

# Second Sunday in Advent

December 9-10, 2023



The Second Sunday in Advent has a theme of repentance to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. It also has a focus on God coming to restore His people. The Introit asks for this restoration as it remembers how God once took His people from slavery in Egypt and planted them as a vine in the promised land of Canaan. Then the Collect prays that God would stir our hearts and prepare them in repentance for the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ. The Old Testament Reading from Isaiah answers that God is coming in forgiving love and mercy: "Comfort, comfort my people. . . Her iniquity is pardoned". The exile for sin is over. Thus, people should hear the voice of one crying in the wilderness and prepare in repentance for God's coming. God will comfort them, forgive them, and restore them. Ultimately, the Epistle reminds us, that coming is a new heaven and new earth, which we are awaiting. God is patient in bringing this about because He wants people to reach repentance. In the meantime, we are encouraged to lead repentant, faithful lives. Finally, the Gospel, the opening verses of Mark, is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy concerning John the Baptist. John was sent to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

## St. John's Lutheran Church and School

12809 State Route 736 Marysville, OH 43040

Office Phone: 937-644-5540

Church Website: [www.stjohnsmarysville.org](http://www.stjohnsmarysville.org)

School Website: [www.sjsmarysville.org](http://www.sjsmarysville.org)

Email: [stjohns@stjohnsmarysville.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohnsmarysville.org)

Rev. Jack D. Heino, Sr. Pastor 937-240-3002

Mr. Rich Rausch, Principal 937-240-3003

*Equipping the family of God to joyfully and boldly make disciples of Christ as we*

**KNOW** Jesus and one another, **GROW** to be more like Him and

**SOW** His love in Word and deed.



# **Saturday 6 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. Traditional Worship Services**

**Kevin Vollrath – Organist**

**Divine Service *Setting Three* – LSB pg. 184**

## **“Stir Up Repentance” - 2 Peter 3:8–14**

Advent is the season of waiting! As we await Christ's coming again in power and glory, we know that the time we are given before that great Day is due to the Lord's patience. "The Lord . . . is patient toward you," says Peter (2 Peter 3:9). Why? More time before Christ's return as King and Judge means more opportunities for us to share the life-giving Gospel with all the world. As people hear the message of Christ, repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith, more souls will be brought into God's eternal kingdom. And because He is working His wonders of salvation, we rejoice in Him and receive from Him all He seeks to give!

## **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

### **WELCOME**

### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

### **HYMN OF INVOCATION                      “Prepare the Royal Highway”**

LSB 343

### **INVOCATION**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION – LSB pg. 184**

(Sat. 6 p.m.) **WORSHIP PRESENTATION by the SJLC Kindergarten & 1st Grade, “My God is So Big”**  
Led by Teachers, Mrs. Jodi Nicol, Mrs. Alecia Stottlemeyer & Mrs. Laura Wirick

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD – LSB pg. 186**

### **(Sun. 9 a.m.) INTROIT**

*Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v. 3*

Restore us, | O God;\*

**let your face shine, that we | may be saved!**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!\*

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.**

You brought a vine out of | Egypt;\*

**it took deep root and | filled the land.**

Restore us, O | God of hosts;\*

**let your face shine, that we | may be saved!**

### **KYRIE**

LSB 186

### **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

LSB 189

[Today's Bible readings are found on pages 11-12 of this worship program]

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 40:1-11**

**EPISTLE READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14**

### **ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

LSB 190

**HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

## APOSTLES CREED

LSB 192

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**

LSB 344

**SERMON: “Stir Up Repentance” - 2 Peter 3:8–14**

## OFFERTORY

LSB 192

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!  
**C** To You alone our prayers we bring!

## 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.

## OFFERINGS OF OUR TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES

“Lord, we are yours. This represents our heart, our attitude, our spirit, and our willingness to recognize and submit to you as our Lord.”

## BENEDICTION

LSB 202

## HYMN TO DEPART

**“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

LSB 338

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# ***Sunday 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service***

Jon Lutz, Rich Rausch, & Charles Renner – Accompanists

## **“Stir Up Repentance” - 2 Peter 3:8–14**

Advent is the season of waiting! As we await Christ's coming again in power and glory, we know that the time we are given before that great Day is due to the Lord's patience. "The Lord . . . is patient toward you," says Peter (2 Peter 3:9). Why? More time before Christ's return as King and Judge means more opportunities for us to share the life-giving Gospel with all the world. As people hear the message of Christ, repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith, more souls will be brought into God's eternal kingdom. And because He is working His wonders of salvation, we rejoice in Him and receive from Him all He seeks to give!

