Beach - Port Hope Food Pantry. Hope to see the rest of you next year!

**Donating Part of your IRA's RMD**

If you have a traditional IRA - and if you are 72 years old or older - you are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution. If you donate all or part of that to a qualified non-profit 501(c)(3), such as St. John Lutheran Church, Port Hope, you will avoid paying income tax on your distribution. This type of gift is known as a Qualified Charitable Contribution. Contact your IRA administrator to arrange for a direct rollover to a qualified charitable organization. To get the tax benefits of a QCC, the charitable organization must receive the donation

by **December 31**. Processing this type of gift may take a few days, so it is beneficial to start the process now.

**In Memory of Arlene Zelz, a monetary gift has been given to St. John Trustee Fund:** Richard & Darlene Tyler. **St. John Debt Fund:**  Alan & Judy McTaggart, Albert & Janice Bender, Larry & Kathy Reinke, Herb & Betty Leese, Gary Eggert. **Stained Glass Window Fund:** Roy & Elaine Reinke. **St. John Lutheran Church Ladies Aid:** Kathy (Bender) Rocha.  **St. John Lutheran Church:**  Harlan & Ann Reinke, Ronald Steinhorst, Ted & Heather Kowaleski, Orville Eggert, Al & Donna Wolschlager.

**A Smile from Sally:**