

Welcome to Worship  
at  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
a reconciling in Christ congregation



FIRST SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

November 27, 2022

10:30 am

**Pastor:** The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

**Vicar:** Vanessa Storlie

**Director of Music:** Jessica Madow

330 Ferry Street; Easton, PA 18042-4500

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[www.stjohnseaston.org](http://www.stjohnseaston.org)

## Statement of Welcome

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.—Galatians 3:28*

As a community of God striving to be open to all people, we at St. John's Lutheran Congregation believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We welcome all to join us as we struggle to better understand the mysteries of God's teachings. We are challenged by Christ to care for, to love, to understand, and to listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual/affectional orientation, national origin or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God's people. St. John's Lutheran Congregation is a place for each person to shine in their own unique gifts.

## Statement of Mission

St. John's Lutheran Church is a downtown, community-oriented, congregation of Christians. We worship God, strive to welcome and wholly accept everyone, and reach out with and in God's love.

~

**Communion** is a time we invite all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament. If this is your belief, there are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

**Nursery** – A staffed nursery person is available in the nursery following Children's Chat . . .

**Service Notes** – \* (asterisk) indicates, please stand as you are able.

# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## Announcements

**Prelude**     *“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”* by J.S. Bach  
                  *(“Awake, the voice is calling us”)*

## **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**C: Blessed be God’s name forever. Amen.**

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

God of new beginnings,

**C: We confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

P: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit, you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**C: Amen.**

# Gathering Hymn

ELW # 263 *“Savior of the Nations, Come”*

## \*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

## \*Kyrie

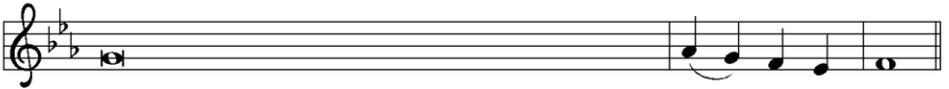
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In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



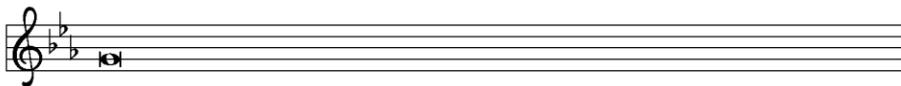
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



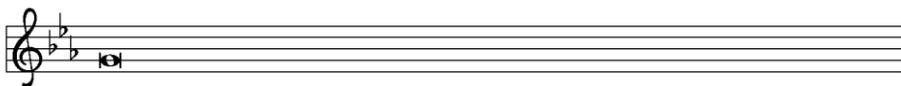
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# \*Canticle of Praise

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Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

# Lighting of the Advent Wreath -

(Candle Lighters: *Judy Keen / Charles & Julia Cortright*)

P: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C: Amen.

*(The first candle is now lit.)*

## Advent Lighting Hymn -

ACS #905 "We Are Waiting for Jesus"



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up-on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

A: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 122**

*(please read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

<sup>2</sup>**Now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built as a city  
that is at unity with itself;

<sup>4</sup>**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>For there are the thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
“May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls  
and quietness within your towers.

<sup>8</sup>**For the sake of my kindred and companions,  
I pray for your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

\*Gospel Acclamation

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Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## **\*Gospel**

**Matthew 24:36-44**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew , the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## *Children's Chat*

**Sermon:** Vicar Vanessa Storlie

## Hymn of the Day –

ELW #244 *“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”*

### *\*Apostles’ Creed*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### *\*Prayers of Intercession*

**A: Let us pray. God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,**

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care including those we mention on our prayer list, . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . . Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy,

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

## **\* The Sharing of the Peace**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

# Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*(Ushers now proceed forward to receive the offering plates from the Altar and begin to pass them through the pews.)*

## Offertory “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

(African American Spiritual)

Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

## \*Presentation of Gifts

*(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)*

## \*Offertory Hymn

ELW #251 “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” (vs 1)



I My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.