## **Pre-Service Music:**

### **“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”**

Hark the herald angels sing! Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful all ye nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies!  
With angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark the herald angels sing! Glory to the newborn King!

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings!  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die/  
Born to raise the sons of earth! Born to give them second birth!  
Hark the herald angels sing! Glory to the newborn King!

We bring glory to Your name! We bring glory to Your name!  
Joyful all ye nations rise! Join the triumph of the skies!  
With angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark the herald angels sing! Glory to the newborn King!

**We bring glory to Your name! We bring glory to Your name! We bring glory to Your name!**

Ben Shive, Brown Bannister, Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Jeremy Camp CCLI Song #6466190 Words: Public Domain; Music: 2012 Stolen Pride Music; Thirsty Moon River Publishing; Junkbox Music; Banistuci Music For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #692716

## **Welcome & Time of Greeting**

### **Opening Song: “Away in a Manger & Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

Away in a manger no crib for a bed. The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere!  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.  
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere!  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care and take us to heaven to live with Thee there.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere!  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere!  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

James Ramsey Murray, John Thomas McFarland, Martin Luther CCLI Song #38583 Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #692716 John W. Work Jr. CCLI Song #29080 Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #692716

## Invocation

*Pastor: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

**People: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.**

*Pastor: Speak to us Lord. As You promised through Your prophets Isaiah and John the Baptist, come to us now.*

**People: May all the barriers be removed so that we can receive Your Word and worship You.**

*Pastor: You, Lord are the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. You will not grow tired or weary, and Your understanding no one can fathom.*

**People: Lord, let Your glory be revealed! Amen!**

## Opening Prayer

### Time of Confession and Forgiveness

*Pastor: Lord, we confess.*

**People: We confess that we have forgotten Your miracles, Your promises. We have trusted in ourselves first.**

*Pastor: We confess that we do not seek You.*

**People: We confess that we do not keep our eyes, our hearts, and minds on You Jesus. We confess that we forget that You sit at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us, even now.**

*Pastor: We confess that our focus is on our earthly circumstances instead of eternity. We confess and repent of our ways Lord, ways that do not include You first in our lives.*

**People: Forgive us Lord for our sins.**

*Pastor: Have mercy on me Lord, a sinner.*

**People: Amen!**

## † We Hear God's Word †

(Today's Bible readings are found on pages 11-12 of this worship program)

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11**

**Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14**

**Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

**Response Song:**

### "Precious Promise"

Oh what a precious promise! Oh what a gift of love!  
An angel tells a virgin that she's gonna have a Son  
And though it's a precious promise, she wonders how can this be?  
What will the people say and what if Joseph can't believe?  
And her questions and her fears are met with an overwhelming joy that God has chosen her!  
Oh what a precious promise! Mary waits as heaven comes to earth!

Oh what a precious promise! Oh what a gift of love!  
Joseph makes his choice to do what few men would have done.  
To take Mary as his bride, when she's already carrying a Child that isn't his own.  
Oh what a precious promise! Mary and the Child will have a home!

And shepherds stand on a hillside, their hearts racing with the news the angel told them!  
A star's light fills up the dark sky as the night of precious promise is unfolding.

Oh what a precious promise! Oh what a gift of love!  
The waiting now is over and the time has fin'ly come!  
For the God Who made this world, to roll back the curtain and unveil His passion for the heart of man!  
Oh what a precious promise! Lying in a manger in Bethlehem!  
Oh what a precious promise! Lying in a manger in Bethlehem!

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**Message: “Stir Up Repentance” - 2 Peter 3:8–14**

## **† We Respond to God’s Word †**

### **Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **† We Pray †**

### **Prayer of the Church**

#### **The Lord’s Prayer**

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.

### **Offerings of Our Time, Talents & Treasures**

“Lord, we are yours. This represents our heart, our attitude, our spirit, and our willingness to recognize and submit to you as our Lord.”

## **† We Depart in Peace †**

### **Benediction**

#### **Closing Song:**

#### **“O Come All Ye Faithful”**

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye oh come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold Him born the king of angels!

Oh come let us adore Him! Oh come let us adore Him!

Oh come let us adore Him! Christ the Lord!

Sing choirs of angles! Sing in exultation! Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God! Glory in the highest!

Oh come let us adore Him! Oh come let us adore Him!

Oh come let us adore Him! Christ the Lord!

Yea Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning! Jesus to thee be all glory given!

Word of the Father now in flesh appearing!

Oh come let us adore Him! Oh come let us adore Him!

Oh come let us adore Him! Christ the Lord!

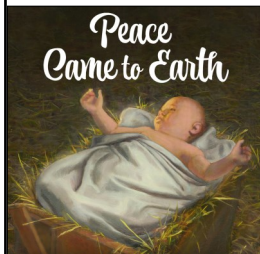
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# NOTES AND NEWS

## Midweek Advent Bible Study: "Peace Came to Earth"

Wednesdays: 12/13 and 12/20 at 6:00 pm

Heritage House Led by Pastor Jack



Seeking peace by our own efforts is an endless pursuit, but God instructs us with a peace that surpasses understanding. He gives us peace in five separate ways that meet our needs, perhaps before we even know them. This peace comes through the birth of Jesus. Using a five-point

Christmas star as a metaphor, see the five ways Jesus brings us peace from God as the Prince of Peace. *Please join us as we learn more about the real meaning of Peace.*

## Saturday Worship Service Time Change

Through much prayerful consideration and discussion with a large portion of the congregational members who attend the Saturday evening service, it has been decided to move the start time from **6:00 pm to 4:00 pm** effective **Saturday, December 16th. This change will be effective December 16, 2023 - March 16, 2024.** It is felt that moving the time will make winter time driving safer for our congregational members who attend this service. Direct any questions or concerns to any of the Elders, or Mike Friday at 937-243-2436.

## Notes & News Info for Dec. 16-17 & 23-24

**The Notes & News/Worship Program will not be published for the weekend of December 16-17, 2023.**

Please submit articles for the December 23-24 Notes & News by no later than **MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT NOON** to Regina Bullerman, Church Secretary. You can call 937-240-3004, or email [rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org](mailto:rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org) for submission.

## Attention! Attention! Community Service Hours Available!

Does your student need an hour of community service? We have just the job for them! Replenishing the envelopes, blue cards, and pencils in the St. John's Sanctuary. An adult must be present for this project, but all family members are welcome to help. All supplies are in the sanctuary. An email will be sent the week before your selected date with all the instructions you will need. This can also be a volunteer service opportunity for a group or family. If you have any questions or concerns, email Christy Fisher at [clfppg@aol.com](mailto:clfppg@aol.com). You are welcome to sign up through the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545A8A723A57-46168994-sanctuary#/>

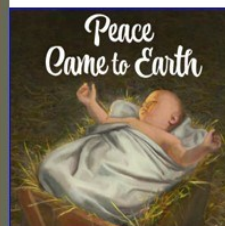
## St. John's Lutheran Church

### 2023-24 Holiday Worship Service Schedule

Midweek Advent Bible Study: "Peace Came to Earth"

Wednesdays: 12/13 and 12/20 at 6:00 pm

Led by Pastor Jack Heritage House



In today's world, Christmastime is often busy, hectic, and stressful but that's not what Christmas is about. Christmas is about a manger and hay, stables and shepherds, and a swaddled baby called the Prince of Peace. Take a step back and celebrate the peace and simplicity of Christmas by joining us in this Advent Bible study.

### Presentation of Christmas by St. John's School Children

Grades 5-8 Middle School Christmas Program Preview:

**Wednesday, December 13, 9:30 am** (church sanctuary)

(The 5-8 Christmas Program Preview is open to all church members & school families.)

Grades 5-8 Middle School Christmas  
Program Presentation:

**Thursday, December 14, 7:00 pm** (church sanctuary)

### Christmas Eve Services

**Sunday, December 24**

(We will hold our regular 9 & 11 am Worship Services)

Family Service at 7:00 pm

Candlelight Service at 11:00 pm (Communion)

### Christmas Day Service

**Monday, December 25**

Sanctuary Worship Service at 10:00 am (Communion)

### New Year's Eve Service

(We will hold our regular 9 & 11 am Worship Services)

**Sunday, December 31 at 7:00 pm**

(Communion)

### New Year's Day Service

**Monday, January 1, 2024 at 10:00 am**

(Communion)

Please Join Us — All Are Welcome!

