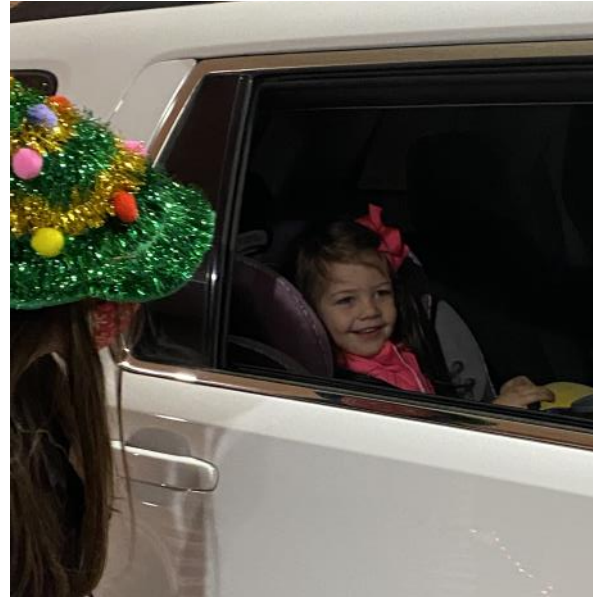


Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*

Christmas at St. John's



Pastor's Letter



Sisters and Brothers,

There is nothing better than a new planner! Ok, maybe not for you, but for me, the flipping of the calendar to a new year means a new planner. Joy! I always spend a significant amount of time going through and picking out the one that will be right for that year. Two years ago, I decided that I wasn't going to get a paper planner. I would

transition to everything online. Last year, I started using notes again to make lists. There is something about writing it down and crossing things off the list. This year, I am back to a regular planner. Although I was late ordering, it should be in sometime soon.

The start of a new year brings new excitement and anticipation. We never know what a year will hold, but we always have the hope and dream of our best year yet. After a year like last year, I have held tight to the meme, "Nobody claim 2021 as 'your year.' We're all going to walk in real slow. Be good. Be quiet. Don't. Touch. Anything." Yes! I think we all feel it. We don't know whether to be excited, optimistic, and hopeful, or downright terrified again.

Here is the good news. God has not changed. The prophet Jeremiah writes in chapter 29 verse 11, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." This passage was written in the time of the Babylonian exile. God's people had broken the covenant time and time again. Moses predicted this in Deuteronomy 30 but also gave them a glimpse of hope in verse 4. "Even if you are exiled to the ends of the world, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there God will bring you back." Moses knew what would happen, and Jeremiah tried to warn with no avail about the exile if God's people didn't turn back to God. In the midst of the unthinkable during the time of exile, though, Moses and Jeremiah's words are words of hope. God has got you. God has got us.

I can't tell you what 2021 will bring us, but I do know who holds us. Maybe this is a year to drive deep into trust, give up a little control, move away from our planners, and look towards God. Live into the future that God has for us, bringing God's kingdom here and now. If everyone did that, we would be just fine!

Grace and Love,
Pastor Laura

Nobody claim 2021 as "your
year". We're all going to walk
in real slow. Be good. Be quiet.
Don't. Touch. Anything.



Christmas Cookies

Sunday Dec. 13, thanks to an Thrivent Action team grant, I put my apron and baker's cap on to deliver a special treat to twenty 3 & 4yr old's homes. The theme for December was "Christmas Cookie's." From cookie sheets, dough, cookie cutters, aprons, baker's hat, to books, I was able to drop off to each home something fun for the family. It's not always about what we do in church, but what we can help make happen at home! A special thank you to the family who donated the aprons and baker's hat! Each month, I try to decorate the Facebook live set up to go along with the theme. Sometimes my visions are bigger than other's and December was no exception. Thank you to my husband, Aaron who spent many hours making wooden Christmas Trees to use during this season in ministry. They were a big hit and will be used for years to come! - Stacey Shafer



The “Simply Christmas & Chrismon” drive thru

From birth up through high school, families were able to come to a safe environment but still feel the Christmas JOY! With books, Jesus birthday cake mix, a reindeer antler game, minute to win it games depending on the age group, chocolate yoo-hoo’s and a sweet treat, members of St. John’s staff and family were able to witness a type of excitement that only comes once a year. Thanks to the staff, Carol Hair and the Chrismon team, Rosalind Hines, Noah Hines, Penny Moss, Debbie Hoffman and an anonymous family who donated books for the First Look age group. After the event and outreach, we only had three bags left out of 90!

Christmas at St. John's



Christmas at St.John's



Santa & his Elves



Ann Bostian



L-R Mrs. Pam, Mr. Tony, & Ms. Kristy of CDC

Senior Seasons Drive-By Christmas Party, benefitting the CDC was fun for a good cause. We collected goods from 10 am-12 pm and had deliveries afterwards as well. One very generous couple contributed \$200! The CDC staff received goody bags of chocolate.





Advent 2020

Candles are lit on each of the 4 Sundays of Advent, bringing more and more light into a particularly dark season of the year. In addition to marking the 4 Sundays of Advent, the candles remind us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light no darkness can overcome (John 1:5).

Christmas at St. John's





Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, we gathered together in four separate in person services and online.

We took Christmas photos in front of our virtual Chrismon Tree.



Worship at St. John's

Online and In-person (subject to change)

Sundays at 11am In-person worship capacity is limited to 100 persons/ service. Thank you for wearing a mask. Broadcast online from the Sanctuary. Join us by visiting our website or YouTube channel. Search "SJLC"

Sundays at 9:27am In-person worship in the Faith Center. A gentle, 45-minute service led by our worship team. Thanks for wearing masks. More details on our website.

Wednesdays
12:15-12:45 Our mid-week communion service in the Chapel. Strict health protocols are followed. **Postponed until further notice.**

Please watch for updates regarding in-person worship in FaithLife, social media, and website as we monitor recommendations and guidelines for in-person indoor gatherings.

Consolation

Larry Britt and family, on the passing of his sister, Lois House, in Hagerstown, IN on Wednesday, December 9.

Gail Swan in the loss of her sister-in-law, Margaret Sublett. Margaret lived to be 98 years old in Asheville.

Holly Zemke and family, on the passing of her fiancé, Bill Patterson, on Dec. 26. A private funeral will be held on Wed. Jan. 6 at 1 pm in the St. John's Chapel.

Tim Trexler and family, on the passing of his mother, Shirley Trexler on Dec.26. Her funeral was held on Dec. 30 at St. John's.

Robert Brady and family, on the passing of his mother, Joyce Brady, on Dec. 23. Her graveside funeral was held on Dec. 28.

Brent Barringer, Gib Johnson, Heidi Bell and family, on the passing of Mary Ann Hoover on Dec. 17. A service will be held at a later date.

Congratulations

Ben and Eva White, on the birth of their 1st grandchild, Rex Aaron White, on Dec. 15.

Dear St John's Members,

A note of thanks for the cards, phone calls, and most of all your prayers during the Christmas season. We are blessed to be part of the St. John's family.

Gerald and Pansy Peeler

*Thank
You*

St. John's Leadership

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2020 President Cindy Fink
2021 President-elect Mike Edwards
Vice President Rosalind Hines
Secretary David Phillips
Treasurer Tommy Page
Financial Secretary...Cory Gebhardt
Personnel Secretary ... Jeanie Moore

Term Expires 2021

Randy Overcash
David Hord
Mike Agee
Mary Wymbs
Larry Britt

Term Expires 2022

Christopher Derrick
Mike Edwards
Penny Moss
Dennis Rogers
Rosalind Hines

Term Expires 2023

Dr. Larry Cartner
Elaine Holden
Brenda Munday
Carole Parrott
Colleen Young

Youth Members

Sascha Medina and Ryan Brady

Benevolent Foundation Trustees

Chip Bridges, Chair
Chris Agner
Margaret Kluttz
John Denker
Lori Yang

MINISTRY GROUP STAFF CONTACTS

Worship and the Arts – Rob Durocher
Discipleship – Pastor Laura Henrik
Mercy and Justice – Pastor Rhodes Woolly
Congregational Life – Diane Poole
Stewarding God's Resources – Ruth Ann Diehl

The CDC Outdoor Learning Environment is Underway

“Plant Some Joy” for Any Occasion



The CDC Outdoor Learning Environment is underway.

