

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

DECEMBER 2021... OUR 163RD YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

106 East Elizabeth St.
Fenton, MI 48430-2322
810-629-5681

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WEB:

www.stjudesfenton.com

FACEBOOK:

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

The Reverend Tracie Little
810-300-9177

E-Mail: TracieLLittle@gmail.com

The Rev. Judy Marinco, Deacon
E-Mail: JAMarinco50@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Liz Sailus

Office Hours:

Mondays:
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays:
9:00 a.m.-Noon

Minister of Music

Marlene J. Weston
810-658-2683

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Sunday & Wednesday
Morning Prayer Services
via Facebook Live
8:00 a. m.

Sunday In-Person Communion
10:30 a.m.

Rector's Report

This is a month of hopeful expectations. In this season of Advent, we pay particular attention to those places where the Kingdom of God is already among us. Places where we may feel called to jump in and participate with God.

This is also a month that we may feel pulled in a bazillion different directions. Between family commitments, work commitments, holiday get-togethers, and just the plain stress of the season, we may feel like we don't know where to turn next.

This may also be a time of deep grief for a lot of folks. There may be an empty spot at the table this year, maybe for the first time, maybe just the next in a long line of empty chairs.

This is a season where society tells us that we should be cheery and bright all through this season. With everything going on in our lives, being cheery and bright might just be the last thing we're feeling.

Does this sound at all familiar? Can I share something with you? There are times when this describes me to a tee. Sometimes around this time of year. And sometimes at other times of year. Sometimes there is just a lot going on in life. Sometimes,

when I'm feeling overwhelmed or pulled in a bazillion directions or when my feelings aren't the same as the feelings that are expected, my life in relationship to God suffers.

Maybe it's a time thing and taking the time to be quiet with God just doesn't seem possible. Maybe it's that I'm kind of upset with God because that empty seat at the table is gnawing at me. Maybe it's that I just don't even know where to start having a conversation with God.

Whenever I find myself in one of those spots, eventually I end up talking with God. I give everything that's bothering me to God. I admit to God I can't seem to handle whatever those are all by myself anymore. I ask God to help me carry the load.

You know what I feel more often than not? This amazing feeling of peace wraps around me and fills me. When that feeling of peace doesn't happen, I take another look at the load I'm trying to carry. Sometimes, even though I've given it to God, I've picked it right back up and I have to give it back to God again – and sometimes again – and sometimes again.

(continued on page 2)

Rector's Report (cont'd)*(continued from page 1)*

This is a season that is filled with lots to do and lots of stress and lots of not feeling the way that society says we should be feeling. If you find yourself in that place, take the time. Make the time. Be still for just a moment and talk with God. Who knows.....maybe the peace of the season will wrap you and fill you too!

Love and Blessings,
Tracie✝

REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Maringo from "Our Daily Bread", November 30th edition

Live to Serve

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.***Isaiah 9:2**

In 2018, twelve Thai boys and their soccer coach descended into a mazelike cave, intending to enjoy an afternoon adventure. Due to unexpected rising water that forced them deeper and deeper into the cavern, it was two-and-a-half weeks before rescuers led them out. Dive teams, thwarted by rising water, attempted the rescue as the boys sat on a small rock shelf with only six flickering flashlights. They spent hours in darkness, hoping that somehow light—and help—would break through.

The prophet Isaiah described a world of brooding darkness, one overrun by violence and greed, shattered by rebellion and anguish (Isaiah 8:22). Nothing but ruin; hope's candle flickering and fading, sputtering before succumbing to dark nothingness. And yet, Isaiah insisted, this dim despair was not the end.

Because of God's mercy, soon "there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress" (9:1). God would never abandon His people in shadowy ruin. The prophet announced hope for his people then and pointed to the time when Jesus would come to dispel the darkness sin has caused.

Jesus has come. And now we hear Isaiah's words with renewed meaning: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light," Isaiah says. "On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned" (v. 2).

