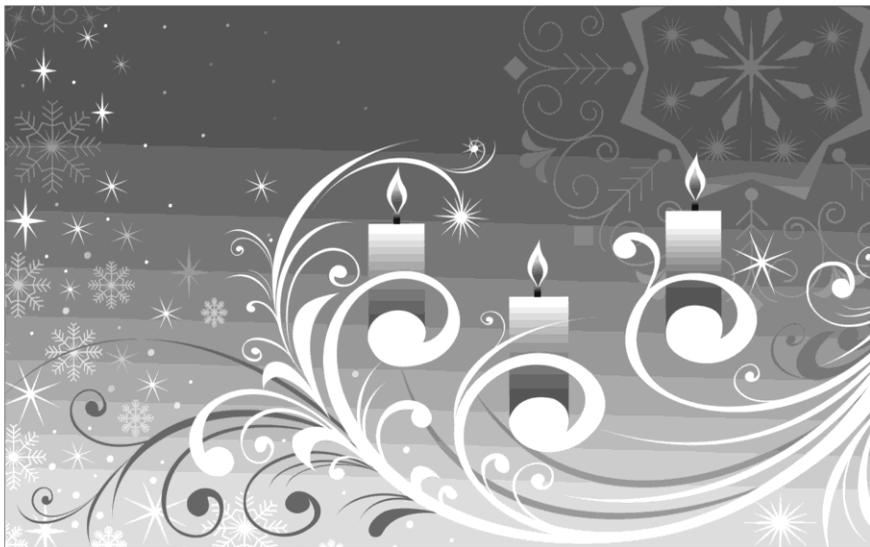


DECEMBER 12, 2021



*Rejoice and Celebrate God's love!*

**Saint John's  
Lutheran  
Church**  
Spinnerstown



1565 Sleepy Hollow Road | P.O. Box 120  
Spinnerstown, PA 18968  
215) 536-0734  
Email: [stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com)

Please visit our web site—  
[www.stjohnsofspinnerstown.org](http://www.stjohnsofspinnerstown.org)

## *Welcome to worship with St. John's of Spinnerstown!*

Thank you for joining us today either in Church or online!

Our service this morning will be filled with scripture, proclamation, praise, and prayer. Everything you need is available in your bulletin.

If you have any prayer concerns to add to the list please contact the Church Office.

### **The Staff of St. John's**

The People of St. John's

Rev. Axel T. Kaegler

(kaegax01@gmail.com or phone – 201.739.7702)

Carol Dzurenda

Darcy McConahy

Becky Hinderliter

Joseph Brooke & Laurie Stoneback

Jen Bara

Ministers

Pastor

Organist

Choir Director

Christian Education Director

Sextons

Secretary

**Office Hours:** Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Office Phone: 215.536.0734 Office Email: [stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com)

### **Keep up with St. John's news**

Now you don't have to wait a month between editions of the Spire to see what's new at St. John's. For those who use social media, we can be found on Facebook (St. John's Lutheran Church, Spinnerstown, PA), Instagram ([stjohnsspinnerstown](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsspinnerstown)) and Twitter ([stjohnsspinnerstown](https://twitter.com/stjohnsspinnerstown)). Anyone online can visit our website, [www.stjohnsofspinnerstown.org](http://www.stjohnsofspinnerstown.org). Feel free to share with your "friends" and "followers" any items you find on these sites.

**We now have our own YouTube Channel as well!**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHmqkdhB-ukT7eFsDokBbw/featured>

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SPINNERSTOWN, PA  
3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 12, 2021

Announcements

Prelude: *"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

arr. D. Wood

+ Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: in the presence of one another,  
we confess our sin before you.**

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children**

**and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,**

**and assure us again of your saving grace.**

**Amen.**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**C: Amen.**

+ Opening Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Verses 5 & 6 #257

5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav’nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death’s dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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+ The Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Advent Candle Lighting: “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” #240  
Verse 3



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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+ Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

First Reading: A reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20.

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: A reading from Philippians 4:4-7.

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

+ Holy Gospel: The holy gospel according to Luke 3:7-18.

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

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into

his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sunday School Christmas Pageant: *The Tale of Three Trees*

- A traditional folk tale retold by Angela Elwell Hunt

Hymn: “*Away In a Manger*”

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Hymn: “*Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult*”

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice sounding,  
saying, "I will calm the sea".

Hymn: “*The Old Rugged Cross*”

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
the emblem of suff'ring and shame;  
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it some day for a crown.

