

# St. John's News



## Advent Light

In several of Jesus' parables, the message is clear: wake up, and stay awake. If you're reading this, you're probably not asleep. (Yet!) So, it's a metaphor. What's it mean?

Being awake, and staying awake, is to make the meaningful step from living in the fog of life – going through the motions of life for the sake of the motions – to living life more fully and abundantly in the clear light. It's to be aware that our words and behavior are two incredibly powerful things and have an impact on others, in addition to our own selves. It's to be aware of the quality of our actions, and our speaking. Being awake means being aware that our actions and speaking are leading us somewhere. And it's either where we want to go, or somewhere we don't want to go.

Let's just say it. We're all in need of mercy and forgiveness.

As we journey these several weeks of Advent, our eyes will either be opened and awake to catching glimpses of God... or not. Our ears will either be in tune and awake to hearing the angels sing... or not. Our taste will either be ready and awake to tasting that God is good... or not.

Maybe the place to begin our prayer for Advent is to pray for a desire to be fully awake – fully alive – to the God of life. The Spirit of God promises to light up our hearts and lives with the desire of Christ. Wake up. Stay awake. Open your heart to Christ's call to live.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Matt Wheeler +

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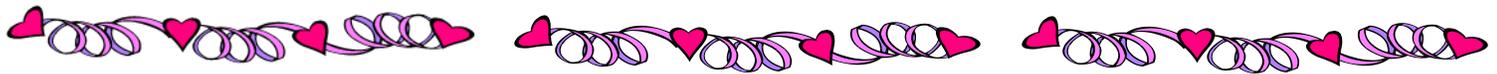
## Prayer at Midday, Fridays in December

Sometimes, it's helpful to take a breather at midday, and connect with the One who is our Life, our Hope, our Purpose – Christ Jesus. Generally, it's a healthy practice to pause at about midday, and reflect on where we've been with God throughout the day so far, and wonder where we're going with God the rest of the day. Any and all are welcome to gather in the sanctuary on Fridays at 12:30pm for midday prayer during the season of Advent in December. Our time of prayer together will last about 15 minutes, enough time hopefully still have some lunch and meet the needs for the afternoon.

**When?** 12:30 -12:45pm, Fridays December 3, 10, and 17.

**Where?** In the sanctuary at St. John's.

**Who?** Any and all are welcome for this time of prayer together. **Why?** Holy rest and renewal are good and healing. As we enter a season of anticipation, Advent, prayer helps make the true gift of Christmas meaningful. If you're able, come. If you're unable to gather, but would like to be named in our prayers, email Pastor Matt, and we'll certainly include you in our prayers for December 3, 10, and/or 17<sup>th</sup>. (matthew.wheeler612@yahoo.com)



## THANK YOU

*From the Kuehne Family*-Thank you so much for the beautiful Faith Chest, prayer shawl, Bible, candle and flowers from the church service! We will cherish these special items! We look forward to raising both our babies in the Lutheran faith. Looking forward to returning in person soon.



**LUTHER LUNCH-** We'll meet on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. at 11:30 AM. Carol will fix the ham, and others could bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift.

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**Pastor's Report:** *Being lifted in prayer-* the family and friends of Robert Parman,  
-the family and friends of Leonard "Ben" Geldin  
-the family and friends of Brent Smith



**December Birthdays**- Steven Shiets, Josh Warner, Richard Doney, Jr., Taylor Peck, Kay Zimmerman, Stephanie Baker, Brent Tooman, Barbara Borer, Chrysten Eberhard, Andrew Schwochow, Lyla Balkovec, Ethan Humbert, Jane Devanna, Joan Wollenslegel, Cameron Berger, Angela Olsen, Bob Overmyer, Shirley Shiets, Brandon Kidd, Justin Willis, Linda Wilson, Camden Woessner, Michelle Lindsay, Kenna Bower, Shelby Banda.

**December Anniversaries**- Steve & Alisa Thurn; Evan & Stephanie Baker.



**Dates to Remember-**

**December 19<sup>th</sup>**- Sunday School Christmas Program- 10:30 AM Worship Service  
- Blue Christmas service, 4:00 PM.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**- ***Christmas Eve Services-Family Service at 4:00 PM & Candlelight Service at 10:30 PM***

**December 26<sup>th</sup>**-Lessons and Carols worship service at 10:00 AM. *(Only 1 service that day- with no Sunday School)*

**December 30<sup>th</sup>**- ***There will be no Thursday evening Worship Service.***

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:**

We have begun practicing our Christmas songs for the Christmas Program, "Miracle in a Manger" and it is not too late for your child to join us.



