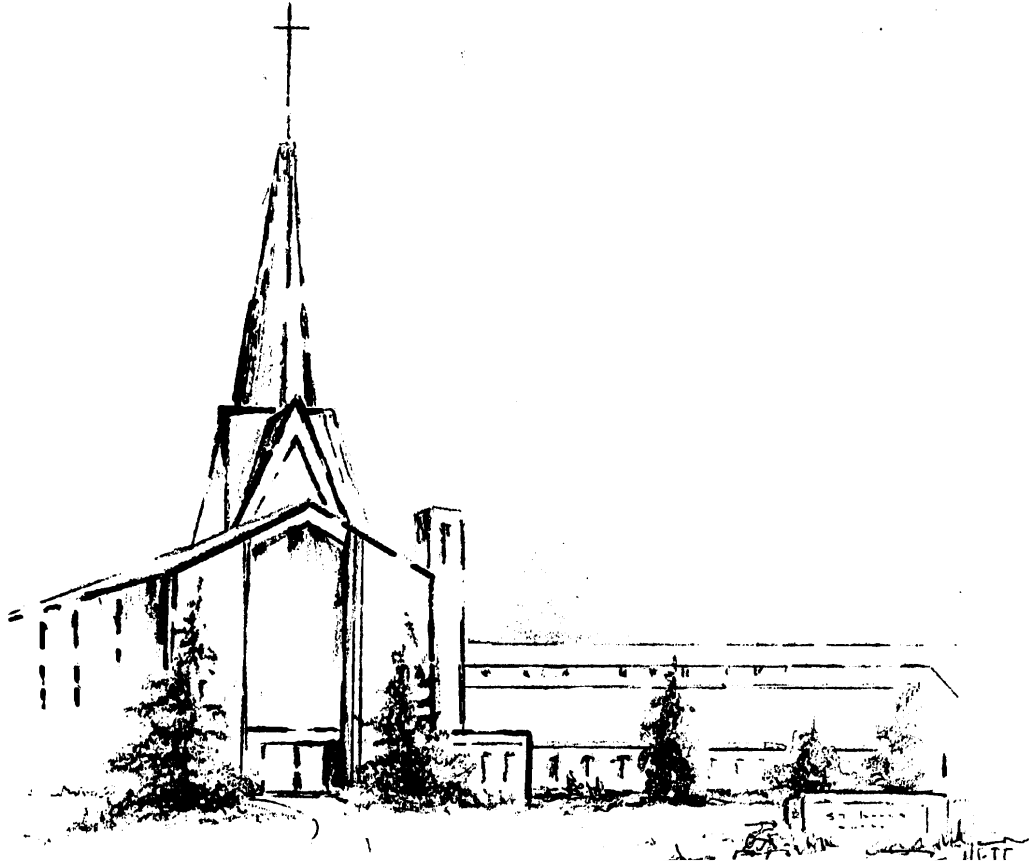


St. John's Journal

AUTUMN 2021 ISSUE



***ENCOUNTERING,
CONNECTING,
RESPONDING
TO JESUS CHRIST.***

***ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12603***

(845) 452-1550

www.stjohnselc.org

Sunday Worship Service Schedule
9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
10:30 AM Traditional Worship



Church Council

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Rev. Jeffrey Koenig | <i>Pastor</i> |
| Lee Pagones | <i>President</i> |
| Karen Olson | <i>Vice President / Property</i> |
| Mary Heller | <i>Secretary</i> |
| Bob Knapp | <i>Treasurer / Finance / Stewardship</i> |
| Kaitlin Feldweg | <i>Discipleship</i> |
| Dave Hawkinson | <i>Worship</i> |
| Amy Huber | <i>Fellowship</i> |
| Susan van Oss | <i>Ministry</i> |
| Art Upright | <i>Evangelism</i> |

