

St. John Lutheran Church



A Christmas Revelation!



Commitment
to Community

Sunday, January 8, 2023
8:30am

January Q & A's and Meetings

1/22 - Sunday - Congregational/Budget Q&A, in-person, 10-10:45am

1/24 - Tuesday - Congregational/Budget Q&A, Zoom, 7pm

1/29 - Sunday - Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary, 9am

In anticipation of our annual Congregational Meeting on January 29th, we will host two Q & A sessions for you to ask questions about the 2023 budget and church business. Attend in person or via Zoom.

The Gift of Time on Sun., 1/22

Make plans to take a few hours off as our Youth Service Team cares for your child/ren age 3 - 10 with lunch, snacks, crafts, stories & games! Visit stjohnjoliet.org & sign up your child/ren ages 3 - 10 years. 8th - 12th graders, sign up to volunteer. *Full details on Google forms.*

NOW - Annual Ministry Reports Due

Ministry Leaders 2022 Ministry Reports are due. Thank you for submissions! If you have not sent it, please email it to nicoleadams@stjohnjoliet.org today.

Today, Sunday, January 8

Sunday School at 9:45am. Dedecorate Church event from Noon - 3pm.

Sat., January 14 - Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Painting Night, 4 - 7pm

Adults, kick off 2023 at Board Therapy Studio! Sign up at stjohnjoliet.org and follow directions to register at Board Therapy in Crest Hill! \$45 per person.

Monday 1/9

9:30 - 11:30am PDO
1-3:30pm Staff Meeting: TR
6:30 - 8pm Small Group: TR
7 - 8pm A.A. Women: KJ Hall
7 - 8pm Al-Anon: WW 3&4

Tuesday 1/10

9:30 - 11:30am PDO
1 - 3:30pm Staff Calendar Meeting: TR
6:45 - 7:30pm Finance/Executive Cmte: TR
7 - 8pm Boy Scouts: KJH
7 - 8pm Beyond Diakonia: YR
7 - 8:30pm Sun. School Team Mtg:
WW3&4

Wednesday 1/11

8am - 2pm Food Bank Delivery: KJH
9:30 - 11:30am PDO
6 - 7pm Youth Choir: SA
7 - 8:15pm Care Group Leader Mtg: TR
7:30 - 9pm Senior Choir: CR/SA

Thursday 1/12

9 - 11:30am Coffee with Friends: TR
9:30 - 11:30am PDO
11am - 3pm; 5 - 7pm FP Delivery; FP Packing: KJH
6 - 8:30pm Youth Service Team: NX
7 - 8pm AA Men: Zoom
7 - 8pm Praise Team: SA

Friday 1/13

9 - 10:30am Meals on Wheels
9 - 11am Quilters: WW5
9 - Noon FP Delivery: KJH
9:30 - 11:30am MOPS: NX

Saturday 1/14

8 - 10am FP Distribution Drive Thru
4 - 7pm YAM: Board Therapy
5:30 - 6:30pm Worship: SA

Sunday 1/15

8:30 - 9:30am Worship: SA with Livestream
9:45 - 10:45am Sunday School
11am - Noon Worship : SA



SAVE THE DATE, FEB. 4, CHILI COOK OFF & GAME NIGHT

We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church as we gather for this time of worship and reflection on God's love for the world.

*Today the altar flowers are given by Dwight & Eileen Diercks
In celebration of their 53rd wedding anniversary!*

*To sponsor altar flowers for our worship space,
sign up at stjohnjoliet.org or call the church office.*

Thank you to our Young Adult Ministry (YAM) for coffee hour today.



Worship Leaders – Sunday, January 8, 2023 (8:30 am)

Deacon	Glenn Smith
Communion Assistant	Lynne Smith
Acolytes	Emily Trentz, Natalie Trentz
Ushers	Erik Hoffman, Marge West
Greeters	Alan & Robin Trueblood
Piano & Organ	Janet Blomquist
Music Director	Tori Hicks
Audio Board	Rob Doyle
Livestream Team	Matt Markwell, Frank Norem, Sage Quiaoit
Counters	Cathy Hawkins, Pat Block-Hay
Altar Guild	Monica Engel, Marge West

Contact Information

Pastor Robin Caldwell	robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org	630-408-1402
Pastor Evan Mayhew	evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org	262-366-3132
Tori Hicks	torihicks@stjohnjoliet.org	815-355-3205
Dawn MacGregor	dawnmacgregor@stjohnjoliet.org	815-557-9702
Nicole Adams	nicoleadams@stjohnjoliet.org	815-439-2320
Pam Kornaus	pamkornaus@stjohnjoliet.org	815-439-2320
David Luecht, Council President	council@stjohnjoliet.org	815-954-9368

St. John Lutheran Church
2650 Plainfield Road, Joliet, IL 60435
815-439-2320 contact@stjohnjoliet.org stjohnjoliet.org

 **St. John by the Mall – Joliet, IL**
 **St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet**

**Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

Prelude

“Brightest and Best”

Hayes, arr. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering

P We are gathered today in the name of the Father, Son, and † Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

*Confession and Forgiveness

P In this season of Epiphany, we remember how the Magi went looking for God. Day by day, they followed the star until it guided them to Jesus.