**\*\*Saturday, December 18-** practice from 10:00-11:00 am

**\*\*Sunday, December 19-** Christmas program during the second service at 10:30 am

**\*\*Sunday, December 26-NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

I need some of the Junior High Youth to help with reading parts- please consider volunteering to help!



**KIDS OF THE KINGDOM:** Wed. December 15- 6:00pm-7:15pm

Grades K-6- -"Jesus' Birthday Party" - A meal is provided.

**Mitten Tree:** Help support the youth in Fremont Schools by donating hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves. This drive will last through the month of December.



**Confirmation:** We will have their last confirmation class at St. John's on Sunday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:45 to 1:15... then they move over to Grace and then over to St. Mark.



**A HUGE THANK YOU:** Thank you to EVERYONE who helped with donating supplies and making the buckeyes, we ended up making 342 bakers' dozen for orders and extra for sales... a special thank you has to go to **Bette and Gary Kaltenbach** for everything they do to make this such a wonderful event!!

**5<sup>th</sup> Qtr...**

We will have a 5<sup>th</sup> qtr. in the youth room on Friday, Dec. 10 and Friday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> in the youth room from 8:30 – 10:30. Josh Bower has been great help having Escape Room set up so everyone can play.... Thank you Josh!!! Please bring your friends!!! If the school shuts down because of weather for the day we will NOT have the 5<sup>th</sup> qtr.



**Acolyte Training**

All Jr. and Sr. High youth we will be having acolyte training... we have not had Acolytes for almost two years now so it is time to start this tradition up again.... We will have two sessions: Wednesday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00p.m. for one hour and the second session is Sunday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School. Please plan on being there and ready to go!

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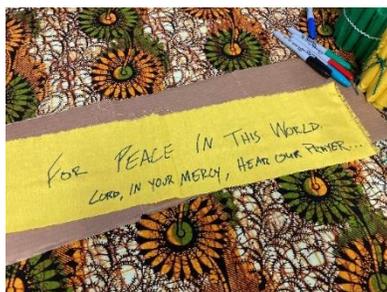
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# LIFT News

**Advent Study:** Pastor Paul Bailie will lead an online Advent Bible study on Sunday nights at 7 PM on LIFT's Facebook page. We will use a study from ELCA World Hunger. You can find it online at <https://tinyurl.com/AdventELCA21>.

**Trinity Lutheran Church:** With much prayer, the congregation of Trinity has voted to begin the process of dissolving as a congregation. In conversation with leadership of the Northwestern Ohio Synod, Trinity is taking steps to celebrate its ministry. A congregational meeting to discuss this process will be on Sunday, December 12 at 11:00 at St. John's. Currently, Trinity is worshipping in the Lounge at St. John's on Sundays at 8:30.



**Prayer Flags:** One of the projects at the LIFT Block Party on October 24, 2021, was making prayer flags, where prayers were written on pieces of cloth and tied to a rope. In the next months, the flags will travel to all of the LIFT congregations, where more prayers can be added, joining our prayers together.

**Bridge of Hope:** LIFT's food pantry, housed at Hayes Memorial United Methodist Church is expanding hours to include Thursday mornings. Thank you to all who participated in the 21 Days of Thanksgiving donations during November. Together with Bridge of Hope and Camino de Vida, a Posada will be held on December 11 at Hayes Memorial UMC as a holiday event primarily for our migrant neighbors. This is a traditional Mexican celebration remembering Mary and Joseph's search for lodging and welcome on the way to Bethlehem.

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*From Ashley Wynn-* Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the 21 Days of Thanksgiving. With the increase of grocery and diaper prices we continue to have more people accessing the food pantry. Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of many people in our community.

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## Blue Christmas Service-Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 4pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church

Holidays can trigger grief, both long-buried sorrows and deep heartache more recently weighing on us. Advent and Christmas seasons can be especially difficult and painful. If you, or someone you know, is experiencing the heavy weight of loss this Advent and Christmas, remember that you are not alone. Emmanuel (which means 'God with us') came down to earth to accompany us in our joy and sorrow. Christ's Church seeks to accompany one another in our joy and sorrow, too.



This year's 'Blue Christmas Service,' a worship service distinctively crafted for ones who are experiencing the death of loved ones or who are physically or emotionally separated from their families, will be offered on Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm. All are welcome to join us at St. John's. The service will also be posted afterward on the church's website, [stjohns-fremont.org](http://stjohns-fremont.org). For ones desiring more fellowship, hors d'oeuvres will be served in the auditorium following the worship service.



LIFT  
Dec. 2021  
Newsletter

