

# Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## Our Mission

*St. John congregation, responding to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, unites together to preach and teach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission. With God's guidance and grace, we strive to boldly proclaim by word and action the reconciling Gospel of Jesus: Working together for justice and peace, and caring for those in need in our community and world. We invite everyone to join us wherever you are on your faith journey.*

*Adopted December 8, 2013*

## Serving Today

The Rev. Thomas G. Bruner, Jr.	Pastor
Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister
Judy Ferree	Organist
Matt Williard	Lector
Roy Henry	Council President

For the month of December, our **Celebrate** lectionary bulletin inserts, our support of **Tree 4 Hope**, and our support of one pastor for one month in the Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania are all sponsored by Pastor Tom and Ann with love and gratitude to God and to our St. John Congregational Family for another year of faithful ministry accomplished in Jesus' name, shining forth as a Light on the Hill in the darkness of our world!

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this evening. If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book in the foyer. As we celebrate our Lord's Supper, we welcome to our table all baptized Christians who have received the sacrament in their home congregations. All persons who do not yet commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please worship with us again and join in other congregational family activities!

**THANK YOU** to the members of the Decorating Committee for beautifying our church during this holiday seasons!

The Maurer Family Tree Farm of Dalmatia has graciously donated one of our beautiful Christmas trees this year.

2022 offering envelopes are available in the foyer. Please take yours, your family's, your neighbor's. Thank you for your help!

Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2021

4:00pm

## Christmas Eve "Celebration" Worship

### God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Musical Prelude and Silent Prayer

Announcements

Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

See Songsheet

Prayer of the Day

### We Hear God's Word

God Promises to Save Us: Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol #267 "Joy to the World"

God Comes to Save Us: Luke 2:1-20

Musical Piece – "We Sing Noel"

Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie

Carol #270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Sermon

### We Respond to All That God Gives Us

A New Creed:

**WE ARE NOT ALONE,**

**WE LIVE IN GOD'S WORLD.**

**WE BELIEVE IN GOD:**

**WHO HAS CREATED AND IS CREATING,**

**WHO HAS COME IN JESUS,**

**THE WORD MADE FLESH,**

**TO RECONCILE AND MAKE NEW,**

**WHO WORKS IN US AND OTHERS**

**BY THE SPIRIT.**

**WE TRUST IN GOD.**

**WE ARE CALLED TO BE THE CHURCH:**

**TO CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE,**

**TO LIVE WITH RESPECT IN CREATION,**

**TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS,**

**TO SEEK JUSTICE AND RESIST EVIL,**

**TO PROCLAIM JESUS, CRUCIFIED AND RISEN,**

**OUR JUDGE AND OUR HOPE.**

**IN LIFE, IN DEATH, IN LIFE BEYOND DEATH,**

**GOD IS WITH US.**

**WE ARE NOT ALONE.**

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

-The United Church of Canada, 1968

Prayers

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings and Musical Anthem

**We Share in God's Supper and God Sends Us to Share the Good News**

Jesus' Words of Institution of Holy Communion

Our 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.**

Carol #281 "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

Blessing:

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: AMEN.**

Carol "The First Noel"

See Songsheet

Dismissal:

P: Go tell it on the mountain,

**C: THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BORN!**

**Musical Postlude, We Receive Jesus' Body & Blood, and We Depart to Serve**

## The First Noel

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, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
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.

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Noel!  
Noel!  
Noel!  
Noel!

## Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

Oh come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
Oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him;  
Born the king of angels.

Oh come let us adore Him.  
Oh come let us adore Him.  
Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest!

Oh come let us adore Him.  
Oh come let us adore Him.  
Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord we greet thee,  
born this happy morning.  
Jesus to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing.

Oh come let us adore Him.  
Oh come let us adore Him.  
Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Christ the Lord!

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