Mission Team Chairs

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| John Dux | <i>Adult Education</i> |
| Sandy Sherwood | <i>Children's Ministry</i> |
| Susan Lamberton | <i>Evangelism</i> |
| Doug Ohlandt | <i>Communications</i> |
| Mark Decker & (TBA) | <i>Financial Secretaries</i> |
| Jackie Boccio | <i>Hospitality</i> |
| Janice Viola | <i>Parish Care</i> |
| Gerd Pfeiffer | <i>Property</i> |
| (TBA) | <i>Finance & Admin</i> |
| Steve Jones | <i>Stewardship</i> |
| Deacon Rich Ferolito | <i>Worship & Music</i> |
| (TBA) | <i>Youth Ministry</i> |
| Abby Dux & Linda Haas Manley | <i>Social Ministry</i> |

St. John's Staff

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Pastor | <i>Rev. Jeffrey Koenig</i> | <i>revkoenig@stjohnselc.org</i> |
| Deacon | <i>Richard Ferolito</i> | <i>rferolito@earthlink.net</i> |
| Director of Music | <i>Patrick Walker</i> | <i>pwalker@stjohnselc.org</i> |
| Director of Youth | <i>Abby Triebel</i> | <i>abby@stjohnselc.org</i> |
| Director of Lay Ministries | <i>Jeanne Jones</i> | <i>jjones@stjohnselc.org</i> |
| Office Manager | <i>Doug Ohlandt</i> | <i>dohlandt@stjohnselc.org</i> |
| Bookkeeper | <i>Alison Schlak</i> | <i>aschlak@stjohnselc.org</i> |
| Video Production Mgr. | <i>Michelle Locke</i> | <i>michellelocke89@gmail.com</i> |



By Pastor Koenig

Recently, we have found ourselves almost suddenly starting up our familiar fall seasonal routine—swapping out dresser drawers, stowing summer clothes, revamping the landscaping with mums and kale; and the list goes on and on... Now we have stepped it up because the little cold stretch last week was a wake-up call that we can't stay in denial about winter forever! All this re-doing, re-organizing, re-forming that we do in mid-fall is so that we can survive the coming season and then re-emerge, protected and refreshed, in the spring.

Even the groundhogs in the yard are preparing. Huddled together in their deep dens, they are beginning to hibernate so they can escape the conditions that would otherwise kill them. Have you ever wished you could hibernate, too? Or at the very least, escape all this by heading South until the cold of Lent gives way to the warmth of Easter? Unfortunately, for many of us, neither hibernation nor retreat are viable options. On the other hand, nor do they need to be! Unlike groundhogs, we do not have to escape the months to come. We can be ready: to withstand, to endure; and even perhaps to enjoy the cold winter season!

Faith has its winters, too. Discipleship is not simply summer; things get difficult, especially when we respond in earnest to the challenges Christ gives us in his great commandment and commission. There will be times when we might really want to retreat, or hibernate until our problems go away. However: loving ourselves, each other, and the world the way Christ loves us, requires neither retreat nor hibernation. Scriptures are filled with moments (even seasons!) during which people *wished* they could escape, but instead learned to endure, and eventually emerge amazingly refreshed, rejuvenated, ...and reformed.

Our founding priest, Martin Luther, did not want to hibernate from the winter of his faith, either. Luther wanted to reform himself, and his spirit and his heart. He wanted to emerge from his own faithful struggle as a stronger, better priest and person. He also wanted the church of his day to repack its dresser, to swap out some of its paradigms, to reconsider the theology it was wearing and to reemerge as a springtime church refreshed, rejuvenated, ...and reformed. It was a long winter, indeed, for Luther!

Reforming *ourselves* remains one of the central goals of the Lutheran life. But how, exactly, are we to winterize our faith in the face of a cold and demanding world? Well, first of all, we have the story: the living Scriptures and the stories told within the church year always help to keep us on the path that is illuminated by Christ, even on the darkest days. Second, we have the saints who, having gone before us, bravely cleared the paths on which we step every day. Remembering their examples—not just on All Saints' Day, but every day—gives us strength.

