St. John's Weekly Newsletter

November 29, 2026 sjldover.com

Mission Statement:
Understanding that God's church does not have a mission, but rather that God's mission has a church. The people of St. John's Lutheran Church join God in God's mission by equipping for life, encouraging in discipleship, and engaging in service.

DECORATING FOR ADVENT
Help wanted decorating the sanctuary for Advent following the worship service on November 29th. There will be hot cocoa and snacks for our helpers—funds for these treats have provided by Thrivent Action Team! We hope you will join us for this fun and festive tradition.

GIFT-GIVING PROGRAM
Along with decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas after church on Sunday, we will decorate our Gift-Giving Tree with gift tags. Each tag will provide an idea for a gift that can be purchased for a child or adult for Christmas. We will be helping three families from the community, 18 children from the Women/Children's Shelter, and our shut-ins. You can participate by selecting a tag or tags from the tree and then purchase the gift listed on the tag. Wrap your gift and secure the gift tag to the outside of the package. Please bring your gift to church no later than December 15th and place it under the tree. If you would prefer to make a donation, place your check or cash in the collection plate and indicate it is for the Christmas Gift-Giving Program. Thank you for sharing your many blessings with the families we will be helping this Christmas.—Nancy

MEALS FOR THE HOMELESS
Thank you for your November meal donations! The residents at the Interfaith Men's shelter are truly thankful! Our next meal collection will be on December 3rd. Your contributions can be dropped off in the church parking lot that day from 4-4:30pm. Our theme will be "Christmas Dinner".—Sharon

LADIES ADVENT NATIVITEA
Next Sunday, December 6th at 2:00pm, is the NativiTea. If you haven't signed up, please do it today so we know how many tables to prepare. It's always a wonderful time of fellowship as we enjoy Advent themed festivities and gather together to prepare our hearts for this season. The sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. Please see Barbara Hadley or Vickie Thompson if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you!

ALTAR FLOWERS
We thank Carol Hays for giving altar flowers for this Sunday's service.

Dedication:

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of my husband, Ron Hays;
my father, Adam Tucholski; and my brother, Don Tucholski.

If you would like to sign up to donate altar flowers for an upcoming service, please use the chart in the narthex or contact the church office. Jen-Mor Florist charges $50 for two vases. Please call them at 302-697-3273 to place your order, confirm the price, and confirm that the flowers will be delivered to the church. Thank you.

STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE
In a few weeks, we will be celebrating the birth of Our Savior! Many people though, get caught up in the trimmings (the gift celebrations) and forget what Christmas really is about. Or perhaps, you are someone who is struggling to find a reason to celebrate this year due to financial or health struggles. Who can you turn to for Spiritual strength this year? You've heard about Stephen Ministry, but don't fully understand how it can help you. Now is your chance and you have nothing to lose-call Ellen or Peggy and they will be happy to explain how a confidential, lay non-judgmental friend will help you to cope- 302-734-7078.

INTERFAITH WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S SHELTER
I want to thank everyone for their generosity. We took a car full of ingredients for a meal plus great snacks, paper products, and bus passes. Thank you all for the prepared food items that were donated for Thanksgiving Day. The shelter's capacity is 36 and as of last week, the shelter is full. They are so grateful for each item. Thank you for sharing your gifts with others.—Diane

POINSETTIAS
We have begun taking orders for Christmas Poinsettias! Your orders and dedications can be submitted on our website at https://sjldover.com/poinsettia/ or by contacting Robyn in the church office. Please note each plant is $11 and payment needs to be received by December 9th. Your plants will be available to take home at the Christmas Eve Services.

BAKE SALE
Our last bake sale was a great success. We added $405.15 to the Building Improvement Fund. Thank you to all our bakers who made this possible with their wonderful pies. Our next Bake Sale will be on December 20th and the theme is Cookies!—Vera

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN
OGT donations sorting will take a break, but we will let you know when meetings will resume. To learn more about the wonderful work OGT is doing and ways you can help, please visit https://www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/. They are always in need of clothing and hygiene/medical supplies if you have any to donate. Please hold onto these items and we will be ready to collect them in January. Contact the church office or Roger Hazzard if you have any questions.

OPERATION QUILT GIVEAWAY
It's almost time! Our next monthly quilt drawing will be on December 13th! Linda Barlow has been hard at work creating many beautiful quilts (some are pictured below). If you have never won one before, this time around may be your chance!





SERVICE HELPERS

November 29th	December 2nd 7:15pm	December 6th
Usher– Barry	Usher– Ken	Usher– Lia
Reader– Diane S.	Lay Deacon– Rich P.	Reader– Chuck H.
Assisting Minister– Steve	Stephen Minister– Linda P.	Assisting Minister– Roger
Lay Deacon– Jandy		Lay Deacon– Vickie
Stephen Minister– Mallory		Stephen Minister– Rich P.

Advent and Christmas Eve Schedule

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday, December 2	12:15 PM	Afternoon Prayer Service
	6:00 PM	Soup Supper – hosted by Stephen Ministry, OGT, and Rick Murphy
	7:15 PM	Holden Evening Prayer Service
Wednesday, December 9	12:15 PM	Afternoon Prayer Service
	6:00 PM	Soup Supper – hosted by Gathering Lambs Team and Altar Guild
	7:15 PM	Holden Evening Prayer Service
Wednesday, December 16	12:15 PM	Afternoon Prayer Service
	6:00 PM	Soup Supper – hosted by Social Concerns Ministry and W.I.N.G.S.
	7:15 PM	Holden Evening Prayer Service
Thursday, December 24	3:15 PM	Christmas Eve Service
	6:15 PM	Christmas Eve Service

Happening at St. John's 11/29-12/5

Sunday 8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:15am Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:30am Decorating for Advent
Monday
Tuesday 10:00am Devotions at Dover Place
1:00pm Women's Bible Study
Wednesday 12:15pm Afternoon Midweek Prayer Service
3:00pm Bible Study at Dover Place
6:00pm Soup Supper
7:15pm Holden Evening Prayer Service
Thursday 4-4:30 Meals for the Homeless Collection
Friday
Saturday

Upcoming Birthdays

11/28 Ric Fairbanks
11/29 Nathaniel Stevens
12/1 Deb Price
12/2 Sharon Allgor
12/3 Vickie Hoover
12/6 Barb Impollonia
12/7 Leroy Bookhultz
12/13 Melissa Wheeler
12/14 Audrey Mason
12/16 Cathee Smith

Upcoming Anniversaries

11/29 Nathaniel and Jandy Stevens

Prayer Requests

We lift the following people up in prayer…

Shirley Judd, Debbie Mason, Bridget Pedone, Carolyn Patterson, The family and friends of Gloria Saatman, Barbara Lavacek, John Larkin, Michael Coglianese, Alice Grunstra, The family of Daniel Pacheco, Melissa and Everett McGuire, Christine Flemming, Courtney Hurst, Tom Rutley, Lloyd Schneiderwent, Clifford Ramminger, Wil Ramminger, Teresa Boyd, Flow Burrows, John French, Mary Nicodemus, Garry Saroukos, Skylar Marisi, Emmalyne Smyser, Rick Mohnk, John Reininger, Donna Mason, Katie Borntreger, Susan Rogers

Options for Church Offerings:

- Vanco Mobile App
- Checks can be mailed or dropped off
- Online donations can be made at sjldover.com
- Offering plate at services

Thank you for supporting the ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church.

If you have prayer requests or news to share with the congregation, please call or e-mail the church office by noon on Wednesday for your submission to be included in that Friday's newsletter. Thank you!

302-734-7078 or rgettings@sjldover.com