



From Generation to Generation

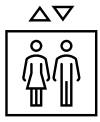
Second Sunday of Advent

Love Gift Sunday

December 7, 2025

10:15 am

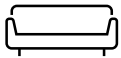
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



The Elevator can be found at the end of the hall, through the door on the right front side of the sanctuary. **Accessible Bathrooms** are on the basement level. Once within the elevator, press "B". Exit and go left down the ramp. Once in the hallway, turn left, go the length, and turn right. The bathrooms are to the left at the top of a small ramp.



Wheelchairs & First Aid Kit are stored in the labeled "First Aid Closet" near the Main Street entrance to the sanctuary. **AED (Defibrillator)** is in the church library on the wall closest to the Sanctuary by the window. When entering from the Sanctuary, turn left.



Our **Soft Worship Space**, the front right of the Sanctuary, is available for all ages to engage their bodies in a way that allows them to be more present in worship. The **Nursery** is open for you to use mindfully, and the service is audible from there. The Nursery is past the elevator, through the double doors, on the right.



Hearing Assistance Devices are available in a basket at the back of the sanctuary if you are having trouble hearing the service. If the service is too loud, you may spend worship in the **Library**, which is to the right of the front of the Sanctuary, through the wall door.



Prayer Request and Information Cards are in pews for visitors, or anyone who would like to share information or a prayer request. Prayer requests will go to our prayer chain and pastors. These will not be read during service. **Visitors**, we are so glad you are here! Completed cards can be placed in the offering plates.



The **Book of Joys & Concerns** is a green binder on the podium at the front of the sanctuary on the right. If you have an Announcement, Joy or Concern you'd like stated, celebrated or prayed about during **Prayers of the People**, feel free to write inside before service begins!



Hymnals are on the back of the pew in front of you. **Bibles** are on a shelf beneath the pew in front of you. **Large Print Hymns** are available for those who need them.



For **Our Time with Children**, children and youth are invited to sit up front on the chancel steps for conversation and an age-appropriate message. They will then be dismissed and escorted downstairs for our youth programming – Connect 3. Connect 3 is aimed at ages 3 through 12, but all youth are welcome!



Audio Recordings of services can be found online on St. John's Website, Facebook Page, or YouTube. Sermons are available on Spotify at "St John's UCC Lansdale Sermons."

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446 Office: 215.855.5489 email: office@st-johns-ucc.org

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan (she/her), M.Div., PhD., Senior Pastor

Pastor Tom Adil (he/him), M. Div., LPC, Support Pastor

Andrew Paulson (he/him), M.M., M.A., Minister of Music

Abbie Lampe (she/her), Connect3 Director

Kay Peebles (she/her), Church Office Manager

Grace Marchione (she/her), Communications Coordinator

Anthony Ottaviano III (he/him), Facilities Manager

Bill Bergey (he/him), Custodian ~ Deborah Dayton (she/her), Council President

Order of Worship
St. John's United Church of Christ
500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
10:15 am — December 7, 2025 — Second Sunday of Advent/Love Gift Sunday

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit when indicated by an *asterisk
and **speak the words in bold.***

PRELUDE Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting).....Setting by David Cherwien

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PROCESSION OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Please face the wreath during the procession.



O Come, Un-bound-ed Love, we bid you come. Ig-nite us when we feel our-selves a-lone.
Con-nect us to your ho - ly spark, That light and love may shine in - to the dark.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el. God's with us in the pla-ces where we dwell.

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE AND LOVE
Spirit of Unbounded Love, we light the candles of hope and love today,
**knowing that even amidst the pain and rubble of this world,
you are present in acts of care, compassion, generosity, and kindness.**

THE FIRST TWO CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH ARE LIT.

May the light of these flames remind us of your promise:

**that you do not abandon your children;
that you are in every rescue worker risking their own life to help others,
in every mother who gives her own meager rations to her child,
in every father who risks it all to make a better life for his family,
and in every young person dreaming of a better world.**

In a world that can be so full of cruelty,

**may we be mirrors that reflect your love.
May we be hands that carry your compassion.
May we be feet that carry your message of peace.
May we have lips that proclaim your justice.**

May we be a love gift to those around us, and may your love do the impossible.