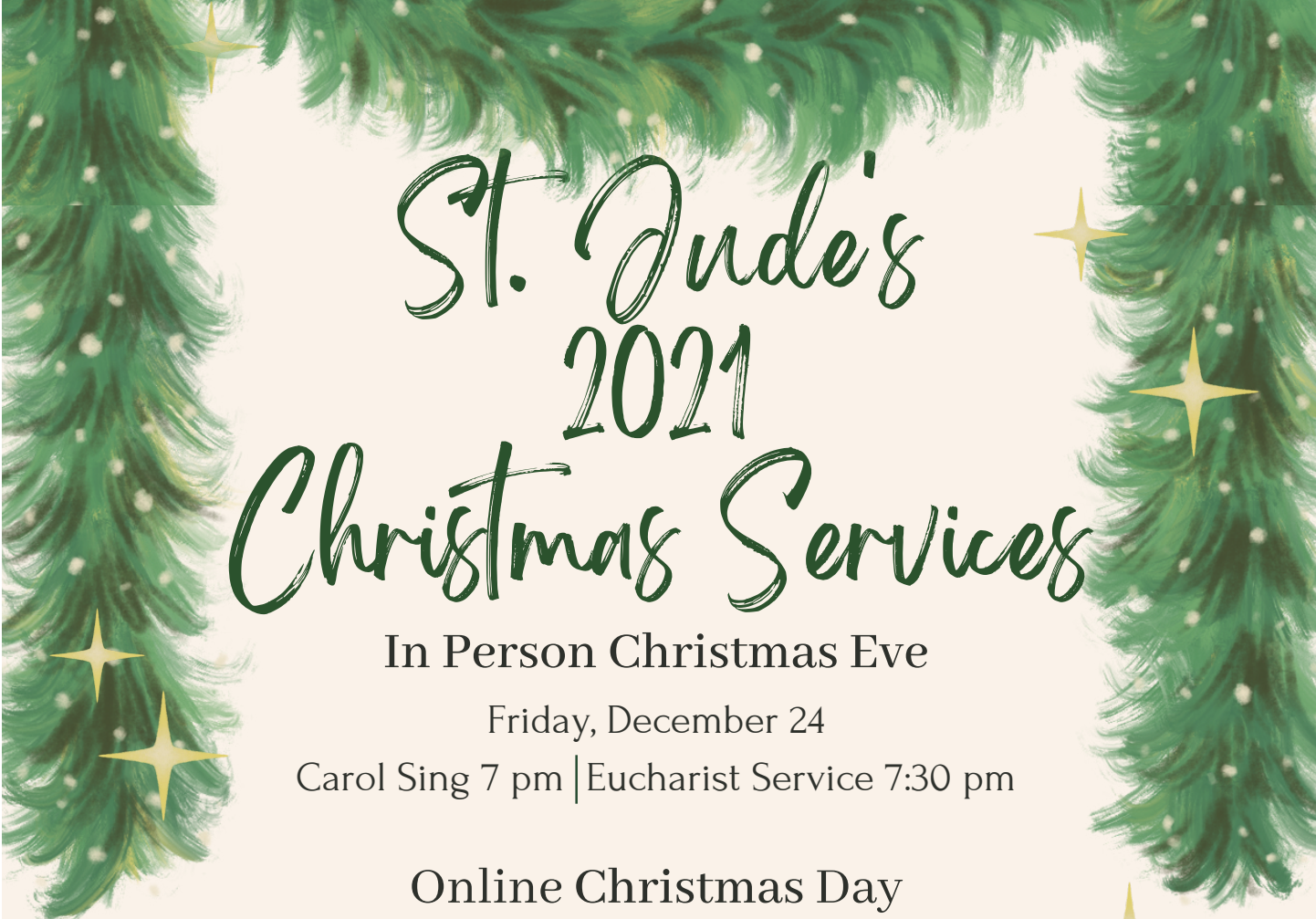
No matter how dark the night, no matter how despairing our circumstances, we're never forsaken in the dark. Jesus is here. A great Light shines.

By Winn Collier

Reflect and Pray

How are you prone to experience darkness and despair? Consider this image of Jesus as the great light—how does this light renew you with hope?

God, there's so much darkness. I fear sometimes that the darkness will overwhelm me. Be my great light. Shine on me with radiant love.



St. Jude's 2021 Christmas Services

In Person Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24

Carol Sing 7 pm | Eucharist Service 7:30 pm

Online Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25

Morning Prayer 8 am



First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 26

Online Morning Prayer 8 am

In Person Lessons & Carols Service 10:30 am

Looking Ahead: Annual Meeting Sunday, January 23, 2022

Please get any reports for Annual Meeting to Liz or Tracie in the church office by **Wednesday, January 12th** for inclusion in the annual meeting booklet.

