VOLUME 12, ISSUE 5

The Messenger

Peace is Comina

A Publication of St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet, IL

Dear Beloved Community,

Peace is Coming!

We're planning a Peace Party! Let me explain...

If current trends hold true for the upcoming weeks, each person and household will need to re-consider how we care for one another, and keep one another safe as the virus increases dramatically in our community. Many weary of facing more isolation, more difficult decisions, more changes to what's safe and what's unsafe as the days grow colder and shorter. As your pastor, I know some of you are struggling, some of you feel frustrated, and some of you risk your well-being so others can have what we need for daily living. All these things are true. On top of it all, it's difficult to imagine the usual traditional gatherings and rituals upended yet again, like so many times before. But...

Peace is coming!

We are in the thick of it now, and now is the time to use what your faith has taught you over the years. Our resolve to face hardships with grace, love, and humble sacrifice is a God-act. Every day, we have choices. You have the chance, everyday, to care for yourself and your community. Our actions can add to the hardships already there -ORthey can make the world a better and brighter place. You can water the seeds of despair or anger or fear; or you can water the seeds of resolve and hope and peace. What you do makes a difference. Even though the reality seems grim, hold on, dear ones...

Peace is coming!

Your church resolves to help with practices and events that foster peace

and joy this season, so we can look for God in the reality of our time. You are invited to practice Advent and Christmas like you've never done before. Home practices anchoring you in ritual; sermons pointing you to God's surprising ways in the midst of hardships; children telling us the story of God's Greatest Gift; lighting up the church grounds to make this world a better and brighter place, so all can know...

Peace is coming!

God hasn't left us, and moments of joy and peace are always present in this world! On December 24th, we will upend our own traditions with something we've never done before on Christmas Eve: a Drive-In worship, complete with a large screen so you can see your pastors leading worship as the sound pipes through your radio!! We'll hear the beloved story, sing carols, recite the Lord's Prayer, and take communion- - all from the safety of our own vehicles. And, at the end of the worship, we'll turn on our electric candles, raising them during the last verse of Silent Night for all to see. Fostering peace is a God-act. We'll be like the angels in the Christmas Story, throwing our own Peace Party on the corner of Hennepin and Plainfield Roads for all the world to see! You can choose which time to sign up for, and we'll add more if we need to, because you and all the world need to remember...

Peace is Coming

Consider yourselves invited to the party!!!

Pastor the



HOLIDAY EDITION

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Online. Wednesday,

November 25th 7pm



Angel Tree Tags Online. Sign up for a tag by Nov. 30th



Christmas Eve Parking Lot and Online Worship Peace is Coming!



29

ADVENT WORSHIP

Nov. 29 - Dec. 20

9:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

3

ADVENT DEVOTION

Dec. 3, 10, 17 _____7:00 p.m.

13

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT!

Dec. 13 7:00 p.m.

20

GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

Dec. 20

4:00 p.m.

21

THE LONGEST NIGHT

Dec. 21 7:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Online. Facebook Watch Party 7pm, YouTube available at 7pm.

Call for Videos

There is so much goodness in the word...

What are you thankful for?

Video yourself on your phone saying what you're grateful for and email it to **stjohnpublish@gmail.com** on or before Sunday, November 22nd to use in our Thanksgiving Eve Worship.

Advent Worship, Sundays

Online, YouTube 9am, Facebook 10am Nov. 29 - Advent 1: Peace in Troubling Times Dec. 06 - Advent 2: Peace Even Now Dec. 13 - Advent 3: Waiting for Peace Dec. 20 - Advent 4: Peace is Coming Online traditional liturgy with lighting of the Advent Wreath featuring St. John families, and sermons of hope and peace for our time.

Mini-Advent Devotion, Thursdays

Online, Facebook Livestream December 03 December 10 December 17 Step away and make time for quiet and peace. Pastors lead a mini-devotion using the Peace is Coming Devotional.

St. John Light Up the Night! Outside Christmas Tree Lighting

In Person, In Your Car December 13 Parking Lot Style: Come in your cars and countdown as we light up our outdoor tree and grounds, bringing smiles and hope to our community.

