**3rd Sunday of Advent (*Gaudete)* December 15, 2019**

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

4527 Second St. P.O. Box 206

Port Hope, MI 48468-0206

989-428-4140stjohnsec@stjohnporthope.org www.stjohnporthope.org

Pastor: Rev. David A. Dodge Secretary: Kathy Schave

**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.

Today – the **“3rd Sunday of Advent”** – is referred to as **“*Gaudete*,”** from **Philippians 4:4-5**, “*Rejoice* in the Lord always; again I will say, *Rejoice*. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand, …” “*Gaudete*” is Latin for “*Rejoice*,” hence the rose Advent wreath candle. Philippians 4:4-5 serves as **today’s “*Introit*”** antiphon.

**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 A.E.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 are in doubt, please see Pastor or an Elder.

Prelude

**Opening Hymn: *LSB* #338**~ “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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

 *Introit* (see violet insert**;** read responsively by half Verse)

 “Growing as One” (see purple insert)

 Readings (see back of violet insert)

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

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

**Sermon:** “God does not always Act in ways people expect.” Matthew 11:2-10(11)

**Distribution Hymns:**

***LSB #*349***~* “Hark the Glad Sound”

***LSB* #849** ~ “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

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

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

**Closing Hymn: *LSB* #511** ~ “Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment”

Postlude

We welcome today as our **guest pastor** the **Rev. Leo Thoms,** *Emeritus***,** Port Hope Rev. Thoms is the son of this congregation, and we thank him for leading us in worship today. Rev. Thoms previously served as pastor at St. John, Port Sanilac.

 **STEWARDSHIP OF PARTICIPATION**

 **DATE: SERVICE             ATTENDANCE   COMMUNION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 12-08-19: 8:00 |  58 |  55 |
| 12-08-19: 10:30 |  62 |  44 |
| 12-08-19: Total |  120 |  109 |
| 12-08-19: SS/ Bible Class  |  6/ 4 |   |
| 12-11-19: Bible Study |  8 |  |
| 12-11-19: noon (Advent) |  27 |  |
| 12-11-19: 7:00 (Advent) |  28 |  |
| 12-11-19: Total (Advent) |  55 |  |

**STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE**

**TODAY**

**Organist**: Kristen Weiss

**Ushers** (8/10:30): Marvin Woodke, Larry Johnson, Jeff Kowaleski / Greg Woodke, Ty Woodke, Robert Schulte

**Elder(s)** (8/10:30): Galen Young / Larry Reinke

**Acolyte** (8/10:30): Olivia Woodke / Carson O’Brien

**Altar Guild**: Vicki Koglin

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**Organist**: Kristen Weiss

**Ushers** (8/10:30): Marvin Woodke, Larry Johnson, Jeff Kowaleski / Greg Woodke, Ty Woodke, Robert Schulte

**Elder(s)** (8/10:30): Joe Landenberg / Les Weiss

**Acolyte** (8/10:30): Tanton Babcock / Jordis Pitts

**Altar Guild**: Vicki Koglin

**LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY**

**READINGS** **HYMNS**

Psalm 111 347 O.T.: Deuteronomy 18:15-19 357

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7 345; 344; 343; 346

Gospel: John 1:19-28 or Luke 1:39-56 336

 **Advent purple poinsettias** on the Altar are provided by the Dodges.

 Oct. – Dec. ***Portals of Prayer*** are available on the entryway magazine table.

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

 **Barnabas Fund:**  This fund is for the purpose of providing financial help for those in emergency need. Please consider donating toward this endeavor.

 **A friendly reminder…**newsletter submissions are due to the church office by the 15th of the month preceding the month to publish. Bulletin announcements are due to the church office by Wednesday (9:00 am) before the Sunday to be published.

**THIS WEEK at ST. JOHN**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | 8:00 | Divine Service with Holy Communion Page 184 |
|  | 9:15 | Sunday School & Bible Class  |
|  | 9:15  | Choir Practice |
|  | 10:30 | Divine Service with Holy Communion Page 184 |
| Mon: | 5:30 | 7th grade Confirmation Class |
| Tues: | 7:00 | Trustees |
| Wed: | 10:30  | Bible Study  |
|  | noon | Advent service |
|  | 1:00 | Quilting at the School Building |
|  | 5:30 | Soup/sandwich supper |
|  | 7:00 | Advent service |
| Next Sun:  | 8:00 | Divine Service with Holy Communion Page 184 **Professions of Faith** |
|  | 9:15 | Sunday School & Bible Class (Epistle) |
|  | 9:15  | Choir Practice |
|  | 10:30 | Divine Service with Holy Communion Page 184 |

**Office Hours:** Monday & Wednesday (*Pastor*): **9am – 1pm; 2-3pm**Tuesday & Thursday (*Pastor & Kathy*): **9am – 12pm; 1-2pm**Friday (Pastor &*Kathy*): **9am – 12pm** Please call ahead to make sure that someone is in.

