

St. John's Sinking Valley
December 22, 2024

Advent
*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE

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 – Wyatt Lannen

Opening Prayer

***The Opening Hymn –**

***Call to Worship –**

Love is coming near.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

The Hope Bringer,

Peace Maker,

Joy Sustainer

grows in a womb,

preparing to be born among us.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Log-

Fourth Week of Advent — LOVE

This fourth week of Advent, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word...LOVE. God sent His gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of God's love was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus.

There is no greater gift than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends. God willingly gave the gift of His Son's life because of His great love for us. Jesus' righteous blood covered our sin. He redeems and restores us when we confess Him as Lord and Savior of our life. At that moment, He gives us the gift of His love for all eternity. We receive grace upon grace and mercy upon mercy at that moment.

Scripture-

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Galatians 4:4-5 "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons."

Prayer:

O Lord, you promised in your Holy Scriptures to send your Son Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. Reveal this saving promise also to us and move our hearts to faith and obedience. Father, this final week of Advent, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Thank you, Lord, for loving us enough to send Jesus. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.

Offertory

*** The Doxology**

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Liturgy of the Word – Madison Coleman

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

Jeremiah 23:5-6

5 “The days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“when I will raise up for David[a] a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.

6 In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.

This is the name by which he will be called:

The Lord Our Righteous Savior.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Today's New Testament Lesson comes from the book of 1 John

1 John 4:9-11

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

***The Gospel Response –**

Thy Word

*L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

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

Matthew 1:18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Message-

Wondrous Love

*** Hymn-**

***The Prayers**

***The Lord's Prayer**

***Closing Hymn –**

***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

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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

Thank you so much to the "We Care" ladies who help to provide meals twice a month for those in need one way or another: Debbie Beauchamp, Penny Black, Charlene Detwiler, Linda Nearhoof, Brenda Patterson, and Kathy Williams. This year we are thrilled that April Ferguson and Leanna Hardy have joined us. Due to donations, we have the money to buy the meat for the meals. In addition, these women make a dish, pack the meals, and spend a visit with the persons they are delivering to. Well done good and faithful servants.

~ Jeanne

Thank you to the youth for the play we enjoyed so much last Sunday. A special thank you to Wyatt Hardy and Mason Harper for act one and the great ideas for the play. Also, thank you to Jennifer Fleck for her time to practice with the youth and writing the following acts. We are so blessed to have Jackson Harper, Mason, Harper, Wyatt Hardy, Byron Hardy, Colin Luther, and Emily Pederson, and Luke Sapienza. Also, thank you to Rachel Pederson for the awesome special music and Aiden Luther for his scripture readings.

~ Jeanne

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. Please prayerfully consider helping this important ministry to help the children in our area.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 26th – 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 2nd and 4th 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.