Christmas Families Giving Opportunities for You in December 2021

Dear St. Jude's caring and sharing family,

Your Outreach Committee is reaching out to you again this Christmas to provide gifts for families in our community including our Holly Group Home to help them celebrate their Christmas.

Things change every year, and this year has been no different! With your help and support, we can still reach out to those in need.

This year again, to respect the dignity of every human being, we will be asking for gift cards allowing each family the opportunity to purchase and wrap gifts for their own family. This year we are asking for donations of gift cards from Walmart, Meijer's and Target.

The Outreach Committee will provide a list of ideas/suggestions for the Holly Group Home residents. This list will be posted in the Weekly and Monthly Beacon, as well as on the bulletin board in Vandenburg Hall. It would be great if you could review the list and call Mike and Judy Marinco (810/629-8074) to sign up for the gift or gifts you would like to purchase.

Please wrap the Group Home gift(s), and place securely on the outside of your gift a tag with the resident's name. Bring your donations to the church by our deadline of Sunday, December 12th. If you need to make special arrangements to drop off your donation, please call one of the Christmas Family Committee Members listed below.

Please submit your gas and/or gift cards in a sealed envelope showing the cash value, and your name.

As an alternative to purchasing a gift(s) or gift cards, you may prefer to donate money to help our Christmas Families. If so, please write a check to St. Jude's, and note on the check memo line: "Christmas Families." Your check can be mailed to the church office. Donations could also be made on-line.

Thank you for your generosity in this always-present need to help others in our community!

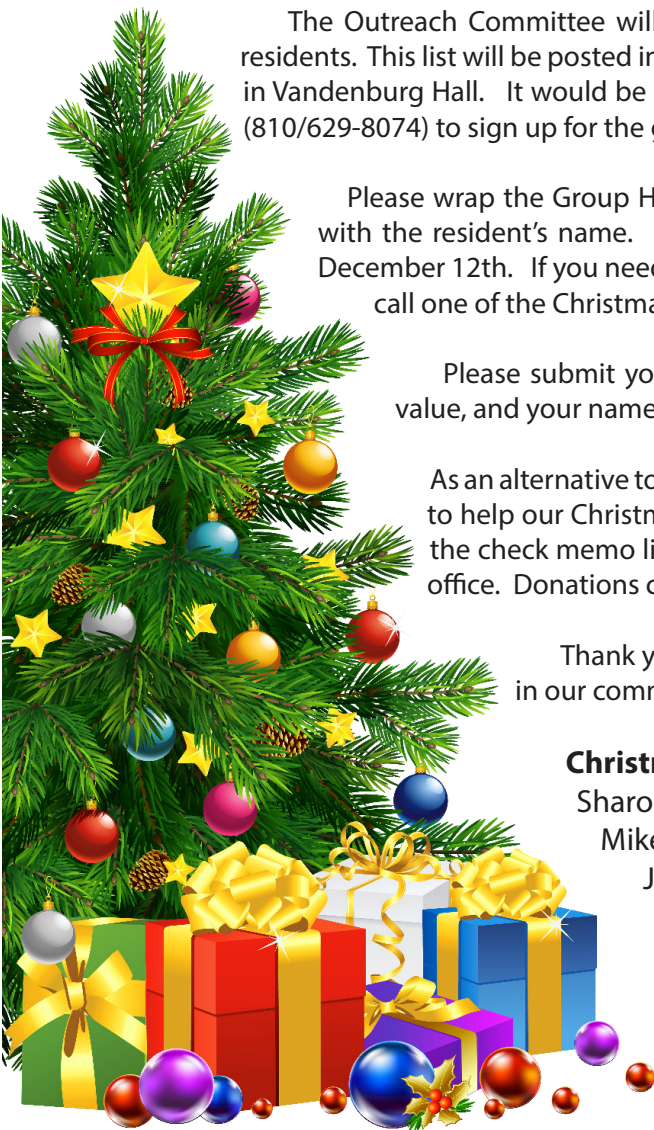
Christmas Family Committee Members

Sharon Aldrich – 248/249-4344

Mike and Judy Marinco – 810/629-8074

John and Carol Pettipher – 248/255-2260

Dave and Denise Rayner – 248/459-1976



MUSIC NOTES

December is a month of anticipation in the church calendar. The music of advent explores the themes of John the Baptist (There's a voice in the wilderness crying), prophecy (Signs of ending all around us) our Lord's second coming (Lo, He comes with clouds descending), and our excitement (People, look east). We conclude Advent with The Song of Mary and the traditional chant, (O come, O come, Emmanuel.)