In the prayer of confession, we acknowledge that more often than we'd like to admit, we follow God half-heartedly; we get distracted or lost, at times following the wrong star. Let us seek God together. Let us pray together:

C **God of starlight,
We know that faith isn't a vending machine.
Good news can't be bought or manufactured.
It does not arrive with a push of a button.
Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst.
We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did.
We have to believe that love really can change the world.
We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights.**

**Forgive us for forgetting that.
Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts.
May we be more like the Magi, walking your way every single day.
Amen.**

P Friends, I have nothing but good news.
God takes the pieces of our hearts that we offer up and says, "I can work with that." Even in our failings, God washes us with words of grace, belonging, and love.

No matter what star we've followed,
No matter how far we've walked,
No matter how lost we got -
We belong to God.
God loves you. God forgives you. God claims you.

C **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

310 Vs. 1 & 4

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

Text by: Christopher Wordsworth, alt. Music by: Jakob Hintze, arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, Public Domain.
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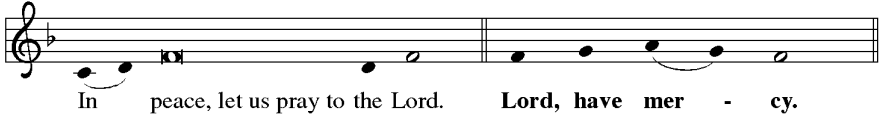
Verse 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
Manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

Verse 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;
Grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
That we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
And may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.

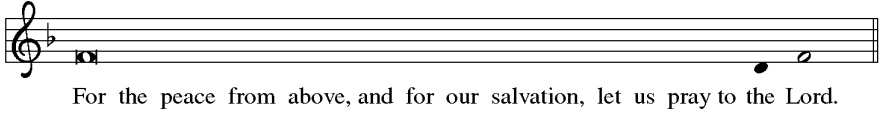
*Kyrie

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

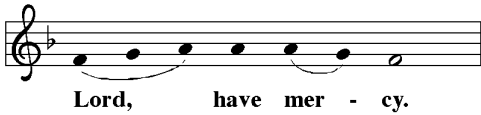
C **And also with you.**



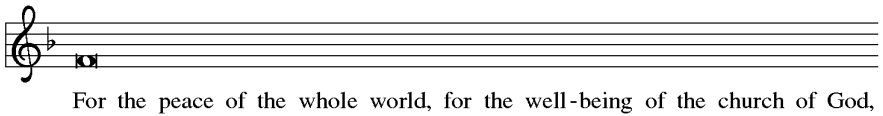
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



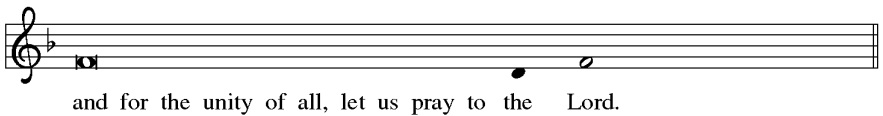
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



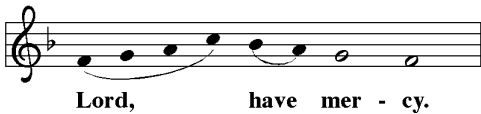
Lord, have mer - cy.



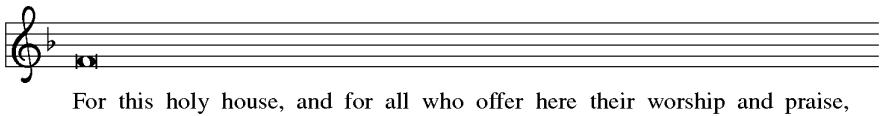
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

*Hymn of Praise

"This is the Feast"

Refrain 5 11

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

O God, you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.
Lead us now by faith to know your presence and accept our lives as the
treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, in the name of Jesus
Christ.

C **Amen.**

Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

D A reading from the book of Isaiah, the sixtieth chapter.
Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

D A responsive reading from Psalm 72. Listen for the Word of the Lord.
C **Our ears are open.**

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
**May he judge your people with righteousness
and your poor with justice.**

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute;**

May the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.
**May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.**

For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
**He has pity on the weak and the needy
and saves the lives of the needy.**

From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

D Word of God, Word of Life!
C **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation

S 188

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. - Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel

Matthew 2:1-4, 7-15

P The gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and get detailed information about the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." After their audience with the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him.” Joseph got up, woke the child and his mother, and left that night for Egypt. They stayed there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my Own.”

