

Sermon Series for the Sundays in Advent and Mid-Week

Mid-Week Series entitled: Prepare Ye

During the Mid-Week services we will contemplate the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas, taking cues from the psalms of old and from those whom God chose to play a part in the story of our Lord's birth. As we draw near to the manger bed of our Savior from sin and death, our hearts prepare Him room for His everlasting love.

December 2nd—Pray—Through Zechariah's account and Psalm 69:13

December 9th—Praise—Through Elizabeth's account and Psalm 30:4

December 16th—Proclaim—Through John The Baptist account and Psalm 145:6

Sunday Series entitled—Rediscover Christmas

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of the true light of the world, Jesus Christ. But this season isn't Christmas as usual. We've been through what is perhaps the most difficult year we can remember, and we know there are challenges looming ahead. The good news is Jesus came to earth that first Christmas in one of the darkest times in history...and He is still the light in our night now. This series will encourage you with the certainty of God's love in these uncertain times with the hope that our Christmas can be as joy-filled and hope-filled as ever before.

December 6th—Finding Hope in Our Uncertainties—Luke 2:22-38

December 13th—Finding Peace in Our Struggles—Luke 2:8-20

December 20th—Finding Joy in Our Discouragements—Luke 1:39-55

Poinsettia Orders Due Today Please return your order form and payment by **today, November 22nd**. There are additional order forms available in the Narthex. Thank you.

Compassion Center Update

Thank you to those who donated to the LMS/Compassion Center Christmas Event. We now have a total of \$5250 and we Praise God for His rich goodness!! Thank you for your generosity.

The Compassion Center will be closed during the week of Thanksgiving, **Nov 24** through **Nov 27**; and will reopen on Tuesday, **Dec 1**.

5th Sunday Give-A-Way

Sunday, **November 29th** will be the 5th Sunday of the month and as is our tradition each fall, we give the offering received on that Sunday away to an organization/place in need. This year the leadership has agreed to send the offering to The York Food Bank. Being that the Food Bank has been inundated with people in need because of the trials COVID-19 has created, the leadership thought it appropriate to send them our offering this year. So on **November 29th**, any offering that we receive will be designated to go to The York Food Bank. God has blessed us, so we want to show Him our gratitude by being a blessing to our community!

Survey About Christmas Eve Services

For those of you that have provided an email address, you should have received a survey on **Wednesday, November 18th**. There will also be copies on the table in the Narthex for those that do not have email. It's very short and will take about 30 seconds to fill out. The purpose of the survey is to solicit responses on whether or not you or you and your family plan to attend our Christmas Eve Services. This Christmas Eve we will offer three services of which you can attend—**2:00PM, 5:00PM or 8:00PM** (the survey describes the structure of each). Because of seating restrictions, we need to know if you plan to attend our Christmas Eve Service, which service you intend to come to, and how many will be in your group. We ask that you please respond to the survey ASAP for planning purposes. Thank you in advance for your attentiveness to this inquiry.

Thank you - A heartfelt thank you to Jane Kindon and Terri Hinckley for delivering the filled shoeboxes to a collection center that will provide a blessed Christmas to **97** children this year. We appreciate the thoughtfulness and participation of our congregation at such a challenging time for so many of us.

Thank you from Yorkshire Elementary! In an effort to give encouragement and prayer support to each of the people who work at Yorkshire, the Soul Care for Women Ministry provided gift bags of treats this fall. Included here are some of the thanks that came from the staff:

“To all of our friends at St. John, This year has provided our staff with many challenges, changes and extra considerations that we never could have anticipated. Like workers everywhere, stress and concern levels are high. Your thoughtfulness, kindness, prayers, and empathy have helped to brighten our days and lift our spirits. For all of this, we can’t thank you enough!”

“To the lovely volunteers at St. John’s, Thank you so much for your kind gifts! They brightened all of our days. Also, thank you so much for your time and generosity with food donations. Your kindness means the world to our school.”

“Thank you for the thoughtful gift bags. We are touched by your kindness. Know that your selfless generosity brought smiles to our faces and joy to our hearts. We appreciate you!”

Save the Date!

Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas is scheduled for **Thursday, December 3rd**, at 9:00 am. In an effort to keep everyone safe, our decorating plans will be a bit simpler this year. Please come and help prepare our church for the celebration of Jesus’ birth!

Grief Ministry at St. John is continuing at this time. If you are grieving or know someone who is, please share our information with them. We are holding in-person sessions in the Fellowship Hall with the option of people participating from home through ZOOM. Meetings are **Mondays at 7pm and Tuesdays at 1:30 pm**. Please contact Denise Wright for more information; Denisedsg@comcast.net ***There will be no GriefShare sessions on November 23/24.**

Meals Ministry Coordinator Needed

St. John blesses its members with meals when they are recovering from illness or surgery, birth of a baby, or other life events. We need a volunteer to coordinate those who are willing to prepare meals for others. Please consider this important ministry and contact the church office at 717.840.0382 or stjohn-yorkpa@comcast.net if you’d like to learn more about how you can help. Thank you.

Seeking Worship Band Musicians: The worship band will be growing incrementally as we feel it is safe to add more people each week. With that being said, we are looking for musicians who would like to join the band rotation. This is open to all singers and instrumentalists, as we may use specialty instruments alongside the regular band for select services in the future. Those who are interested can contact Brooke LaNasa at brooke.lanasa@gmail.com. If you were on the band previously and did not receive an email this week, please contact Brooke as well.

Thank you: Dear Friends, I want to thank you for the beautiful cards that you sent in observance of my 15-year anniversary in the position of Director of Spiritual Growth at St. John. Your cards were heartwarming and encouraging and meant so much to me! It is an honor and a privilege to serve here along with you and I look forward to the ministry that God has for each of us in the days to come! In Christ’s love, Denise.