St. John Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent



1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094

Pastor: ***The Rev. Tammy Harmer***

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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

First Sunday of Advent • November 29, 2026

Reverent Reflection

Prelude

Welcome

Church Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

D. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✣ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C. **Amen.**

D. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. **Amen.**

D. Most merciful God,

C. **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

D. God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✣ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C. **Amen**

Gathering Hymn: Christ Be Our Light (#715)

Greeting

D. 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.**

Kyrie p. 147

D. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

D. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. **Lord, have mercy.**

D. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord**.**

C. **Lord, have mercy.**

D. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. **Lord, have mercy.**

D. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord**.**

C. **Amen.**

Canticle p. 149

D. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

D. The Lord be with you.

C. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

[1]O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
[2] as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
[3] When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
[4] From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
[5] You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
[6] We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
[7] There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
[8] Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
[9] Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

Advent Hymn: Light One Candle (#240) *Verse 1*

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Response: "Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved."

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**
3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 **O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray? R**
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself. R**
18 And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,
5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven

and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Children's Sermon

Anthem

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

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief (especially). Deliver all in any need.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence (especially Francis Xavier, whom we commemorate today).

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Thanksgiving for the Word p. 220

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Sending Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (#244)

Dismissal

Postlude

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for $30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please leave payment in the Church Office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Morning Worship Service
	After Worship Service	Coffee Hour
	10:45 am	Sunday School/CIA
	After Worship Service	Band Rehearsal
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Thursday	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Ongoing		Shelf Stable Milk Collection
		Diaper Collection for Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin
Tuesday, December 1st	7:00 pm	Bible Study in the Parish House
Saturday, December 5th	5:00 pm	St. John's Annual Christmas Concert
Wednesday, December 9th	2:00 pm	Christmas Tea in the Parish House Tea Room
Saturday, December 12th	11:30 am	Community Luncheon in the Ed. Building
Monday, December 14th	7:00 pm	Council Meeting in the Parish House
Wednesday, December 16th	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room
Friday, December 18th	5:30 pm	Christmas Cookie Baking & Treat Making in the Ed. Bldg.
Sunday, December 20th	After Coffee Hour	Christmas Caroling to St. John's Homebound Members
Sunday, December 20th	11:30 am-12:30 pm	Confirmation Class in the Parish House
Monday, December 21st	7:00 pm	Community Ministerium Blue Christmas Service
Thursday, December 24th	3:00 pm	Jesus, Jammies and Joy Christmas Celebration
Thursday, December 24th	7:30 pm & 10:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 27th	10:45 am	Hearts & Hands: Growing Together Crafts

Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey	Helen Dominic	Stan Harmer	Joanne McVelli	Gladys Sheppard
Krystal Booras	Frank Donovan	Michelle Walk Hewitt	Emily Meighan	Meilani Showell
Michael Botti	Marie Lentine Douglas	Ella Hirsch	Melanie Miles	Frank Siderio III
Brian Byrnes	Tracey Drew	Valerie Hoffmann	Bill Murray	Maryann Smith
Barbara Cadwaller	Indie Fisher	Makenzie Jack	Renate Murray	Bill Steel
Meadow Cantoral	Kayla Friant	Ed Kagen	Erica Polito	Carol Taylor
Randy Cantoral	Stephanie Friant	Tracey Kelly	Samantha Reed	George Vaneman, Sr.
Debbie Capasso	Rhea Fryor	Deb Kuhn	Ashley Rosser	George Van Wagner
Janet Cappuccio	Ashley Fuhrman	Donna Leek	Dorcas Schellhas	Beverly Warming
Joe Condoli	Scott Griffin	Doug Levandowski	Jean Schlotz	Mary White
Sandra DeRitis	Angela Guedes	Tim McCarthy	Finn Schureman	

Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.



GOOD NEWS!

