

DECEMBER 5, 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

Please visit our web site—
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

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) and Twitter (stjohnsspinnerstown). Anyone online can visit our website, 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
2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 5, 2021

Announcements

Prelude: *"The King Shall Come"*

arr. W. Held

+ 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!

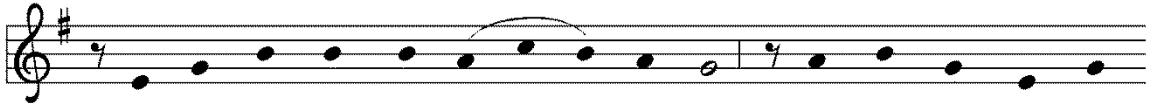
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.

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

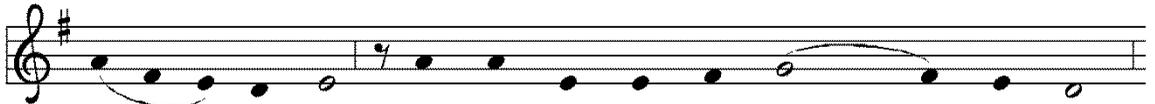
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

+ Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Verses 3 & 4 #257



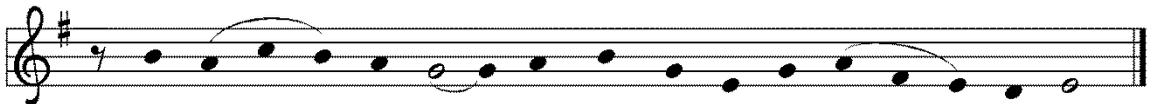
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum 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 2

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 Baruch 5:1-9.

A poem of hope from the school of the prophet Jeremiah speaks of the return of scattered Israel from Babylon, but also looks beyond that to the time when God's kingdom will be established.

¹Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

²Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;

³for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

⁴For God will give you evermore the name,
“Righteous Peace, Godly Glory.”

⁵Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

⁶For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;
but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

⁷For God has ordered that every high mountain
and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

⁸The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God’s command.

⁹For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets,
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear,

⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Second Reading: A reading from Philippians 1:3-11.

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

+ Holy Gospel: The holy gospel according to Luke 3:1-6.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

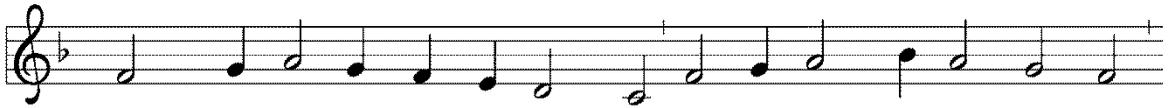
C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

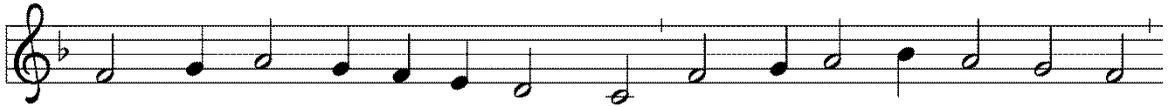
Hymn of the Day: “*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*”
Verses 1 & 2

#256

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



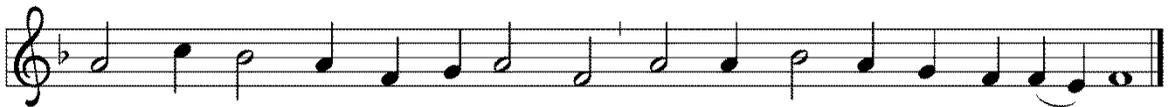
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551

+ Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true

God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the

Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

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.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill (*especially*). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. 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,