More than that, though, we have the Holy Spirit. We have our baptismal cloak. We have the clothes of righteousness to put on, and the spiritual armor that only God can give us. So this fall, reform yourself: repack your spiritual dresser with attire from the armoire of God, and discover that you, too, can weather anything!



DEACON'S CORNER

Well, it's been a long time since I have written an article. Hope you are well and back at St. John's for church. It's been a long run with this disease and I hope that it is waning.

We have a time coming up when we can focus on the time of waiting — waiting for the birth of Jesus. We have just come through three months of extreme heat, soaking rain, and not-so-nice weather. Now, we have time to look forward to December 25. Advent will be filled with many things to focus us on the season. Our Director of Music, Patrick Walker, has enriching and enjoyable concerts planned for every Sunday during Advent, including our always popular annual Lessons and Carols, all for your listening pleasure. It will make our wait much shorter as Patrick puts these concerts together. And our Christmas Eve services promise to be as exciting and interesting as ever. We'll have three services: the 12:30 Family Service and our two Candlelight Services at 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM.

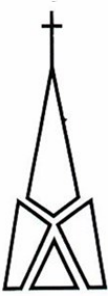
Please come and experience all that St. John's has to offer during Advent. It's a rich and rewarding time at the church, so come and enjoy all that we have prepared to help you get a little closer to God and enjoy the season of Christmas. Our in-person services are livestreamed so you never have to miss a thing. Everyone here at St. John's works hard to bring these things to you. What makes them happy is when you come and enjoy them. In this coming time of Christmas, let us be more loving of our neighbor and maybe do something nice for them, especially if they are elderly. It will make you feel a lot better yourself and also help spread the joy of Christmas love around the world. As the song says, "All You Need Is Love."

Christmas blessings and New Years happiness to you all, and may next year be more normal.

See you in church!

Your Servant in Christ,
Deacon Rich





FROM THE DESK OF THE DLM

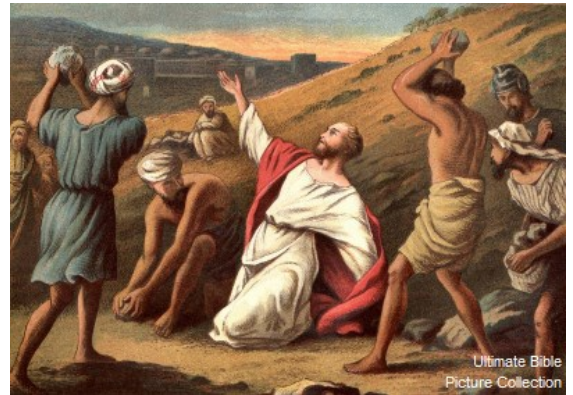
ST. JOHN'S ROCKS

Fall 2021

Acts 14:19

Paul Stoned at Lystra

¹⁹But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.



Ewww, stoning is so barbaric, and I can't imagine someone being left for dead, so lifeless, bloodied and broken, then actually surviving. We find out later that Paul did indeed survive the stoning and went on to continue to witness about Jesus. Wow, imagine going back to ministry even after all that pain and suffering!

You may be thinking, "Whoa, Jeanne... way to bring up a fun topic like stoning, death, and pain." Sorry about that, but I have a purpose! While stoning is certainly not something we see or experience in our lives (thankfully), sometimes it FEELS like rocks are thrown at us by life circumstances. Haven't we sort of felt like that over the past year-and-a-half? Think about this pandemic... it felt like some pretty heavy boulders were thrown at us at the beginning of this whole thing, and then we sort of crept out from underneath, licked our wounds, and actually started to see the light of day... only to have the Delta variant pummel us with stones once more! UGH!

These rocks didn't miss St. John's. We experienced direct hits due to the pandemic that affected the ways we operate and our ministries. It still hurts to not be able to operate quite "normally" yet. However, no matter the size of the incoming projectiles, and no matter how often or how hard we are hit, God keeps resurrecting. He keeps bringing us life, purpose, and opportunity. He makes us creatively think of innovative ways to do ministry, as well as stirring excitement for the new way the Spirit leads. This Journal and the articles/reports here are a testimony to the fact that God continually lifts St. John's (hey, that's YOU and ME), and empowers ministry even during bleak or uncertain times.



I encourage you to read the rest of this Journal and see the amazing way God has lifted and guided us all at St. John's during our "rock storm" these last few years. As you read each article about the events and ministry taking place here, see the life God breathes

into His people, and the positive impact we have on a hurting world when we serve and gather in His name.

Thank the Lord, St. John's continues to ROCK!



Jeanne Jones
DLM
(Director of Lay Ministry)



YOUTH MINISTRY!

In Youth Ministry the big focus for the summer is usually the summer trip. Due to COVID, we stayed put this summer. On it's own this fact sounds boring and depressing.



But even in COVID, Youth Group is never boring and depressing! Over the summer we managed to fit in THREE service projects. We made Christmas in July cards for Parish Care to send out, we cooked for Hudson River Housing, and we tie-dyed masks to hand out to kids when they go back to school. We had a lot of non-service activities, too: hikes, ice cream, games, rock painting, a trip to the zoo, and more. One of the big highlights was a BBQ hosted by PK and Marlies. It started raining about an hour after we arrived and they let us play cornhole in the hallway and yard pong in the living room. They are brave!

As summer started winding down we geared up for the fall. We blessed our college students before they disappeared onto campus, although we are happy to have several local students this year. At the Backpack Blessing, we handed out the tie-dyed masks and asked for God to show up on playgrounds, on buses, in offices, and classrooms. We all know that we are looking at a year when normal is not quite normal but also know that God is a pro at all the situations that seem difficult and impossible to us.



In September, things really got underway! We had good weather for Rally Day and SO MANY people jumped in and helped with set up, sharing food, and just being part of the event. We had a great time being together. Our first Confirmation focus of the year was making the Bible accessible, so we talked about having the right tools for the job. The best way to understand this is to give people the



wrong tool for the job so we tried to eat Jell-O with chopsticks; it was a fun struggle. The Youth Group got together for a smaller-than-usual Bonfire due to COVID and other circumstances. Philip was in charge of the fire and Akeira stepped up and did all the grilling!

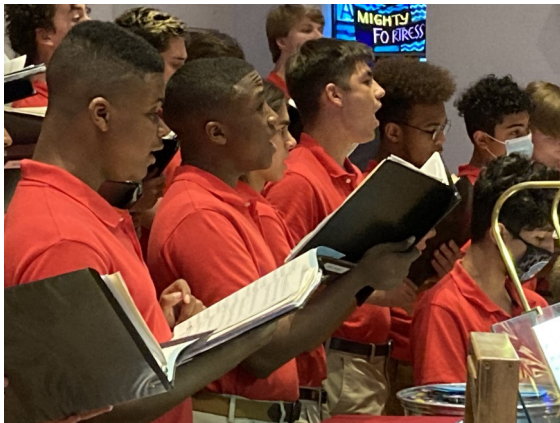




MUSIC NOTES

FROM THE DESK OF PATRICK WALKER

My trip to the Handbell Musicians of America's National Seminar in Phoenix was an educational and inspiring experience! Between the composition master class, concerts, workshops, classes, and networking my eyes were truly opened to the many varied techniques and types of music that are possible on handbells. I also came away with new teaching and rehearsal techniques and musical suggestions that I look forward to putting to use in our bell choir program this fall.



THE MARYLAND STATE BOYCHOIR SINGS AT ST. JOHN'S

What a treat! In August the Maryland State Boychoir came to enhance 10:30am worship at St. John's with their special music. This was an impromptu offering put together in just a week by the St. John's Music Director, Patrick Walker. The service was livestreamed and can be seen on our worship YouTube video for those who missed it or those who want to hear it again.