COFFEE HOUR

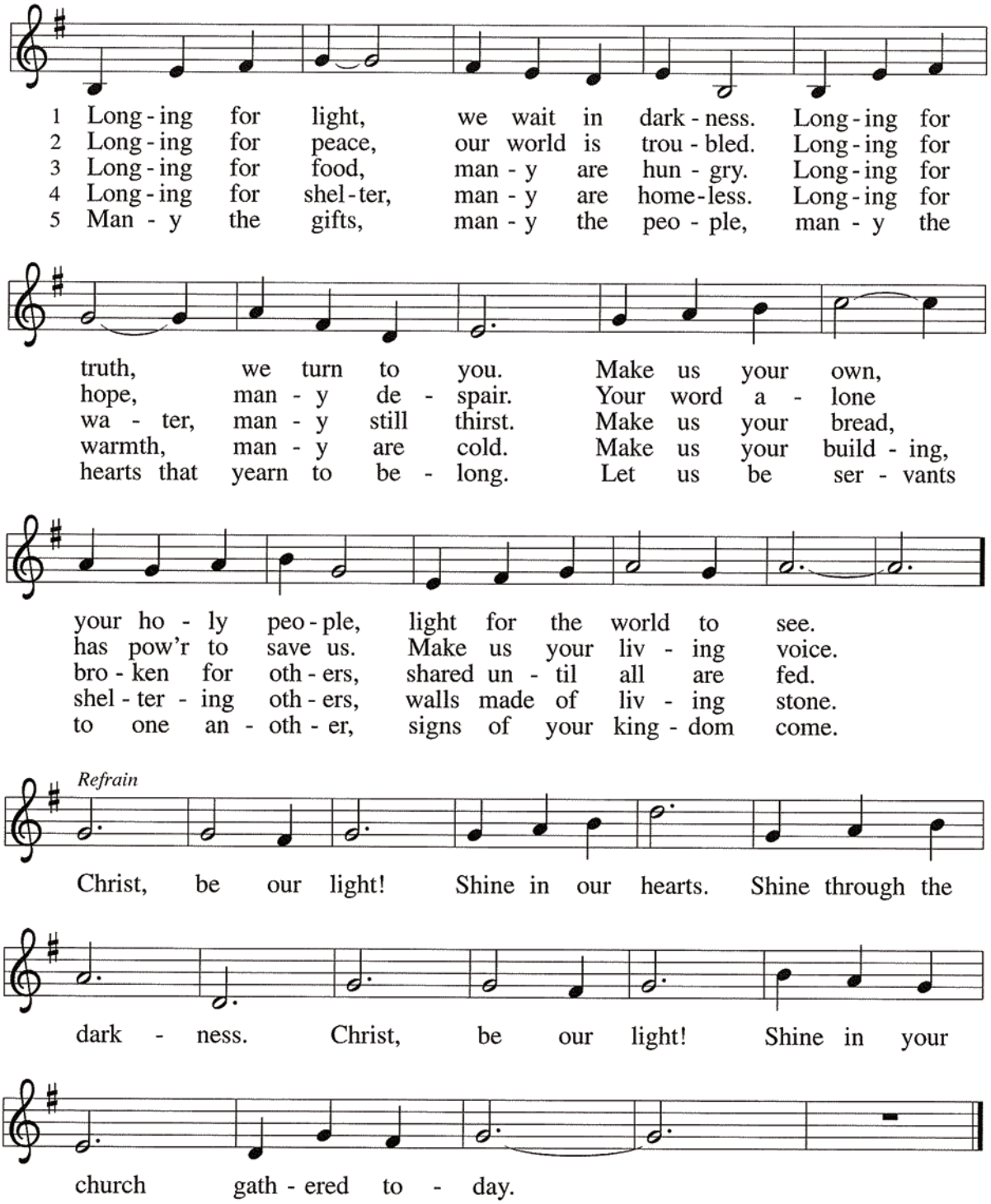
Sunday after the Worship Service

(unless otherwise announced)

Join us for food, beverages and fellowship!

Christ, Be Our Light

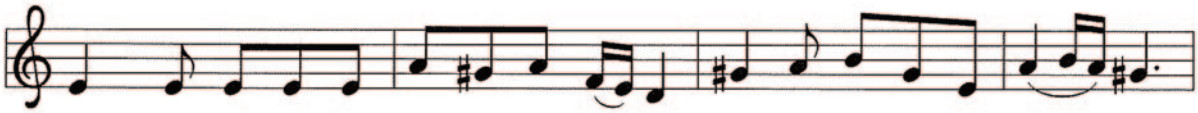
715



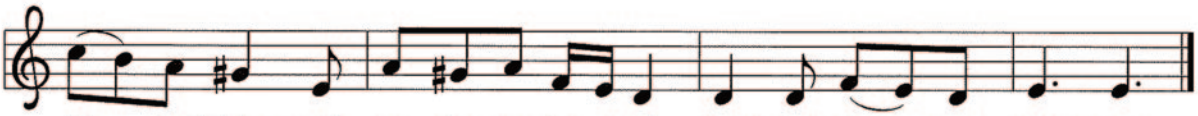
Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
9 8 9 6 and refrain

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 240



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: Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press

TIF IN VELDELE
10796

Holy Communion Lutheran Church of Berlin Baby Pantry need:



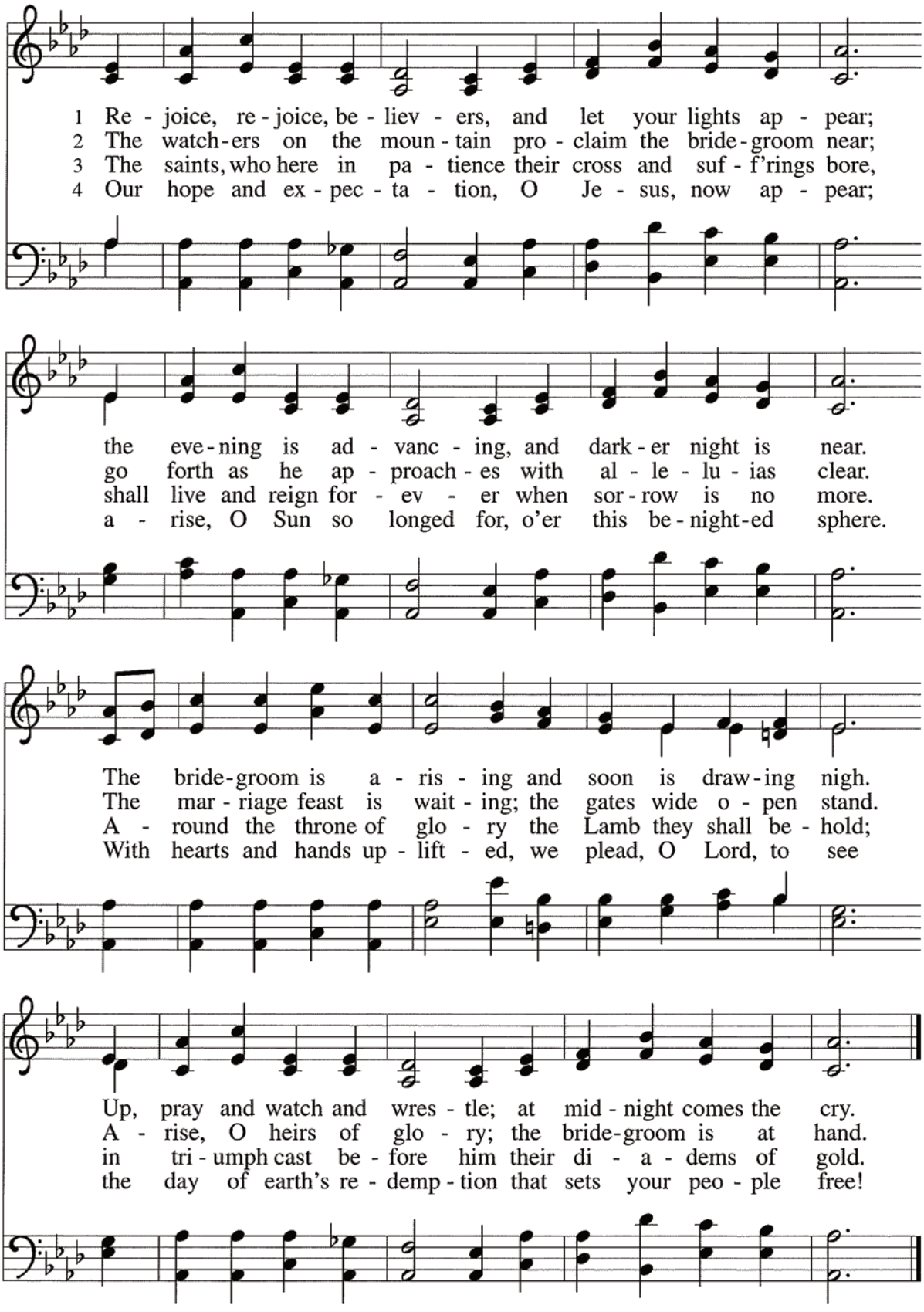
BABY DIAPERS
(especially larger sizes)
Collection is in the Narthex.



Please help us . . .
Donate Shelf Stable Milk for
Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.

Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers 244



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

HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG
7 6 7 6 D



Tuesday,
December 1st
7pm in the Parish House

St. John's Annual
Christmas Concert

Saturday
December 5th
Time: 5:00 pm



Christmas Tea
at St. John's Lutheran Church
Wednesday, December 9th at 2:00 pm
in the Parish House Tea Room



COMMUNITY LUNCHEON
Saturday, December 12th
at 11:30 in the Ed. Building.
All are welcome!



Church Council Meeting
Monday
December 14th
7:00 pm
in the Parish House

GRIEF GATHERING
Wednesday, December 16th
at 7:00 pm in the Parish Tea Room.
All Are Welcome!



Cookie Baking and Treat Making
for Distribution to St. John's Homebound Members

Friday, December 18th at 5:30 pm in the Ed Building

All Are Welcome!



CHRISTMAS CAROLING
& Christmas Treat Distribution to St. John's Homebound Members

Sunday, December 20th after Coffee Hour

All Are Welcome!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday, December 20th

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

in the Parish House



COMMUNITY MINISTERIUM BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21ST • 7 PM



JESUS, JAMMIES & JOY...

A Christmas Eve Celebration

December 24th at 3 pm



Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 24th at 7:30 pm and 10:00 pm

Hearts & Hands: Growing Together at St. John's

Our children are blessed to have so many important people in their lives, including their families and teachers. But their circle of caring adults can be even bigger through their church family!

We are looking for adults within our church family who would be willing to serve as mentors and build meaningful connections with our Sunday School children through a special craft activity led by our Sunday School teachers.

The goal is simple: to give our children the opportunity to build relationships with caring adults beyond their own family and teachers. We hope these connections will help our children feel even more loved and connected to their church family.

2026 Mentor Craft Dates

Sunday, December 27th



TOYS FOR TOTS
U.S. MARINE CORPS

For more information go to www.toysfortots.org
Contact: Buzz Etschman • 856-516-2758 (cell)

Please place toy donations in the box located in Ed. Building Foyer by December 5th.



All donated items must be CLEAN & UNUSED

Collection will take place in the Narthex through December 13th



SOCK DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS

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Designer Bag Bingo • Friday, November 20, 2026













Community Ministerium Thanksgiving Service November 22,2026

