

DECEMBER 18, 2022 | 8:00AM



# Welcome to St. John's Christian Church

"The Church on the Corner Whose Cornerstone is Christ"



Children's  
Advent  
Celebration  
on 12/4!

Learning the  
meaning of the  
Advent wreath  
& candles

Coloring  
Advent pages  
for our shut-in  
members

**COME HEAR THE REASON WE'RE INSPIRED TO SERVE TOGETHER**

*We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word,  
preaching salvation through believing in Christ as our Savior.  
We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.*

# Welcome! We are so glad you are here.

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## Guests and Visitors

Welcome to SJCC! We are so glad you have chosen to join us as we worship the Lord together. We hope you feel God's love in a refreshing way. Please let one of our ushers know you're new (*they may have already noticed your new face!*) so they can give you a welcome bag filled with helpful information about our church. Or you can scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera to learn more about who we are as a congregation.



## Mother's Room/Diaper Changing Stations/Nursery Care

Nursery Care is offered during the 10:30AM service and we are always looking for new volunteers to help with this ministry! People interested in helping can contact the church office. We also have a Mother's Room located outside of the sanctuary for nursing mothers and/or mothers with young infants and toddlers. Diaper changing stations are located in both the Mother's Room and the Nursery. An usher will gladly direct you if needed.

**Children's Busy Bags** are located in the sanctuary narthex for children ages one-year to third grade. Bags are marked by age (**Pink** = Ages 1-2; **Green** = Ages 3-5; **Yellow** = Grades K-3). Please be sure to return bags at the end of our service today. If you would like to mark a bag specifically for your child(ren) each week, please contact the church office.

## Give & Take Board

Do you need a little peace in your day? Confidence? What about self-control? Are you in need of a spiritual pick-me-up? Could you use a quick bit of kindness after a long week? Or do you have these things to spare? Then stop by the Give and Take Board outside of the Preschool Room! Give what you can and take what you need - you just might feel or fill someone's heart with the love of God and make their week brighter!

**Large Print and Children's Bulletins** are available at a table in the sanctuary narthex.

**Hearing Assistance** is provided by our system for hearing aids with a "loop system" switch position.



## WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP OF GOD!

Ringling of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles

Prelude "Away in a Manger Medley"

Welcome and Announcements

†Passing of the Peace of Jesus Christ

Scripture and Prayer of Invocation Isaiah 7:10-16 (pg. 681)

The Nativity Scene - The Stable #157, v. 1, "Away in a Manger"

†Hymn of Joy #141, "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

†The Advent Wreath - The Candle of Love v. 4, "We Light the Advent Candle"

Christmas Hymn Sing #132, v. 1 & 3, "Angels We Have Heard on High"  
#136, v. 1 & 6, "The First Noel"  
#137, "What Child Is This?"

Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25 (pg. 955)

Advent Message "Jesus Christ Is Lord"

†Sermon Hymn #143, "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "The Coventry Carol"

†Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

†Closing Carol #154, "What Can I Give Him?"

†Spoken Benediction

†Benediction in Song #606, "Grace, Love, and Fellowship"

†Postlude

## SCRIPTURE READING

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**Isaiah 7:10-16** <sup>10</sup>Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>"Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test." <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. <sup>16</sup>But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

**Matthew 1:18-25** <sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" --which means, "God with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

## DECEMBER MISSION-A-MONTH: CROSSROAD CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

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Since 1883, Crossroad Child & Family Services in Fort Wayne, Indiana, has been dedicated to the mission of creating promising futures for children and families. Today, our family directed programs focus on providing behavioral health treatment, education programs, and support services tailored to client needs and strengths. Crossroads has worked with thousands of young people and families over the years to help them learn, change, and thrive. Your prayers and generous financial support truly helps change the futures of young people.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - TODAY AT 10:30AM

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Today's 10:30AM Service of Worship will feature children & youth in our congregation ages Preschool through 6th grade. They've been hard at work in rehearsals the past few weeks (pictured below) for this special program!



And a special Merry Christmas from the St. John's Church office!



## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

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### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | Dec. 24th at 7:00PM**

Any and all are invited to “follow the lights” to St. John’s Christian Church’s Candlelight Christmas Eve service this upcoming Saturday here in the Sanctuary. If the Sanctuary fills (which would be a blessed experience!) we will have overflow space available in the Chapel, allowing all to sing and worship together in the church on that blessed evening!

The service will also be available on YouTube Live for those unable to attend in person. If you need assistance setting up the stream for a shut-in or homebound family member, please contact Jocelyn in the church office.

### **Christmas Morning Worship | Dec. 25th at 10:30AM**

Join us Christmas morning in the Sanctuary for a simple service of worship! This service will not be available via live stream. There will be no Sunday school for children and youth and adult classes may meet as they wish.

### **New Year’s Day | Jan. 1 at 8:00AM and 10:30AM**

We will offer two services of worship on New Year’s Day, with Pastor Ryan Volkman preaching. There will be no Sunday school for children and youth and adult classes may meet as they wish.

## **TODAY’S WORSHIP SERVANTS**

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Accompanist	Buffy Riley
Song/Worship Leader	Andrew Rohrs
Lay Reader	Molly Rutledge
Acolyte	Molly Rutledge
Easy Worship	Tom Hines
Sound Tech	Kelly Ducey
Ushers	Doug & Nancy Rupp

## **CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

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Lord Jesus, as we celebrate Your birth, help us to remember why You came into the world. You came to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. Thank You for coming down from heaven and becoming one of us. Help this be the center of our Christmas celebration. We praise You for Your great love! In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## DISCOVERY DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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Discover Daily Devotional Guides are available in the hallway literature rack in the narthex (suggested donation \$6 each). You can also access the guide online at <https://scriptureunion.org/discovery/>. Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

Dec 18 Where Do You Stand? ----- Psalm 26  
Dec 19 Ready to Wrestle? ----- Colossians 4:2-18  
Dec 20 Ready, Willing and Able ----- Luke 1:1-17  
Dec 21 The Sign of Silence ----- Luke 1:18-25  
Dec 22 No Fuss Required ----- Luke 1:26-38  
Dec 23 The Future Beckons ----- Luke 1:39-56  
Dec 24 What's in a Name? ----- Luke 1:57-66

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 18TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Sun 8:00AM Worship (Sanctuary)  
8:30AM Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)  
9:15AM Sunday School  
9:15AM Children's Program Rehearsal - 1st - 6th (Sanctuary)  
9:15AM Children's Program Rehearsal - Pre-K - K (Preschool Room)  
10:30AM Children's Program Service (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)  
2:00PM Parish Hall Reserved

Mon 6:15PM Spiritual Council (Fireside Room)  
7:30PM Consistory (Chapel)

Tue 9:15AM Bible Study (Fireside Room)  
5:00PM Community Meal - Lockport Mennonite Church (Parish Hall)

Wed 8:30AM Moms in Prayer (Fireside Room)  
6:00PM SYF Christmas Party (Betsy Ducey's Home)

Fri 10:00AM Luminary Preparation (Parish Hall)

Sat 1:00PM Luminary Setup  
7:00PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary & YouTube Live)

Sun 10:30AM Christmas Day Worship



## PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

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Please pray for...

- ◆ Mark Nofziger and family upon the death of his mother, Dianne, on December 13th. A celebration of Dianne's life is being held this afternoon at 3:00PM at North Clinton.
- ◆ The family of Toni Vajen, as they await visitation and an informal celebration of Toni's life on January 3rd, 4:00 to 7:00PM in the St. John's Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ Phyllis Miller, who has entered into hospice care at Fairlawn.
- ◆ Renee Liechty, who is in Rupp Rehab for physical therapy following leg surgery.
- ◆ Solomon and Lisa Welch, as Solomon has been seriously ill the past number of weeks, being hospitalized for awhile.
- ◆ Dale Grime, who is recovering from double hernia surgery on November 28th.
- ◆ Leah Nafziger, as she continues in treatment to address her chronic headaches.
- ◆ Lynne Christman, who will be halfway through the second round of chemo after tomorrow's treatment, with six treatments remaining.
- ◆ Jodi Beltz, who is in daily treatment for a month to help heal the leg fractures and prevent more fractures.

Those serving in the Armed Forces...

- ◆ Brenden Bostelman, Deployed, Jordan (Army) (Grandson of Bill & Kathy)
- ◆ Kali Collins, Destin, FL (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)
- ◆ Kyle Ducey, Suffolk, VA (Navy) (Son of Kelly & Betsy)
- ◆ Brayden Hall, Newton Falls, OH, attending Kent State (OANG) (Son of Vond & Mary)
- ◆ MAJ Jared Kuntz, South Korea (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli)
- ◆ Taylor Pitts, Dayton, OH (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)
- ◆ Shayne Pitts, Dayton, OH (Air Force) (Husband of Taylor)
- ◆ Steve Schink, Chesterfield, MI (Coast Guard) (Son-in-law of Ed and Julie Ruffer)

### ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

700 S. Defiance St., Archbold, Ohio 43502  
419-446-2545 † [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org)

Pastor - Rev. Erich Christman (Cell: 419-551-0401)

Pastor of Music & Worship - Rev. Ryan Volkman (Cell: 325-213-0671)

Administrative Assistant - Jocelyn Walker ([office@stjohnsarchbold.org](mailto:office@stjohnsarchbold.org))