

The Good News

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Sayville, NY

December 2024/January 2025

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; ⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. ⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. ⁸ And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities. ~ Psalm 130:5-8

On the last weekend in November, we closed out the Church Year by hearing Jesus' admonition to "Stay awake." We were reminded that the Last Day is coming, but we do not know when, and so until that Day comes, we should stay awake and be ready for its coming. Now we enter the season of Advent and a new Church Year, and one of the watchwords of these days is "wait." We are waiting for the coming of the Messiah on Christmas, for his arrival on our altar at the Lord's Supper each time we gather, and for his coming in glory on that Last Day.

Stay awake. Watch. Wait. These are words that are hard for any of us. Asking kids to wait, however, at this time of year, is even more difficult. Yet this is precisely what the Church does throughout the days of Advent, in contrast to the world.

I ran across this quote the other day, which seemed very appropriate for us. Josph Bottum writes: "Christmas has devoured Advent, gobbled it up with the turkey giblets and the goblets of seasonal ale. Every secularized holiday, of course, tends to lose the context it had in the liturgical year. Across the nation, even in many churches, Easter has hopped across Lent, Halloween has frightened away All Saints', and New Year's has drunk up Epiphany...Through all the preparatory readings of Advent, through all the genealogical Jesse trees, the somber candles on the wreaths, the vigils, and the hymns, Advent keeps Christmas on Christmas Day: a fulfillment, a perfection, of what had gone before. 'I shall see him, but not now; I shall behold him, but not nigh.'"

Many have lamented the fact that Christmas has come so early this year. Stores dismissed Halloween by September in favor of it; Hallmark has had its movies running for weeks already; musak in the stores has subtly made the switch for some time already; and, it wouldn't surprise me if by mid-December, Christmas will have already given way to Valentine's Day. As a people, we are in a rush to move on to the next thing, and in many ways, a holiday like Thanksgiving barely gets a notice with the exception that there's extra football games on and somebody's doing a lot of cooking. It makes one wonder: what is the rush?

That is why Advent is such an important time in the Church Year. While even well-meaning Christians are ready for Christmas hymns come December, we wait. We shall behold the Christ, but not now. Now, we wait. We pray. We hear again the promises. We sing the hymns of preparation. We live in this tension of anticipation and expectation, and our temptation is to accelerate toward Advent's culmination. But we don't. We wait. As the Psalmist says, we, like watchmen wait for the day to come when the Savior is born, and until then, we hold on in hope to every word that comes from his mouth.

Because Christmas "stuff" starts making an appearance in September, and because Christmas songs start so soon, it is no wonder why Christmas trees often make their way to the curb Christmas night, and other decorations and lights come down so soon after. Christmas is a joyous 12-day season to celebrate the birth of Savior and the fulfillment of God's promises. And dare I say, it is the waiting in Advent that helps make the joy last beyond December 26. There are a lot of things happening at St. John's in the season of Advent to help you

in the waiting. So, I cordially invite you to come and be part of it. Bring others with you. Slow down the “season” and bring your focus upon the coming One who loves you enough to be born in the flesh for you, to die for your sins and misdeeds, and who rises again to bring you to the light of heaven and to his “plentiful redemption.” “Joy to the World” is coming...but not yet. For now we sing “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” and “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” and we wait, eagerly, for “redemption’s happy dawn” to arrive. A blessed Advent to you!

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee. (LSB 578, st. 3)!

~ Pastor Noack

On behalf of Kristin and Abby, we would like to wish all of our St. John’s family a blessed Advent, a joyous Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year. May God bless you in all of your celebrations and observances, enable you to enjoy time with family here or elsewhere, and most importantly, to rejoice in the blessings that our newborn King and Savior bring to us now and always!

Advent Midweek Services – On **Wednesdays, December 4, 11, & 18** we will once again hold our midweek Advent services at **noon & 7pm**. Our theme this year is centered around Philippians 4:4-5, especially on the word “Rejoice” as we anticipate the cause for all rejoicing: the coming of our Lord and Savior. Please join us each week!

Longest Night – We will also once again hold our Longest Night service on **Saturday, December 21 at 7pm**. This service gives voice to the reality that, even in this joyous season, for some it is difficult as they deal with loss or pain. And yet, there is always hope in the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. This service of Scripture, poetry, song, prayer, and candlelight, is a beautiful service and a powerful reminder of why our Lord has graciously come to meet us. Hope to see you there!

Christmas service help – Assistance is needed for our midweek and Christmas services. A signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex, or you may contact the Church Office. Please consider helping to make our seasonal services run smoothly.

Sanctuary Decorating/Undecorating – The sanctuary will begin its own Christmas transformation through the hanging of wreaths and greens, and setting up the tree on **Saturday, December 14 beginning at 9am**. Any and all help is appreciated, and usually takes about an hour. We will then take down the decorations, and clean up the sanctuary on **Sunday, January 5 following the 9:30am service**. Please help if you are able.

Faith Renewal – If you are interested in learning, or refreshing your memory, on the basics of the Lutheran, Christian faith, please join us for the Faith Renewal Class beginning **December 8th at 11:00am**. We will meet on subsequent Sundays (taking breaks over Christmas/New Year’s) for about an hour each session. This class is also designed for those who are considering membership at St. John’s. A signup sheet has been posted for those who are interested in attending. New or experienced to Lutheranism, all are welcome!

First Communion – Classes for 6th grade students desiring to receive First Communion in 2025 will begin on **Tuesday, January 14 at 6pm**. If you plan to participate in the class, please contact the Church Office. Parents and students are asked to attend the first class to receive information about the program, as well as all supplemental materials and schedules. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor.

Fellowship Sunday – On **Sunday, December 29**, we come to another 5th Sunday, and as such, another Fellowship Sunday. **There will be only one service that day at 9am**. Following the service, a special “coffee” hour will be hosted by the Noack Family featuring a hot cocoa bar. You are also invited to bring all of your leftover cookies and sweets that you want to get rid of before your New Year’s resolutions kick in and we’ll try to consume it all to get rid of it, and/or take home something else to finish out the year. Hope to see you then as we continue to celebrate the birth of Christ!

Official Acts at Saint John’s (thru November 17):

Baptisms:

Orla Rose Jatko

Nov 17

Mary Martha – We thank all of you who donated the stuffed animals for Angela’s House. We also thank Thrivent Financial for giving us the \$250 to purchase additional stuffed animals. We were able to deliver about 75 stuffed animals to Angela’s house. When delivering shoeboxes to the Gospel Community Church on Greeley Avenue, they heard about what we were doing and donated a huge bag of stuffed animals to add to what we were already bringing to Angela’s House. So again, we thank you and them for these blessings.



Today (11/26) was “Day Zero” – the point at which there was no turning back. For the past 6 days, my husband’s brother Arthur has had intense chemotherapy; heavy radiation was added today to complete the destruction of leukemia laced stem cells in his body. For two days he waits, and then stem cells from a matched donor will be introduced, finding residence in his bones and, Lord willing, the transplanted cells will “rescue” his bone marrow and start to produce new, healthy blood cells.

The medical staff actually counts minus day 6 , minus day 5, etc. until reaching “day zero” and then moves on to Day one, Day two, and so on. Coming right on top of *The Last Sunday of the Church Year*, and at the start of Advent, there seemed an interesting parallel. The church is doing its own “count-down” to the coming birth of our Lord, Savior and Bridegroom. He comes willingly, humbly, and tasked to redeem his people and, in time, his creation. Counting backwards to December 25 is easy, and many Advent calendars can help with the task. Counting down to the end of time, however, is not possible, though we know it is coming. We’re told to be prepared.

“Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue... “

Traditional wedding preparations call for each of the above to be included as a bride prepares to meet her bridegroom – metaphorical language used in scripture for Christ’s union with His church.

Music aids our preparations for the incarnation of Christ, speaking to both mind and spirit. If asked “what is your favorite Advent hymn or Christmas carol, and why?”, what would you answer? For me, there are many “favorites”, and choosing would be tough. If limited to only the music presently in rehearsal in Chancel Choir and SōLI, I doubt that I could even choose from those, but the scores are running through my head constantly.

The upcoming **SōLI** concert begins with Paul Manz’ classic choral prayer, sung and loved world-wide for more than half of a century: *E’en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*. It begins, “peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed his blood That we might saved be.”

Eriks Ešenvalds’ *Stars* stunned me when I first heard it at the American Choral Director’s Association conference in Salt Lake City. The choir is accompanied by “singing” wine glasses and/or singing bowls, and yes, they need to be tuned by adjusting the amount of water in each glass. “Hearing” the northern lights comes to mind, or staring at the Milky Way from a dark place ... you decide!

SōLI is also performing Patrick Hawes’ *The Nativity* - a set of six new carols with beautifully crafted texts written by Andrew Hawes, the composer’s brother, that enable a fresh glimpse at various scenes surrounding the birth of Christ. Here are a few excerpts:

from *The Manger*:

Come in,
Stoop down through This low door.
Come: kneel upon this Earthen floor...

from *The Infant*:

This Infant is enthroned in straw;
His palace is this stable floor;
His head is crowned in lantern light,
This *outhouse* is his heart’s delight..
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rise up and dance!
For all there is another chance
To know the hope of sweetest love
This Infant brings from God above!

from *The Oxen*:

Our yoke hangs upon the stable wall;
And winter's cold has laid our burden down.
We slumber, eat, ignored by all
Hidden here, the world goes by in sound.

Into our haven at this darkest time,
A young girl with an old man found their way:
Upon the straw the girl in trust lay down;
The old man for the Lord's mercy prayed...

(Following the birth)

All was still until the maiden spoke;
"Dear Oxen, with your brown and shining eyes,
So quiet, calm, so strong and yet so kind,
Before all creatures you are the first to see
The One who will bear our yoke eternally!"

Angels, We have heard on high, In Dulci Jubilo, He is born-the Divine Christ Child and more awaits your hearing at the **Singers of Long Island's** program: ***Sights, Sounds & Songs of the Nativity*, Saturday, December 14 at 2 pm**, with the concert followed by a festive reception - proceeds go to the *Mainstreet Fire Relief Fund* – and if it is a concern, you can be home before dark! Perhaps invite a friend along for an afternoon outing?

Christmas Eve, Chancel Choir joins with keyboard and bells in singing something especially "old" that is also new: *Of the Father's Love begotten ere the world began to be* – a 13th c. chant with a text dating back to the 4th century is set in a lovely, recently published arrangement.

As for "something blue" – the music for this year's ***Longest Night Service***, sometimes referred to as "Blue Christmas" on Saturday, December 21 at 7pm, is packed with words of hope.

"Come to me, you who are in need, and are heavy laden; come find comfort for your soul"
(from Matt. 11:28, Bradley Ellingboe)

"Tell my heart that morning's nigh; Grace, like rain shall wash the sky"
(from Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, with a text by Barbara Davis-Pyles)

And from a choir favorite:

There's no distance the Prince of Peace won't go, from manger low to Calvary's hill;
when your pain runs deep, His love runs deeper still.
He has always loved you, child, and He always will.

...Emmanuel will meet you where you are.
He knows your hurt, He knows your name
And you're the very reason that He came.

Somewhere in your silent night (M. West, B. Herms and M. Hall):

There is a lot of "musak" and jingles trying to put us in the holiday spirit out there in the world (and every shop you enter). There is also enriching music helping to prepare us for the one coming to us right here at St. John's. Come listen and join in the singing, too! Invite a friend and neighbor to come along.

May God bless you with joy and music-filled Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons!

Holiday Service Schedule 2024/2025

December 4	Advent Midweek Divine Service	12 noon & 7:00pm
December 11	Advent Midweek Divine Service	12 noon & 7:00pm
December 14	Singers of Long Island Concert	2:00pm
December 15	3 rd Sunday in Advent Divine Services Sunday School Christmas Program	7:45am & 9:30am 9:30am
December 18	Advent Midweek Divine Service	12 noon & 7:00pm
December 21	Longest Night Service	7:00pm
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Service	4:00pm & 7:30pm
December 25	Christmas Day Divine Service	10:00am
December 29	1 st Sunday after Christmas/Fellowship Sun.	9:00am
December 31	NYE Divine Service	7:00pm
January 5, 2025	The Epiphany of our Lord	7:45am & 9:30am



**A benefit concert for
Main Street Fire Relief Fund**

SIGHTS, SOUNDS & SONGS OF THE NATIVITY

SATURDAY

DECEMBER

14

2:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

48 Greene Avenue | Sayville, NY

*Advent & Christmas music by
Hawes, Ešenvalds, Daley, Manz, Morley & more*



Suggested donation:
\$15 adults / \$10 students & seniors



stjohnsayville.org

With support from Thrivent Financial





Lutheran Women *in Mission*
41ST BIENNIAL CONVENTION
Omaha, Nebraska
.....
June 26–29, 2025

Lutheran Women in Mission News

Save the Date for two great events coming up in 2025!!!

May 3 – LWML Atlantic District Mission Festival to be held at the Atlantic District Offices in Hastings-On-Hudson.

June 26-29 – LWML National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska!

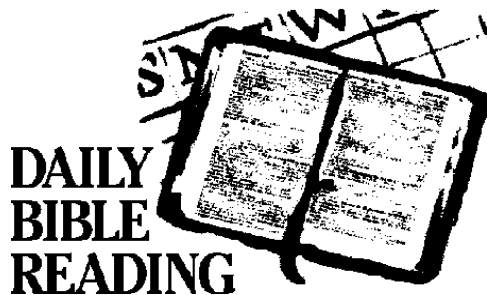


THE ATLANTIC DISTRICT
of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD (LCMS)

LCMS Atlantic District News

Save the Date:

Festival Of Workshops – March 15 @ SUNY Maritime
District Convention – July 10-12 @ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Colonie, NY



December 2024

Sun 1 Isaiah 7:10-8:8; 1 Peter 3:1-22
 2 Isaiah 8:9-9:7; 1 Peter 4:1-19
 3 Isaiah 9:8-10:11; 1 Peter 5:1-14
 4 Isaiah 10:12-27a, 33-34; 2 Peter 1:1-21
 5 Isaiah 11:1-12:6; 2 Peter 2:1-22
 6 Isaiah 14:1-23; 2 Peter 3:1-18
 7 Isaiah 24:1-13; 1 John 1:1-2:14
 Sun 8 Isaiah 24:14-25:12; 1 John 2:15-29
 9 Isaiah 26:1-19; 1 John 3:1-24
 10 Isaiah 26:20-27:13; 1 John 4:1-21
 11 Isaiah 28:14-29; 1 John 5:1-21
 12 Isaiah 29:1-14; Jude 1-25
 13 Isaiah 29:15-30:14; Revelation 1:1-20
 14 Isaiah 30:15-26; Revelation 2:1-29
 Sun 15 Isaiah 30:27-31:9; Revelation 3:1-22
 16 Isaiah 32:1-20; Revelation 4:1-11
 17 Isaiah 33:1-24; Revelation 5:1-14
 18 Isaiah 34:1-2,8-35:10; Revelation 6:1-17
 19 Isaiah 40:1-17; Revelation 7:1-17
 20 Isaiah 40:18-41:10; Revelation 8:1-13
 21 Isaiah 42:1-25; Revelation 9:1-12
 Sun 22 Isaiah 43:1-24; Revelation 9:13-10:11
 23 Isaiah 43:25-44:20; Revelation 11:1-19
 24 Isaiah 44:21-45:13,20-25; Revelation 12:1-17
 25 Isaiah 49:1-18; Matthew 1:1-17
 26 Isaiah 49:22-26, 50:4-51:8,12-16; Matthew 1:18-25
 27 Isaiah 51:17-52:12; Matthew 2:1-12
 28 Isaiah 52:13-54:10; Matthew 2:13-23
 Sun 29 Isaiah 55:1-13; Luke 1:1-25
 30 Isaiah 58:1-59:3,14-21; Luke 1:26-38
 31 Isaiah 60:1-22; Luke 1:39-56

January 2025

1 Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 1:57-80
 2 Isaiah 62:1-12; Luke 2:1-20
 3 Isaiah 63:1-14; Luke 2:21-40
 4 Isaiah 63:15-65:2; Luke 2:41-52
 Sun 5 Isaiah 65:8-25; Luke 3:1-20
 6 Isaiah 66:1-20; Luke 3:21-38
 7 Ezekiel 1:1-14,22-28; Romans 1:1-17
 8 Ezekiel 2:1-3:11; Romans 1:18-32
 9 Ezekiel 3:12-27; Romans 2:1-16
 10 Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32; Romans 2:17-29
 11 Ezekiel 33:1-20; Romans 3:1-18
 Sun 12 Ezekiel 34:1-24; Romans 3:19-31
 13 Ezekiel 36:13-28; Romans 4:1-25
 14 Ezekiel 36:33-37 :14; Romans 5:1-21
 15 Ezekiel 37:15-28; Romans 6:1-23
 16 Ezekiel 38:1-23; Romans 7:1-20
 17 Ezekiel 39:1-10,17-29; Romans 7:21-8:17
 18 Ezekiel 40:1-4,43:1-12; Romans 8:18-39
 Sun 19 Ezekiel 44:1-16,23-29; Romans 9:1-18
 20 Ezekiel 47:1-14, 21-23; Romans 9:19-33
 21 Joel 1:1-20; Romans 10:1-21
 22 Joel 2:1-17; Romans 11:1-24
 23 Joel 2:18-32; Romans 11:25-12:13
 24 Joel 3:1-21; Romans 12:14-13:14
 25 Zechariah 1:1-21; Romans 14:1-23
 Sun 26 Zechariah 2:1-3:10; Romans 15:1-13
 27 Zechariah 4:1-5:11; Romans 15:14-33
 28 Zechariah 6:1-7:14; Romans 16:17-27
 29 Zechariah 8:1-23; 2 Timothy 1:1-18
 30 Zechariah 9:1-17; 2 Timothy 2:1-26
 31 Zechariah 10:1-11:3; 2 Timothy 3:1-17

December 2024

December 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 1 Advent 1 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Senior Ministry Meeting	2 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	4 11:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Advent Midweek Service 12:30pm N/A 5:00pm Basketball Practice 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Advent Midweek Divine 7:45pm SoLI	5 4:30pm Basketball Practice 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	6 12:30pm N/A	7
8 Advent 2 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Faith Renewal	9 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	11 12:00pm Advent Midweek Divine Service 12:30pm N/A 5:00pm Basketball Practice 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Advent Midweek Divine Service	12 4:30pm Basketball Practice 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	13 12:30pm N/A	14 9:00am Sanctuary Decorating 2:00pm Singers of Long Island Concert
15 Advent 3 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School Christmas Program 9:30am Divine Service	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 7:00pm Council/Elders Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	18 11:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Advent Midweek Divine Service 12:30pm N/A 5:00pm Basketball Practice 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Advent Midweek Divine	19 4:30pm Basketball Practice 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	20 12:30pm N/A	21 7:00pm Longest Night
22 Advent 4 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Faith Renewal	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Service 7:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Service	25 Christmas Day 10:00am Christmas Day Divine Service	26 7:00pm Judo	27 12:30pm N/A	28
29 Christmas 1 9:00am Divine Service 10:00am Coffee Hour	30	31 New Year's Eve 7:00pm NYE Divine Service	Jan 1, 25	2	3	4

December Divine Service Assistant Schedule

December 1	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Bill Audia	*Paul Erath
Ushers	Charlie Erb Jim Farrell	Jane Emmel & Kristin Noack
Reader	Jim Farrell	*Paul Erath
December 8	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Robert Bayley	Al Coppola
Ushers	Brian & Christine Kirschenheiter	Chuck & Judy Scott
Reader	Christine Kirschenheiter	Treva Kopf
December 15	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Greg Calvano	Paul Erath
Ushers		Lloyd & Pam Arrasate
Reader	Jim Farrell	Annie Habeeb
December 22	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Charlie Erb	Al Coppola
Ushers	Steve & Janet Lindfors	Kevin Paul & Barbara Dahlgren
Reader	Pastor	Jenn Rooney
December 29	Sunday 9am	
Communion Stewards	Robert Bayley & Leo Rigaud	
Ushers	Charlie Erb & Pat Arrigo	
Reader	Al Coppola	

If you are unable to serve where assigned, please find someone you can switch with or someone who can take your place. Please let the Church Office know of any changes you make. Thank you.

December Readings

<p>Dec 1: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Romans 13:11-14</p> <p>Dec 8: Malachi 4:1-6; Romans 15:4-13</p> <p>Dec 15: Isaiah 40 :1-8 ; 1 Corinthians 4 :1-5</p> <p>Dec 22: Deuteronomy 18 :15-19 ; Philippians 4 :4-7</p> <p>Dec 29: Isaiah 11 :1-5 ; Galatians 4 :1-7</p>
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Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Carolyn Holtz, Bookkeeper
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Tom Keller & Steve Lindfors, Facilities Management

Saint John's Divine Service Schedule

Sunday 7:45am & 9:30am

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday - Friday, 9:30am-2:30pm
Bookkeeper Hours:
Tuesdays & Thursdays 11am-3pm

Our Mission

Rejoice in God's grace. Live as disciples. Love one another.

Our Purpose

The family of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, gathered around Word and Sacrament, enhanced by liturgy and music, exists to encourage its members in a life of discipleship in Christ Jesus and fellowship with one another.

Utilizing the gifts that God has entrusted to us, we engage in acts of mercy, attending to the spiritual and physical needs within our congregation and community.

We bear witness to the Grace of God through living in His Word thus demonstrating the love Christ has shown us.

**A Congregation of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**

The *Good News* is published by the church office of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church to keep its members and friends informed of church news and activities. Newsletter deadline for the February 2025 issue will be January 15th.