P The gospel of our Lord.
C **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Evan Mayhew

*Hymn of the Day

302, Vs. 1-3

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

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Verse 1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by thee.

Verse 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

Verse 3 As they offered gifts most rare
At thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

***Apostles' Creed**

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayers of the Church

P With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we
pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

Congregation sings this response:

528

"Come and Fill Our Hearts"

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community. Music by: Jacques Berthier. Text and Music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications.
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Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!

The prayers conclude:

P Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we
commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

C **Amen.**

*Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

You may share the peace of Christ with others.

Those who choose to stay in their pew may wave or give signs of peace.

Offertory

“Brightest and Best”

Hayes

Today we celebrate the gift of God’s love for the world. In turn, we share that love by giving what we can. We pray that whatever we offer of our time, money, and talents will be used by the Holy Spirit to create a more purposeful world of love and belonging for one another.

Let our offering give birth to a better world.

*Please place any financial gifts, attendance sheets, and prayer requests in the offering plate when it comes to you and pass it on to the person next to you or behind you.
May God bless your generous heart!*

*Offertory Response

692

“We Are An Offering”

Text by: Dwight Liles. Music by: Dwight Liles. Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC.
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We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are,
All that we hope to be, we give to you,
We give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering, we are an offering.

*Offertory Prayer

D Let us pray. **God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we offer. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving *(sung)*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy

413, Vs. 1

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

Text by: Reginald Heber, alt. Music by: John B. Dykes. Public Domain.
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Verse 1

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

*Words of Institution

***The Lord's Prayer**

C 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.

***Invitation to Communion**

P Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.
C **Thanks be to God!**

Distribution

*We believe in the true presence of Jesus Christ in this meal and at this table.
All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.*

There are two ways to receive communion today:

Receiving Communion in your pew

You may receive communion in your pew with the elements contained in the communion pod. The pastor will say the words of distribution after the Invitation to Communion:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Receiving Communion at the altar

- *You will be invited forward by the usher.*
- *Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Inform the pastor when receiving communion.*
- *Red wine is on the outer rings of the tray; white grape juice is on the inner rings of the tray.*
- *After receiving communion, place the used communion cup in the basket that the acolyte brings to you and return to your pew via the side aisle.*

Lamb of God

Words and Music by: Ellen Goodwin. Reprinted and streamed with permission.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world.

Lamb of God, have mer - cy, mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a-way our sins. Grant us peace,

grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Communion Music

“We Three Kings”

Text by: John Henry Hopkins Jr., alt. Music by: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins. Public Domain. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Verse 1 We three kings from eastern lands are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Verse 5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Heav'n sings alleluia:
Alleluia the earth replies. **Refrain**

"The First Noel"

300, Vs. 2-5

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- Verse 2** They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
- Refrain** Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.
- Verse 3** And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**
- Verse 4** This star drew near to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain**
- Verse 5** Then entered in those wise men three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **Refrain**

*Blessing

C Amen.

*Prayer after Communion

D Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*Benediction

C Sing AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

*Sending Song

314, Vs. 1 & 4

“Arise, Your Light Has Come!”

Text by: Ruth Duck. Music by: William H. Walter. Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.
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Verse 1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit’s call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God
Which shines on you today.

Verse 4 Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God’s pow’r will make us strong.

*Sending

D Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

“No. 4 Postlude from FOUR PIECES”

Boellmann

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The Gift of Time



Sunday, January 22nd

Time: 12pm to 2:30pm

Ages: 3 to 10 years

Other: CHILDREN MUST BE POTTY TRAINED

Cost: \$5 suggested donation graciously requested to cover food & craft supplies

Adults Make plans to take a few hours off as our Youth Service Team cares for your child/ren age 3 - 10! We have a great afternoon planned. Sign up at stjohnjoliet.org. We can't wait to see your kiddos! If you have questions, please reach out to Erica Swanson at 630-802-7466. Thank you!



8th - 12 Graders Would like to offer the gift of time to adults with children ages 3 - 10 years old? Join your Youth Service Team peers for a great service project! You will help with lunch, snacks, crafts, stories & games! Sign up at stjohnjoliet.org. Questions? Call Erica Swanson at 630-802-7466.



VOLUNTEER

Time: 11am to 3pm
You will earn 4 hours of service time!



Our pews don't rock

But our adults do!

Visit Our New



**Rock
'n
Roll**



MOBILE NURSERY

Adults with children! Rock 'n Roll St. John style at the new
Rock 'n Roll Mobile Nursery.

We created a kid's corner in the Trinity Room so your little one can wiggle, jiggle, rock, 'n roll and **you** can still participate in real-time worship using the Livestream screen!

The mobile nursery cart has age appropriate toys and books for children ages five and under...plus, it's 100% sanitizable.

**TRINITY ROOM
SUNDAYS DURING
WORSHIP!**

