

St. John's Sinking Valley
December 15, 2024

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

Third Sunday of Advent: JOY

www.stjohnssinkingvalley.com

PO Box 222
Tyrone, PA 16686

* = Please stand as you are able

The Call to Worship on the Bells

The Announcements/Birthday Celebrations/Anniversary Recognitions

Organ Prelude –

Lighting of Candles: Acolyte – Colin Luther

Opening Prayer

***The Opening Hymn –**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (LBW #551)

***Call to Worship –**

L: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

P: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

L: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

P: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

L: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

P: Come and rejoice in God!

L: We sing praise to God who continually blesses our lives!

P: In the midst of troubles and stress, God is near, offering compassion.

L: Our hope is in the Lord.

P: Let all the people praise God.

L: Surely God blesses and saves us.

P: Hallelujah! Praise be to God.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Log-

Third Week of Advent — PEACE

This third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn't dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from Christ alone. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing. Our joy doesn't come from our jobs, our family, our relationships, our finances, or our success. Our joy doesn't come from what we have on earth or who we are with. Our joy is a gift. It is the gift that God gave us that first Christmas in Jesus Christ. Our joy is encompassed in our Savior, King Jesus.

Scripture- Philippians 4:4-7

"Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. -

Prayer:

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to joy. Lift up our heads from the dust and adorn us with your righteousness, that we may rejoice and testify that our Lord has come. Flood our heart with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.

- *The Prayers
- *The Lord's Prayer

Offertory

- * The Doxology
- * Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Liturgy of the Word – Aidan Luther

Today's Old Testament Lesson comes from the book of Isaiah

Isaiah 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Today's New Testament Lesson comes from the book of Luke

Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Response –

Thy Word

*L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke

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

Luke 1:39-45

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Message-

Youth Christmas Play **“THE STRUGGLE”**

***Closing Hymn –**

Joy To the World (LBW #39)

***St. John’s Mission Statement**

L: As a reminder of God’s goodness to us, we proclaim the Mission of our church together. Collectively,

C: We praise God for all His bountiful blessings. We desire to grow together in faith and love, acknowledging that we are a family, a congregation, and a community.

*Benediction—

The Dismissal from Worship on the Bells

**Extinguishing of Candles – Let us look ahead with great anticipation to the arrival of the King!*

Organ Postlude –

Prayer Requests For: *Lori, Kathy, Brandon, Emily, Craig & Michelle, Gwen, Mikey, Terry, Jamie, Joe, Joyce, Georgette, Barb, John, Cody, Bob, Dave, The Lardieri Family, The Brua Family, Jim, Matt, Elaine, Ernie, Jaxon, Judy, Mary, Mike, The Kost Family, Bonnie, Janet, Sally, Jeff, Brian, Judy, Tom, Jason, Joyce, Albert, Carly and Justin, Jaclyn, Bob, Sr., Jill, Lana and Andrea, Kelsi, Fred, Sr., Kathy, Ken, Mary Lou, Curt, Sue, Kim, Wendy, Linda, Mark, Peggy, Sarah, Dalton, Nico, Michael, First Responders, Members of our Military and their families, Cancer treatment patients and the congregation of St. John’s Lutheran Church.*

If you would like anyone added (or if someone can be removed) please let Carey Williams (brooke2235@yahoo.com) know. Thank You.

Pastoral Care – For anyone needing pastoral care, Drew Baker is our Worship Leader. Please feel free to contact him at 814-932-4085. Drew’s Email: jesus2thevalley@gmail.com

Prayer Chain – There is a prayer support chain in place. If anyone would like to commit to praying and being part of the chain, please contact Charlene Detwiler or Drew Baker. In addition, if you have someone to be added to the prayer chain, please let Charlene or Drew know.

Give to St. John's online for a one-time or a recurring gift using the church's website:

www.stjohnssinkingvalley.com

Scroll down the home page and click on the PDF "Online Giving DIRECTIONS" for more information. Click on the "Online Giving Web Site" link to create a free profile and get started.

Or give through the mail. Please send checks made out to "St. John's Lutheran Church" to:

St. John's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 222

Tyrone, PA 16686

Please include your name and envelope number if applicable. Thank you for your generosity.

CHURCH WEBSITE: www.stjohnssinkingvalley.com / **FACEBOOK PAGE:** st-johns sinking valley

St. John's Lutheran Church

PO Box 222

Tyrone, PA 16686

Ph: 814-684-4613

Email: stjohnssv548@gmail.com

Reader/Acolyte/Offering Schedule

December	Reader	Acolyte	Count Offering
12/1/24	Remington Fleck	Peyton Harper	Charlene Detwiler Randy Turiano
12/8/24	Lauren Fleck	Rachel Pedersen	Charlene Detwiler Randy Turiano
12/15/24	Aidan Luther	Colin Luther	Charlene Detwiler Randy Turiano
12/22/24	Madison Coleman	Wyatt Lannen	Charlene Detwiler Randy Turiano
12/24/24	Chad Pedersen	Emily Pedersen	Charlene Detwiler Randy Turiano
12/29/24	Lyndsey Fleck	Jaelyn Rockwell	Charlene Detwiler Randy Turiano

Upcoming Dates

Dec. 15th – Christmas in the Valley 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Dec. 21st – We Care Meals

Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 11th – We Care Meals

Jan. 25th – We Care Meals

Jan. 26th – Annual Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~~~~~  
**Christmas in the Valley TONIGHT!** – Please join us this evening for our Annual Christmas in the Valley on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** from **6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
**Good Samaritan Fund – December** – This month’s recipient of the Good Samaritan Fund is Keystone Family Alliance. Keystone Family Alliance aims to educate, motivate, and equip every Christian in the state of Pennsylvania on the needs of orphans and vulnerable children, both locally and globally. We bridge the gap between the desperate needs in the child welfare system and Pennsylvania churches. By engineering wraparound Care Communities, Keystone Family Alliance provides tangible support, prayer, resources, and aid, resulting in foster families who are involved longer and stronger. For more information on this important ministry, there are cards on the back table or visit [www.keyfam.org](http://www.keyfam.org). Please prayerfully consider helping this important ministry to help the children in our area.  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
**Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>** – Please plan to stay after worship for the Annual Meeting to vote on the proposed budget for 2025.  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
**Church Council** - There are a few openings on church council for next year. If you are interested in joining council, please see a member or Drew. Council meets one evening a month.  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
**Sunday Evening Bible Study** – Adult Bible Study will continue to meet Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Drew Baker (814-932-4085), or Jerry & Heidi Shetler (814-327-4808 / 814-686-2347).  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
**Favorite Hymns** – If you have a favorite hymn, please be sure to put it on the list on the back table.  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
**We Care Meals** - We Care Meals, providing free meals for people in the Community on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, some recipients are elderly, young, home bound, recovering from illness or accident, or just could use a good meal and a smiling face delivering the meal. If you know of “**ANY ONE**”, please contact Jeanne Fleck.  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
**Good Samaritan Fund Recipients** – The Good Samaritan Fund was established to help anyone in need. If you know of anyone (individuals/families/missions), please pick up a form on the back table, complete it and put it in the offering plate or in the basket on the back table.  
~~~~~