

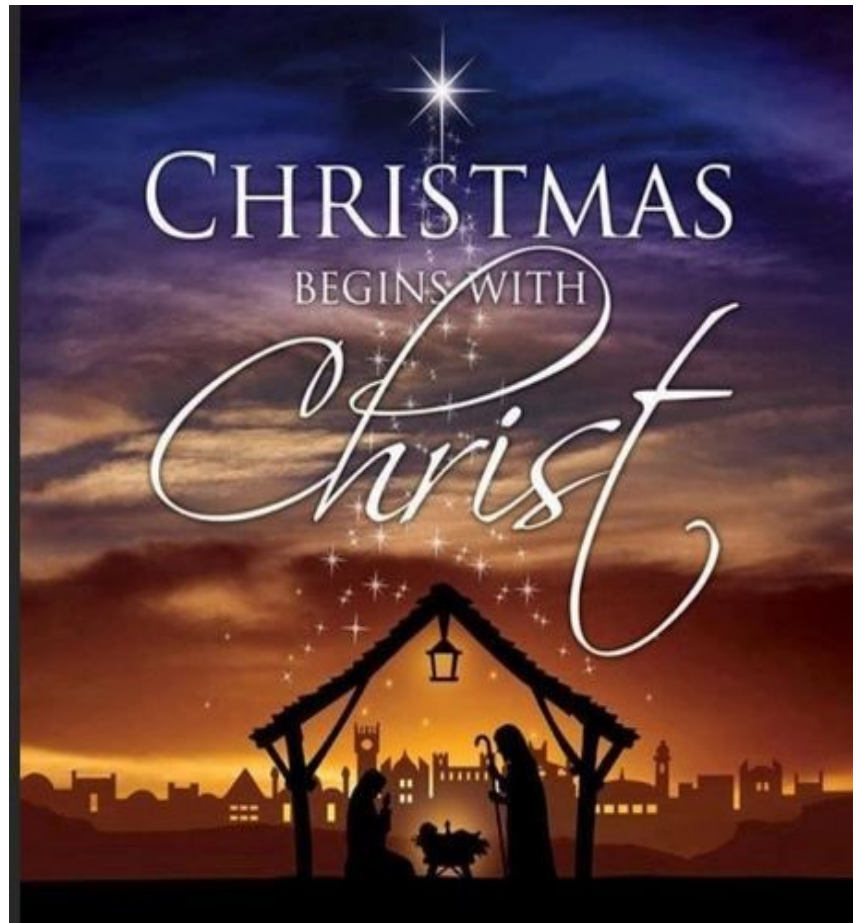


The Eagle December 2020

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Pastor's Page



"A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices" from O Holy Night

I love Christmas songs. I know it's an unforgivable sin to play them too early in the year, but I find them so encouraging. Advent is a season of hope where we learn to trust God at his word. I'm so grateful to be in ministry with all of you at Saint John's. I just realized that we've been here 4 years now. Time flies!

This month, we've got a lot going on and some things are different because of the COVID situation. First, the fun stuff. We'll be decorating the church inside and out on **Saturday, December 5th at 9am**. Then, we'll be Caroling to some of our senior members on **Sunday night, December 20th**. Watch for more details!

The business of the church marches on. We have a 2021 budget to vote on. Here's what the Church Council came to for our December Congregational Meeting:

- ♦ *In light of the COVID 19 pandemic and our County guidelines, we will not be able to meet in person for our Congregational Meeting on December 13th. In order to give every voting member a chance to vote on our 2021 budget proposal, we are going to vote by mail this year. To that end, we will mail out a complete budget to every voting member. We will include a ballot and a self-addressed stamped envelope. For privacy, only Kerry Wood (Financial Secretary) and Steve Kapka (Council President) will open the envelopes and count the ballots received by Monday morning Dec. 14th. Members may also bring their sealed ballot to the church office. To answer questions, we will host on a Zoom call/Youtube Live feed on Sunday night, December 6th at 6pm. Brian and Steve and Greg will be on to answer questions that we get that night or ahead of time. The video will be saved for later viewing.*

It's a strange time and we're so grateful for your flexibility. I'm still hoping we can meet inside and in-person for **Christmas Eve at 4pm**, but if we can't, we'll meet outside and online. We'll keep you posted.

Living with Advent Hope, Greg

Church Email Updates Are you getting our emails? Please email Pastor Greg greg@saintjohnsag.com to get on our list.

Life Together

On-line Worship Schedule

Nov. 29th, & Dec. 6th 9:30am & 11am (2 Gatherings)



10:00 am (1 gathering only)

Dec. 13th

Dec. 20th Ugly Sweater Christmas

Dec. 27th Carol Sing

Jan. 3rd



Join Us On Christmas Eve

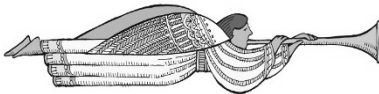
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Indoors or Outdoors (weather permitting)

For up-to-date info
SaintJohnsAG.com



Congregational Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 20 at 5 pm

Everyone who is healthy and able is encouraged for an evening of bringing some Christmas Cheer to some of our older and more homebound members. We will start at Saint John's at 5 pm and head to several stops around the 5 cities. Due to Covid, this may look a little different from years past - but we still want to spread Christmas Cheer, especially this year! This is an all age family Congregational event so everyone needs an adult present and transportation for your family.



Christmas Angel Project

It's that time of year again! We have the opportunity to share love through gift-giving to the children of the

Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz congregation in Santa Maria. We have received a detailed list of children whose name, gender, age, and gift wishes have been identified. How does it work? Choose a child. Shop and wrap gifts in one package. Contact Chrissy/ Mark Ravera to arrange for gift pick up by December 15th. Gifts will be delivered to Santa Maria for you. If you have any questions or would like to help with this project, please contact Chrissy Ravera.

Kids News

KidsChurch Update - With numbers rising, we are going to hold off on any official KidsChurch until at least January. Since we don't know what color tier our county will be in, we are going to wait it out a bit longer. Until we can safely gather, we will continue to prepare and distribute the monthly Family Devotional Box .



Advent Adventures...Christmas in a Box Family Devotions

We have prepared extra special Family boxes for December. Get ready for Christmas in a Box filled with Advent Adventures, crafts, Bible stories, snacks, and lots of ways to prepare your hearts for the celebration of the coming King! Boxes will be ready for pick up on Sunday, Nov 29 or delivered the following week.

Come Help Decorate for Christmas! Saturday, December 5 at 9 am

We can't have our traditional Advent night this year, but we can still spread the JOY! Come join us for work day and help us decorate the Commons and Sanctuary and prepare our hearts for this Season of Advent into Christmas. There will also be a crew working on outdoor decorations if you prefer to help in that way!

Confirmation Sunday, December 20 4-5:00 pm

Students in 7th grade and up join us for our monthly time of digging into the Bible and understanding more about what makes a Lutheran, Lutheran. Keep working on your questions so we discuss and unpack them in 2021. Contact Pastor Greg to get involved!

Scarf Distribution! Sunday, December 27.

Save Sunday afternoon for our annual time of distributing scarves in strategic places around the local area. Once we get closer to Dec 27 we will make a call about specific details on how this will work this year. Our knitting crew has been hard at work and we want to make sure we get these beautiful scarves into the hands of homeless and those in need this Winter. Stay tuned for details!

Hume Lake Winter Camp is a NO-GO! Sadly, due to Covid regulations and restrictions Hume Ministries is cancelling all youth Winter camps for this season. During this season, Hume is offering some great Family camping and retreat events. If you are interested, please visit their website or talk to Cindi for more information. Janice Goodwin and I are working on ideas for an alternative Winter adventure... Stay tuned!!



Prayer Partners Here at Saint John's our children and youth receive the tremendous blessing of being prayed for by the women of Saint John's. We will be renewing this ministry in January 2021 and are looking for a few more faithful prayers to join us. You are not committing to teaching KidsChurch or additional time, other than to simply pray for the child or youth throughout the year at your choosing of time and location. If you are able to join this ministry or would like more details, please get in touch with Louise Frye.

December Highlights

Annual Report Deadline December 15th

**Please try to get your information & articles in early;
Due to our holiday schedule we are unable to make exceptions.**

Just a reminder that the Annual Report Deadline is sneaking up on us. This year's deadline is December 15th, 2020. Please keep your article to 1 page. (Type-written if possible or you can email your report to office@saintjohnsag.com) We have extra copies of last year's Annual Report in the office in case you would like a copy to help you prepare this year's report. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email.

Office Closed For Holidays December 24th – January 3rd, 2021

Lay Staff Christmas Bonus

Would you like to give a gift to our hard working staff? These are the people that keep our church on track and running. They all go above and beyond for our church. It would be so wonderful for us to do the same for them. Please join with me and mail in a check, some cash, some spare change... Let us show our love to them. Merry Christmas to you all! Greg

Council Highlights

*October continued a positive trend in income! We are \$26,800 higher than last year, 2019 year to date. Also, expenditures are nearly \$10,000 down from last year 2019 year to date. Thank you Saint John's for your generous giving. Council has agreed to further the process of improving the Church's sound system in the sanctuary as well as in the commons.

*Council also discussed how to hold a Congregational Meeting while in the Purple Tier of our COVID-19 restrictions. The Council voted (via email) on a mail-in ballot instead of an in-person meeting to vote on the 2021 budget. (see Pg. 2 for details)

<u>Income/Expenses:</u>	October 2020	YTD
Income	\$ 35,131	\$ 319,098
Expenses	\$ 37,833	\$ 345,915
	\$ -2,702	\$ -26,817*

(* does not include the \$29,000 PPP Grant from the Cares Act)



December

2 BORJA, JANICE
7 CAL WOOD
8 IRENE RODIN
10 BRIAN BELDEN
11 GABRIELA SILVERSTONE
12 ANDY DODDS, MIKE EBERSOLE,
CANDY KASEMAN, BOB WEIGER
15 PRISCILLA THOMAS
18 TERRY FIBICH
22 VALERIE REILLY,
SCOTT TAYLOR
23 FRANK DRAKE, GWEN MUNDEN
24 TIM MYER
26 RON WERNER



Prayer Ministry

Eric, Terri, Craig, Damon , Jenn,
Pam, Travis, Bob, Sylvia, Shar,
Cheryl

*Thank
You*

Saint John's Lutheran Church Congregation,

Sylvia and I extend to you our most sincere thank you for all of the love and help you have given to us. Your cards and phone calls are greatly appreciated. The food was overwhelming. We are still having our meals from the food that you provided. The road to recovery is progressing, but not as quickly as I have hoped. May the Grace of God continue with you forever. Our most sincere love, Bob and Sylvia Gold

January Newsletter

**Deadline is December 9th
Due to the Holiday Schedule**

Thanks to all the volunteers
who have been such a blessing
to the office. It would be
impossible without you!

CONTACT information



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Songfest Director	Cal Wood
Choir Accompanist	Shari Bowman
Organist	Dawn Russ
Nursery Attendant	

2020 Church Council

PRESIDENT

Steve Kapka

VICE PRESIDENT

Sandy Lebens

TREASURER

Brian King

SECRETARY

Mark Ravera

Children's Ministry

Mark Ravera

Good News Team

Cheryl Price

Property

Mark Heidepriem

Social Ministry

Sandy Lebens

Stewardship

Kevin Colton

Women's Ministry

Roseann Carroll

Worship & Music

Wes Drysdale

Youth

Steve Kapka

How to Give to Saint John's

Go to www.saintjohnsag.com/give/ where you can learn more
about donating with your credit or debit card or follow the link to
give on-line . Or call the Church Office for more info



The Eagle

Is published monthly by
Saint John's Lutheran Church
959 Valley Rd.

Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
(805) 489-1259 Fax 489-8719
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www.saintjohnsag.com

Editor: Cheryl Apfel

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
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