Sunday School Christmas Program, God's Greatest Gift Online, Facebook Watch Party December 20

St. John's Christmas tradition continues...Sunday School children tell the story of God's Greatest Gift to the world. Join us for a Facebook Watch Party.

The Longest Night: Prayers and Readings for Hope & Peace Online, Facebook Livestream December 21

Find hope and peace in God's healing grace no matter where you are. Acknowledge your pain and grief this season and find hope and comfort in God's peace.



Christmas Eve: Peace to All

2 Ways to Worship!

Celebrate the birth of Jesus from your home and/or vehicle this Christmas Eve!

On Demand: YouTube

Two worship services Lessons & Carols Worship Traditional Worship

Available on YouTube Christmas Eve at 9am to use for worship at home anytime throughout the week. Both services include communion and candle lighting to *Silent Night*.

Drive-In Worship: St. John Parking Lot



We gather for Christmas Eve Worship in our Parking Lot: Drive-In Theater Style! Register beginning December 1st to reserve the time you will drive in for worship. Pastors will lead the liturgy, you can tune in on your radio, and a screen will be provided (weather permitting) so all can see the worship as it's happening.

Service will include communion (bring your own elements) and candle lighting (via electric votives) to *Silent Night*.

Lessons & Carols - 5pm, 7pm Traditional Worship - 11pm

Sign Up Required, please (you will be registering your vehicle)

Opens December 1st at <u>stjohnjoliet.org</u>

More details to come



A Peace-Filled Worship Service

YouTube Only: Available beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Pajamas recommended! Make time for a peace-filled worship at home beginning at 9am via YouTube. There is no Facebook Watch Party this day; we encourage you to use that time to safely connect with family and friends!

Ways to Give this Season

Angel Tree Visit <u>stjohnjoliet.org</u> to sign up for an Angel Tree Tag by Nov. 30th. The Salvation Army requests gifts not exceed \$35 per Angel.

> Three gift delivery options: 1. Order online & send directly to the Salvation Army.

2. Bring your gift to the Joliet Salvation Army downtown location.

3. Bring your gift to St. John on December 6th at Drive Thru Communion or on December 7th from 9am - 1pm. More details and information at stjohnjoliet.org.

St. John Lutheran Church

RNGEL TREE

As we celebrate the season of peace and hope come to us in the Christ Child, we invite you to consider adding St. John to your Christmas list! Christmas offerings help St. John make this world a better and brighter place. Look for our "giving" flyer in December for more details, and thank you in advance for any sharing of resources you are able to offer.

Giving Tree, A St. John Tradition

HARING

GIFT CARD

OVE A Christ

Provide gift cards for struggling community members. You may choose to purchase \$10 gift cards from Walmart, Target, McDonalds, Speedway or Thorntons and return them on December 6th at Drive Thru Communion or on December 7th from 9am - 1pm during Angel Tree gift drop off. Need a different time? Contact Lisa Marshall, lisamarshall@stjohnjoliet.org.

#GI WINGTUESDAY benefiting St. John Food Pantry

Be an ambassador for our hungry neighbors by spreading the word that our food pantry is participating in #Giving Tuesday on December 1st. We have Food Pantry St. John Lutheran Chivat ready-to-go social media posts for you to post to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & Snapchat as well as flyers to hang at your workplace. Serving 250 - 300 hungry families every week since March takes all of us working together! We appreciate your help spreading the word. Social media posts and flyers available at stjohnjoliet.org on Friday, November 20th. Information about our pantry at stjohnfood.org.

Announcements

We welcome through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Randall Specht, husband of Heather Specht

Tucker Bartley Leonhardt and Lydia Elaine Leonhardt, son and daughter of Dustin and Deanna Leonhardt Maverick Richard LaPash, son of Frank and Courtney LaPash



Congratulations to:

Ileene MacGlashan on the birth of her grandson, Arlow MacGlashan Kim Pennington on the birth of her grandson, Logan

Wedding Congratulations to:

Amanda Mariotti and Mike Gould

WE WISH YOU CONSTRUCTION OF THE WISH YOU CONSTRUCTION OF THE WISH YEAR

Illness/Recovering:

Nicki Alander, Maghan Amodei, Pat Bambule, Gail Bartz, Rene Bogacz, Daniel Boisvert, Kathy Calahan, Claire Caldwell, Cody Carter, Michelle Covert, Ron Crabb, Tiffany Crowther, Jim Duren, Grace Egly, Jeff Engelman, Arlene Erdahl, Linda Evans, Henry Farber, Judy Fox, Brooke Furman, Debbie Furman, Son Furman, Jim Graefen, Gail Hartley, Pat Block-Hay, Fred Holzrichter, Diane Kaiser, Carmen Kehrer, Dawn Kemp, Bill & Lorelei Kerschbaum, Dan & Tori Hicks, Jordan Hicks (Kelsie), Barb Kozkowicz, Cathy Kush, Kathy Lenz, Mark Lenz, Caroline MacGregor, Don Maeder, Lynn Martinek, Joe Miller, Kathy Moore, Madison Mumm, Aubrey Norder, Arnie Oppenheim, Jessica Osif, Barb Perignon, Lee Perignon, Cheryl Pierce, Matthew Rathbun, Barbara Reed, Dan Richardson, Lily Romberg, Holger Rubien, Margie Santiago, Evan Sauerwein, Carol Scaglione, Joe Scaglione, Mindy Scaglione, Julie Schultz, Dick Seaberg, Dee Seeman, Jim Simmons, Jackie Simpson, Michelle Sparacio, Michelle Turvey, Roger Wright, John York, Wendy Zach

Hospitalization/Surgery/Testing:

Megan Doyle, Edwina Gell, Leonard Jones, Madeline Milashoski, Steve Norder, Dana Oades

Prayer Concern:

Amodei family, Sherri Baxa, Robb Bobb, Wendy Eklund, Howie & Angie Murray, Lori Rubien, Rich Santoro/Julie Arinaga, Seaberg family, Trueblood family

Prayers for our Homebound/Care Facility Members:

Betty Barnes, Kelly Batterman, Kent Batterman, Judy Breen, Barbara Buse, Sally Ferguson, Bob & Jean Fitzer, Ardeth Holtz, Mary Johnson, Ardys Koch, Marilyn Krautstrunk, Victor & Norene Mazylewski, Donna Nelson, Claudia Pacini, Wilkie & Carol Parrish, Norma Reed, Wilma Smith, Al Stadelmaier

Serving in the Military:

Kyle Baugh, Brian Bergeman, Quinton Beyer, Daniel Bornhoeft, Thomas Bornhoeft, Isaiah Caldwell, Erik Carlson, Andy Groh, Noah King, Aaron Mateski, Nathaniel Richardson, Paul Shen, Jennifer Swanberg, Kyle Taylor, Emily Vance, Len Wruk

Our Sympathies To:

Kristen & Brian Bishop on the passing of her father, Jim Lenon Linda & Rob Bobb on the passing of her mother, Josephine Grevan Jane and Al Drury on the passing of her brother, Brian Smith Shelly & Paul Duke on the passing of her stepfather, Phil Crossman Pam Fuller on the passing of her sister-in-law, Kathy Peterson Tom & Barb Furmankiewicz on the passing of his sister-in-law, Lori Furmankiewicz Ellen Goodwin & Mike Pragit on the passing of her uncle, Laurence Robertson Shirley Masters on the passing of her grandmother, Lorraine Honegger David & Carolyn Piekosz on the passing of his father, Leo Piekosz Jennifer & Bob Schlosser on the passing of her grandfather, David Peterson Glenn & Lynne Smith on the passing of his niece, Sarah Smith Karen Thayer and Diane Goodenough on the passing of her father, Russell Sweet Michelle & Scot Turvey on the passing of her father, Richard Grenier

Memorials:

In memory of Stephen Masters by George Black and Dorcas Circle In memory of Marilyn Walters to the Senior Choir by Barb Giegerich