Children's Bells: “*Away In a Manger*”

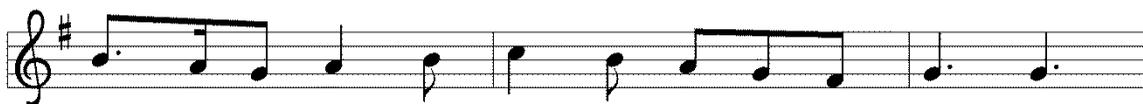
## Verses 1 &amp; 4



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



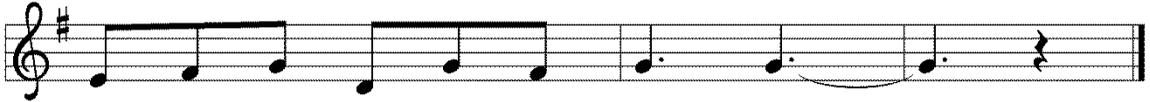
soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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+ The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God,**

**the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,**

**God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

+ Prayers of Intercession

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians (*especially*). With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

\*O God our Healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear. Come to our aid as the coronavirus spreads globally, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends from being infected. Hear our cry, O God,

**listen to our prayer.**

\*Grant us your spirit of love and self-discipline so that we may come together, working to control and eliminate the coronavirus. Heal our self-centeredness and indifference that makes us worry only when the virus threatens us, open ways beyond timidity and fear that too easily ignore our neighbor. Hear our cry, O God,

**listen to our prayer.**

\*Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession: care-givers, nurses, attendants, doctors, all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families. Sustain all workers and business owners who suffer loss of livelihood due to shut-downs, quarantines, closed

borders, and other restrictions... protect and guard all those who must travel. Guide the leaders of the nations that they speak the truth, halt the spread of misinformation and act with justice so that all your family may know healing. Hear our cry, O God,  
**listen to our prayer.**

\*Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of turmoil, give us hope and peace. Hold in your gentle embrace all who have died and who will die this day. Comfort their loved ones in their despair. Hear our cry, O God,  
**listen to our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the Church's Bishops - Bishop Eaton and Bishop Davenport, for the Church's pastors and deacons, and all called by you and your people to lead and guide our congregations. Keep them strong and faithful in the power and grace of your abiding word. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

*\*Pandemic prayers provided by the Lutheran World Federation.*

+ Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Special Music: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Arr. L. Larson

St. John's Bell Choir

+ Offering Prayer

+ The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

+ Benediction

+ Closing Hymn: *"He Came Down"*

#253

+ Dismissal

Postlude: *"Hark, the Glad Sound!"*

C. S. Lang

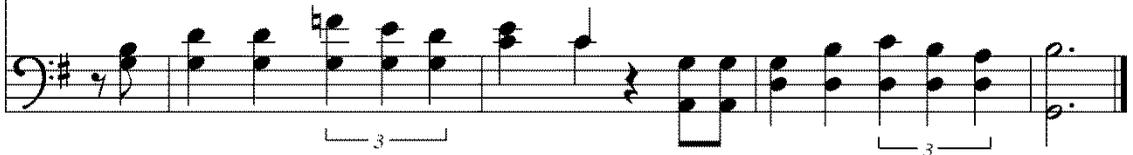
# He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
 he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.  
 he came down that we may have peace;  
 he came down that we may have joy;



Text: Cameroon traditional  
 Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949  
 Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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**Sponsors for December 12, 2021**

*The altar flowers are sponsored by Laurie Stoneback in honor of loved ones.*

*The bulletins are sponsored by Loretta Thorsen in memory of loved ones.*

**Worship Assistants for December 12, 2021**

*Usher Captain – Maureen Potsko*

Greeters	George & Peggy Hudock
Ushers	Joe & Noel Brooke
Lector	Kit Collins
Communion Assistants	NO Communion
Acolyte	Christian Mory
Altar Guild	Connie Schwartz & Linda Vey

**Worship Assistants for December 19, 2021**

*Usher Captain – Kathie Afflerbach*

Greeters	Bill & Mary Slotter
Ushers	Brad & Becky Hinderliter
Lector	Bill Slotter
Communion Assistants	Maureen Potsko & Stephen Spry
Acolyte	Lillian Hinderliter
Altar Guild	Connie Schwartz & Linda Vey

**Worship Assistant help needed for Christmas Eve Services!**

- ★ 2:00 p.m.
  - \* 2 greeters
  - \* 2 ushers
- ★ 8:00 p.m.
  - \* 2 greeters
  - \* 2 ushers

*Please contact the office if you can volunteer! Thank you!*

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## **We Remember in Our Prayers**

Family & Friends of Randy Reist (friend of Jerry Bassett), Reese Batchelor (friend of the Howatt family), Steve Potsko, Ele Hanshew, Kathleen Lausch (Ron Lausch's mother), Betty Konjusky (Peggy Hudock's mother), Thomas Wickham (relative of Mildred Westgate), Rev. Dr. Richard Stewart, Viola Giebel (Peggy Hudock's daughter-in-law's mother), Debbie & Larry Lasher (Darcy McConahy's sister & brother-in-law), Renee Georgiadis, Michael Bowers, Dorothy Brinkman, and Joe Otto (Marsha Hartley's brother)