**Stained Glass Window Fund**

**Total Needed: $124,000.00**

**Received so far $ 76,905.00 Finance Board (12-09-19) $ 1,280.00**

**Amount Still Needed: $ 47,095.00**

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

|  |
| --- |
| **2019-2020 Fiscal Year** |
| **Needed per count** **Received (12-9-19)** **Needed year to date** **Received year to date**  |  **$ 8,060.00** **$ 7,850.00**  **$ 88,660.00** **$79,695.00**  |

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

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 ***John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord***

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: “*Prepare the way of the Lord . . .*” (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah’s Coming through repentance, for “*all flesh is grass*” (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison, “*Are You the One who is to Come . . .?*” (Matt. 11:2). Jesus’ Works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord’s Hand double Forgiveness for all their sins. The “*stewards of the Mysteries of God*” (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ’s overflowing Forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God’s people with the Word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

**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**

Charlie Koglin; Bob Witherspoon; Isabel Mix; Yvonne Fuhrman; Ann Schubring; Della Finkel; Helen Schultz; The family of Dorothy Reinke (Candy Strozeski’s Mother)

**SHUT-INS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ivan/Betty Adkins | Yvonne Fuhrman  | Willard Reinke |
| Arnold Brown | Patricia Griffore | Jeffrey Schave |
| Wade Cohoon (Colorado) | Beverly Hartz | Gloria Schmalz  |
| Nelson Erbisch | Nathan Kaufman | Helen Schultz  |
| Howard/Della Finkel  | Elmer/Ruth Leese  | Arlene Zelz |
| Mary Forbing |  |  |

**FRIENDS**

Roman Jock (toddler cousin of Harold Collings)

Brendan Durkee (16 yr. old grandson of Merle & Patsy Eggert)

Riley Durkee (8 yr. old granddaughter of Merle & Patsy Eggert)

Carol Wessels (friend of Joyce)

Ruby Maschke (Meadow Lane Assisted Living)

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

Jean Eggert (sister-in-law of Gary and Elain Eggert)

Staff Sergeant Ricky Holtz (recently deployed to South America), wife Kayla, and two sons (grandson-in-law of Emerson & Irene Pilaske)

Brian Will (son of Edwyn & Phillis Will)

**Finance will not be meeting on Dec. 23rd. Finance will meet on Dec 30th.**

**Choir:** The choir will sing on **December 24th** at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

**Church Christmas Program** sign up is still available and we are looking for all ages to participate.  No one is too young or too old!  Please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin table.  The Program will take place on Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm.  Practices will be held on Sundays at the church on the following dates at 9:15 am:  December 15, and 22nd.  If you have any questions, please call Albert at (989) 553-4484 or Sally at (989) 553-4386.

**Quilting** at the school will NOT be held on Dec 25th through Jan 15th.

**2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are now available for pick up in the entryway. Please sign up on the numbered clip-board sheet on the bulletin table and take the corresponding numbered envelope box.

**Soup and Sandwich Suppers** will be served each Wednesday during Advent from 5:30 PM until 6:45. Suppers will be hosted by families from St. John who have students attending Zion’s day school. December 18 bean soup and turkey rice will be served.

Due to lack of interest the last order for **SCRIP cards** will be December 16th. If you ever need gift cards please don’t hesitate to contact me and I will happily place an order for you at any time.  Thank you, Melody 989-550-1440.

What are you doing on Jan. 24, 2020? I hope you’re making plans to join your church at the **47th Annual National March for Life in Washington, D.C.** I’ll be there leading what I hope will be the largest contingent of Lutherans ever to march together in this life-affirming event. At 11 a.m. EST, we’ll start gathering at the corner of 12th Street and Madison Drive to hand out hats, signs and hymn sheets. Then we’ll join other marchers from around the world to walk up Constitution Avenue to the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court. If you’re able to come early, please join us the day before, on Jan. 23, for a 7 p.m. rally at the Renaissance Washington D.C. Downtown Hotel. The pre-march Divine Service will once again be at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Va., starting at 9 a.m. on Jan. 24. A continental breakfast will follow.

**A Monetary Gift has been given to St. John Lutheran Church Stained Glass Window Fund:** from the Ask Family, friends for the Youngs.

**A Memorial for John & Marla Kriewall, monetary gift has been given to St. John Lutheran Church Stained Glass Window Fund:** from Wayne & Dinah Watson.

**A Memorial for Marla Kriewall, monetary gift has been given to St. John Lutheran Church Stained Glass Window Fund:** from Earl Iseler.

**Memorials for Amy Reinke, monetary gifts have been given to St. John Lutheran Church Stained Glass Window Fund:** from Daniel OConnell of California, Elaine Eggert, Gary Eggert, Joyce Koglin, Herb & Betty Leese, Mark, Barb, Eli Ross, Gina, Anna, Eva and Bethanie Engel, Earl & Joann Iseler, St. John’s Ladies Aid, Erwin Shave, Rosemary & Cliff Stuehmer, Wayne & Dinah Watson.

**Special Stewardship Offering:** A total of $805 was collected for our October “Stewardship Month” offering. This will be divided equally for Missionaries to Southeast Asia the Rev’s Steve Mahlburg and Roger James.
Thank-you for your generosity!