

NOVEMBER 28, 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](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsspinnerstown)) and Twitter ([stjohnsspinnerstown](https://twitter.com/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
1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Announcements

Prelude: “*Wachet Auf*”

J. S. Bach

+ 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!

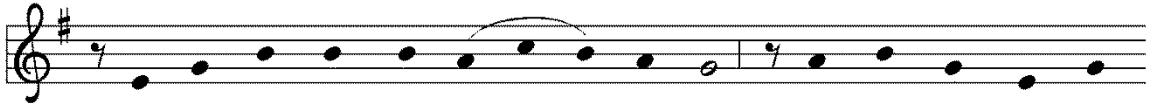
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.

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

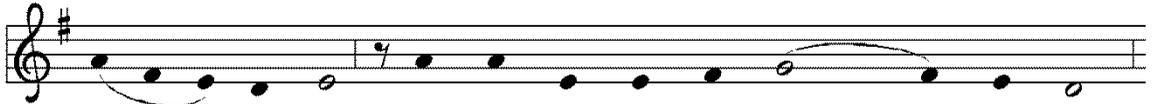
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

+ Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Verses 1 & 2 #257



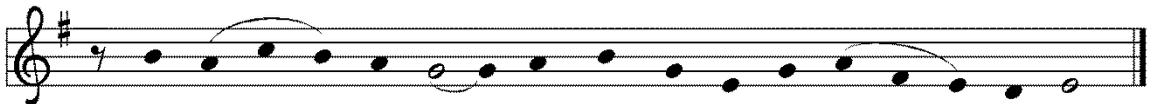
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



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 1

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: A reading from Jeremiah 33:14-16.

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The LORD is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall

execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading: A reading from 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13.

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

+ Holy Gospel: The holy gospel according to Luke 21:25-36.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory.

²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of

the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

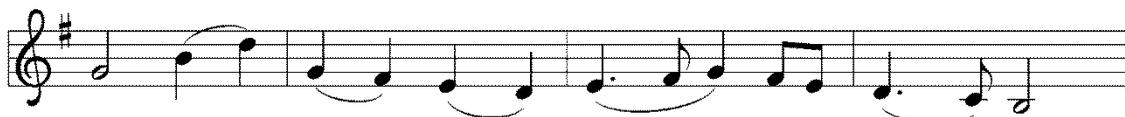
C: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

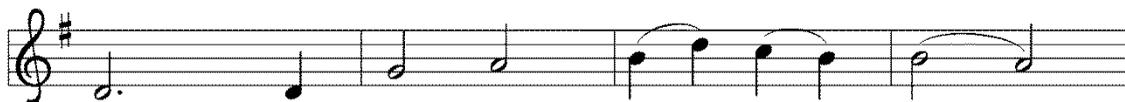
Hymn of the Day: “*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*”

#435

Verses 1 & 2



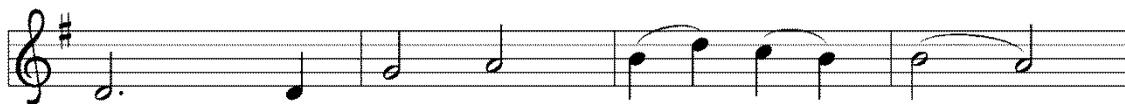
1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
all the saints this world re - ject - ed
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

+ 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.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. 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.

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. 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.

+ Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Special Music: *“Room in My Heart for Thee”*

D. Wagner

St. John’s Choir

+ Offering Prayer

+ The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

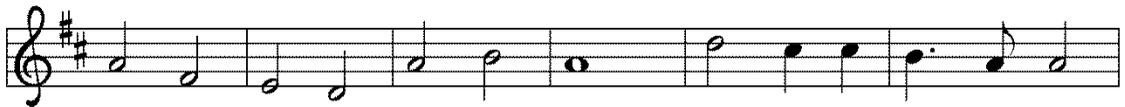
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

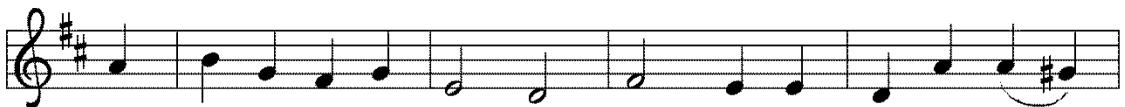
+ Holy, holy, holy



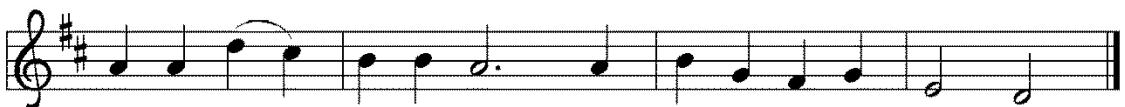
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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.