The choir stayed after the service to offer 4 additional songs to the congregation, so stay with the video after the service is over to hear those songs. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9STKwuvEk4>

Here is the church website link for the pictures taken of the Maryland State Boychoir. <http://www.stjohnselc.org/maryland-state-boychoir-visit/>



INNIS BOYS HOEDOWN IN AUGUST

The Innis Boys offered a unique worship experience as they played bluegrass music for the St. John's worship service one Sunday last August. The unique, toe-tapping tunes filled the church and drew crowds. After the service, there was plenty of food and fellowship on the front lawn.



NEW PIANO FROM VASSAR COLLEGE

With so many pianos and no room for all of them, Vassar College has graciously loaned one of their beautiful Steinway grand pianos to St. John's. Patrick has already begun to incorporate the new piano into services. Many thanks to the Music Department at Vassar College!





**FOOD
&
FUN**



CELEBRATORY MEAL

When the Covid restrictions lifted, PK wasted no time in getting people together to plan a celebratory meal for the congregation because we could now actually GATHER TOGETHER! Despite many people being away on vacations and at family graduation events, 63 people were able to attend and celebrate together at the church meal.

Thanks be to God for getting us through many months of isolation, uncertainty, sadness and stress, and for God continuing to allow St. John's to be a beacon of light during this difficult season.



CORNHOLE FOR A CAUSE

We had 14 teams come together and battle to win some funds for their favorite St. John's ministry partner; Dutchess Outreach, Habitat for Humanity, Seafarers International, and Mid-Hudson Love INC. Three official Cornhole courts were systematically placed on the front lawn and a professional bracket was laid out. Bean Bags were thrown, tossed, launched and juggled. Four rounds later we headed into the final round with two teams. Both teams were playing for the same ministry partner but the final battle was worth it. The afternoon of fun and games raised \$575 for the ministry of Mid-Hudson Love INC. Go to this link to

view pictures.

<http://www.stjohnselc.org/cornhole-for-a-cause/>



Champs "Bags" Pagonos & "Beanpole" Jones



CONGREGATION THANK YOU MEAL

81 congregants and 10 cooks gathered on Stewardship Sunday this fall to celebrate all the support given in the 2021 pledge drive. The meal was a thank you for all who supported that campaign and a welcome fellowship event. There was plenty of space and socially distant tables were offered to those who needed it or desired it. Thanks were given to JJ Manley and crew for cooking and to all who donate time, talent and treasure to further the mission of St. John's Lutheran Church.





NEWS & EVENTS

ST. JOHN'S BLOOD DRIVE

Despite the remnants of a hurricane dumping rain all day on the Hudson Valley, the Parish Care Mission Team was able to collect 40 pints of blood at the August 22 blood Drive. Thanks to all who organized and participated in that life-saving event.

RALLY DAY A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thanks to all who helped at Rally Day this past September and to all who attended the event. The bouncy obstacle course was a huge hit with the kids/teens and there were games and face painting offered as well. People perused the ministry tables to see what kinds of things are currently going on at St. John's and ways we serve in the community. Please go to this link to see Rally Day in action.

<http://www.stjohnselc.org/rally-day-2021/>



MORE NEWS & EVENTS

UDUGU SUNDAY

Udugu Sunday was held on October 3 at St. John's. Udugu stands for "companionship", and it is a Sunday where St. John's celebrates the partnership with Kashura parish in Bukoba, Tanzania. We sang hymns with an African flair and took the offering Tanzanian style. Please check out this brief video to learn more about Udugu Sunday and continue to remember our brothers and sisters across the sea in Bukoba in prayer.

Click here for Udugu video <https://youtu.be/U42JQF2kgQQ>





IN DEPTH

THE ST. JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY

There are many places in the world where food insecurity is a daily reality for many. Poughkeepsie is not immune from the pressures that people feel when they cannot afford food for themselves and their families. That's where food pantries can help, and our Social Ministry Mission Team has grown the St. John's Food Pantry into a thriving enterprise that helps those in need.