**May your love move mountains.
May your love incite miracles.
May your love change everything. Amen.**

OUR TIME WITH CHILDREN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

CHILDREN'S SONG He Came Down (*music above*)

SERMON "Showing Up When the Chips Are Down"..... Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

HYMN #121 Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting)

Stanza 1: Choir in Spanish

Stanzas 1-4: All in English

PRESENTATION OF THE LOVE GIFTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SUNG RESPONSE #119 My Soul Gives Glory to My God; Stanza 5

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews. For online giving, use the QR code.



Offertory Gabriel's Message.....Basque Carol, arr. David Willcocks

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;

'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,' Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee;

Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,' Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, 'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,

'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.' Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,

And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

-S. Baring-Gould

*Offertory Response #104 We Hail You God's Anointed; Stanza 3

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we offer these gifts as a symbol of our gratitude and our commitment to your work in this place. Bless and multiply them to bring hope to those who suffer and comfort to those in need. Amen.

***HYMN** Wait for the Lord

The hymn is repeated and may be sung in harmony.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Love Has Come.....Setting by Christopher Uehlein

Following worship, you are invited to join us for Fellowship in the Assembly Hall.

The Assembly Hall is located downstairs. From the Narthex – the room at the back of the Sanctuary – go down the steps on the left as you exit the Sanctuary and straight down the hallway. From the **Elevator**, go to the “B” level, go down the ramp and turn right

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan, Senior Pastor
Rev. Tom Adil, Bridge Support Pastor

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music
Chancel Choir
Soloist, Marie Carota

Worship Assistants

Hospitality: Team 1: MacMullen
Elder: Anne Kinsey
Deacon: Sumiko Booraem

Audio Technician: Scott Cunningham
Chancel Flowers: Lisa Thim
Driver: Gale Linderman

Copyright Acknowledgments

All texts and music are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE A-721709 or are in the public domain.

"Mary's Golden Annunciation" by
A Sanctified Art

Music: French carol, arr. Barry Rose,
© 1999 Novello & Co.

Gabriel's Message
Text: S. Baring-Gould
© 1975 David Willcocks

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Stanza
Text: Linda Noonan

He Came Down
Text and Music: Trad. Cameroon,
arr. John Bell
© 1986 Iona Community, GIA

Wait for the Lord
Text: Taizé Community
Music: Jacques Berthier ©
1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA

People, Look East
Text: Eleanor Farjeon, © Miss E.
Farjeon Trust

This Week at St. John's

If you would like more information about St. John's, please speak with one of the staff or contact the church office at 215.855.5489 or office@st-johns-ucc.org

Dec 7	Sun	Second Sunday of Advent			
		Love Gift Sunday			
		8:00 AM 9:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Praying Hands Stitchers LOFT: Intergenerational Advent		
		10:15 AM 11:30 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall		
		4:00 PM	For Everyone Born: The Artist Series Christmas Festival		
Dec 8	Mon	7:00 PM	Council, Zoom Fireside CA 12 Step, Fireside Room		
Dec 9	Tues	7:00 PM	AA, Assembly Hall		
Dec 10	Wed	Advent Wednesday Worship			
		5:30 PM	United Ringers		
		6:00 PM	Community Meal, TRINITY LUTHERAN		
		7:00 PM	Holden Evening Prayer, TRINITY LUTHERAN		
		7:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal		
Dec 11	Thurs	1:00 PM	Stampers, Activity Room		
Dec 12	Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall		
Dec 14	Sun	Third Sunday of Advent			
		8:00 AM 9:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary LOFT: Re:Membering Christmas		
		10:15 AM 10:45 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room		
				11:30 AM	Fellowship, Assembly Hall

A note on "Israel" language in worship: In our music and scriptures, "Israel" and "Israelites" refer to ancient Israel and its people, not the modern political state. At various times in history, it meant the collective name of the twelve tribes descended from Jacob, the Hebrew people, "the people of Israel," the nation of Israel as a whole, or the Northern Kingdom. We want to be faithful hearers and interpreters of scripture, and pray fervently for the day when Palestinians and Israelis may live in mutual peace, security, and dignity.

