

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
NOVEMBER 30, 2025 AT 10:15 A.M.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.

TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after the service in the Parish Hall. A nursery is available every Sunday for our littlest members next to the restrooms. Thank you for being here!

A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Our Rite II service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Our Wednesday healing service at 12:00 P.M. is an invitation to lay before God the people and situations in need of healing. This service, using the Book of Common Prayer and other resources, is grounded in healing prayers, anointing with holy oil, and the sharing of the sacrament. The service is short enough to accommodate lunch breaks yet full enough to transform hearts.

Every Thursday at 9:00 A.M. Brother David leads Morning Prayer in the Mary Chapel. This quiet, contemplative service is open to all and is a wonderful way to begin one's day. The service lasts about 20 minutes.

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have an announcement, you would like the clergy to share,
please fill out the form on our website or let the office know no later than Thursday.*

PRELUDE

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

OPENING HYMN

Once He Came in Blessing

HYMNAL 53

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Scripture The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in
a pitch-dark land, light has dawned. Isaiah 9:2

Prayer As we light the first candle of the Advent Wreath, we give thanks for the
great light of the world, your Son, Jesus, who is our light in the world so that
we no longer walk in darkness. May our lives be a light to others. *Amen.*

Song: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1-2)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. *Refrain*

OPENING ACCLAMATION *(please remain standing as you are able)*

BCP 355

Officiant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People His mercy endures for ever.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy

HYMNAL S-96

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 2:1-5 (*please be seated*)

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 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. 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. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 122 (*chanted by the choir*)

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good.

THE EPISTLE: Romans 13:11-14

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; 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; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

People The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN *Hosanna to the Living Lord* **HYMNAL 486**
Verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel Reading; Verse 3 & 4 after the Gospel Reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44 (*please remain standing as you are able*)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 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, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 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. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

 The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

SERMON

THE REV. DR. JOE PRITCHETT

THE NICENE CREED *(please rise in body or spirit)*

BCP 358

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man. *(pause)*
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*please kneel as you are able*)

FORM V

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found
without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Audrey, our own Bishop, for all bishops and other
ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and
that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the
ends of the earth, for St. Luke's, Altoona; The Anglican Church of Australia; and Grace
Church, Allentown, our sibling parish, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust especially Donald, our president; Josh, our governor; Danene, our mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, especially Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Sandy Grove, Peggy Zuke, Peggy Buscher, and Teresa Sullivan, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors especially Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl and Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Collin, Eileen Waite, Denise Chandler, Shirley Parmer, Ann Marie, Karlah Gibbs, Kathy Dodge and family, Sandy Patrone, Marshall, Leslie Tahsler, Marianne, Elly, Steve, Heidi, Danny, and Kenneth, and Virginia; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. John and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Officiant For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

People Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the
grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of
the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach

PRESENTATION HYMN

*All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent doth thy people free;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore*

HYMNAL 76, vs. 5

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People *We lift them to the Lord.*
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might* **HYMNAL S-130**
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

It is customary to kneel during Advent.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMNAL S-149

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who
sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
and de - liv - er us from c - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast.

THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. The wine is administered in two chalices: the common cup for drinking and the intinction cup for dipping your wafer into the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest when the wine passes. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are also available. If you are unable to come to the altar, please let an usher know and we would be happy to bring communion to you!

COMMUNION HYMNS	<i>O Day of God, Draw Night</i>	HYMNAL 601
	<i>Thy Kingdom Come, O God</i>	HYMNAL 613

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.
People We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER	BCP 365
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Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS *(said together)*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

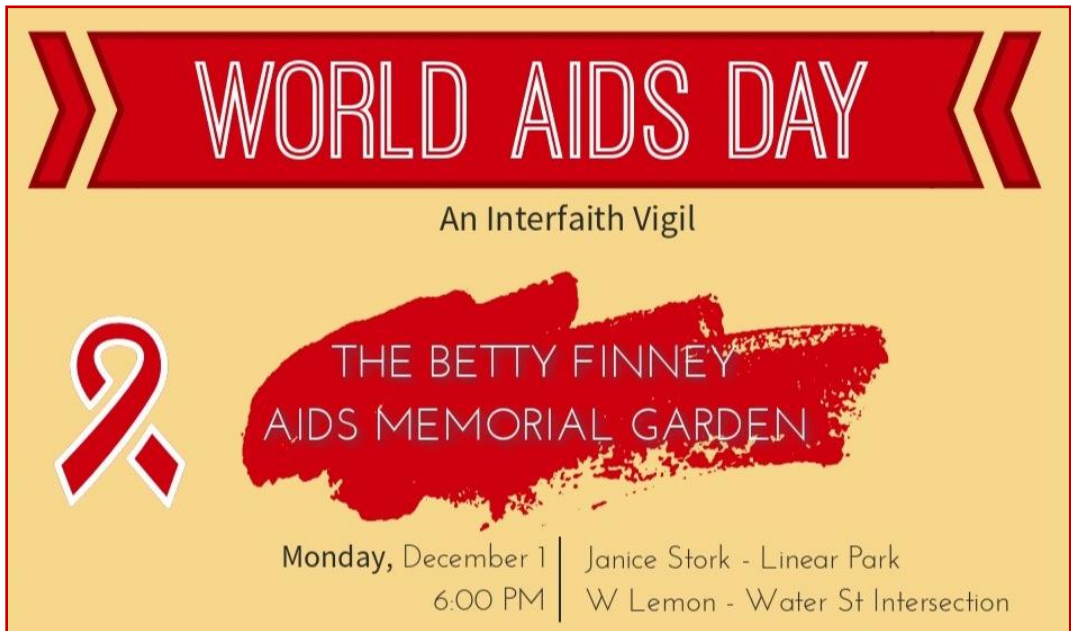
THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE*Wachet Auf*