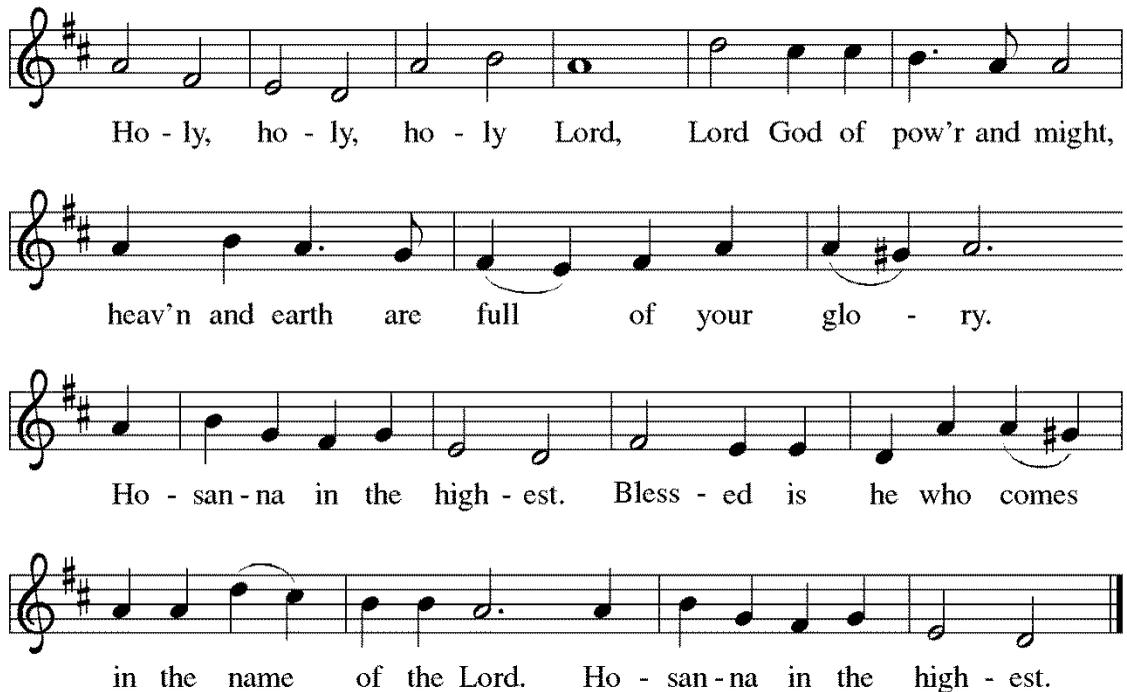
listen to our prayer.

*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

+ Holy, holy, holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

+ Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

+ Benediction

+ Closing Hymn: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

#254



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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+ Dismissal

Postlude: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

arr. R. Haan

*Pandemic prayers provided by the Lutheran World Federation.

Sponsors for December 5, 2021

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

The altar flowers are sponsored by Laurie Stoneback to the Glory of God.

Worship Assistants for December 5, 2021

Usher Captain – Stephen Spry

Greeters	Steve & Maureen Potsko
Ushers	Gary & Diane Small
Lector	Maureen Potsko
Communion Assistants	Brad & Becky Hinderliter
Acolyte	Kiera McComsey
Altar Guild	Connie Schwartz & Linda Vey

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

Winter Sponsorships are available!

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
stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com or 215-536-0734.

We Remember in Our Prayers

Family & Friends of Eddie Elmore (uncle of Becky Hinderliter), 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. 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

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 Pageant – Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 12 and support our Sunday School youth as they present their yearly Christmas Pageant!

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 stjohnsspinnerstown@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 Sunday, December 19.***



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



Coffee Hour is back! Servers and bakers needed for coffee hour! ***All of December is available.*** 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!



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 12, 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 24 and 26

Sign up on the board by the kitchen or contact the office at stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com or 215-536-0734.

Dates to Remember

12/08/21	6:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bells 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir
12/12/21	<i>Sunday School Christmas Pageant</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Communion 4:00 p.m. Council
12/14/21	6:30 p.m. Pub(lic) Theology
12/24/21	2:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship