



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE

The Eagle

St. John's Episcopal Church | Lafayette, Ind. | December 2021

Christmas & Epiphany at ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

Tuesday, December 21

7 p.m. "Longest Night" Service *in-person*

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24

4 p.m. Lessons & Carols Service w/Holy Eucharist *in-person*

4 p.m. Lessons & Carols Service *via Zoom hosted by Good Shepherd*

8 p.m. String Quartet Prelude &

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service *in-person*

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25

10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service *in-person*

The First Sunday after the Epiphany, January 9

10:30 a.m. Virtual Epiphany Pageant *via Zoom; no in-person service*



Christmas at St. John's

Please join us as we celebrate the joys of Christmas at St. John's. All through the Advent season, we will observe the lead-up to Christ's birth in our Sunday services, with the lighting of the Advent wreath, music and fellowship. With our friends at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, we will share God's love and spread joy as hosts for Lafayette Urban Ministry's Jubilee Christmas. On the fourth Sunday in Advent, we'll green the church after services. And on Christmas Eve, at both 4 and 8 p.m., we will celebrate the glory of Christmas through word and song. Join us in this most wondrous of seasons.

Hangings of the Greens

Sunday, Dec. 19, after the 10:30 a.m. service

Christmas is coming, and we "Hang the Greens" on Sunday, Dec. 19, after the 10:30 a.m. service. Please help put the finishing touches on the church as we get ready for the Christmas season. Bring along a pot of your favorite chili or cookies to share. – Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org

Jubilee Christmas

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11

Jubilee Christmas is just around the corner! It will be held as a drive-through, curbside event at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in West Lafayette on **Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** It's not too late to donate wrapping paper, bows and tags or monetary donations. Shoppers and volunteers for the event may sign up via the following links:

Shoppers

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49AAAAA2DA1F-BC34-jubilee>

Gifts should be dropped off at Good Shepherd Nov. 29 or Dec. 1 from 5-7pm, Dec. 4 10-12 pm or Dec. 6 6-8pm.



Set-Up and Dec. 11 Volunteer sign-up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49AAAAA2DA1F-BC34-jubilee1>

Volunteers are needed for the set-up prior to Jubilee, as well as for check-in, runners who will be bringing the gifts out to

the families after check-in, traffic controllers and floaters to assist in anything else.

Please contact Maggie McClure, magamclure@gmail.com, or Mary Kay McCauley, mccauley.mk3@gmail.com, 765-490-0797 with any questions.

Beware Scammers

Scammers are constantly looking for new ways to trick those of us who communicate electronically (which means, basically, all of us). It is now very easy to fake emails, social media requests and text messages, so please be wary. Many of you have received emails or texts claiming to be from me asking for favors or for information. I get these messages regularly, too. If you are ever unsure about a message or request coming from someone at St. John's, please call the church office and confirm. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Death

Molly DePue
Sept. 19, 2021

From the Rector

I have been teaching this class on Tuesday nights at St. John's, and it has been wonderful. We've been racing through the biblical story from Genesis 1 through Revelation 22 with an eye toward seeing the Christian story as a call to vocation, as a call to our purpose as human beings. Not to give away everything at once, but the idea is that we are called to bear the image of God — to reflect God's love into the world and, in worship, to reflect God's love back — and to be the faithful stewards or caretakers of God's good creation. It's a tall order, and one that humanity has often missed. But in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the new creation is breaking into and among the old once and now we are freed to once again take up God's call.

In addition to our conversations about the biblical story, we've also had an opportunity to hear from St. John's parishioners talking about the specific ways they "practice" their faith. So far, we've heard from several folks. One St. John's member talked about the importance of worship in his life, and the way that worship inspires him, challenges him and motivates him to serve and to love others. On a given day, he said, the music, the readings or the sermon might connect to him. But he is also challenged by the call to confession and by the restorative justice that is enacted in the absolution, the peace and the invitation to Communion. One person talked about the Christian practice of generosity — of giving their time, talent and treasure out of Christian love. This has taken many forms in their lives — from adopting children, to giving financially to the church, to working in Africa to help build local health care options. This practice embodies trust in God as well as gratitude for the many gifts God has shared along the way. One couple talked about reading

Scripture and how the biblical story serves as a foundation for their lives, as a kind of guidebook that helps them navigate the world. Another couple talked about contemplative prayer. They said that this practice reminds them that they are deeply and profoundly loved by God. Knowledge of this love inspires them to share that love with others in numerous ways. Another couple talked about hospitality — hospitality in the church, at home and out in the world. They talked about the prevalence of hospitality throughout the Bible and the reminder that, when we welcome strangers, we are welcoming Christ.

I have found their commitments to these core Christian practices inspiring and moving. Over the course of our conversations, we mentioned a host of practices such as service, advocacy and justice, fasting, obedience, discernment, pilgrimage, confession and forgiveness, creation care and environmentalism, and many others. It is incredible to recognize all the ways St. John's members live out their faith in the Church, in our community and in the world. These practices, it turns out, are actually a key part of that original vocation — they are precisely how we reflect God's love into the world and back to God, precisely how we love God and our neighbor, precisely how we care for creation.

So, friends, how do you practice your faith? What practices remind you of God's love, inspire you to God's service and bring you closer to God? How do you reflect God's love into the world and back to God and act as God's faithful steward in the world? — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org on behalf of the Stewardship Committee*

Serving at Family Promise

Nov. 29-Dec. 3

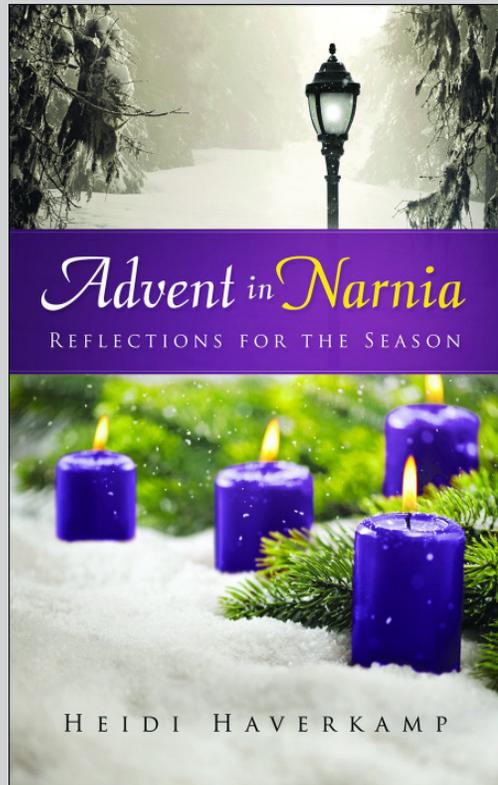
St. John's will be serving as hosts for Family Promise the week of Nov. 29. You can help provide food for the residents participate and connect in a number of other ways. If interested, contact Mother Andrea at andrea@stjohns-laf.org or 510-684-0178. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Advent in Narnia with the Rev. Heidi Haverkamp

Sunday, Dec. 12, at St. John's

What do wonder and imagination have to do with faith in God? C. S. Lewis's novel *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* was written for children but is also a story for adults — about what it might look like if Christ appeared in a place “where it's winter, but never Christmas.” Join the Rev. Heidi Haverkamp for a discussion of her book *Advent in Narnia*, Sunday, Dec. 12, after the 10:30 a.m. service. Heidi will preach (both on Zoom and in person) and lead Adult Formation that Sunday. Join the conversation (and maybe even get some Turkish Delight).

Heidi's book, *Advent in Narnia*, can be purchased at Amazon, Bookshop.com, Barnes & Noble, the Thoughtful Christian, or ChristianBook.com. Some copies will also be available in St. John's Commons. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*



Advent in Narnia for Families

5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12

Please join us for our Youth and Family Advent in Narnia Evening at **5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12**, in the Commons. We will enter through the Wardrobe into the world of Narnia. Each family will have a table and we will work to have distancing. There will be a movie, activities, food and lots of fun! This event is based on Heidi Haverkamp's book.

Advent Bags for Families

Families may pick up Advent bags if they would like on **Sunday, Nov. 28**. There will be an Advent devotion, Advent coloring calendar, and more. Gretchen will have them available in the Commons by the toy table. — *Gretchen Freese, gretchen@stjohns-laf.org*

The 2022 Annual Giving Campaign: Worshiping, Sharing, Making Christ Known



And thank you for all the ways you support the ministries of
ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE



Please go to <https://youtu.be/zTshVljjjTM> to watch "What has been life-giving; Where have you seen God?"

The 2022 Annual Giving Campaign is now underway. We invite you to join us in making a pledge. With God and one another, our generosity will become life-giving worship; ministries that share God's love and our lives in Greater Lafayette, the Diocese of Indianapolis, and beyond; and community that makes Christ known in word and action.

If you have any questions about this year's annual giving campaign, we invite you to contact a member of the Stewardship Committee. We would love to tell you how we find this church community to be life-giving

and invite you to make a financial pledge to St. John's. If you have already submitted your pledge, we would like to thank you. If you have not, we ask that you prayerfully consider supporting St. John's ministries by do so. In addition, we also ask that you do so as soon as possible to give the Finance Committee and Vestry ample time to finalize next year's budget. We thank you in advance and thank God for all the ways you contribute to our common life. You can also find more information or make a pledge at www.stjohns-laf.org/giving. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org on behalf of the Stewardship Committee*

We're Getting the Band Back Together for Another "Best Epiphany Pageant Ever"

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022, via Zoom

This year, St. John's and other special guests will have a virtual Epiphany Pageant with lessons and hymns on Sunday, January 9 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. All youth and children are encouraged to take part. More information will follow, but please mark your calendars now. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

On Thanksgiving

I pray that above all you may prosper and be in good health, even as your soul prospers.

On a recent morning, as I opened up the drapes, I was greeted by the gorgeous sight of my maple tree that had transformed from green to vibrant gold, seemingly overnight. The reflection of the sun on the pond, the geese with their throaty melody, and the quacking of the ducks filled me with joy.

How I love the beauty of the Midwest autumn! On the drive into church, every tree offered its best as the tapestry of dazzling reds, oranges, yellows and greens lined the roadways. For a moment, all the sorrows and pain of the world slipped away as my soul was nourished in nature's display and thankfulness filled my heart. These colors heralded the Thanksgiving seasons I remember as a child, and my thoughts turned toward what I now know about Thanksgiving, with its mixed storyline.

The history presented of our first Thanksgiving with happy Puritan Pilgrims and Native Peoples in feathered headdress feasting together in 1621 and living for generations in community together is false. Truth can be a bitter pill, but without it, the blinding diseases of ignorance and comfort at others' expense rage on unchecked. The dozen brave people of St. John's taking the Sacred Ground series know this all too well.

Celebrations of thanksgiving were common in the Americas by the Indigenous peoples long before the Europeans celebrated it in Newfoundland in 1578, and in Maine, Florida and Virginia by 1607. Giving thanks was an outgrowth of both the settlers' and the Wampanoag's daily life.

The Wampanoag, whose headdress was of porcupine quills, not feathers, generously taught the settlers the importance of companion farming and natural fertilizer. They brought at least five deer to a celebration in 1621

that included corn, chokecherries, fish and quahogs (shellfish), not turkey. However, this did not forge years of friendship, but theft of their land and the near genocide of their people. This pattern of deceit, theft, cultural erasure and genocide spread across the continent, enabled by treaty after broken treaty and the Doctrine of Discovery. The effects of removing people from their land, their way of life, their language and their heritage has created great harm that we must take time to admit, honor, mourn, and do something about.

Does this mean that Thanksgiving is lost to us forever? While my opinion may change, today, I believe in redemption and see it as both/and. I have moved from an unin-

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formed comment I made in seminary to "Just leave Thanksgiving alone," (YIKES!) to a place of greater understanding. For many Indigenous people, the fourth Thursday of November is a day of deep mourning. We can leave ignorance and comfort behind to share in this suffering, because it is ALL of our suffering. We can learn from Indigenous cultural wisdom and the interconnectedness we all share with each other and all of creation. We can help others be more informed of our collective history as we continue to do the work to educate ourselves, assisted by the resources included at the end of this article. We can do something to make this country

better for Indigenous Peoples, beyond simply acknowledging that we continue to occupy their land.

