

Welcome! Tune your car radio to 105.7 FM to participate in the worship service. 105.7FM

Candle lighting & Silent Night on a Night that was not so Silent After All!



Merry Christmas and Welcome to St. John

We could not be happier that you have chosen to spend your Christmas Eve with us. As we rejoice together of Jesus' birth into this world, we also rejoice that you've stepped into ours for a little while.

We celebrate Holy Communion at this service. The Lord is the host of this holy meal, and all are welcome. We believe that Christ is truly present in this meal and in receiving the bread and wine, we truly receive Him.

When it is time for Holy Communion, hold your Communion Cup until Pastor asks you to peel off the first layer and take the wafer. The second layer contains the juice, please wait until Pastor makes the proclamation:

"The blood of Christ, given for you" before you drink of the cup.

It's New! We have a new web-site and encourage you to check it often, as we update it continually. Especially during this unusual time, we encourage you to check often for updates. The new web-site can be accessed using the old address or our new address: www.stjohnlc.org

Stay Connected—During Covid, we've been emailing a **weekly** newsletter. If you are not receiving that, you are missing out on updates, invitations, resources and information. Please take the time to email us your current email address and cell phone number [so we can text you]. churchoffice@green-church.org

Thank you for your faithful financial giving to help continue the ministries of St. John for people near and far. Even though spending is below budget we have had to dip into our minimal reserves, because giving is also behind budget. Of course, we prefer not to dip into that reserve. We encourage everyone who is able to either "go the extra mile" with an additional gift or bring your offering up to date. You can give online at our website www.stjohnlc.org scroll down and click "give today", mail in, or by using automatic withdrawal through your bank. Easier yet is giving via our phone app: Give+ [give plus].

We continue to offer worship, Bible Study, and Confirmation Classes online. If you haven't tried Zoom yet, we encourage you to call the church office or search www.zoom.us to learn how to use ZOOM. It is FREE. And, it allows us to see and talk with each other. We have enjoyed our "Virtual Coffee Hour" after worship, but would love to see more of you join these opportunities for connecting.

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Worship every Wednesday night at 7 pm and every Sunday at 10 am via our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/greenchurch1897 [or simply search St. John Zimmerman on Facebook].

UPDATE from your Covid Safety Team—we all long to be in the sanctuary for worship together. We offered in-person worship with only a few participants, until the # of cases in our county rose and schools went to full distance learning. Even though we did not have a large turn out for in-person worship, we will offer that again when the # of cases is lower.

- Please continue to open and read your weekly newsletter so that you are aware of when we make the shift to in-person worship again. You will still need to reserve a spot during the week to attend on Sundays because seating is limited [held in the Gathering Space/Narthex area where the airflow is better than the Sanctuary].
- We continue to work on a solution for worship in the Sanctuary. We've had several HVAC companies in to help us assess the air-flow deficiencies in the Sanctuary. We continue to work with COVID-19 and church guidelines as well as our insurance company's expectations.
- We will need more volunteers than we've traditionally had for worship services when we are able to be back in the Sanctuary [because of sanitation needs and physical distancing], so please help us prepare by emailing or calling the church office to let us know you'd be willing to be added to the list for worship assistance [usher, sanitize, help with contact tracing, etc]. We are assembling that list now, so we can be ready when we are able to shift back to worship in-person.



Maybe you've heard? We have been delivering "Blessing Bags" to our elders. Would you like to be a part of the amazing way of bringing connection and church "home" to others? The staff could really use some help. Last time, we had home-made bookmarks as one of the items in the blessing bag. If you are a crafter and think you may have something that could be shared in our blessing bags, please email the church office at churchoffice@green-church.org and let us know! Also, we need drivers. We provide the route, you provide the time and get to [w/ masks and social distancing] share our great St. John spirit of joy!

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Come and Worship Christ the newborn King

Invocation: We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

The Christmas Proclamation:

Isaiah 9:2,4,6

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Song: It came upon a Midnight Clear

Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old

From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold

Peace on the earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing!

The Greeting

P: Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news, a message of peace and joy which is given for all people:

C: Tonight in the city of David, a Savior is born for us, who is Jesus Christ, the Lord!

P: Let us pray,

C: Emmanuel, we thank you for being with us, for sending your Son to walk with us and lead us. You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that the hope, peace, joy and love of Advent may be fully realized in us. This we ask, both now, and in the new year, and forever more. Amen.

The Nativity of our Lord, The Birth of our Savior, The night most holy.

Luke 2:1-5

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Luke 2:6-7

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Song: Away in a Manger

Away in a manger
no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
laid down His sweet head

The stars in the sky
looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay

Be near me Lord Jesus
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
and love me I pray

Luke 2: 8–14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered

them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The First Noel

The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor
shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay
keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's
night that was so deep.

CHORUS

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

A Christmas Word

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Offering As you leave tonight, you will notice a bin that has a light on it, please drive up to it and place your offering in it as you leave. Thank you!