## Weekly Worship Bible Readings

We have provided next weekends Bible readings for those of you who would like to read and study the Word ahead of next weekends worship services:

**December 16-17, 2023**

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

**Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

**Holy Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28**



## WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

**Welcome to St. John's!** Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We pray that you will encounter Christ, the Living Word, and in a new way experience His mercy and grace today. We ask if you are a visitor, or a worship scholarship participant (SJ School), to please fill out the **blue card** located in the pew rack in front of you. Then drop the card in the offering box as you leave worship. If you would like to know more about our ministry, please call the church office at 937-644-5540.

**The Lutheran Hour** is on the radio Sunday mornings at **7:00am on WLW (700 AM)**. Log on to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) for more information and channels. Jim Vandre, LHM Ambassador.

**St. John's Radio Program** airs Sunday mornings at **8:00am** on local channel **WQTT (1270 AM & 98.7 FM)**.

**Valet Parking:** Available at the 9:00 am service. Contact Charlie Fisher at 614-370-5495 or [clfpagg@aol.com](mailto:clfpagg@aol.com) if interested in helping valet park, or have questions.

**Altar Flowers:** The altar flowers are placed to the Glory of God and in celebration and thanksgiving of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the wedding of **Joy and Larry Ballard** on December 10.

### THE LORD'S WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S      DECEMBER 10-17, 2023

<b>TODAY</b> 12/10/23	9:00 am	Sanctuary Worship Service (Live-Streamed)
	10:00 am	Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School
	10:00 am	2023-24 Youth Catechism Class/Modulars
	11:00 am	Contemporary Worship/Gym
	5:30 pm	<b>Jr. LYF: Bowling Christmas Party - PC Lanes</b>
	6:00 pm	<b>Sr. LYF: Christmas Party at the Zeiler's</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	8:00 pm	Adult Open Gym Volleyball/Gym
<b>TUESDAY</b>	11:30 am	Ladies Aid Quilting
	12:30 pm	<b>Golden Eagles Christmas Celebration Trip</b>
	5:30 pm	<b>SJS Girls/Boys BBall at Home vs. New Hope</b>
	7:00 pm	<b>Bd. of Administration Mtg./Heritage House</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:30 am	<b>Middle School Christmas Program Preview/Sanctuary</b>
	1:30 pm	ACES/Youth House
	5:30 pm	<b>SJS Boys BBall at Home vs. Bunsold</b>
	6:00 pm	<b>Advent Bible Study: Peace Came to Earth/Heritage House</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	12:00 pm	Ladies Aid Quilting
	7:00 pm	<b>Middle School Christmas Program Presentation/Sanctuary</b>
	8:00 pm	Dartball/Gym
<b>FRIDAY</b>	1:00 pm	Ladies Aid Quilting
<b>SATURDAY</b>	9:30 am	<b>SJS Boys BBall at Home vs. Wellington</b>
	11:00 am	<b>SJS Girls BBall at Home vs. Madison Christian</b>
	4:00 pm	<b>Sanctuary Worship Service: Communion</b>
		<b>NOTE: New Start Time</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 12/17/23	9:00 am	Sanctuary Worship Service (Live-Streamed): Communion
	10:00 am	Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School
	10:00 am	2023-24 Youth Catechism Class/Modulars
	11:00 am	Contemporary Worship/Gym: Communion
	3:30 pm	<b>SJS Boys BBall at Home vs. Wellington</b>

### ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 - 11:00 am

(Fall-Winter-Early Spring Schedule)

**3 Years-Kindergarten**—Church Basement

**1st-5th Grades**—Meet together in the gym with Teacher Mark Moran, and then move to school classrooms.

**6th Grade**—Mrs. Ashley Monroe's Classroom

**7th & 8th Grade Youth Catechism Class**—Mrs. Susie Miller & Mrs. Jayme Allen's Modular Classroom

**High School Youth "Cornerstone Discipleship"**—Youth House

**Women's Bible Study**—Classroom (below the school loft):

**Topic - "Where Love Abides."** Bible study based on John 15:1-17, written by Donna Snow.

**Adult Bible Study—School Cafeteria:** Topic - "Romans 12" led by Rich & Kristine Rausch.

If you have questions, please contact the

Sunday School Superintendent,

Lisa Arnold at 937-205-1802 or [arnoldlisa50@yahoo.com](mailto:arnoldlisa50@yahoo.com)

