

ST. JOHN'S JOURNAL

The monthly newsletter for
St. John Lutheran Church
Loogootee, IN

LIFE TOGETHER

BY PASTOR TIMOTHY FLEACE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On 29 November, the last Sunday of the month, the season of Advent begins. The word Advent comes from Latin and means coming or arrival. It was a word associated in the Roman Empire with the arrival of an important figure such as a general or an emperor. In Christianity Advent means the approach and arrival of Christ. The four Sundays prior to Christmas, and their corresponding weeks, comprise the season of Advent. The first Sunday of Advent is always the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Day on 30 November. We could say therefore, that St. Andrew is an Advent figure and that is what we will consider in this article.

St. Andrew was the brother of St. Peter. He was originally a disciple of John the Baptist, and he learned from him that the Advent of the Messiah was at hand. John is described in scripture as the voice crying in the wilderness proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins as a way to prepare for the Messiah.

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As John's disciple, Andrew would have been a man who practised repentance and lived in expectation of the Messiah.

According to the Gospel of John, It was John the Baptist who pointed out to Andrew and another disciple that Jesus was the Lamb of God (John 1:35-42). Upon hearing this Andrew and his companion left John to follow Jesus. The willingness to leave behind even the good things in our lives and to seek after Christ is the sign of a faithful disciple. This same action will be repeated when Andrew, Peter, James, and John will leave their fishing boats to follow Jesus.

When Jesus noticed the two men following him he asked them what they were seeking. They replied, "Rabbi, where are you staying?". Andrew is not simply seeking Jesus' mailing address, he is asking to dwell with him, to live under his roof and learn from him about God. It is because of this story that Andrew is traditionally known as the "first called". He is the first of Jesus' disciples.

Next Andrew finds his brother Peter and tells him that they have found the Messiah, the one promised since the time of Moses to redeem God's people. Here Andrew expresses the missionary activity of the Church which is to proclaim the Messiahship of Jesus Christ.

Andrew perfectly models what the Church teaches during Advent. He lives in repentance which is to say that he continually turns his thoughts and actions

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Prayer Concerns

Please be praying for these friends and church family members.

Those with health concerns:
*Brian Wininger (church member)
*Bryan Adams (church member)
Chris Haag (brother to T. Haag, cousin to J. Love)
David Welch (brother-in-law of Doug & Rita Denson)
Dick McCloskey (friend of Goldman family)
Donna McCloskey (friend of the Goldman family)
Helen Bauer (wife of Augie Bauer)
Jane Person (friend of Duane Mann)
Jentry Pace (great grandson of Mary Hudson)
Ladema Welton (friend of Julinda Adams)
Lee Sipes (brother of Tammy Wininger)
Marg Otto (friend of Barbara Prince)
Pam Bullock (friend of Linda Goldman and others)
Sissy Woody (friend of Julinda Adams)
Steve Deckard (friend of Hilbert Fuhrman)
*Tyler Love (church member)
*Verneeda Roach (church member)

Those in the nursing home and homebound:
*Glenn Crim (Parkview Village, Odon)
*Phyllis Lynch (Gentry Park Center, Bloomington)
*Verneeda Roach (Ketcham Memorial Center, Odon)

Our College/Graduate Students:
*Alex Adams, Ivy Tech, Bloomington
*Carson Shaw, University of Evansville
*Isaac Eagle, University of Southern Indiana
*Kenley Shaw, University of Southern Indiana
*Olivia Harker, University of Southern Indiana

Our Military Personnel:
*Kody Neukam-Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota

Other concerns:
The spiritual state of our nation and churches
The leaders in our nation and world
Our church and leaders of our church
Our sister church in Dubois and leaders
Our own individual spiritual state
Those experiencing war, unrest, and persecution
Those who suffer depression & mental illness
Staff and students at our local schools

** denotes church member*

(*Life Together, continued from page 2*)

to God. He lives in expectation of the Messiah, and when he hears of the Messiah he leaves all to follow him. He seeks to dwell with Christ, to learn from him about how to live, and how to know God and to serve him. He also tells others about the power and love of Christ who has come at Christmas time, and will come again at the end of time to set us free from the powers of darkness.

