



ST. JOHN'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

## *The Red Door*

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME  
Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of  
St. John's Episcopal Church



DECEMBER 2019 - Volume 5 Issue 12



## The True Meaning of Advent

*“Gracious God, we give you thanks for this day, and for your many blessings which we enjoy.”*

Happy December! Happy First Sunday in Advent, so Happy New Year! Much of America may think that “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” because in 1963 Andy Williams recorded a charming song about these weeks leading up to December 25. And much as we may love the song and the nostalgia that it evokes for getting together with family and friends, as Christians, the season of Advent means so much more.

This year we embark on the good news of Jesus Christ as told by Matthew, and what a different beginning to the year Matthew gives us! Our gospel lessons for the first three Sundays of Advent are about the second coming of Christ, not the arrival of the baby Jesus. Matthew refers to this character as the “Son of Man” and warns us to be prepared to be separated from our families. We will also hear about John the Baptist, that wild man living in the desert eating bugs who called his religious leaders snakes. He warned them to turn around, to go in a different direction, and not to be proud or rely on the virtue of their ancestors. Finally, by the Fourth Sunday of Advent we finally hear about the birth of Jesus, but even here Matthew’s focus is on the earthly father of Jesus.

Some have referred to Christianity as “the great reversal.” In these days of increasing darkness we celebrate the coming of THE light of the world. The light and love of Jesus have been poured in our hearts and cannot be extinguished. However, like the Sadducees and Pharisees challenged by John the Baptist, we too are called to turn around and head in new directions. What new directions might those be? How is God leading you, and where is God beckoning you forward? How is God beckoning St. John’s forward? God is constantly drawing us closer and closer, shaping and forming us more and more into little Christs, for the repair of God’s beautiful and beloved creation. May you enjoy a blessed and holy Advent.

Peace and all blessings,  
Henny+



### *Worship Opportunities*

*All are Welcome*



### *Sunday Services*

- Dec. 1 Holy Eucharist 8:30 am & 10:30 am  
Celebrant Rev. Henny
- Dec. 8 Holy Eucharist 8:30 am & 10:30 am  
Celebrant Rev. Henny  
John Buehner preaching
- Dec. 15 Holy Eucharist 8:30 am & 10:30 am  
Celebrant is Rev. Henny
- Dec. 29 Morning Prayer 8:30 am & 10:30 am

### *Christmas Eve & Christmas Day*

- Dec. 24 Holy Eucharist  
Christmas Eve 5:30 pm & 9:30 pm
- Dec. 25 Holy Eucharist  
Christmas Day 10 am (no music)

### *Wednesday Bible Study & Eucharist*

- Dec. 4, 11 & 18 Bible Study 10:00 am  
Holy Eucharist 11:30 am  
(no Bible Study on Dec. 25)



Our parish is saddened by the sudden passing of lifetime member Neil Barbu. Condolences to his loving wife Rae Barbu, son Jory King, daughter-in-law Deseray King and his grandchildren. He was loved by many and will be missed by all of us.

### A Prayer for Our Dearly Departed

*Father of all, we pray to you for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. +*

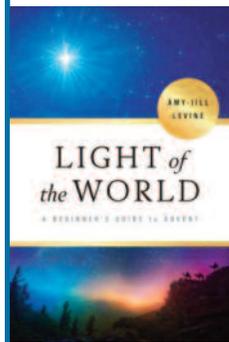
## New Advent Bible Study Underway

In Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt.

### Study Days & Times

Wednesday:  
10 am

Monday:  
6 pm  
(with pizza & adult beverage of your choice - BYOB!)



*Sunday, December 15, 2019*

*2 pm - 3 pm Fellowship & Food*

*3 - 4 pm Christmas Carols performed by Arbor Consort*

*4:30 Celebration ends and clean up begins!*

**Please bring an appetizer or a dessert. St. John's will provide punch and coffee.**



### Let's Honor The Lord With Our Giving

*"Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."  
2 Corinthians 9:6*



### Pledge Forms Due!

If you haven't brought it in yet, please bring your completed pledge form to church with you ASAP. You may also mail in or drop your form off at the church office. These are critical for preparing our 2020 budget. Thank you for sharing your time, talent and treasure here at St. John's!



Thanks to everyone who helped with and attended our November 15 Spaghetti Dinner. **We successfully raised \$500 to help pay for our new roof!**



Thank  
You!  
Volunteers!



## Anniversaries

Dec. 22 Erin & Joe Tarnowski

## Birthdays

1	Geoffrey Smereck	23	Theresa Harleton
13	Joan Smith	27	Kara Howe
20	Michael Brown	29	Joan Wegehaupt

*Note: from the office: If anyone's name has been left off the list please let us know.*

## Angel Tree Ministry



Please plan on picking up a gift tag from our Angel Tree! All gifts are due to the church unwrapped by **Sunday, December 8**. We will have a **gift-wrapping party** after the **10:30 am service on December 15**.



*Rev. Henny and Sharon Scott accepted a check for \$1500 for St. John's for our volunteer efforts at the 2019 Blues, Brews & BBQ event. The money will help pay for our new roof. Thanks to all of our volunteers!*

## FOOD PANTRY OPEN

Thursday, December 12,  
Hours: Noon-2 pm

*Donation always welcome!  
(no expired foods please)*



## DECEMBER EVENTS & MEETINGS

### SUNDAYS:

- Sunday, Dec. 1** Daughters of the King, 12 pm  
Breakfast, 9:30 am
- Sunday, Dec. 8** Vestry meeting at 12 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 15** Breakfast, 9:30 am  
Angel Tree Gift Wrapping (after second service)  
Noel Day 2 - 4:30 pm  
Appetizers & desserts 2-3pm  
Caroling by Arbor Consort 3-4pm

### WEDNESDAYS:

- Dec. 4, 11 & 18** Senior Exercise Class 9 am (free will donation)  
*(Church Office closed Dec. 24, 25 and 31 and Jan. 1)*

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
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Office: (734) 721-5023

Parish office hours: Mon-Fri. 11 am-3pm  
[www.stjohnswestland.com](http://www.stjohnswestland.com)  
[stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com)

**facebook** We're on Facebook:  
St. John's Episcopal Church - Westland MI

## St. John's Episcopal Church Staff

Rev. Henny Grossoehme, *Priest-in-Charge*  
[RevHenny@stjohnswestland.com](mailto:RevHenny@stjohnswestland.com)

Charmaine Wells, *Parish Secretary*  
[stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com)

Dana Hull, *Music Director* Rae Barbu, *Sexton*

### 2019 OFFICERS

Sharon Scott & Mary Vellardita, *Co-Senior Wardens*  
Don Streeter, *Junior Warden*  
Cindy Fowler & Julie Jones, *Co-Clerks*

Erin Downey-Tarnowski, *Treasurer*

### 2019 VESTRY MEMBERS

Rod Aston, John Buehner, Jory King