



SERVICE OF
HOLY COMMUNION

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2017

8:30 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning!

*All are invited to **sign the welcome sheets** in the red books at the end of the pews.*

*Please pass them down to the center and then back
so you can greet those worshipping around you.*

Ushers will gather these following worship.

*In the red pew hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship),
page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front section,
and hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn section.*

An asterisk () invites you to stand as you are able.*

Children are welcome to participate throughout our
worship service, including at Holy Communion.

*Parents, please assist children when they come forward for communion
to extend their hands if they are to receive the bread and wine.*

Hearing assistance devices are available outside the sanctuary or from an usher.

*Large print bulletins are available for Sunday worship services.
Please ask an usher if you would like one.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover photography by John Walters.

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GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

Aaron David Miller

Welcome and Announcements

*Advent Credo

Daniel Berrigan, b. 1921

- P** It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—
- All** **This is true: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”** (John 3:16)
- P** It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—
- All** **This is true: “I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”** (John 10:10b)
- P** It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—
- All** **This is true: “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders, his name shall be called Wonderful Councilor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”** (Isaiah 9:6)
- P** It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—
- All** **This is true: “To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and, lo, I am with you always, even until the end of the world.”** (Matthew 18,20)
- P** It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—
- All** **This is true: “I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young shall see visions and your old shall have dreams.”** (Acts 2:17)
- P** So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope.
Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.
Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:
Jesus Christ—the life of the world.
- All** **Amen.**

*Opening Hymn — No. 242

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

*Greeting

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- A** And also with you.

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- L** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation.
- C** Amen.

*Response Hymn — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Em man u el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra-el, that mourns in lone-ly
ex - ile here un-til the Son of God ap-pear. Re-joice! re-joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

*Prayer of the Day

- P** Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by you Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Lesson — Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7

Pew Bible, page 555

After the reading:

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem — “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

arr. Cathy Moklebus

Willi Kmoch and Katie Schroeer, clarinet

Rejoice Ringers

Second Lesson — Isaiah 40: 1-5

Pew Bible, page 581

After the reading:

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem — “All Earth Is Hopeful”

arr. James E. Bobb

Sung in Spanish and English.

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set everybody free.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell: “A virgin mother with bear Emmanuel”: she conceived him, “God with us,” our brother, whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world, he is present, in neighbors we see, our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

St. John's Chorale

***Carol** — No. 256

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Third Lesson — Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

Pew Bible, page 558

After the reading:

- 📖 The word of the Lord.
- 🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem — “Spotless Rose”

Ola Gjeilo

Sung in Norwegian.

*A Spotless Rose is growing,
sprung from a tender root,
of ancient seers' foreshowing,
of Jesse promised fruit;
its fairest bud unfold to light
amid the cold, cold winter,
and in the dark midnight.*

*The Rose which I am singing,
whereof Isaiah said,
is from its sweet root springing
in Mary, purest maid;
through God's great love and might
the blessed babe she bare us
in a cold, cold winter's night.*

Fourth Lesson — Luke 1:26-35, 38

Pew Bible, page 831

After the reading:

- 📖 The word of the Lord.
- 🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Carol — No. 265

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Fifth Lesson — Luke 2:1, 3-7

Pew Bible, page 832

After the reading:

- 📖 The word of the Lord.
- 🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem — “All My Heart This Night Rejoices”

arr. Trevor Manor

*All my heart this night rejoices as I hear far and near sweetest angel voices;
“Christ is born,” their choirs are singing, till the air ev’rywhere now with joy is ringing.
Christ is born! And all my heart rejoices.*

*Softly from his lowly manger Jesus calls one and all, “You are safe from danger.
Children, from the sins that grieve you, you are freed; all you need I will surely give you!”
And all my heart rejoices!*

*Come, then, banish all your sadness; one and all, great and small, come with songs of gladness.
Love him who with love is glowing; hail the star, near and far light and joy bestowing!
All my heart rejoices! Choirs are singing, joy is ringing: Christ is born!*

Marcia Yernberg, piano; Delany Breen, horn

Sixth Lesson — Luke 2:8-16

Pew Bible, page 833

After the reading:

- Ⓛ The word of the Lord.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

***Carol** — No. 289

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayers of Intercession**

After each petition:

- Ⓛ Lord, in your mercy, ☑ **hear our prayer.**

***Peace**

- Ⓟ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☑ **And also with you.**

You are invited to share God’s peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