### **Prayers, Please**

***Our Prayer List*** – Each week there appears in this bulletin, a list of people for whom congregation members are asked to pray. The names are read during the “Prayers of Intercession.” The names are listed for four weeks and then removed, but they can be re-added every four weeks for as long as necessary. To add a name to the prayer list - or to renew a listing - please contact Church Secretary Jen Bara at 215-536-0734, Monday, Wednesday or Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or send her an e-mail at [stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com). To assure a name will be included in the next bulletin, please contact her by 10 a.m. Thursday.

***St. John's Prayer Circle*** is ready and waiting for your requests. If you know someone in need of prayer – or if you would like to join the circle and expand our collective voice – please call Joan Seiger at [215-257-7478](tel:215-257-7478) or Loretta Thorsen at [215-679-2356](tel:215-679-2356).

***E-mailing Prayer Concerns:*** For any confidential prayer concerns to give to the Pastor - reach out to: [spinnerstownprayerline@gmail.com](mailto:spinnerstownprayerline@gmail.com)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome in the Name of Jesus!**

**We pray that you will be blessed by your time here today,  
and that God will fill you with grace and love every day.**

**Help spread some Christmas cheer** – Send Christmas cards to our homebound members and let them know they are in your thoughts during the holiday season.



**2022 Offering Envelopes** are now available in the multi-purpose room. Please pick up envelopes **EVEN IF** you donate through Vanco so you know what your new envelope number is for 2022! Continue to use your 2021 envelopes through the end of this year – do not use the 2022 envelopes until January. Thank you!

**Christmas Eve RSVP** – St. John's has three worship services scheduled for Christmas Eve: 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. To keep everyone safe, we are limiting the number of people at each service, so you will need to sign up for a time. You can sign-up on the sheets by the kitchen and front entrance, or contact the office directly by emailing [stjohnspinnerstown@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnspinnerstown@gmail.com) or calling 215.536.0734.

Worship Assistants assigned to any of those times should still respond, and remember to include any children coming with you! ***Please RSVP by midnight of Sunday, December 19.***



**Coffee Hour is back!** Servers and bakers needed for coffee hour! ***The rest of December is still available, as well as January.*** If you can volunteer to bake and/or serve, please sign up on the bulletin board by the kitchen or contact the office! Thank you in advance!

**Christmas Eve Sponsors** needed for bulletins! Please contact the office or sign-up on the sheet by the kitchen!



**Vanco Online Giving** – St. John's can now receive your offering via online & mobile giving through Vanco! In addition to your offering, you can contribute to other funds such as the Stained Glass Window Fund and Cemetery Fund. You will also be able to sponsor altar flowers, bulletins, the monthly Spire, as well as the seasonal flowers such as Easter Lilies and Poinsettias!

Members who plan to use the Vanco online or mobile giving tool SHOULD create an account in order to accurately receive credit for your offering and/or sponsorships, etc. and to make it easier for our financial secretary to keep track!

To use online, simply go to our website and look for the “Vanco Online Giving” button on our homepage. Follow the instructions to create an account.

You can also download the Vanco app at the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#). When prompted, use this code to create an account for St. John's: CSTDSA

Please don't hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions!

**Visitation with Holy Communion** – Those in the Congregation who aren't coming to worship in person, but who hunger for the Sacrament of Holy Communion are invited to call the Church office, or email Pastor Kaegler to schedule a visit with Holy Communion.

## **Winter 2021-2022 Sponsorships are available!**

*Sponsors are needed for almost all weeks and months!*

*Please consider sponsoring in honor of or in memory of someone special in your life.*

**Bulletin Sponsors** – The cost is \$20 to help cover the expense of mailing the bulletin to our members who do not have email and cannot come to worship.

*Available dates for 2021: December 19, 24, and 26*

**Spire Sponsors** –\$30/month for one person/family, or you can split the sponsorship with another for \$15 each.

*All months available in 2022 except January!*

**Altar Flower Sponsorships** are \$17.50 for one bouquet or \$35 for both.

*Available dates for 2021: December 26*

Sign up on the board by the kitchen or contact the office at [stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com) or 215-536-0734.

### ***Dates to Remember***

12/14/21	6:30 p.m. Pub(lic) Theology
12/15/21	6:30 p.m. Confirmation
	6:30 p.m. Bells
	7:30 p.m. Adult Choir
12/16/21	<i>Spire articles due!</i>
12/19/21	9:00 a.m. Sunday School
	9:30 a.m. Communion
12/24/21	2:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
	4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
	8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship