

WELCOME

To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to the stranger, we extend our sincere greeting. If you are a visitor, please understand that you are our guest and we want you to feel welcome and comfortable. We are happy you chose to be with us in this service, and pray you have been blessed by our Lord today as He has blessed us by your presence.

THOSE WHO SERVE US

Each Member of St. John's	A Minister
Rev. Mike Burdick	Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp	Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker	Preschool Director
Ms. Jerry Starner	Organist
Mrs. Erin Wendling	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band	10:30AM
Mr. Todd Zeigler	5:30PM Elder on Duty
Katie & Camille Zeigler	5:30PM Acolyte
Mr. Howard Janis	8AM Elder on Duty
Makenna Duckwitz	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Todd Zeigler	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Elena Niebrugge	10:30AM Acolyte
Mr. Jeff Stremming 217-821-3891	Elder on Duty for Dec. 2 – Dec. 6, 2019
Sister Congregation	in Blidene, Latvia
Adopted Chatelain School	Haiti
Mrs. Julie Scott	(343-3047) Prayer Chain Coordinator
State, National & International Missions	through our District and Synod

CHRIST is important to us

- in our worship
- in our study
- in our fellowship
- in our lives.

YOU are important to us

- in our worship
- in our study
- in our fellowship
- in our lives.

HIS VISION FOR US:

St. John's will be known for being involved in our changing community, for providing leadership in our changing world, and for serving others in Christian love.

We will welcome our diverse guests with open arms. Our friendly, loving and accepting people will engage our guests, mentor them in the faith, and inspire many to become members.

Our members will be motivated by the cross to be actively engaged in ministry, showing love and care to others. We will encourage one another, nurture one another, and enthusiastically serve our God together!

HIS GOAL FOR US:

We will pray and work with singleness of purpose to expand the impact of our ministry to God's children of all ages, with special emphasis on young families, by developing new ways to strengthen the relationship between St. John's, our members and our community, providing the facilities and resources to involve more people in ministry and outreach.

WELCOME CENTER

Greeters are present at the Welcome Center in the atrium adjacent to our sanctuary before and after the service to answer any questions you may have, provide directions to restrooms, classrooms, etc. If you are a first time guest, we also have a gift for you. If you live in our community or surrounding area and you do not have a church home, we welcome your consideration. We offer true fellowship with the living Savior and membership in His Church.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Kindly fill out a registration card (welcome side) located in the pew rack. Our guests are also asked to complete the address and phone number portion. Please pass your card to the center aisle to be gathered during the offering.

CELL PHONES

Please turn your cell phones off before the service begins.

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

AS WE GATHER

“Look out!” is about all we can yell as something unexpected is about to happen. The person we are warning has to be awake in order to respond. That’s why Jesus tells His disciples, including us, to be awake and watchful for His return. He is our Lord and Master—our King! Advent is a gracious time of preparation for Jesus’ coming, once in history, to us in Word and Sacrament today, and at the end of time. When our Lord returns, it will be to usher in the kingdom of God, which Isaiah says will be so peaceful they will “beat their swords into plowshares.” Before that day, preparing means leading loving lives, Paul tells us, for “salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.” Look out! The King comes!

+ PREPARATION +

BELLS – CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN “Once He Came in Blessing” #333

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Stay awake,

People: **for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.**

Pastor: For salvation is nearer to us now

People: **than when we first believed.**

Pastor: They shall beat their swords into plowshares,

People: **and their spears into pruning hooks.**

Pastor: I was glad when they said to me,

People: **“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our Lord urges us to stay awake and watch for His return, when He will usher in the kingdom of God. Paul tells us to “cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

People: **In our fallen sinful condition, our thoughts, words, and deeds often reflect the fallen world around us. Heavenly Father, forgive us for Jesus’ sake, and by Your Holy Spirit turn our feet to walk in ways pleasing to You. Awaken our faith that we greet You whenever You return.**

Pastor: Our Lord’s first coming was to save us—to die and rise in our place. When we receive His body and blood in the Lord’s Supper, it is for the remission of sins. When He returns, it will be to usher in the kingdom of God, in which He promised through Isaiah, “He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **O Lord, Emmanuel, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **O Lord, Wisdom from on high, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: O Lord, Branch of Jesse's tree, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: O Lord, Key of David, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Isaiah wrote, "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (#357:7)

**O Come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Pastor: Jesus warned, "Stay awake, for you do not know on what day Your Lord is coming."

Let us pray. O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

People: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (#357:1)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,
**People: that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils
of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance;**

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGIsaiah 2:1–5

(In the kingdom of God, we will learn to walk in the way of the Lord; it will be a time of peace.)

¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

³ and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

EPISTLERomans 13:8–14
(Paul urges loving living as we await Christ’s return.)

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

BELL CHOIR.....“O Come, Little Children”

HOLY GOSPELMatthew 24:36–44
(Jesus warns against not being alert for His return.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁶“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLE'S CREED

People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Savior of the Nations, Come” #332

SERMON “Ready or Not”

OFFERING & OFFERTORY

OFFERING HYMN “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” #350 vv. 2&3

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: As we wait for our Lord’s return, let us pray for all people in their various needs and for the Church, here and around the world. For any among us and all others who await freedom from the consequences of their sins, from the injustices of their societies, and from their own worldly passions, that God would surround them with people of faith to apply the gracious news of God’s forgiveness, love, and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!**

Pastor: For our communities and country and for all the nations of the world, wherever people await an end to discord with their neighbors and calm across their borders, that God would use people in positions of power to order society at home and work for peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.**

Pastor: For people still waiting to hear and understand the Gospel, that God would inspire artists and craftspeople, musicians and poets to creatively carry the news of Christ’s advent in history, His presence with us now, and His promised return, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.**

Pastor: For people who cry out to God, awaiting relief from long-term ills or sudden crises of health, seeking an end to unemployment and financial woes, or not knowing where to turn for help, [*including . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!

Pastor: For the Church here and around the world, led by clergy and lay members, waiting for every opportunity to grow in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation.

Pastor: For ourselves and all who eagerly await the return of our Savior, whose kingdom shall never end, let us pray to the Lord.

People: That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Pastor: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN "Hark the Glad Sound" #349

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.