+ The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,

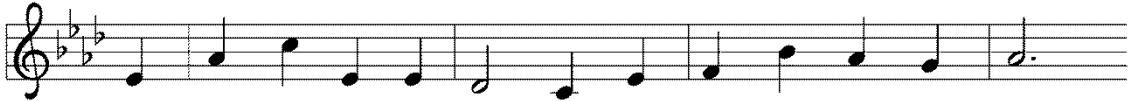
**who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

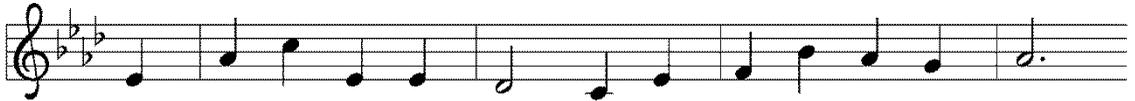
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever.**

Amen.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch-ers on the moun-tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'rings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

+ Dismissal

Postlude: “*Recessional on ‘Helmsley’*”

arr. R. Warner

*Pandemic prayers provided by the Lutheran World Federation.

Sponsors for November 28, 2021

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

The altar flowers are sponsored by St. John's Lutheran Church.

Worship Assistants for November 28, 2021

Usher Captain – Stephen Spry

Greeters	Bill & Mary Slotter
Ushers	Donna Angstadt & Stephen Spry
Lector	Ken Butz
Communion Assistants	Maureen Potsko & Joe Brooke
Acolyte	Blake Hinderliter
Altar Guild	Maureen Potsko & Betty Sinisko

Worship Assistants for December 5, 2021

Usher Captain – Richard Krauss

Greeters	Steve & Maureen Potsko
Ushers	Gary & Diane Small
Lector	Maureen Potsko
Communion Assistants	Brad & Becky Hinderliter
Acolyte	Nathan McComsey
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, Alida Spry, 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.**

Please welcome Pastor Shirley Guider, our supply pastor for this morning.



Poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas are now on sale! They are \$7.00 each. To order, please sign up on the sheet by the kitchen or by the front entrance to the church, or contact the church office. Remember to designate your poinsettias in honor or in memory of your loved ones if you would like to do so. Payment can be in the form of cash or check, mailed to St. John's Lutheran Church at P.O. Box 120 Spinnerstown, PA 18968, or brought in on Sunday morning and put in the offering plate. Checks can be made out to St. John's Lutheran Church. Remember to label your payment with your name, envelope number, amount, and number of poinsettias. If you prefer, you can use Vanco to make your payment as well! Look for the tile labeled "Poinsettias". ***Last day to order is TODAY.***



Advent Decorating will take place on Saturday, December 4 at **8:30 a.m.** Please contact Darcy McConahy at 215.527.4250 or damcconahy@gmail.com if you can assist.

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.***

Thanks to a generous donation of some 72 lbs. of turkey, we do not need any additional turkeys for our Loaves and Fishes Dinner!
We thank you for your help!

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

Coffee Hour is back! Servers and bakers needed for coffee hour! 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!

Pastor Kaegler will be out of the office from
Monday, November 22 – Monday, November 29.

In case of a pastoral emergency, contact Pastor Lauren Bruno of St.
John's Ridge Valley.

215-257-9643

Stjohnssridgevalley910@gmail.com

*Please note the office will be closed from Thursday 11/25/21 through
Monday 11/29/21 for the Thanksgiving holiday.*

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

11/29/21	Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
12/01/21	10:00 a.m. Willing Workers 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bells 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir
12/02/21	Loaves & Fishes dinner 7:30 p.m. Worship & Music meeting
12/04/21	8:30 a.m. Advent decorating
12/05/21	9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Communion
12/12/21	<i>Sunday School Christmas Pageant</i>