Our choir and ringers are busy preparing for the Sundays of Advent as well as the joyous music of Christmas.

For Christmas Eve, we will have guest musicians joining us, including Tracy Dunlop, violinist. It will be a special celebration! Have a blessed month.

Marlene Weston

Holiday Bazaar & Craft Show 2022

November 11 & 12, 2022

It is hard to believe that we are less than a year away from the second Holiday Bazaar and Craft Show. **We have begun to get crafters for this event.** If anyone goes to a craft show or event and finds a crafter that would be a good fit for St. Jude's, please get their card, fill them in a little on the event, and share this information with the Co-Chairs.

Seed money is needed! Any donation, no matter how small or how large, will be most appreciated. If contributing cash, please attach note indicating that it's for this event. If check, use memo line. Thank you so much!

We also are looking for team leaders for this event. If you're willing to be a part of this, please let us know.

Each month we will keep you updated on this event. If you have questions about the event feel free to talk with any of us!

Bazaar Co-Chairs:

Nancy Day
Lynn Hopper
Ron Trimmer



PAY IT FORWARD

Our 2021 budget has a large, unsustainable deficit. As a result, the people of St. Jude's have been issued a challenge: If you are able to give even a little above and beyond your pledge, please consider giving that money toward reducing our deficit this year.

You can make your donation in the manner you are most comfortable, check or online.

If you give by check, please put "deficit reduction" or "pay it forward" in the memo line. If you give online, please select the "Custodial - Deficit Reduction" fund from the drop down menu.

Thank you!

Donations Received for Deficit Reduction:

Deficit presented in 2021 budget:
\$26,657

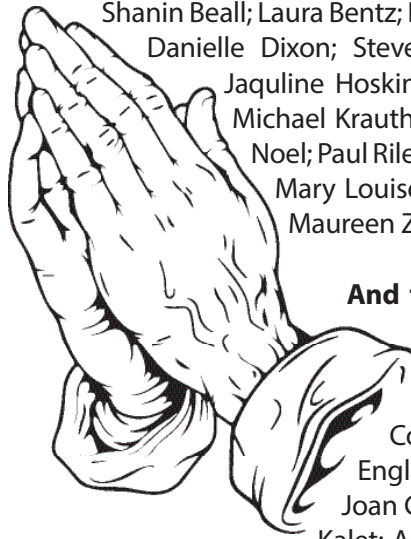
Donated in November 2021 : \$0

Total Received through November in 2021: \$2,291.00

PRAYER LIST

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan; Tracie, our Priest; Judy, our Deacon; for the Wardens and Vestry.

For those in particular need of prayer: Martha; Jeff F.; Jeremy Alber; Shanin Beall; Laura Bentz; Kathy & Tom Brighton; Cindy; Joe Capadagli; Danielle Dixon; Steven G.; Bunny Gladfelder; Sarah Heikkila; Jaqueline Hoskins; Sharon James; Carl Koch; Connie Koch; Michael Krauthofer; June; Bill Lenny; Laura; Liz; Jack Mills; Noel; Paul Riley; James Simpson; Larry Smith; Sarah Smith; Mary Louise Susalla; Brad Wiechelman; Marsha Wittig; Maureen Z.



And those in continuing need of prayer: Bill; David Barrows; Brett Beall; Butch & Julie; Rita Bretzke; Todd Brighton; Diane Brighton-Weinman; Dave; Karen Cleaver; Cathy Conn; Betsy Davies; Melissa Draper; John England; Mary Franklin; Gabe; Ralph Gladfelder; Joan Graham; Brian Henderson; Clint; Kelli; Sydne Kalet; Angela Koresh; Leona; Sherry More; Richard;

Arin Shinabarger; Brian Smith; Sandy Train; Leonard Traskos; Ellen Tripp; Patti Vasquez

If you have updates or changes to the prayer list, please let Liz in the church office know. Thank you!

Pray for our St. Jude's Family:

December 5 - Mary Ellen Hazell; Lynn & Kathy Hopper

December 12 - Bob & Terri Hutchins; Mark, Beth & Nicole Jagos

December 19 - Dave & Debbie James; Charlie & Francine Johnston

December 26 - Jodi, Robbie & Harrie Hunt; Carl & Connie Koch



December Birthdays

- 1st – John Pettipher
- 4th – Hayden Chambers
– Mark Freeman
- 7th – Gabrielle Freeman
– Josphine Feijoo
- 8th – Beth Jagos
– Bob Szostak
- 15th – Kelly Cronk
- 16th – Rylan Jones
- 27th – Rita Bretzke
- 30th – Nicole Jagos

November Anniversaries

- 1st – David & Lynn Freeman
(25 years)
- 3rd – Doug & Michele Gangwer
(21 years)
- 6th – Ron & Catherine Trimmer
(53 years)
– Mark & Beth Jagos
(23 years)
- 19th – Paul & Sarah Dolza
(39 years)
– Kris & Greg Forsyth
(34 years)
- 22nd – Vic & Michelle Peters
(43 years)
- 28th – Scott & Sharon Michael
(19 years)
- 30th – Dave & Debbie James
(44 years)





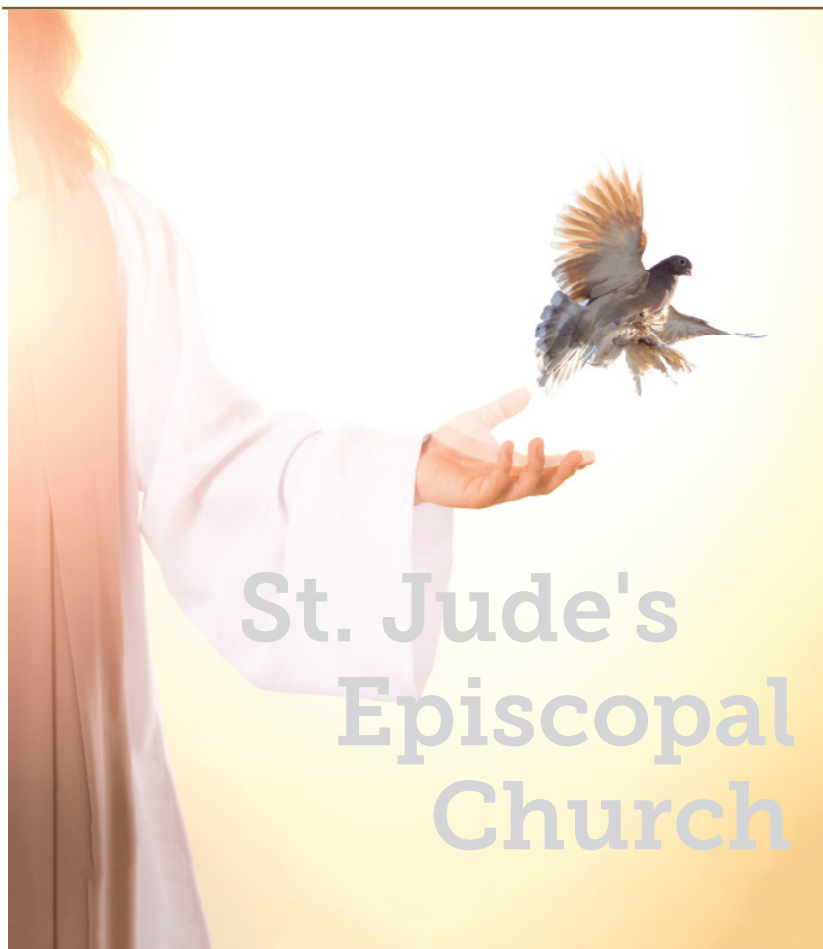
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Church Office: 810-629-5681

www.stjudesfenton.com



VESTRY

Charlie Johnston, Senior Warden

Ron Trimmer, Junior Warden

Debbie James, Clerk

Michelle Gangwer, Treasurer

2022

Deb James

Charlie Johnston

Jack Mills

Diane Putnam

2023

Nancy Day

Paul Dolza

Rex Harris

Mike Wells

2024

Dee Grossmann

Lynn Hopper

Ron Trimmer