On the first, third, and fifth Sundays of each month, members of the Social Ministry Mission Team can be found very early in the morning here at St. John's setting up the Food Pantry. Often arriving even before the 8:00 AM arrival of the Contemporary Service Music Ministry for rehearsal, they busily set up shelving and tables and sort food for distribution. Diane Rosengren is frequently one of those hurriedly preparing for the 9:00 AM opening of the pantry.

"We have a great team of workers who have helped so much. People help by setting up, buying food, and packing the bags from our closet each time we're open. Abby and John Dux have made a tremendous improvement with the wonderful rolling carts." Among others Diane cited for their incredible help with the food pantry were Jan Viola, Lucinda Kaiser, and Brenda and Bella Swatek. "The church office has also been there to help us with many things. I would like to also acknowledge the members who donate the food and those who make the monetary donations that help with the restocking costs. Someone is watching over us!"



Many thanks to the hard-working members of the St. John's Social Ministry Mission team for the love and dedication they put into the Food Pantry. They help so many in our community who are in need. St. John's and Poughkeepsie are truly blessed to have the opportunity and the support to be able to aid others.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



MARK JACOBSON — MISSIONARY

Mark Jacobson has been our missionary since 2013. He has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. We know the power of daily prayer by many. So, please we ask each of you, our members, to include him daily as you pray. Mark and his wife spent their lives working at Ashura Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania. They cared for the people of the region, educated medical personnel, and shared their faith through their work in Tanzania. As modern missionaries in the ELCA, they worked in partnership with Tanzanians. He was born in Stillwater, Minnesota and met his wife, Linda, at graduate school at Johns Hopkins University. He was the Executive Director of the Ashura Lutheran Medical Center. Plaster House, part of their medical work at Ashura, enables children to have corrective orthopedic surgery, plastic surgery, or neurosurgery. After 38 years of mission service, they retired this year.

- Marland Berghorn, Social Ministry

NEW JOURNAL THIS MONTH!

New look. New content. New Journal! Welcome to the first St. John's FALL Journal. There are multiple ways we communicate upcoming events and happenings at St John's: emails, announcements during worship, Facebook and the St. John's website to name a few. The new Journal will still contain a brief listing of upcoming events, but it will be more of a vehicle to show all the wonderful ways St. John's folks have engaged in ministry over the last 3 months or so. The pages will be filled with summaries of events held, past special worship services and other tidbits of info congregants might find interesting.

So grab a beverage of choice (I recommend Harney and Sons Christmas Tea!) and sit down to read the NEW St. John's Journal.

May these pages inspire us, encourage us and embolden us to DO ministry at St. John's, celebrating how the Spirit leads us all.

- Jeanne Jones, Director of Lay Ministries

KIDS KORNER



COFFEE AND A BIBLE TIMELINE! WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?

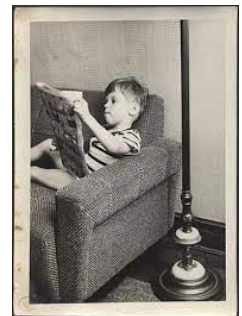
On November 21 coffee hour will be hosted by the JAM teachers. (No, they are not the jelly making members of our church.) Each week they teach our Sunday school classes, JAM = Jesus and Me. We invite everyone to come see the Bible timeline the kids are working on in JAM! We are using, artwork, puzzles, Lego designs, and more. All placed on display to create a wonderful timeline of our class time lessons."

Naturally we started with Creation. Can you put the days of creation in order? Favorite creation question: How long is a day to God? Answer: As long as he wants it to be! And yep, that means it could be a million years! (Hooray!) The kids have had a great time, working on this year's Old Testament stories. We did Abraham in Lego's, tricky but we are anything if not creative. We've constructed a Coat of Many Colors. Why so many colors? To incorporate all the great things God has created. (Bet you didn't know that theory.) Just ask our kids they can share with you their thoughts of faith.