### Weekly Church Attendance

**No Saturday Service      Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am**

**12/3: 408**

### Congregational Tithe—2nd Qtr. Mission Opportunities of Fiscal Year 2023-24

LCMS Ohio District - 50%;

Lutheran Hour - 20%;

LWML - 20%;

Member Mission Outreach - 10%





## NOTES & NEWS ITEMS

WELCOME,  
VISITORS!

Those who are visiting with us today, please feel free to take a blue visitor "welcome" bag located in the back of church or on the tables in the gym at 11:00 am worship service.



**ACES:** Please join us for Euchre & fellowship this Wednesday at the Youth House at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$1.00 including prizes, drinks, and cookies.

### Ladies Aid Save the Date

Sunday, January 7, 2024, the Ladies Aid will hold a Pie Making Class at the Heritage House at 3:00 PM. Mark your calendars, and hope to see you there!



### Sr. LYF Christmas Party TODAY - Sunday, December 10th

YOUTH GROUP  
CHRISTMAS PARTY



LYF Christmas Party, 6pm at the Zeiler's House. Bring a white elephant gift (\$10) value, and some snacks to share.



### Junior Youth Event Bowling Christmas Party December 10th

Bowling at Plain City Lanes  
5:30-8:30 pm

Cost: \$20 includes shoes, 2 games, pizza & drink



Come Join the Fun and Fellowship  
Food, Bowling and Devos

Bring a White Elephant if you want to have fun with the gift exchange.

Bring a Friend if you would like!



### POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Flower Committee is taking orders for **red** poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas. The flowers can be in honor or memory of loved ones. The poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Day service or the following weekend services.

Please complete the form inserted in the Notes & News. The cost is \$9.50 each. Place the form with payment in the box in the Marie Pfarr room. Checks should be written to St. John's Lutheran Church.

Contact Charlotte Blumenschein at (937) 644-4111 with any questions or help with ordering.

*The Flower Committee appreciates  
your continued support.*

Sounds of The Avalon Presents...

## Handel's MESSIAH Community Sing-along Sunday, December 10 5pm

Conductor: Scott Underwood

Soloists:

Erin Gilleon, Soprano  
Susan Wilson, Mezzo Soprano  
Benjamin Bunsold, Tenor  
David Wilson, Bass-Baritone

Accompanied by:  
String Quartet and Piano

Join us in singing the Christmas selections of *Messiah*  
in a fun, casual setting!

In addition to those singing, we invite patrons to come listen!

**\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION**  
CANNED GOODS COLLECTED  
FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

THE AVALON THEATRE  
121 S. MAIN ST.  
MARYSVILLE, OH  
MORE INFORMATION:  
[theavalontheatre.org](http://theavalontheatre.org)

THANK  
you.

I want to thank the people who sent me a birthday card, and to those that saw me personally to say Happy Birthday. Also to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class at St. John's for their cards. Thank all of you and have a very Merry Christmas.

May God Bless all of you. **Warren Wulff**

Soar on Wings God has Made for You

# Golden Eagles



## ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

### For a Golden Eagles Christmas!

It's a **WONDERFUL LIFE**... We've had a **WONDERFUL YEAR**!  
So let's celebrate **CHRISTMAS** together and spread some **GOOD CHEER**!

Join us on Tuesday, December 12th, for our **Golden Eagles Christmas Party**! Our Cardinal Motor Coach will whisk us away to our private late lunch at **"Lincoln and Main"**, a fun little family-run eatery in Urbana offering some unique and delicious menu options! Craft beers and local wines are specialties of this quaint, cozy establishment, which we will have all to ourselves!

We've planned some Christmas Fun around a **"White Elephant Gift Exchange"**! No pressure here! Just bring the funniest or silliest thing you can find to wrap up! Maybe something that didn't sell at your garage sale... or something that you would just like to "re-gift"! Don't worry... we'll never tell! You don't have to sign your name and wrapping can be anything... fancy or just a brown paper bag! Keep them guessing! We'll have large trash bags to collect the "gifts" before you board the bus so no one has to know **what** you brought!