Thank you for your faithful financial giving to help continue the ministries of St. John for people near and far. You may give on line at our website www.stjohnlc.org scroll down and click “give today”, mail in, or by using automatic withdrawal through your bank. Easier yet is giving via our phone app: Give+ [give plus].

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Good and loving God,
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,
who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.
As you have so richly blessed us with your gifts,
let us cheerfully give as a blessing for others.
Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

The Meal

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 God thanks and praise.

The 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.

The Distribution of Communion

The Lord is the host of this holy meal, and all are welcome. We believe that Christ is truly present in this meal and in receiving the bread and wine, we truly receive Him.

When it is time for Holy Communion, hold your Communion Cup [found in your bag] until Pastor asks you to peel off the first layer and take the wafer. The second layer contains the juice, please wait until Pastor makes the proclamation: “The blood of Christ, given for you” before you drink of the cup.

Blessing: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O God,
that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life,
you give us food for the journey, forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.
As you led the magi by a star,
as you brought the holy family home again,
guide us on the way unfolding before us.
Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim
good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

The Sharing of Light

Silent Night

Silent night holy night
All is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Verse 2

Silent night holy night

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Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Verse 3
Silent night holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace

Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

Please help us share this special part of worship at the next services by returning your candles to the bin prior to leaving the parking lot. Candles should be dropped in the bin with only 1 light on it. Offering goes in the bin with 2 lights. Thanks!

The Benediction and Sending

P: May the Word that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life.
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength.
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to our world.
And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
C: **Amen.**

P : Go in peace. Christ is with us!. C: **Thanks be to God!**

The Ringing in of Christmas

Joy to the World

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Christmas eve usually brings visitors, but here at St. John, all are considered not guests, but friends. Maybe tonight is the night that nudges you to find out more about this “Green Church” that seeks to serve the Lord together.

Welcome

One of the many great things about being in a faith community is that we get to slow down the frenzy that is life in today’s world. Christmas doesn’t end in a day, there are 12 days of Christmas celebrated in the church. Don’t let the joy and peace of this night go by without making a commitment to yourself to worship again this Sunday. As part of the 12 days of Christmas, we are looking forward to a service of Christmas traditions and best-loved songs. Worship is at 10 AM, live-streamed to our Facebook Page at www.facebook/greenchurch1897 Lessons & Carols will warm your heart. Come and find that thin space we all need in our lives; where we slow down and find peace in Scripture, song, and promise.

This community worships together on Sundays at 10AM and on Wednesdays at 7 PM [both services on line for now]. We don’t claim to be perfect; but we are growing in our relationships with each other and with God. Come back often and be a part of it.

7-9th Graders your classes resume the first week of January. Can’t wait to be together again [Zoom] and hear how your Christmas has been! Remember, all you need to know for Confirmation 2020-21, including the Zoom link, is found on our website: www.stjohnlc.org

Bible Study

The Men’s Bible study continues to meet on Tuesdays at 7 pm. The group is very welcoming and hopes you will consider giving yourself the gift of studying God’s Word together in the new year! Call the church office so we can tell you more. 763-856-4561



MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 7 pm
Sunrise Room
[room next to the elevator]

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St. John Lutheran Church

Welcome!

www.stjohnlc.org

Phone: 763-856-4561

Email: churchoffice@green-church.org

Church office staff hours are

Monday-Thursday from 10am to 4pm and

Friday from 10am to 2pm.

This week, however, the office will be staffed

Monday & Wednesday: 10am to 2pm

Rev. Kari Bahe, Pastor, revkbahe@green-church.org

Julene Bistodeau, Financial Administrative Assistant, financialoffice@green-church.org

Lizzie McCloud, Administrative Assistant, churchoffice@green-church.org

Jessica Gensmer, Director of Music Ministry, music@green-church.org

Lori Schleif, SJLC Cornerstone Christian Preschool Director, ccp@green-church.org

Christy Hilyar and Adam Babos, Custodians, custodian@green-church.org



When I offer a glass of water to a thirsty person

it is Christmas

When I clothe a stranger with a gown of love

it is Christmas

When I wipe the tears from weeping eyes

it is Christmas

When the spirit of revenge dies in me

it is Christmas

When I no longer want it to be “us” vs “them”

it is Christmas

When I live in hope, instead of fear

it is Christmas

When I am wrapped in the love of God

it is Christmas

When I share that love with others

it is Christmas



WHEN THE SONG OF THE ANGELS IS
STILLED,
WHEN THE STAR IN THE SKY IS GONE,
WHEN THE KINGS AND PRINCES ARE
HOME, WHEN THE SHEPHERDS ARE BACK
WITH THEIR FLOCK,
THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS:
TO FIND THE LOST,
TO HEAL THE BROKEN,
TO FEED THE HUNGRY,
TO RELEASE THE PRISONER,
TO REBUILD THE NATIONS,
TO BRING PEACE AMONG OTHERS,
TO MAKE MUSIC IN THE HEART.
~HOWARD THURMAN



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