



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & Christian Preschool  
200 S Main St  
Charles City, Iowa 50616  
641-228-3397  
[www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)

Rev. Russ Leeper, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Anita Nuetzman, Visitation & Preaching Pastor  
Melanie Johanningmeier, Director of Music

**December 19, 2021; 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**“We Are Waiting For a Savior”**



Scripture Readers: Russ Leeper, Erik Hofer, St. John Choir & Messiah Choir

Piano: Cherie Schafer

Organ Melanie Johanningmeier

Flute: Susan Leeper

Soloist: Lisa Kreger

Tone Chimes: Olivia Kreger, Taylor Quade, Kathy Rogotzke

Prelude:

“What Child is This

Kathy Rogotzke, Violin; Melanie Johanningmeier, piano

Music:

“Advent Processional”

Welcome

The Poinsettias on the Altar are from Tilleen Litterer & family in memory of Clarence Litterer

The radio broadcast is sponsored by Marilyn Isakson in memory of Leon Isakson

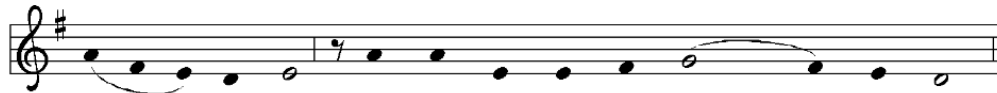
Gathering Hymn:

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

(vs. 1-4) #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-joice! Re-joice!  
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.

Apostolic Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Response: **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

“EMMANUEL”

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.

*Responsive Reading:*

- L: I have good news. The Lord is coming! We are expecting Him. We have been waiting and the time is drawing closer. What should we do to prepare for His arrival? Are we ready for His coming?
- C: We rejoice at the good news of the Lord's coming. We are anxious to begin the festivities and the Holy days. We are ready for the celebration.**
- L: The Lord is Coming! He is coming with grace and righteousness. He is coming in purity and holiness, like gold and silver purified by fire. Will he find righteousness and holiness among His people? Can we stand in the presence of a Holy God? Are we prepared for His Coming?
- C: O Lord, we want you to come. But not just yet. And not too close. We know the One coming is the Lord and Savior, the embodiment of grace and love. Yet we do not always reflect that love. Perhaps we are not as ready as we think.**
- L: The Lord is Coming! Prepare the way of the Lord. Remove every obstacle. By the mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.
- C: O God, prepare us as we prepare for your Advent. Purify us. Cleanse us. Clear a way through the clutter of our lives. Tear down our pretensions to righteousness. Make a path through our doubts and pride. Soften our hearts that we may receive you with humility.**

*Music:*

“Call the Baby Jesus”

*Responsive Reading:*

- L: The Lord is Coming! Prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people's way. For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I come and dwell with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite.”
- C: Hear our humble prayer, O Lord. Forgive us for wanting celebration without preparation. Fill our hearts anew with your love. Give us strength to serve you in holiness and faith. May we give voice to your presence among us as we await your Advent.**
- L: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, every mountain and hill shall be made low, the crooked shall be made straight, the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
- C: O God, come and be with us. We are ready for your purifying and transforming presence.**

*Music:*

“Waiting for Bethlehem's Light”

**“O Come Little Children”**

O come, little children, come, one and come all,  
O come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall  
And see what our Father in heaven above  
Has sent to us all on this earth with his love.

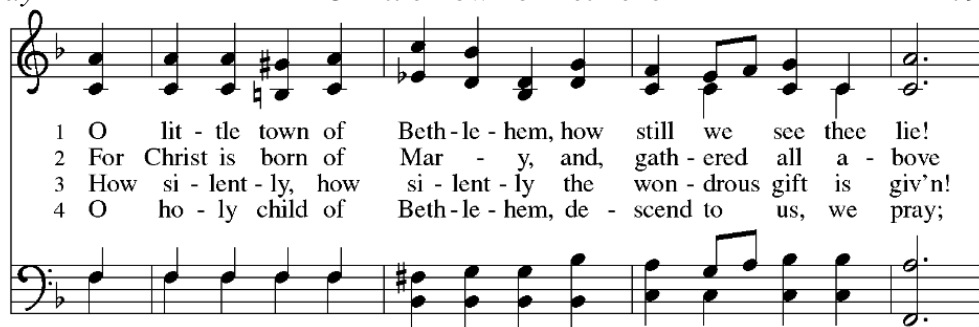
O see in the manger so meek and so mild,  
O see in the soft light the heavenly Child,  
In swaddling clothes folded, his beauty more sweet  
Than angels whose voices his lowly birth greet.

His bed, little children, a manger with hay;  
His Mother and Joseph in ecstasy pray,  
The shepherds in wonder their glad worship bring,  
While chorus of angels sweet Glorias sing.

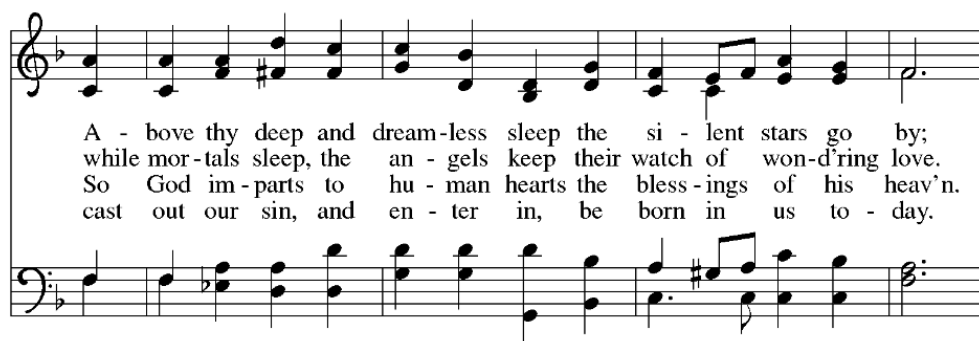
*Children's Sermon*

*Music:*

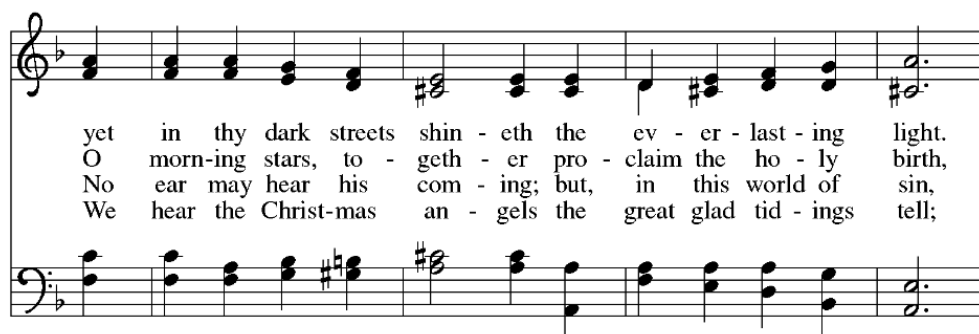
“How Far is it to Bethlehem?”



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

*Responsive Reading:*

L: Hear the good news. God is about to do something new. A new King is coming. He will establish a new Kingdom. He will rule over his people and establish justice. He will be great to the ends of the earth.

C: **We long for His coming. We are anxious about the future. We are threatened by enemies. We are uncertain about leaders. We need strength and power to change the world.**

L: This King does not come from the centers of power. He comes from an insignificant place. He does not come with conquering armies. He comes as a shepherd to care for His people. He does not come with riches and influence. He comes as one who became poor.

C: **We wait upon the Lord. We wait for Him to crush our enemies. We wait for a future secured by strength. We welcome a conquering King.**

- L: The powers of this world are not the powers that matter most. This King is not that kind of King. He subverts the power structures of the world. He brings justice, unity and peace. The world will never be the same after He comes.
- C: **O Lord, forgive us for wanting you to work in the ways we think best. We long for your newness. But it cannot be on our terms. We trust and hope in You. Bring your newness into our midst. Reorient us to your priorities. Help us to respond faithfully.**

Music: "A Midnight Clear in Bethlehem"

*The Prayers (P):* Lord in your mercy,  
Response: **hear our prayer.**

***Please Keep the following in prayer:***

James Grob	Sandra Link	Marilu Wohlers
Jim Jensen	Al Manning	Bill Wohlers, Jr.
Cliff Kelly	Leon Mulford	Cal Wood
Dale Lamprecht	Skip Ward	

Please pray for all serving in the Armed Forces & their families: Mackenzy Bilharz, Alex Buenger, Kim Hall, Daniel Jacobs, Cameron Kakac, Robson Shankland

*The Prayer List:* Names will be kept on the list for 3 weeks. Family members can request a name be left on longer. The office number is 228-3397.

***Danny Reams & family on the death of his father  
Michael Reams***

*The Offering*

Music:

"O Holy Night"

*Kylie, Makenna, Annemarie & Janae Hansen*

Response

"What Feast of Love"

(vs. 1 & 3) #487

*The Communion*

*The Words of Institution*

Hymn

"The Lord's Prayer"

(tune: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear")

Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne,  
Most holy be Your name.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done,  
On earth in heav'n the same.

Give us this day the food we need;  
Forgiven may we be;

Into temptation do not lead;  
From evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto You,  
In grateful love we bow;

And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view,  
Your mighty presence now.

The glory Yours; Your praise be sung,  
By angel hosts and men.

In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore! Amen

*The Distribution*

**"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**

#276

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing;  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new.  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow;  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

**“Away in a Manger”**

#277

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay,  
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

**“Go Tell it on the Mountain”**

#290

**Refrain**

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and every where;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, through-out the heavens, there shone a holy light. **Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the earth;  
Rang out the angel chorus, that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lonely manger, the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation, that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

**“The First Noel”**

#300

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep. **Refrain:**

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. **Refrain:**

And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain:**

This star drew near to the north-west,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain:**

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full rev'rently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. :

**Refrain:** Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

*Responsive Reading:*

- L: A new future is being born. It is God's way, the way of God's Kingdom that leads to life. The old has passed away. All things have become new.
- C: We rejoice in the Coming One who casts aside the old ways that lead to death. The old ways cannot save us. God's way and His Kingdom lead to life and peace. O Lord, transform our hearts that we may live fully in this New Kingdom.**
- L: He will stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And we will live secure, for He shall be the one of peace.
- C: O Lord, help us live as if this New Kingdom is a present reality. May we not just long for justice, unity and peace. May we practice them each day as you give of your strength. We rejoice for the Lord is near. Surely He is coming soon. Come, Lord Jesus!**

*Music:*

*"Celtic Noel"*

*Responsive Reading: (Congregation reads **Bold**)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**He was with God in the beginning.**

Oh, come, let us adore Him.

**Christ the Lord!**

Through Him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

**In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

Oh, come let us adore Him!

**Christ the Lord!**

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

**He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world didn't recognize him.**

Oh, come, let us adore Him!

**Christ the Lord!**

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive Him.

**Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God.**

Oh, come let us adore Him!

**Christ the Lord!**

The word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we have seen his glory.

**Glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

*Benediction*

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*  
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Postlude:

“Joy to the World”

CCLI #227-7055

*Piano/Organ Duet: Piano, Cherie Schafer; Organ, Melanie Johanningmeier*

*Please remain seated for the Postlude*

Dismissal:

Go in Peace, Share the Good News!

**Response: Thanks Be to God!**



### Advent Processional

Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Make straight the way for His coming!  
Rejoice and sin, give praise to God,  
sing Alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord!  
He comes, our blessed Messiah  
Our mighty God, the Prince of Peace  
sing Alleluia!

Come thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us  
let us find our rest in Thee

Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Make straight the way for His coming!  
Rejoice and sin, give praise to God,  
sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!

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### Waiting for Bethlehem's Light

Wait on a hillside in the peaceful, quiet night;  
Wait with the shepherds, soon startled with fright.  
Wait on a hillside and gaze at the star  
Soon to lead the wisemen, trav'lers from afar.  
Waiting for hope, waiting for peace,  
Waiting for joy and for God's perfect love.  
Advent is waiting, let candles burn bright.  
Advent is waiting for Bethlehem's Light.

Wait for the Baby's cry to pierce the silent night;  
Wait in the cattle stall for the Holy Child.  
Wait by the manger for such a joyous birth;  
Wait for the King of kings, Savior of the earth.  
Waiting for hope, waiting for peace,  
Waiting for joy and for God's perfect love.  
Advent is waiting, let candles burn bright.  
Advent is waiting, Advent is waiting  
for Bethlehem's Light.

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### A Midnight Clear in Bethlehem

O Little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting Light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
Venite adoriamo, Venite adoriamo,  
Venite adoriamo, Gesu redemptor.

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old.  
From angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold.  
Above its sad and lonely plains  
they bend on hovering wing.  
(Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo.)  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.  
Venite adoriamo, Venite adoriamo,  
Venite adoriamo, Gesu redemptor.  
Oh, hear the angels singing,  
Oh, hear the angels singing.  
Venite, Venite, Venite adoriamo,  
Adoriamo, Gesu redemptor.

### Call the Baby Jesus

Mary, you will have a Son. Call the Baby Jesus  
He will be God's holy One. Call the Baby Jesus  
The lame will dance. The blind will see. Call the Baby Jesus.  
He will set His people free. Call the Baby Jesus.  
God has sent Emmanuel. Love has come with us to dwell.  
Let the whole world sing, "Noel."  
Call the Baby Jesus. Call the Baby Jesus.

He's the one who was foretold; Call the Baby Jesus.  
The perfect Lamb from heaven's fold. Call the  
Baby Jesus. Hallelujah!  
Soon our eyes will see the sign. Call the Baby Jesus.  
A shining star will light the sky. Call the Baby Jesus.  
Let us sing forevermore. Peace and love are now restored.  
Celebrate the coming Lord. Call the Baby Jesus.  
Call the Baby Jesus. Call the Baby Jesus.

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### How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

How far is it to Bethlehem: not very far.  
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?  
Can we see the little child, Is He within?  
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?

May we visit the creatures there, oxen and sheep?  
May we peek in the stall and see Jesus asleep?  
If we touch His tiny hand, will He awake?  
Will He know we've come so far just for His sake?

Great kings have precious gifts and we have naught.  
Little smiles and little tears are all we have brought.  
For all weary children Mary must weep,,  
Here on this bed of straw, sleep, children sleep.  
God in His mother's arm, babes in the byre.  
Sleep as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

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### Celtic Noel

Noel, Noel, sing we Noel...Noel, Noel, sing we Noel.  
Born is the King., born is the King, born is the King of Israel.

The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, sing we Noel...Noel, Noel, sing we Noel.  
Born is the King, born is the King, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To see for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Noel, Noel, sing we Noel...Noel, Noel, sing we Noel.  
Born is the King, born is the King, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord sSing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
Who hath made heav'n an earth of naught,  
And with His blood, and with His blood,  
And with His blood our life hath bought.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.  
Born is the King of Israel.Noel, Noel, Sing we Noel. Noel, Noel,  
Sing we Noel.Born is the King, born is the King, Born is the King,  
Sing we Noel.Born is the King of Israel, Noel, Noel. Sing we Noel!



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & Christian Preschool**  
200 S. Main Street, Charles City, IA 50616; 641-228-3397

**December 19 - December 26**

Sunday **4th Sunday of Advent**  
**Music Sunday**  
**9:00 a.m. Worship**  
10:00 a.m. Coffee & a treat in the Parish Hall

Monday **Newsletter Deadline**

Tuesday 2:30 p.m. Stewardship board

Friday **Christmas Eve**  
**4:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship with Communion**  
**6:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship with Communion**

Sunday **1st Sunday of Christmas**  
**9:00 a.m. Worship**  
10:00 a.m. Coffee & a treat in the Parish Hall



**Music Sunday**

Please join us in the Parish Hall after worship for coffee & rolls!

St. John Books will close  
**December 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.**

**The St. John office will be closed**  
December 27, 28 & 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you would like to donate to the **Poinsettias** for Christmas, call the office at 641-228-3397 by Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Altar Flowers & Radio Broadcast**  
Call the office at 641-228-3397 to sign up to sponsor altar flowers &/or radio broadcasts in 2022

**The worship service at St. John has gone LIVE!!!**

Our 9:00 a.m. worship service is now live! To watch the service go to [www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org). On the front page click on the Live Streaming Link post or go to the Worship & Sermon tab & click on YouTube. You can also go to YouTube and in the search box type St. John Charles City IA to find our channel. On our channel click videos, then the down arrow next to uploads, then upcoming live streams.

The service is recorded as it streams & will be available after 10:00 a.m. to watch at any time.

**December 24, 2021**  
**Christmas Eve Worship services**  
Will be at 4:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
The 6:30 service will also be live streamed!

**Offering from the week of December 12, 2021**  
General Receipts \$ 9,730.50  
Designated offering 920.00  
*General receipts of \$9,757.00 are needed weekly to meet the approved budget.*  
**Attendance: 230**

Remember to bring items for the **Blessing Box!** Many people are using our Blessing Box, so let's keep it filled! **Popular items:** protein (chicken, tuna, meat sticks), boxes of cereal, individual easy-to-prepare meals. Bread & peanut butter. Cake mix & frosting. Pancake mix & syrup. Hot chocolate & marshmallows. **Personal care items** (bar soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo), toilet paper, tissues. Dish soap, laundry detergent (small containers).

**Coming in January...**  
The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be January 23, 2022.

### **Helping Hands in the New Year 2022!!**

What better way to start our 150<sup>th</sup> year of God's Love in Action than to start a new ministry?! We have about 20 people ready, willing, and able to help run errands, do minor household help, and provide transportation.

If you need any of these services, please call Kathy at the church office during regular business hours. Someone will contact you within 48 hours of receiving the message to make arrangements to help.

We will continue this ministry as long as we have volunteers to serve.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



In 2020, we took 22 fleece blankets to the Floyd County Hospital for a Christmas Eve present for all patients that couldn't go home for the holiday. We did the same in 2021.

The Prayer shawl and blanket ministry is a great winter project for anyone that can sew, knit, crochet or quilt. If you need yarn, there is free yarn in the clothing room at church. If you want to sew the fleece blankets, just contact me at [petefishj@mchsi.com](mailto:petefishj@mchsi.com) and I will get you some fleece (I have a pattern for a single layer blanket that requires some sewing).

Starting in January, on Friday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. we will have a **prayer shawl group** starting up. I would be happy to teach you how to knit if you would like to make a knitted prayer shawl. We have extended an invitation to some knitters from other churches that I have been acquainted with over the last few years to come and have some fellowship with us as we have a cup of coffee and knit or crochet. Anyone is welcome. Conversation is the best part. We will meet in the fireside room unless there is a funeral or something that needs the space. If I know you are interested, I can add you to an email list to notify when it is not taking place. Please let me know at the above email and I can get you on the list. Janet Petefish

*"We extend our gratitude and appreciation to Marilyn Isakson for the recent memorial she gave to St. John in memory of Algie Slindee. Thank you!"*

*"We extend our gratitude and appreciation to Russell & Betty Ball for the recent memorial they gave to St. John in memory of Herb Hinz. Thank you!"*