

If you have been eagerly waiting for the year to end, then we have good news for you - this is the last week of the year! While it may not be the end of 2020, this is the last week of Pentecost, which makes it the final week of the Church Year. As we wrap-up the Church Year, we are focusing on our Old Testament reading from Ezekiel 34. In these verses, we see a picture of a searching God who acts like a shepherd who goes to find His sheep and takes care of them. This passage from Ezekiel is fulfilled in Jesus, who tells us that He is the Good Shepherd who is always pursuing His sheep. Throughout worship today, you are encouraged to ponder the wonderful truth that you don't have a distant or passive God. Rather, you have a very personal God who is always pursuing you to bless you with His grace and love.

Sermon Notes ~ "A Searching God"

- * Who was Ezekiel and what was he called to do?

- * What is Ezekiel's message in chapter 34?

- * What is unique about the idea of a searching and pursuing God?

- * How does Ezekiel 34 find its fulfillment in Jesus?

- * How can seeing God in this light be a source of comfort and hope during these challenging days?

* Special Music Focus for Kids and Teens *

Who doesn't like Christmas music? We all do! I know there are many talented kids and teens (and adults) who want to make beautiful music especially at this special time of year.

Why not share it? Please consider Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 am and let me know your interest:

- + What instrument would you like to perform with?
- + Name of the song? Songs should be church appropriate
- + Music could be done as a solo, duet, or even small group

We want to showcase and applaud your *individual* talents this year, so don't be shy. All skill levels are welcome, and no one should feel intimidated. You simply perform to the best of your ability to give God the glory! I can't wait to hear from you, so please contact Mary Jo to declare your interest!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The week of November 22 at St. John!

- * **Stephen Ministry Sunday ~ November 22 ...**
St. John's Stephen Ministers are lay people that provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. If you would like a visit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Dave and he will assign you a caregiver.
- * **Wednesday Recording Service ...** Beginning Wednesday, November 25, our recording service will be at 11:00 am. This service is open to the congregation and is recorded for our online worship service.
- * **Christian Basics Class ...** on our website and Facebook on Monday, November 23 at 6:30 pm ... on *Christian Living*.
- * **Christmas Eve Feedback Form ...** This past week we sent out a brief feedback form in order to gauge what people are planning to do for worship on Christmas Eve. If you haven't done so yet, please take a few minutes to complete the form so that we can do our best to make Christmas Eve at St. John both safe and uplifting.
- * **Available Today ...** LHM Advent Devotional Booklets, the January—March Portals of Prayer and 2021 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex.
- * **Mark Your Calendars! ...**
+ Thanksgiving Eve Worship ~ Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 pm
+ Christmas Decorating ~ Tuesday, December 1 at 9:30 am
(please contact Kristie if interested)
- * **Annual Meeting ...** At our last Annual Meeting in January, the congregation approved to move our Annual Meeting to the first Sunday in December. This year, our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, December 6 between the 8:00 am and 10:30 am services. Please note that we will not have Bible Study or Sunday School that day. As always, we will provide a recap of the previous year, vote on new board members, and vote on the 2021 budget. You will have the opportunity to participate in-person, online, or from your car in the parking lot - more information on that will be made available soon.
- * **In Our Prayers ...** Greg Guffey, Bartley Kohel, Renee Holz, Rock Gjerme, Jon Friel, Vance Grannis, Joanne Dahlin, Lisa Larsen, Ruth Hagemeyer, Laura DePetro, Lorraine Schire, Kevin Portuguese, Mary Schultz, Peter Nyout, Oline Tolbert, Doug Lasker, Dolores Weir, Carol Mrozik, Betsy Dehler, Marion Hastings, Gene Pommerening
- * **Weekly Social Media Post ...** Even when we are going through the darkest of days and it seems like God is distant or altogether absent, we trust that God is always pursuing us relentlessly to bless us with His grace and mercy. #stjohnwoodbury#SearchingGod#PursuingGod