And we can still meet with family and friends with greater awareness of the first Thanksgiving's story and its impact. We can share a great meal, speak of what we are grateful for, and recommit to using the resources that we are blessed with to benefit all of God's creation so every soul prospers. — *Andrea Arsene, andrea@stjohns-laf.org*

Additional Information on Thanksgiving

Dana Hedgpeth, Mother Bear, "This Tribe Helped the Pilgrims Survive for Their First Thanksgiving. They Still Regret It 400 Years Later." Accessed 11/09/2021. <https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/nation/this-tribe-helped-the-pilgrims-survive-for-their-first-thanksgiving-they-still-regret-it-400-years-later/>

Nancy Eldredge, "Who are the Wampanoags," Accessed 11/09/2021. <https://plimoth.org/for-students/homework-help/who-are-the-wampanoag>

Sean Sherman, "The Thanksgiving Tale We Tell is a Harmful Lie. As a Native American, I've Found a Better Way to Celebrate the Holiday." Accessed 11/6/2021. <https://time.com/5457183/thanksgiving-native-american-holiday/>

Smithsonian, "Thanksgiving in North America," Accessed 10/30/2021. <https://www.si.edu/spotlight/thanksgiving/history>

Additional Information on The Doctrine of Discovery

The Episcopal Church, "The Doctrine of Discovery." Accessed 10/15/2021. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drLnI_k5b6s

The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, "Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery." Accessed 11/09/2021. <https://becomingbeloved-community.org/doctrine-of-discovery>

Lakota People's Law Project, "Revoke the Doctrine of Discovery," Accessed 11/07/2021. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2384829598503047>

"Longest Night" Service

7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, at St. John's

Christmas time is often called "the most wonderful time of the year," but for many of us, it is a time of deep sadness, loneliness and grief.

Named for the winter solstice — literally the longest night of the year — this "Longest Night" service offers space to engage those feelings that seem "out of sync" with the world around us. It is an opportunity to acknowledge, own and offer up those feelings to God.

We hope that this service will be a place of comfort, healing and hope for all those who attend. Even if you don't feel "out of sync" with the feelings swirling



around us, this service offers an opportunity for quiet and contemplation in the midst of a hectic world. —
Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org



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Associate Rector

The Rev. Dr. Gretchen Freese

Curate

The Rev. Andrea Arsene

Parish Administrator

Teresa Lohrman

Director of Music

Michael Bennett

Building Use Coordinator

Bill McInerney

Treasurer

Bill McInerney

Assistant Treasurer

Jim Hess

Vestry

Greg McClure, *Senior Warden*
 Charlie Shook, *Junior Warden*
 Kathryn Nielsen, *Finance Chair*
 Vicki Bower, *Clerk*

Ashley Bigelow, Anna Burman,
 Becky Dick, Mary Kay McCauley, Tom
 Melville, Aaron Sims, Emily Umulis

Eagle Editor

Cindy Gerlach

Deadline for the January Eagle is
Monday, Dec. 13. Submit items to
 eagle@stjohns-laf.org.

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Worshipping • Sharing • Making Christ Known

St. John's Financial Summary October 2021

INCOME	<u>Oct-21</u>	<u>Total 2021</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Pledge Income	\$32,026	\$335,131	\$391,080	85.7%
Operating Income	\$14,302	\$65,714	\$91,101	72.1%
Non-Operating Income	\$3,451	\$33,584	\$51,270	65.5%
Transfer Income	\$300	\$8,800	\$0	
TOTAL INCOME	\$50,079	\$443,229	\$533,451	83.1%
EXPENSES	<u>Oct-21</u>	<u>Total 2021</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Outreach	\$5,887	\$65,290	\$91,998	71.0%
Program	\$368	\$7,100	\$13,650	52.0%
Administration	\$389	\$1,257	\$4,400	28.6%
Personnel	\$25,576	\$248,029	\$312,519	79.4%
Office	\$1,142	\$13,486	\$23,950	56.3%
Property	\$4,565	\$74,674	\$86,935	85.9%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$37,927	\$409,836	\$533,451	76.8%
Net Income (Loss)	\$12,152	\$33,393	\$0	