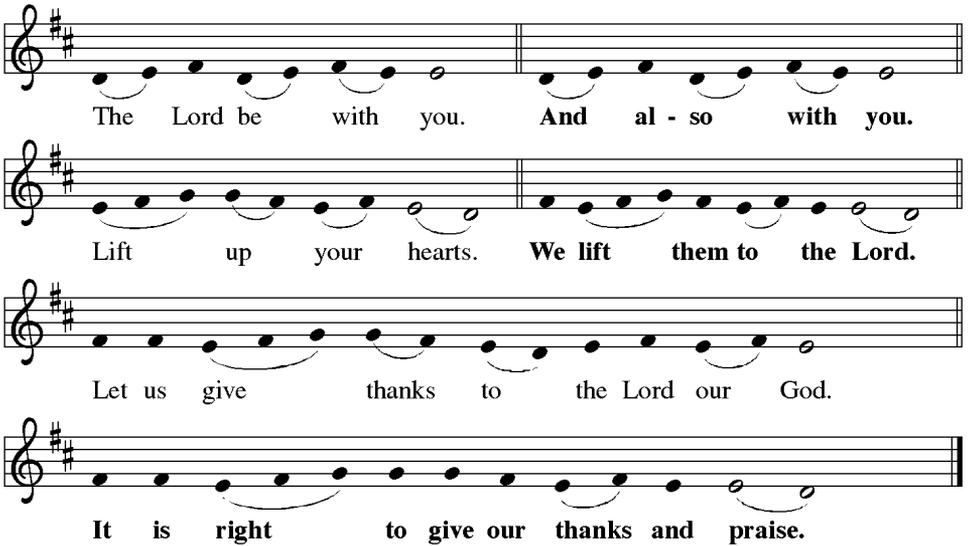
# \*Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

C: Amen

# \*Great Thanksgiving

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The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

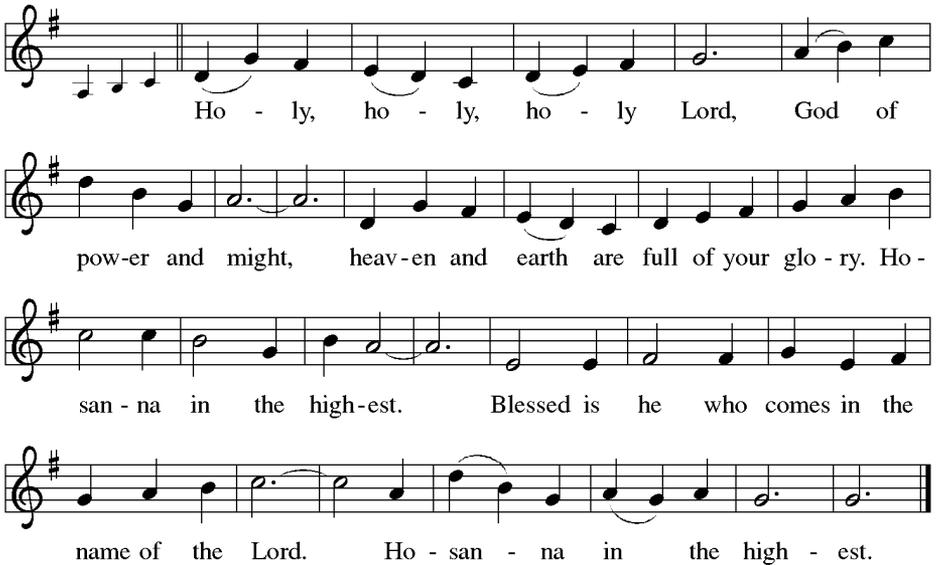
# \* Preface

*(Pastor continues . . .)*

# \*Holy, Holy, Holy

C:

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*Communion Form

(Pastor continues ... )

## \*Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

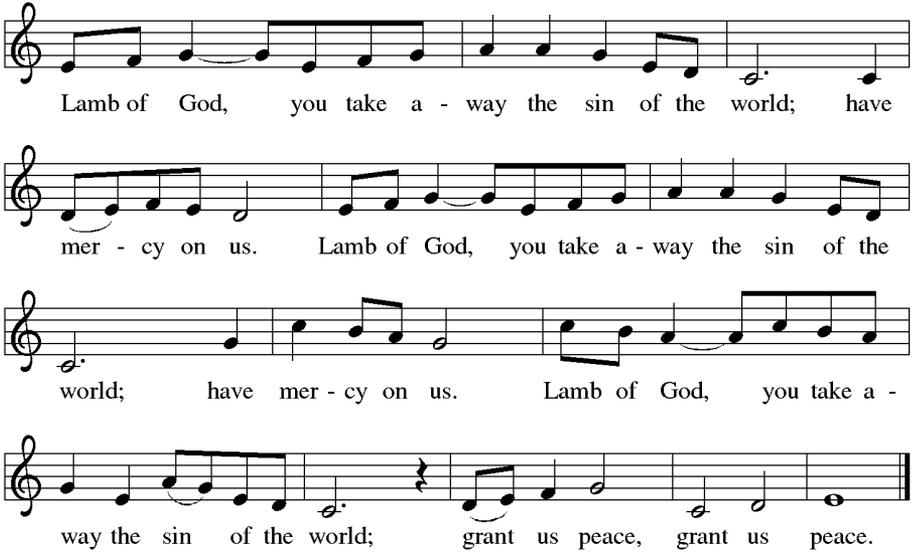
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

# \*Lamb of God

C:

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Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Holy Communion** - *If you are baptized and believe that it is the real blood and body of Christ, we welcome you at the Lord's table here at St. John's.*

*\*At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion. Please remain at the front until the entire table has communed and you are dismissed.*

*Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free and grape juice available upon request.*

# Communion Hymns –

ELW #470 *“Draw Us in The Spirit’s Tether”*

ELW #483 *“Here Is Bread”*

ELW #484 *“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”*

## Post Communion Canticle

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Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **\*Blessing**

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn**

ELW # 545 *“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”*

# Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# Postlude

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2. "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether" (ELW #470, Text: Percy Dearmer, from Songs of Praise, Enlarged Edition © Oxford University Press 1931; Music: Harold Friedell © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.)
3. "Here is Bread" (ELW #483, Text & Music: Graham Kendrick © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere (ASCAP).)
4. "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" (ELW #484, Text: Omer Westendorf; Music: Robert E. Kreutz; Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia, admin. International Liturgy Pub.)

*Remaining music is from the public domain.*

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

**Worship Assistant** – Joyce Petty

**Ushers** – Roger Ruggles / Connie Garr

**Reader** – Julia Cortright

**Altar Guild** – Judi Kalapay & Linda Kalapay

**This Week at St. John's: November 27<sup>th</sup> – December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (11/27/22) – First Sunday of Advent, 10:30 am

**Today** (11/27/22) –Following Worship: Rachel's Circle

**Today** (11/27/22) – Following Worship: Budget Questions for  
Steve Moyer . . .Hospitality Rm

**Today** (11/27/22) – Gallery Open, 12-3:00 pm

**Monday** (11/28/22) –Newsletter Folding – 9:30 am, Gallery

**Monday** (11/28/22) –Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

**Tuesday** (11/29/22) – Bible Study – 11:00 am, Hospitality Room

**Wednesday** (11/30/22) – Soup & Scripture, 6:00 pm, Hospt. Rm.

**Sunday** (12/4/22) – Advent 2 Worship, 10:30 am

**Sunday** (12/4/22) – Following Worship: Congregational Meeting

**Sunday** (12/4/22) – Gallery Open, 12-3:00 pm

*Flower today are dedicated in honor of my Grandchildren Aaron &  
Hannah Stollmann on their 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday by Phyllis Schurz*



**Attendance: 48**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,515.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,270.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$102,335.00
Year to Date amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$106,690.00

*(These totals do not include special envelopes.)*



Mark your Calendars . . .

Annual Congregational Meeting  
- December 4<sup>th</sup>, Following Worship  
Please plan on attending this  
important event.

## *Advent Soup and Scripture*

*Beginning November 30<sup>th</sup>*

- Join us for a simple soup and  
Advent scripture lesson on  
"Angels"



*6:00-8:00 pm in the Hospitality Room.*

*Holiday Art Show – In the Gallery!  
Come browse and shop for unique art and craft items  
and gifts.*

*Sundays 12:00 – 3:00 pm  
(the gallery is always looking for volunteers !)*



FYI – STEVE MOYER WILL BE IN THE HOSPITALITY  
TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP  
FOR ANY QUESTIONS PEOPLE MAY HAVE  
ABOUT THE BUDGET ...



THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WILL BE  
PROVIDING SANDWICHES FOLLOWING THE  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON DECEMBER  
4<sup>TH</sup>. PLEASE PLAN ON STAYING AFTER THE  
MEETING FOR A LIGHT LUNCH AND  
FELLOWSHIP.