We also are called to repentance, to dwell with Christ in the scriptures and at Church, and what better time to mention our faith to others than Advent and Christmas?

In Christ,
Pr. Fleace

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15:12-13

CELEBRATION SINGERS

The Celebration Singers are well underway in their 25th year. The singers and musicians hail from all over Southern Indiana, including Dubois, Spencer, Pike, Martin, Vanderburgh and Monroe Counties. Three members from St. John Lutheran Church, Dubois, have been singing with them from the beginning. You are invited to join them at one of more of the 2026 performances:

- Nov. 11 - William Tell Center, Tell City, IN 12 PM (EST), 11 AM (CST), Perry County Council on Aging
- Dec. 5 - St. Ferdinand Catholic, 7 PM, Christmas Concert
- Dec. 13 - Precious Blood Catholic Church, Jasper, 3 PM, Christmas Concert
- Dec. 20 - St. Paul UCC, Holland, 3 PM, Christmas Concert

All programs are open to the public and more will be added soon. Check out their website at www.celebrationsingers.org.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are once again collecting boxes for Operation Christmas Child to send to children around the world who need to know that they are loved and remembered at Christmas! This is an incredible way to show God's love and teach children about Jesus. Each gift is packed with an invitation to a Bible study where children can learn about "The Greatest Adventure." Since 1993 when OCC was started more than 244 million children in more than 175 countries and territories have received a shoebox of gifts and the love of God. So we hope you will pick up your box and brochure at church, fill it up with gifts and **return it on or before 15 November,** which is dedication day for our boxes.

All Saints Day

Feast Day November 1

"All Saints Day is the feast day that is the most comprehensive of all days of commemoration. It encompasses the saints from all time, nation, race, culture and language. We celebrate and remember the great cloud of witnesses who surround us (Hebrews 12:1). We not only remember those we love who have joined the Church Triumphant, but all the saints of God who have been washed clean of their sins in the blood of Jesus Christ and who celebrate every day as a day of resurrection. It makes us aware of the great height, depth, breadth and length of our Lord's gracious mercy and salvation. It is on this day that we celebrate with the entire Church - in every time and place - in heaven and on earth - the unity and bond of the Spirit of God that brings peace to all Christians. It is Jesus to whom we look, the author and perfecter of our faith, so that we may not grow weary or fainthearted (Hebrews 12:2-3)."

At St. John Lutheran Church, Loogootee, we have had no deaths since last year at this time. At church on Sunday, we remember those in our hearts and all the saints who have passed on to their eternal glory!

Martin Chemnitz, Pastor and Confessor

Commemoration Day November 9

"Aside from Martin Luther, Martin Chemnitz (1522-1586) is regarded as the most important theologian in the history of the Lutheran Church. Chemnitz combined a penetrating intellect and an almost encyclopedic knowledge of Scripture and the Church Fathers with a genuine love for the Church. When various doctrinal disagreements broke out after Luther's death in 1546, Chemnitz determined to give himself fully to the restoration of unity in the Lutheran Church. He became the leading spirit and principal author of the 1577 Formula of Concord, which settled the doctrinal disputes on the basis of Scripture and largely succeeded in restoring unity among Lutherans. Chemnitz also authored the four volume Examinations of the Council of Trent (1565-1573), in which he rigorously subjected the teachings of this Roman Catholic Council to the judgement of Scripture and the ancient Church Fathers. The Examination became the definitive Lutheran answer to the Council of Trent, as well as a thorough exposition of the faith of the Augsburg Confession. A theologian and a churchman, Chemnitz was truly a gift of God to the Church."

Emperor Justinian, Christian Ruler and Confessor of Christ

Commemoration Day November 14

"Justinian was emperor of the East from AD 527 to 565, when the Roman Empire was in decline. With his beautiful and capable wife, Theodora, he restored splendor and majesty to the Byzantine court. During his reign, the empire experienced a renaissance, due in large part to his ambition, intelligence, and strong religious convictions. Justinian also attempted to

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All Feast Day and Commemoration Day educational materials are from: Gockel, H.W. *Treasury of Daily Prayer*. Concordia Publishing Hse, 2008.

Lectionary Readings for November

Please find below the daily lectionary readings for this month. Reading the Bible every day will increase your spiritual health in the same way that exercise helps you physically to stay well. We encourage you to make time in your day for the care of your soul.

1 Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 21:1-22
2 Jeremiah 1:1-19; Matthew 21:23-46
3 Jeremiah 3:6-4:2; Matthew 22:1-22
4 Jeremiah 5:1-19; Matthew 22:23-46
5 Jeremiah 7:1-29; Matthew 23:1-12
6 Jeremiah 8:18-9:12; Matthew 23:13-39
7 Jeremiah 11:1-23; Matthew 24:1-28
8 Jeremiah 20:1-18; Matthew 24:29-51
9 Jeremiah 22:1-23; Matthew 25:1-13
10 Jeremiah 23:1-20; Matthew 25:14-30
11 Jeremiah 23:21-40; Matthew 25:31-46
12 Jeremiah 25:1-18; Matthew 26:1-19
13 Jeremiah 26:1-19; Matthew 26:20-35
14 Jeremiah 29:1-19; Matthew 26:36-56
15 Jeremiah 30:1-24; Matthew 26:57-75
16 Jeremiah 31:1-17, 23-34; Matthew 27:1-10
17 Jeremiah 33:1-22; Matthew 27:11-32
18 Jeremiah 37:1-21; Matthew 27:33-56
19 Jeremiah 38:1-28; Matthew 27:57-66
20 Daniel 1:1-21; Matthew 28:1-20
21 Daniel 2:1-23; Revelation 18:1-24
22 Daniel 2:24-49; Revelation 19:1-21
23 Daniel 3:1-30; Revelation 20:1-15
24 Daniel 4:1-37; Revelation 21:1-8
25 Daniel 5:1-30; Revelation 21:9-27
26 Daniel 6:1-28; Revelation 22:1-21
27 Isaiah 1:1-28; 1 Peter 1:1-12
28 Isaiah 2:1-22; 1 Peter 1:13-25
29 Isaiah 5:1-25; 1 Peter 2:1-12
30 Isaiah 6:1-7:9; 1 Peter 2:13-25

Worship Service Times

September - December 2026 - 9 AM

January - April 2027 - 11 AM

May - August 2027 - 9 AM

Servers for November

1 October All Saints Sunday
Lector/Communion Asst: **Karen Whorrall**
Acolyte: **Karen Whorrall**
Communion Helper: **Tammy Wininger**
Greeters: **Duane & Karen Mann**
Nursery: **Hannah Davis**
Color: **White**

8 October Pentecost 24
Lector: **Barb Duzan**
Acolyte: **Barb Duzan**
Greeters: **Deron & Angie Steiner**
Nursery: **Tammy Wininger**
Color: **Green**

15 October Pentecost 25
Lector/Acolyte: **Tammy Wininger**
Greeters: **Ross & Sarah Adams**
Nursery: **Sarah Adams**
Color: **Green**

22 October Christ the King
Lector: **Deron Steiner**
Acolyte: **Deron Steiner**
Greeters: **Dick & Kay Barber**
Nursery: **Barbara Prince**
Color: **White**

29 November Advent 1
Lector: **Hannah Davis**
Acolyte: **Hannah Davis**
Greeters: **Jim & Barb Duzan**
Nursery: **Drew Davis**
Color: **Blue**

Financial Assistant: **Wininger**
Church Cleaning: **Wininger**

The Church Mouse

Did you guys hear that Kyra Shaw was on the volleyball team from Shoals that won the Sectional and Regional Championships!?! Way to go, ladies!! They have made us proud! Now they are off to Semi-State, but I think we will have to find out about that later!