Weekly Current Income Need:	\$7,884.62	Weekly OCWM Needed:	\$826.92
The Week of November 23, 2025		The Week of November 30, 2025	
Attendance: 8:00 AM	34	Attendance: 8:00 AM	19
Attendance: 10:15 AM	110	Attendance: 10:15 AM	91
Offering For Current:	\$5,714.00	Offering For Current:	\$7,784.00
Offering For OCWM:	\$292.00	Offering For OCWM:	\$550.00

POINSETTIA

donation form 2025



In honor of _____
In memory of _____
From _____
Amount _____
Envelope # _____

If you would like to donate a poinsettia this Christmas Season in honor or memory of a loved one, **please complete the above form and place it in the offering plate or in the office mailbox with your donation by Thursday, December 18.** Donations will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Your donation may be in any amount, and the poinsettias will be delivered to our home congregation after Christmas Day by our Visitation Team.

Living Our Faith Together
Intergenerational Advent

Sundays at 9 AM Activity Room

St. John's Stampers

December 11 at 1 PM

Come create beautiful handmade cards! Supplies and instruction provided!



THE
Artist Series
AT ST. JOHN'S



FOR EVERYONE BORN

The 2025 Christmas Festival

THIS SUNDAY at 4:00 pm

The Artist Series Chorus
North Penn Brass Ensemble
North Penn Chamber Singers



2025 Babies

Announced on January 4!

If your family had a baby born in 2025, please send their name, relation to you, and DOB to the office!

St. John's Advent Devotional!

Available in the Library



This year, St. John's is providing an Advent Devotional that follows the sermon theme! Special thanks to Judy Koenig, Connie May, and Betty Elliot for helping put the devotionals together.

Articles due TODAY for the **January Issue of the Enlightener**



All submissions must include your name and phone number and be typed or printed. Submissions can be placed in the Enlightener bin in the Church Office or emailed to erickinsey@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please call Eric Kinsey at 267.886.5326

Chancel Flowers:



In memory of Eloise Atkin's
Dec. 8th birthday
from Roger Atkin and family



In memory of loved ones
from the Longcoy
and Wenner families.

People Look East



1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth



of the crown - ing of the year.
 one more seed is plant - ed there.
 one more light the bowl shall brim,
 him who brings new life to earth.



Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 that in course the the flow'r may flour - ish.
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing.



Peo - ple, look east, and sing to - day:
 Peo - ple, look east, and sing to - day:
 Peo - ple, look east, and sing to - day:
 Peo - ple, look east, and sing to - day:



Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's
den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling
shall be glorious.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Announcements:

This Sunday (December 7):

- Advent Devotionals are available in the library
 - o Pocket Sized & Large Print available
- LOFT: Intergenerational Advent
- Poinsettia Donation Form in your bulletins.
 - o **Donations must be made by Wednesday, December 17**
 - o **Donations listed in Christmas Eve Bulletin**
- 2026 Budget Vote at the beginning of both services
- LOVE GIFT during both services
- Christmas cookie and bake sale
 - o During Fellowship!
- **For Everyone Born: Artist Series Christmas Festival**
 - o **4 pm in the Sanctuary**
- Articles for the Enlightener due by end of day!

This Week:

- Wednesday Night Advent Worship AT TRINITY LUTHERAN
 - o Community Meal at 6:00 PM
 - o Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM
- Stampers on Thursday at 1:00 PM

Next Sunday (December 14):

- LOFT: Re:Membering Christmas



Advent & Christmas Worship at St. John's

Advent Worship at 8:00 am & 10:15 am "From Generation to Generation"

NOVEMBER 30 – COMMUNION Hope: There's Room for Every Story

DECEMBER 7 – LOVE GIFT SUNDAY Love: God Meets Us in Our Fear

DECEMBER 14 Joy: We Can Choose a Better Way

DECEMBER 21 Peace: We See God in Each Other

The **2025 Advent Devotional** is available in the sanctuary, office, and digitally starting November 26.

Wednesday Evening Worship

6:00 pm Community Meal, 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer

DECEMBER 3 at St. John's

DECEMBER 10 at Trinity Lutheran

DECEMBER 17 at St. John's

Blue Christmas Service of Lament, Loss, and Longing – on ZOOM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 7:30 PM

Blue Christmas Worship at Trinity Lutheran – Pastor Linda Preaching

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 5:30 PM

Christmas Eve Worship

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 PM

Early Service with carols, children's music and message, and candle lighting.

9:00 PM

Late Service with carols, string quartet, choir, handbells, candle lighting, and communion.

Prelude begins at 8:30 pm.

