

DECEMBER 26, 2021



*Bidings of Comfort and Joy!*

Saint John's  
Lutheran  
Church  
Spinnerstown



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Spinnerstown, PA 18968  
215) 536-0734  
Email: [stjohnspinnerstown@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnspinnerstown@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  
1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 26, 2021

Announcements

Prelude: *"In Dulci Jubilo"*

arr. D. Wood

+ Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels,  
who is made flesh among all peoples,  
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**C: Amen.**

P: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**C: we confess our sin before you.**

**We replace compassion with competition.**

**We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.**

**We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.**

**We have not put on love in harmony with you.**

**Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.**

**Swaddle our hearts with your peace,**

**that all we do, in word or deed,**

**may reflect your love born among us.**

**Amen.**

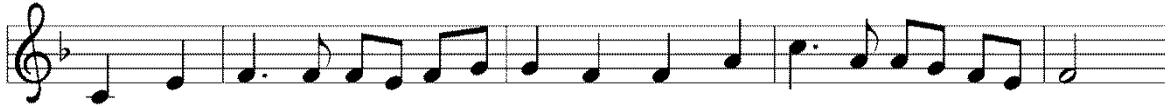
P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

† In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

**C: Amen.**

+ Opening Hymn: "Once in Royal David's City" Verses 1 & 2 #269



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895  
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

+ 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.**

+ Prayer of the Day

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

First Reading: A reading from 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26.

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

<sup>18</sup>Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup>Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people  
and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: A reading from Colossians 3:12-17.

*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

+ Holy Gospel: The holy gospel according to Luke 2:41-52.

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

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

<sup>41</sup>Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

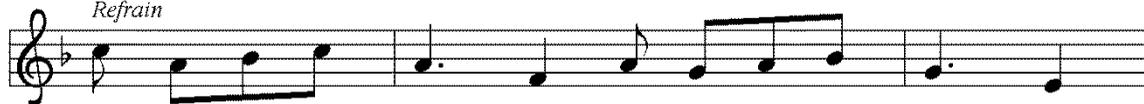
Hymn of the Day: "That Boy-Child of Mary"

Verses 1 & 2

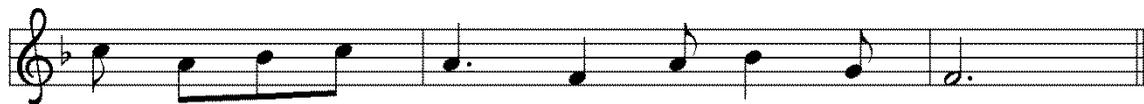
#293

# That Boy-Child of Mary

*Refrain*



That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



- 1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
- 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
- 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
- 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,

*Refrain*



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?  
God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.  
born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?  
makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

5 One with the Father,  
he is our Savior,  
heaven-sent helper  
in Bethlehem.

6 Gladly we praise him,  
love and adore him,  
give ourselves to him  
in Bethlehem.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000

Music: BLANTYRE, Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin

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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

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day (*especially*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

\*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.*

You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever. We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

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

+ Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Special Music: “*Mary, Did You Know*”

setting by J. Schrader

Darcy McConahy, solo

+ Offering Prayer

+ The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father,**

**who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

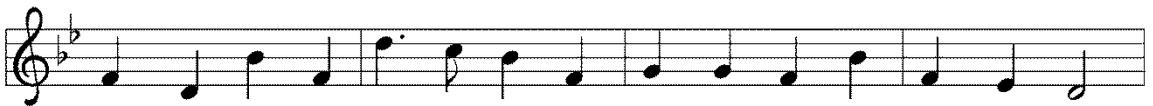
**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

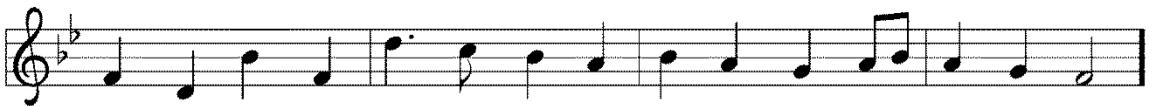
and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
 and the glory, forever and ever.  
 Amen.

+ Benediction

+ Closing Hymn: “*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*” Verses 1 & 2 #275



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

+ Dismissal

Postlude: “*Christmas Postlude*”

arr. W. Stickles

## *Sponsors for December 26, 2021*

*The bulletins are sponsored by St. John's Lutheran Church.*

### **Worship Assistants for December 26, 2021**

*Usher Captain – Colton Landes*

Greeters		<b>TBD</b>
Ushers	Donna Angstadt & Stephen Spry	
Lector	Jill McComsey	
Communion Assistants	NO Communion	
Acolyte	Kiera or Nathan McComsey	
Altar Guild	Connie Schwartz & Linda Vey	

### **Worship Assistants for January 2, 2021**

*Usher Captain – Maureen Potsko*

Greeters	Ken & Carol Butz
Ushers	Joe & Noel Brooke
Lector	Ken Butz
Communion Assistants	Jerry Bassett & Stephen Spry
Acolyte	Lillian Hinderliter
Altar Guild	Maureen Potsko

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

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

**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.

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

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

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

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## **We Remember in Our Prayers**

Gary Small, Roy Frock (Janet Bassett's father), Danny Kolb, Fern Lorish, Sally Tuturice (Donna Angstadt's sister), Reese Batchelor (friend of the Howatt family), Family & Friends of Betty Press, Steve Potsko, Family & Friends of 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.**

### **Congregational Meeting – February 4 after worship**

#### *Agenda:*

- Committee Reports
- Update on basement repairs
- Congregational planning sessions

**Annual Reports** are due in the office by **Monday, January 24**. Please submit them to the secretary at [stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com) or place them in her mailbox. Thank you!

**Advent Undecorating** will be on Sunday, January 2 after worship. Please contact Darcy McConahy at 215-527-4250 or [damcconahy@gmail.com](mailto:damcconahy@gmail.com) if you can volunteer to help.

**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!

**Coffee Hour is back!** Servers and bakers needed for coffee hour! **January sign-ups are open!** 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!

**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.



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

01/02/22	9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Communion <i>Advent Un-decorating after worship</i>
01/04/22	1:00 – 7:00 p.m. Blood Drive
01/05/22	10:00 a.m. Willing Workers 6:30 p.m. Bells 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir
01/08/21	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. UBC Learning Event
01/11/22	6:30 p.m. Pub(lic) Theology
01/13/22	7:30 p.m. Worship & Music