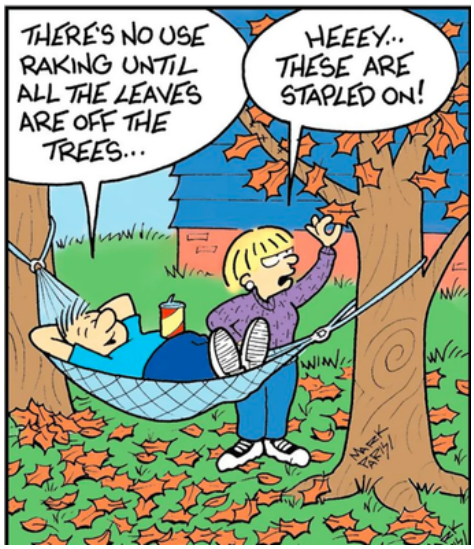
I just want to thank the kids that go to the nursery on Sunday mornings. They have a snack and that helps me soooo much. I really missed the Linger Longer last week. I didn't get to go with Mrs. Pastor (thank you, Donnie Neukam, for coming up with that name) to the celebration at St. John's Dubois. I hear they had a good turn out.

I don't know about you, but I am getting excited about Chili Day! It's coming up soon!!! There will be so much to eat!! I can hardly wait!



Our joint Thanksgiving service with our sister church, St. John Lutheran Church of Dubois Crossroads, will be at our church on **Sunday, 22 November, at 10 AM with dinner afterward**. We will provide turkeys, mashed potatoes, bread and drinks. We ask that you bring side dishes and desserts. What a great opportunity to worship and fellowship together with St. John Dubois!

a little lutheran levity!



Chili Day is Wednesday, 4 November

Chili Day is here!!! It is time for us to step up and help out where we can. Many preparations have already been made...browning the ground beef, cooking the chickens, preparing the packets of spoons, forks, etc. Now it's time for you to help us out. If you can work or make desserts, please sign up on the sheets in the narthex or tell Duane Mann what you can do to help!



Highlights from our Joint Church Council Meeting
October 2026

A joint council meeting with members from Dubois Crossroads and St. John's Loogootee present took place in the social room at Dubois on Tuesday, October 13, 2026. Pastor Tim opened the meeting with prayer. Loogootee members present: Deron Steiner, Angie Steiner, Duane Mann, Karen Mann, Barbara Prince, and Pastor Tim Fleace. Dubois members present: Travas Eichmiller, Gary Moeller, Eric Cooper, Missy Cooper, Denise Reuber, Christy Pace, and Jillian Eckerle.

Travas Eichmiller called the meeting to order at 6:55pm. He stated that the past three years have gone well with Pastor Tim sharing time at both churches. Others from both congregations agreed that the arrangement has worked well. Gary asked if can change from the 4-month rotation to a 3-month rotation. After some discussion, it was agreed to keep the same 4-month schedule for 2027.

Travas then described that the percentage of financial responsibility for each church from last year (65% Dubois, 35% Loogootee) is based on giving through offering. Fundraisers such as Chili Day, Summerfest cobblers/ice cream, and whatever events put on by Dubois are not factored into the totals.

Dubois did not have a treasurer's report, but gave an estimate of giving. Deron said that the current year's giving dollars for each church are closer to a 72/28 split, but we would propose leaving it at 65/35 for 2027. Jillian moved to keep the split at 65% (Dubois) and 35% (Loogootee) for 2027. Seconded by Gary. Motion carried.

Insurance costs have increased through Portico and utilities continue to increase each month. Duane shared a copy of utilities for the past 12 months and a comparison from 2026 costs vs. 2027 costs and the approximate increase for expenses. We now have a separate water meter for the parsonage to simplify the cost of the church's water to be calculated for the split of expenses.