After lunch, we'll hit the road for our next stop, **"Young's Dairy"**, which has been in operation near Yellow Springs since 1869. Shop their store for Christmas themed gifts **AND**, or course, your dessert!

Then it's off to historic **"Clifton Mill"**, a scenic 19th century working grist mill, where we can tour the mill and then purchase many of the products they produce along with seasonal gifts right in their Gift Shop! Aside from the historic mill, you can visit their amazing **Christmas Museum**, which features thousands of holiday decorations down through the years; a **1940's Era Gas Station**; and an **Authentic Covered Bridge**! The awe-inspiring **Christmas Light Show**, which takes advantage of the natural beauty of the Clifton Gorge, will dazzle you! It's a breathtaking scene you won't want to miss! A Christmas devotion, some caroling and a few fun games will take place on the way to and from!

**Price is \$90 per person.** This includes lunch at Lincoln and Main (your choice of entree, non-alcoholic beverages, tax and gratuity); transportation, and admission to Clifton Mill. \*Cost of craft beer or wine with lunch is on your own, as well as your dessert choice at Young's Dairy. **AND**, as always, count on unlimited amounts of Golden Eagles fun!

**Notes:** Our motor coach will arrive at St. John's Church parking lot at 12:30 pm. It will drop us very close to each venue with a minimum of walking, but please wear good walking shoes and feel free to bring your cane or walker. Every venue is "Senior Friendly".

**Reservation forms are available now in the Marie Pfarr room. Please contact Jeff or Carol (514-560-5085) or Annie Scheiderer at (937-707-0424) to put your name on the list. THEN fill out your name, address and phone number, indicating your menu selection, and return with your payment of \$90 per person to: Jeff and Carol Reinhard, 14430 Robinson Road, Plain City, Ohio 43064, no later than December 10th. Please make checks payable to The Golden Eagles. Call Jeff or Carol if you have questions.**

**(GOLDEN EAGLES ARTICLE CONTINUED)**

## NOTES & NEWS ITEMS

### ATTENTION Wisconsin Travelers:

You may recall that Kristy Rowland offered to combine all of your amazing photographs into a booklet form as a keepsake. Many expressed an interest and several reserved copies. Kristy did an absolutely amazing job in editing and the booklets have been delivered. We have several reserved, plus some extra copies for those who might like to have one. Cost is \$25 each. Please let me know if you are interested. I will have them with me this coming Sunday, and can bring them along on the trip to Clifton Mills if you would like me to. Please give me a call to let me know your wishes. You won't want to miss this opportunity to have a keepsake of our journey together!

**Call Carol at 614-579-9124.**



### Christmas Eve Luminaries at the Cemetery

Please join families of St. John's observing the foreign custom of placing luminaries on graves of loved ones on Christmas Eve. This reminds us and our community that:

"**Jesus** came to us at Christmas as the **Light** of the world and so we have the comfort and peace of knowing that our loved ones are with the **Light** in everlasting joy and happiness."



## TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS

### Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-11*

*Somewhat like the Bible itself, the book of Isaiah, in the first 39 chapters can be considered as the book of judgement. (The first 39 books of the Bible are the Old Testament) In chapter 40 of Isaiah begins the book of comfort. (Book 40 of the Bible begins the New Testament) Isaiah begins this prophecy with "Comfort, comfort my people". He prophecies of one preparing the way for the Lord and promises the word of God will endure forever.*

*The sovereign Lord will come and shepherd His flock.*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" <sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle Reading: *2 Peter 3:8-14*

*Peter, in his second epistle, writes of the Lord's desire that all are saved. He prophecies of the coming of the Lord (like a thief!) and exhorts his readers to look forward and to be ready, to live holy lives and to be blameless and at peace with God.*

<sup>8</sup>But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you,



not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

(Sun. 9 a.m.) **Alleluia and Verse**

LSB 190

**Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

*In the opening of Mark's Gospel, he identifies who the Prophet Isaiah speaks of- John the Baptist-preparing the way for the Lord. John preaches a baptism of repentance and baptizes people in the Jordan River. But John speaks of the One who is coming, the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**G** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