Wayne Wold



St. John's Traveler Letter:

Did you know St. John's has pilgrims who travel the very places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares about the church and the places he visits:

Dear Pastors Amanda and Joe,

G'day from Down Under! It's been a whirlwind of a week here in Australia. No snow in sight – it's supposed to be 107 degrees here in Longreach, Queensland, in what they call the “outback.” No koalas here, but plenty of kangaroos and packs of dingoes, which are like wild dogs that hunt in packs. As you can imagine, they're pretty cute but you'll want to keep your distance, especially when moms are with their pups.

I spent Monday and Tuesday this week with Bishop Mark Short, the new “Primate” of the Anglican Church of Australia, who serves as the spiritual leader of the church. Before he was elected bishop, he served as National Director of the Bush Church Aid Society, which I had never heard of before.

Because Australia is so huge, there's plenty of small communities that don't have the population to support a full-time priest or church. Instead, you'll have priests that travel by bush plane from village to village to provide care, talk to locals, and spread the gospel to people who would otherwise not have clergy to talk to. I decided to join Bishop Short on one of his Bush Church Aid Society plane rides to see what it was like, thinking we'd travel to one town and then return to Sydney, the largest city here.

Turns out we flew to six villages over the course of the last 12 hours. We stopped in Hughenden to check in on a school chaplain, performed two baptisms in Blackall, held a prayer service in Winton, and visited a funeral in Charleville. Before our final stop here in Longreach, we flew to Alpha and Bishop Short blessed a coal mine that just opened.

I'm exhausted, but Bishop Short said it's just another day in a country the size of the US but with a population barely bigger than Texas. So today, I'm praying to gain a fraction of the strength and energy that Bishop Short brings to the job each and every day!

Blessings always,
John Traveler

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

Coffee Hour to follow each service

8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM	Sunday School
10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist: Rite II
1:00 PM	Education for Ministry

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

4:30 PM	Trans Loving Community
6:00 PM	World AIDS Day

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

1:30 PM	Martha's Ministry
2:30 PM	Food Pantry
5:00 PM	Immigration Clinic

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

12:00 PM	Healing Service
2:00 PM	Bible Study
5:30 PM	Advent Event!
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00 AM	Morning Prayer
9:30 AM	Staff Meeting
2:30 PM	Food Pantry
7:00 PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

Rector's Day Off

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Coffee Hour to follow each service

8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM	Sunday School
10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist: Rite II
1:00 PM	Education for Ministry

GIFTS THAT GIVE HOPE

TODAY from 11:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.

Farm and Home Center

When you choose Gifts That Give Hope, your purchase directly supports nonprofits making a real difference in our community and around the world. Discover ethical and impactful alternatives to traditional gifts—each one filled with purpose, compassion, and lasting impact. Because giving thoughtfully changes lives.

DAYTIME FOYER GROUP – DEC. 1

One of our Foyer Groups meets the first Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. for lunch and conversation. If you'd like to join the group, please contact Sue Heilman. The more the merrier!

ADVENT EVENT! – WED., DEC. 3

Everyone is invited to join us for our Annual Advent Event on Wednesday, December 3rd at 5:30 p.m. We'll gather for a potluck dinner, followed by making Advent Wreaths for our homes and cookie decorating! This event is intergenerational and a great way to prepare for the season of Advent. Sign up in the Parish Hall!

GREENING OF THE CHURCH – DEC. 6

The greening of the campus will take place on Saturday, December 6th at 10:00 AM. If you would like to get into the Christmas Spirit by hanging wreaths and garland outside of St. Joh's, please join us for the festivities! Thanks, Janice & Kevin Henry

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Dr. Joe Pritchett, Assistant Rector
joe@stjohns-lancaster.org

VESTRY

Drew Dorgan (*Sr. Warden*), Charles Wear (*Treasurer*), Ted Loose (*Jr. Warden*),
Molly Moyer (*Secretary*), Liz West, Kathy Kyper, Gretchen Walden,
Penn Glazier, Mary Huber, Bruce Waskowicz, Sarah Jones

DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Pam Loose, Br. David Rutledge, Joe Way, Drew Dorgan

STAFF

Mark Herr, Minister of Music (*music@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper (*finance@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
John Knouse, Property Manager (*property@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Jessica Morales, Communications Director (*jessica@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE
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