- 1 Birthday: Jennifer Binns, Jessica Gossen, Easton Holcombe, Reese Holcombe
- 2 *Birthday:* Adam Lang, Madeline Milashoski, Michael Obodzinski, Henry Pragit, Brandon Tobolic, Leslie Saner, Bredia Santoro
- 3 Birthday: Emma Anderson, Daniel Hahn-Boisvert, Brian Cummings, Owen Stenberg, Carie Stewart;
- *Anniversary:* James & Gail Bartz, Brian & Kristen Bishop, Carlos & Nicole Morales, Dave & Suzanne Oxley *Birthday:* Carol Parrish; *Anniversary:* Rick & Michelle Korczak
- 5 Birthday: David Farkasch, Judy Ferro, Brianna Fremouw, Randy Manegold, Gavin Stewart
- 6 Birthday: William Baron, Richard Branz, Megan Brock, Candy Dutton, Melissa Keifer, Peyton Linares, Bobbie Meridieth, Dana Oades, Bobbie Today, Todd Worthley; Anniversary: James and Bobbie Meridieth
- 7 *Birthday:* Mia Arnett, Wendy Eklund, Melissa Gierich, Alexa Grundon, Collin Holt, Christina Kipper, Thomas Maulsby, Tom Saner; *Anniversary:* Jonathan & Nicole Adams
- 8 *Birthday:* John Bryson, Chrissy Darwish, Richard Korczak, Natalie Russow, Kenneth Schmidt; *Anniversary:* Jim & Sharon Sullivan
- 9 *Birthday:* Thomas Czoschke, Heather Specht, Kylie Strickland, Clementine Thorp; *Anniversary:* Len & Arlene Erdahl
- 10 Birthday: Aleesha Amodei, Shane Basham, Stone Kaczmarek, John Manifold
- 11 *Birthday:* Marcus Bahr, Henry Farber, Jody Godsey, Anthony Kemph, Robert Kornaus, Jacob Stevens; *Anniversary:* Rob Haak & Kim Bartz Haak
- 12 Birthday: Madelyn Atrill, Rick Bailey, Rachel Bowen, Jackie Hopper, Mark Schultz
- 13 Birthday: Angelica Arriaga, Cole Atrill, Katelyn Cowell, Emily Ellis, Kimberly Jensen, Mia Nelson
- 14 Birthday: Carter Day, Kaitlynn Ferguson, Mike Smith
- 15 Birthday: Ben Anderson, Audrey Conquest, Charlotte Jones; Anniversary: Larry & Jennifer Spencer
- 16 *Birthday:* Arden Bay, Steve Costello, Jack Dachman, Gia Keifer, Jillian Liedtke, Bill Leon, Christine Summer; *Anniversary:* Jeff & Jackie Hopper, Brian & Jennifer Seeley, Bryan & Sarah Wernli
- 17 Birthday: Blanche Conterez, Doug Koerner, Adam Repavich, Sheri Shlensky, Cory Thayer
- 18 Birthday: Alaina Delboccio, Lisa Hardie, Paul McDonald, Brooke Rousonelos, Frank Sharp
- 19 Birthday: Kyle Eklund, Norene Mazylewski, Jennifer Spero
- 20 Birthday: Giovanni Incaudo, Dan Radtke, Gabriel Stiegler, Jason Wielgus; Anniversary: Doug & Dana Allen
- 21 Birthday: Debbie Anhalt, Jared Maulsby, Jackson Ogrizovich, Rochelle Rada
- 22 Birthday: Frank Campagna, Jason Covault, Duane Johnson, Jessica Kruspe
- 23 *Birthday:* Alec Brandl, Stacey Fowler; *Anniversary:* Keith & Linda Erchinger, Brian & Meghan Joyner, Luke & Patty Taylor
- 24 *Birthday:* Ardys Koch, Pamela Leon, Denise Rimmke, Elyse Smith, Tyler Wernli; *Anniversary:* Ed & Linda Martin 25 *Birthday:* Jamie Kaczmarek; *Anniversary:* Paul & Keli Robinson, Kenneth & Wanda Schmidt,
- Ed & Clementine Thorp
- 26 Birthday: Arlene Branz, Cindy Dolle, Alan Sowa, Joseph Sparacio, Larry Spencer
- 27 Birthday: Pam Blaesing, Patrick Stingel; Anniversary: Shawn & Andrea Grundon
- 28 *Birthday:* Karen Becker, Melvin Keuch, Fred Propper, Katrina Saieg; *Anniversary:* Bruce & Cathy Hawkins, Mike Rogers & Diane Lehnta-Rogers
- 29 Birthday: Victoria Engel, Debra Leonhardt, Marta Simmons, Kay Tidwell
- 30 Birthday: Jeffrey Breen

Coming Soon to your inbox: Our 2020 Advent Devotional



Peace is Coming Home Devotional: Meaningful Practices for Peace and Hope



- Birthday: Nicole Adams, Nicole Covault, Kyle Forkel, Brianna Murray 1
- Birthday: Margaret Adelmann, Jane Drury, Leann Lang, Sandy Smith, Greg Walega; 2 Anniversary: Randy & Lisa Manegold
- 3 Birthday: Grace Brock, Donnie Clark, Greg Duffy, Darlene Henry, Alexandra Kaste, Melissa Mariotti
- Birthdav: Michael Bowen 4
- 5 Birthday: Renee Bogacz, Cecilia Musa, Abigail Norris, Roger Wyss
- 6 Birthday: Paul Brandl, Kristin Michalesko, Ken Niles; Anniversary: Tim Manning & Janel Eaton
- 7 Birthday: Parker Ellis, Zachary Gurzynski, Sophia Randolph, Rylie Stevens, Lisa Worthley
- 8 Birthday: Lynn Martinek, Ed Thorp
- Birthday: Patti Bailey, Kevin Geldean, Cathi Newinski 9
- 10 Birthday: Randy Donnelly, Emmanuel Haskell, Kay Klint, Chelsea Maulsby, Kathy Moore, Jennifer Nelson, Ella Ohlson, Sharrine Phelps, Wendy Zach; Anniversary: Lee & Barb Perignon
- 11 Birthdav: Baillie Caldwell
- Birthday: Stan Bobek, John Funnell, Julie Gebka, June Kruse, Catie Larisey, Gail Sturm, Rex Stockhausen 12
- Birthday: Makenzie Edwards, Catelyn Hillebold, Paul Kaczmarek, Chris Linares, Dominic Spero 13
- Birthday: Nathan Clark, Abbey Clarke, Katrice Edwards, Kelly Gossen, Sarah Knudsen 14
- Birthday: Coleen Bryson, Joe Miller, Molly Murphy, Lori Rubien, Michelle Sparacio; 15 Anniversary: Jim & Renee Bogacz, Frank & Maggie Kuhn
- Birthday: Nathan Bloomquist, Kristen Graf, Eric Gurley, Stefanie Jakusz, Bryce Lang, Jack Logan, 16 Lisa Popadowski, Amanda Turner
- Birthday: James Andel, Emmett Boburka, Nathan Carpenter, Ethaniel Cherry, Carol Filas, Emma Hartwig, 17 Tom Morris, William Spero, Albert Stadelmaier
- Birthday: Graysen Bormet, Erik Carlson 18
- Birthday: James Anderson 19
- 20 Birthday: Faith Andrade, Aubree Johnson, Barb Johnson, Fabian Medina; Anniversary: John & Kate Shafer
- Birthday: Aurelia Leonhardt, Danielle Meridieth, Annie Thomas 21
- Birthday: James Barnes, Ron Crabb, Carol Robinson, 22 Stephen Sidler, Marissa Villarrubia; Anniversary: John & Debbie Kogelman
- Birthday: Chris Blackburn, Jill Blackburn, Eddy Crews, 23 Kurt Perignon; Anniversary: Dick & Arlene Branz, Jacob & Jenelle Lambert
- Birthday: Lauren Baugh, Chuck Cortese, Stacy Larisey, 24 Kailee Shlensky, Debbie Smith, Cliff Wendell
- 25 Birthday: Kent Batterman, Rylan Clausen, Joyce Lindstrom
- Birthday: Adam Joseph, Maxamillion Piekosz, Julie Ross, 26 Autumn Welter
- Birthday: Thomas Hede, Chloe Heintz, Cheryl Hoffman, 27 Joseph Scaglione; Anniversary: Jordan & Cynthia Baugh, Dwight & Eileen Diercks
- 28 Ulysses Arriaga, Sydney Basham, Taylor Boyne, Gordon Crowther, Xavier Haskell, Tyler Henry, John Kowalski, Mike Montalto, Erica Swanson; Anniversary: Karla & Steven Keeley, Anna Rogers & Zach Souhrada-Rogers
- Birthday: Ella Cortese, Sarah Fee, Tari Heintz, 29 Edward Kirner, Nicholas Kuhn, Ronald Leonhardt, Shavlin Roark: Anniversarv: Steve & Gina Costello. Henry & Cornelia Farber
- Birthday: Kristen Bishop, Reid Day, John Fleming, 30 Nicole Hudecek, Nicole Koenig; Anniversary: Quinton & Sarah Beyer, Michael & Jennifer Dybas
- Claire Caldwell, Romina Ferro-Viniegra; 31 Anniversary: Joe & Mandy Dwyer, Katie & Mike Frigo, John & Melissa Heifer **Holiday Edition**