To complete the CDC's new playground project, you're invited to participate in our "Plant Some Joy" campaign.

It's simple: Honor someone special on their birthday,

anniversary, or "just because" with a shrub or a tree, and we will send them a card to share the news!

Learn more about the playground in our February and March Eagle's View Newsletters.

Our Latest “Conversations that Matter” Podcast

Pastor Rhodes Interviews Alyssa Harris

Have you subscribed to the St. John's “Conversations that Matter” podcast ?

In January, Pastor Rhodes sits down with Alyssa Harris of Healthy Rowan to discuss Covid-19 and the vaccine distribution in Rowan County and Frankenstein.

Listen to the full conversation by searching “Conversations that Matter” on Apple Podcast, iHeartRadio, Spotify and more.

You can also catch up on past sermons on the SJLC Sermon Podcast Channel. Search “SJLC,” and don't forget to rate and subscribe!



St. John's Ministry Staff

Pastoral Ministry

Senior PastorRhodes Woolly
Pastor of Youth and Discipleship.....Laura Henrik
Visitation.....Wade Rouzer

Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon
Associate Parish Musician.....Rosemary Kinard
Director of Music Emeritus.....Karl Kinard, deacon
Director, St. John's Men's Chorus..... Jason Harwood
Assisting Organist.....Deanna Boksleitner
Bell Choirs.....Kimberly Lentz
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins
Contemporary Worship Leader.....Bradley Chestnut

Program Ministry

Adults.....Danny Hines
Children.....Stacey Shafer
YouthLaura Henrik
Senior AdultsDiane Poole
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds)Teresa Stoner
CDC Interim Directors Lonna Richardson and Kristy King

Administrative Team

Business ManagerRuth Ann Diehl
Office Manager.....Deborah Cross
Accounting.....Mark Bias
Communications Specialist Angel Owens
WriterSusan Shinn Turner
Facilities Manager.....Jon Koppe
Maintenance.....David Ellenburg

The Rev. Dr. Timothy M Smith, Bishop of the NC Synod
The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

The best way to contact staff at this time is by email.

Staff Email: first name@stjohns-salisbury.org
Visit us on the web at stjohns-salisbury.org
Kindergarten 704.636.4404
Kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org
Child Development Center 704.636.6756
cdc@stjohns-salisbury.org
Kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org

Office hours

The office building is closed while church staff members work from home.

Monday-Thursday, 9 am-5 pm; Friday 9-12.
Telephone 704.636.3431; Fax 704.636.4461

Worship During Covid-19 Restrictions

Online worship Sundays at 11 am
Contemporary Worship Sundays at 9:27 am in the Faith Center
Mid-week Communion Service, Wednesdays at 12:15 pm in the Chapel

Visit stjohns-salisbury.org and click "listen live," watch on Facebook Live, or search "SJLC" on YouTube

Listen to worship each Sunday morning at 11 am on stjohns-salisbury.org, and click Listen Live. Listen to previous week's service at 9 am Sunday on WSAT 1280 AM.

EAGLE'S VIEW (USPS 716—020)

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Please deliver by Jan. 11

Eagle's View Deadline

The February Eagle's View will be published in January.
Please email stories and news to
angel@stjohns-salisbury.org by Jan. 8!

On Call List

If there is a pastoral emergency, please call **704.856.9751** to reach the pastor on call.

Prayer Chain. Our Prayer Chain is updated daily and emailed to interested persons Monday through Friday. To add or subtract a name, please contact Deborah Cross at deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org. Also let Deborah know if you would like to receive the daily Prayer Chain.



Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*