Duane explained that Pastor Tim had received a higher level health insurance plan in lieu of a raise in 2026. There are benefits to both congregations by not increasing his salary (Portico calculation, etc...). Deron and Travas will discuss a potential salary increase for 2027 which will likely be placed under the "Housing Allowance" category.

All in attendance expressed gratitude to both Pastor Tim and Barbara for their commitment to serving both congregations.

Submitted by,
Angie Steiner, Council Secretary



Budget Report for September 2026

General Fund:	Balance on 9/1/26	$41,807.05
Total Receipts	$9,766.82	$51,573.87
Disbursements		
Salaries	$3,341.68	
Worship	$215.60	
Office	$0.00	
Utilities	$1,722.57	
Rep/Main	$291.97	
Misc.	$5,129.50	
Total Disbursements		$10,701.32
	Balance on 9/30/26	$40,872.55

Special Funds:

Building Fund	$23,158.78
Good Samaritan Fund	$1,194.04
Synod Mission Support	$300.00
Memorial Fund	$9,286.99
Grace LC Legacy Gift	$1,642.10

Stewardship Report September 2026

Date	Attendance	Offering
Sunday, September 06	20	$640.00
Sunday, September 13	31	$2375.00*
Sunday, September 20	22	$425.00
Sunday, September 27	32	$1030.00

Needed weekly to meet the budget $1105.00
**300 Mission Support*

Emperor Justinian, continued from page 4

bring unity to a divded Church. He was a champion of orthodox Christianity and sought agreement among the parties in the Christological controversies of the day as the groups disputed the relation between the divine and human natures in the person of Christ. The Fifth Ecumenical Council in Constantinople in AD 533 was held during his reign and addressed this dispute. Justinian died in his eighties without having accomplished his desire to forge an empire that was firmly Christian and orthodox."



This month we have one special birthday to celebrate (members 80 years old and up). We hope you will help us "shower" Richard with love by sending him a birthday card for his special day on the date listed with his name:

Richard Barber
(November 8, 1937)
214 Byron Street
Loogootee, IN 47553

Contact the church office if you know someone who is not listed above. We don't want to miss anyone. Thank you!!

Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct.
1 Peter 1:13-15

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **The Divine Service 9 AM All Saints Day** Feast Day for All Saints	2	3	4 **Chili Day 11 AM - 6 PM** 	5	6	7
8 **The Divine Service 9 AM Pentecost 24** Commemoration Day for Johannes von Staupitz, Luther's Father Confessor	9 Commemoration Day for Martin Chemnitz, Pastor and Confessor	10	11 Commemoration Day for Martin of Tours, Pastor	12	13	14 Commemoration Day for Emperor Justinian, Christian Ruler
15 **The Divine Service 9 AM Pentecost 25 OCC Dedication**	16	17	18	19 **Church Council Meeting, 6 PM** Commemoration Day for Elizabeth of Hungary	20	21
22 **The Divine Service 10 AM Christ the King Joint Service with SJLC, Dubois**	23 Commemoration Day for Clement of Rome, Pastor	24 **St. John's Journal Items are due today. Thank you!**	25	26 **Happy Thanksgiving Day!** 	27	28
29 **The Divine Service 9 AM Advent 1** Commemoration Day for Noah	30 Feast Day for St. Andrew, Apostle					

Celebrations

2 Kevin & Ashley Mann (A)
3 Bryan Adams
7 Brian Wininger
Duane & Karen Mann (A)
8 Richard Barber
Bryan & Julinda Adams (A)
11 Lynette Harker
Kent Fuhrman
12 Jessica Summers
13 Hannah Davis
15 Debbie Howell
18 Jordan Divine
19 Aaron Hayden
26 Leanne Love
27 Tyler Love
29 Joshua Duzan
Angela Steiner
30 Destiny Lilly

Church Council

Chairperson - Deron Steiner

Secretary - Angie Steiner

Treasurer - Duane Mann

Financial Trustee - Karen Mann

Property Trustee - vacant

Worship Deacon - Tammy Wininger

Youth Deacon - Barbara Prince

Contact Information

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