**4th Sunday of Advent (*Rorate Coeli)* December 22, 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 **“4th Sunday of Advent”** – is referred to as **“*Rorate Coeli*,”** from **Isaiah 45:8**, “Shower/*drop down*, O *heavens*, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the Earth open, that Salvation and Righteousness may bear fruit; let the Earth cause them both to sprout; I the LORD have Created it.” “*Rorate Coeli*” is Latin for “Let *drop heaven*.” Isaiah 45:8a 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* #347**~ “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”

**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* #357** ~ “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (**memory**)

**Sermon:** “Greater Things.” John 1:19-28

**PROFESSIONS OF FAITH** (8:00)

**Distribution Hymns:**

***LSB #*345***~* “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”

***LSB* #344** ~ “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

***LSB* #343** ~“Prepare the Royal Highway”

(***LSB* #346** ~ “When all the World Was Cursed”)

**Closing Hymn: *LSB* #336** ~ “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

Postlude

We welcome into communicant membership today Randy Smaglinski (husband of Brithany [Schave]) and Cody Siemen (finance of Marissa Schave)

**STEWARDSHIP OF PARTICIPATION**

**DATE: SERVICE             ATTENDANCE   COMMUNION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 12-15-19: 8:00 | 69 | 64 |
| 12-15-19: 10:30 | 45 | 43 |
| 12-15-19: Total | 114 | 107 |
| 12-15-19: SS/ Bible Class | 6/ 4 |  |
| 12-18-19: Bible Study | 11 |  |
| 12-18-19: noon (Advent) | 24 |  |
| 12-18-19: 7:00 (Advent) | 25 |  |
| 12-18-19: Total (Advent) | 49 |  |

**STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE**

**TODAY**

**Organist**: Jenna Arndt

**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

**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): Greg Schave / Larry Reinke

**Acolyte** (8/10:30): Jordan Schave / Carson O’Brien

**Altar Guild**: Vicki Koglin

**LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY**

**READINGS** **HYMNS**

Psalm 89:1-8 519 O.T.: Isaiah 11:1-5 or 2 Samual 7:1-16 372, 389, 376

Epistle: Galatians 4:1-7 374; 377; 386; 937

Gospel: Luke 2:(22-32)33-40 367

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

Jan. – March ***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 | Christmas Program Practice & Bible Class |
|  | 9:15 | Choir Practice |
|  | 10:30 | Divine Service with Holy Communion Page 184 |
| **Tues:** | **7:00** | **Christmas S.S. Program** |
|  | **11:00** | **Candlelight Service w/Communion** |
| **Wed:** | **10:00** | **Christmas Day Worship w/Communion** |
| Thurs: |  | Pastor Vacation |
| Fri: |  | Pastor Vacation |
| Next Sun: | 8:00 | Divine Service with Holy Communion Page 184 |
|  | 9:15 | Sunday School & Bible Class (Epistle) |
|  | 10:30 | Divine Service with Holy Communion Page 184 |

**Office Hours:** Monday & Tuesday (*Pastor*): **9am – 1pm; 2-3pm**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 Points Everyone to the Messiah***

The Coming of God in all His unveiled Power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering Voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15–19). God, therefore, Raised up a Prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God Came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from Heaven; the Earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation *(Introit)* through the blessed virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39–56). The Fruit of her womb is the very “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19–28). In Jesus we are Delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have “the Peace of God which surpasses all understanding” (Phil. 4:4–7).

**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

**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.  
  
**Christmas Piano Concert**: Please join us for a Christmas piano concert performed by Kristen Weiss at 6:30pm in the church on Christmas Eve.   
 **Sunday School Christmas Program:**  The Program will take place on **Christmas Eve at 7:00** **pm**.  Practice will be held on today at 9:15 am. 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.

**Thank-You to all who have** given so generously of their time to help out in any way for funeral luncheons during the past year, whether it be donating desserts, helping to preplace and serve the meal, or setting up tables and chairs. Without your help we couldn’t provide this service to families during such an emotional time.   
God’s blessing to all of you, Sue Emerick

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 Memorial for Marvin Koglin, a monetary gift has been given to St. John Lutheran Church Stained Glass Window Fund:** from his loving memory from his wife Joyce Koglin.

**A Memorial for Dorothy Reinke, monetary gift has been given to St. John Lutheran Church Stained Glass Window Fund:** from Karen Isler

**A Memorial for Dorothy Reinke, monetary gift has been given to St. John Lutheran Church** from Steven & Kristen Weiss.

**Memorials for Amy Reinke, monetary gifts have been given to St. John Lutheran Church Stained Glass Window Fund:** from Jim & Judy Harding, Robert Witherspoon, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tyler, Nancy Schelke, Beth & Ron Glotzhober, Clifford Hartz & Donna Wolschlager, Earl Reinke, Terry & Peggy Emerick, Sue & John Brecht, Alan & Judy McTaggart, Dennis & Lorna Pleiness, Jason & Staci Zimmerman, Leo & Linda Smith, Larry & Kathline Reinke, Harold & Carolyn Collings, Lorraine Balma, Jean & John Casey

**ADVENT 4 ALTERNATE GOSPEL READING**

Luke 1:39-56 (“Mary Visits Elizabeth”/“The *Magnificat*”)