Over the next few weeks, we meet up with Moses as a child and stick with him till his, "parting" Exodus. But keep your eyes open during Harvest Sunday, as the plagues of Egypt could spill out into the hallways. By the time you see us at coffee hour, we'll be great friends like Ruth, be strong like small David (and beat Mr. G) and we'll learn how to pray with lions (quietly, masks optional).

So come on by November 21, and check out all we've learned, discovered, and encountered over the past few weeks, and find out where our timeline is going next. You can also meet our "JAM" making teachers and helpers at coffee hour. We look forward to seeing you there!

- Donna Conway (JAM Teacher)





UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

November 7 & 21: Food Pantry Open,
9:00-11:00 AM

November 10 & 13: Wrapped in Love
Ministry, 1:00-4:00 PM, Blue Room

October 31: Confirmation Sunday
(Affirmation of Baptism) Coffee
Hour Reception, 11:45 AM, Meet &
Greet Room

November 11: Veterans Day, Church Office
Closed

November 14: Hospice Luncheon, 11:30
AM, Fellowship Hall

November 21: Dutchess County Interfaith
Council Music Fest, Virtual from St.
John's, Time TBD

November 23: Thanksgiving Worship,
12:00 PM, Nave

November 25-26: Church Office Closed

November 28: Blessing of the Trees

November 28: Advent Concert, 3:00 PM,
Nave (livestreamed)

Every Sunday: Coffee Hour in Meet &
Greet Room

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

December 5 & 19: Food Pantry Open,
9:00-11:00 AM

December 8 & 11: Wrapped in Love
Ministry, 1:00-4:00 PM, Blue Room

December 5: Christmas Extravaganza,
11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

December 5: ABC's of Christmas, A JAM
Production, 11:40 AM, Fellowship
Hall

December 5: Advent Concert, 3:00 PM,
Nave (livestreamed)

December 12: Christmas Service of
Lessons & Carols, 3:00 PM, Nave

December 15: Deadline for Poinsettia
Memorial Forms

December 19: Advent Concert, 3:00 PM,
Nave (livestreamed)

December 24: 12:30 PM, Family
Christmas Eve Worship, Nave

December 24: 5:00 PM, Candlelight
Christmas Eve Worship, Nave

December 24: 10:00 PM, Candlelight
Christmas Eve Worship, Nave

December 25: Christmas Day Worship on
Video — *watch at home with family*

December 23, 24, 27, 30, 31: Church
Office Closed

Every Sunday: Coffee Hour in Meet &
Greet Room



YOUTH & CONFIRMATION

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

November 7: Youth Group, 5:00-8:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

November 14: Confirmation, 5:00-8:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

December 5: Confirmation, 5:00-8:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

ADULT EDUCATION

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

October 27, November 3, 10, & 17:
Nooma Bible Study, 6:30 PM,
Zoom

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

We are always looking for acolytes, readers, and ushers to help in both our contemporary and traditional services. Please reach out to Doug Ohlandt in the church office—(845) 452-1550, dohlandt@stjohnselc.org—if you are interested. He can point you in the right direction to get you signed up. Serving in this way is a fantastic way to get to know more about the church and deepen your involvement in Sunday service.

The St. John's Food Pantry is open the first, third, and fifth Sunday of each month from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. The Social Ministry Mission Team can always use help in this important mission. Note for all Confirmation Students: assistance with the Food Pantry can count toward your service goals.

Do you sing in the shower, play air guitar, or drum on the dashboard of your car? If so (or even if you don't), St. John's may be looking to add your musical skills to our ever-expanding repertoire. In case you haven't noticed, St. John's has a vibrant music ministry. However, this only happens with volunteers. Please reach out if you have any interest in the St. John's music ministry—pwalker@stjohnselc.org or jjones@stjohnselc.org. We would love to add your voices and your notes to ours.