TABLE PRAYER

The Hand that Made the Hands For the hands that tilled, for the hands that harvested, for the hands that processed, for the hands that transported, for the hands that stocked, for the hands that sold, for the hands that bought, for the hands that prepared, for the hands that will hold for the hand that made the hands our hearts are forever grateful. Amen. Ewan Aitken Blessed be our Table, Wild Goose, 2003



UTHERAN CHURCH 2650 Plainfield Road Joliet, IL 60435

Ph: 815-439-2320 Fax: 815-439-0575 www.stjohnjoliet.org stjohn2650@gmail.com Office Hours: By Appointment, Please Call

Staff:

Senior Pastor Jennifer Beamsley Associate Pastor Robin Caldwell Associate Pastor Evan Mayhew

Lisa Marshall, Church Administrator Pam Kornaus, Program Administrator Dawn MacGregor, Communications Director Heather Hinthorn, Food Pantry Director

Ellen Goodwin, Praise Team and Youth Choir Director Tori Hicks, St. John Chorale Director Sarah Wernli, Handbell Choir Director

Worship Online, stjohnjoliet.org

You Tube 9am Sunday worship Channel Name: St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet



10am Sunday Worship Watch Party Page Name: St. John by the Mall - Joliet IL Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 235 Joliet, IL 60435





As we near the end of 2020 and the holidays approach, we want to share two exciting gifts with you. First, we will distribute holiday meal boxes to all of our Saturday families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Secondly, we received our third NIFB Unmet Needs Grant, this one for \$15,000.

In January, Baird & Warner, Plainfield offered to sponsor our November Mobile Food Pantry once again. By fall it was clear that our drive thru model would extend into 2021. Pastor Robin worked closely with Steve Engel to reallocate the Baird & Warner donation to purchase Northern IL Food Bank (NIFB) Thanksgiving meals instead!

And as if that were not enough, Steve talked with his team to see what else they could do. We were shocked and excited when Steve told us that Baird & so that we can continue meeting the Warner, Plainfield would fund NIFB Christmas meals as well! Combined with the donated meals from Jewel-

Osco at Rt. 59 & Caton Farm Road, this is the first year that we can give every family a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal.

Our volunteer team looks forward to surprising our hungry neighbors! Since I started volunteering here in June, I have noticed that every single time COVID throws us a curve ball, St. John and community members support us with exactly what we need. Thank you for all the ways you support our pantry, we could not do this without you.

To help pantries remain viable and operational during COVID, NIFB has offered three rounds of grants which we have applied for and received. We are purchasing equipment & supplies for outdoor distribution like a snowblower, shovels, commercial grade tent, ice melt and supplies like masks. bags, boxes, tape, boxcutters, gloves, a U Boat, totes and nearly everything we need to stay open. It's amazing how God makes these things work out needs of our hungry neighbors!

Food Pantry Director



In case you have not heard yet, the church council approved the hiring of Eddy Crews as Custodian and Heather Hinthorn as Food Pantry Director. Eddy and Heather bring wonderful gifts to our St. John community and we look forward to the time when you can meet them in person.

Until then, please visit stiphnioliet.org to "meet" Heather and get to know her a little bit. Next Heather Hinthorn, time, we'll check in with Eddy.

Holiday Edition