“I Wonder as I Wander”

John Jacob Niles, arr. Peggy Bettcher

*Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray.
- Ⓐ **Savior of the nations, come.
Make your home here in us.
Feed us with your love,
that our faith shines ever new
and our lives reveal your light.
Amen.**

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

- Ⓐ The Lord be with you.
- Ⓒ **And also with you.**
- Ⓐ Lift up your hearts.
- Ⓒ **We lift them to the Lord.**
- Ⓐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- Ⓒ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- Ⓐ It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus

PICARDY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign-ing God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, all cre - a - tion seeks your light!
Bless-ed is the one who comes in your name. Bless-ed be the Lord most high!

Text: Trad. liturgical, arr. Kimberly Bracken Long

*Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

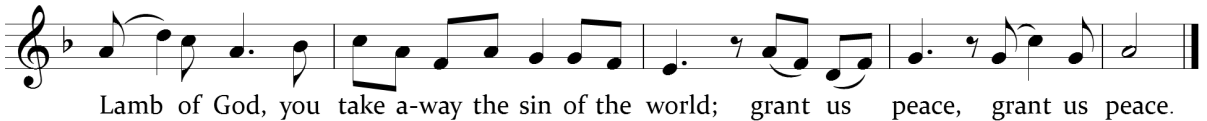
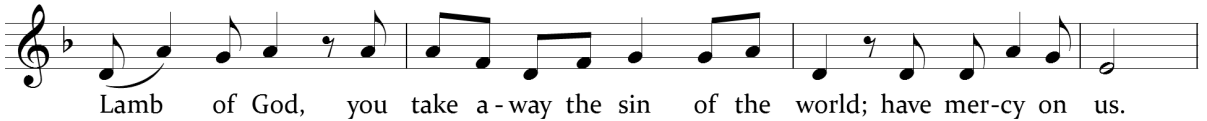
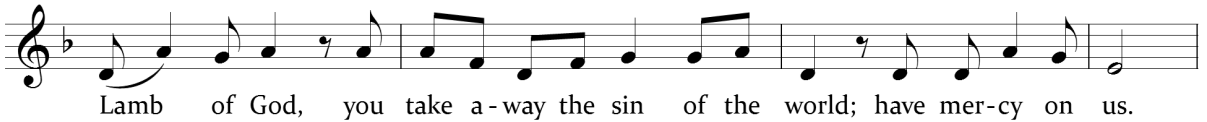
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

*All God's children are welcome at the table. Communion will be received standing at the front of the sanctuary; ushers will direct you forward. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the middle. After you have been served the bread, you will be offered **wine or grape juice**. The **grape juice** is white and is located in the center of the tray. If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know, and communion will be brought to you.*

Music during Communion

"Lamb of God"



Hymn — No. 272

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Hymn — No. 294

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Post Communion Litany and Benediction

- ☞ God for whom we wait: **A** Make us ready.
- ☞ To see you at every hungry table, **A** Make us ready.
- ☞ To receive you joyfully into our hearts and lives, **A** Make us ready.
- ☞ May Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you and lighten your path. Now, and forever.
- A** Amen.

*Sending Hymn — “People Look East”

BESANCON

1 - All Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 - Bass voices Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 - Treble voices Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that
 4 - All Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 5 - All An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new
 of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming
 trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look
 east, and sing to - day- Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day- Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day- Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day- Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day- Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965; Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

***Dismissal**

☞ Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude** — “Glada julafton, härliga, klara” (Swedish Carol)



SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis and Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	Rhoda Van Tassel
Advent Wreath Lighters	(8:30) Hall-Holt Family (10:45) Fossum / Price Family
Organists	Nathan Proctor, and Andy Jacob, Church Music Intern
Choirs	St. John’s Chorale; Nathan Proctor, director Rejoice Ringers; Zachary Pelletier, director
Pianist	Marcia Yernberg
Horn	Delany Breen
Clarinet	Willa Kmoch, Katie Schroeer
Acolytes	(8:30) Annelise Hall-Holt, Jeanette Pelletier (10:45) Tarkel Price, Vassar Price
Communion Preparer	Craig Schultz
Communion Server	Dan Van Tassel
Communion Cleanup	Mark Rydberg
Greeters / Welcome Desk	(8:30) Ruth Dahl, Carolyn Jennings (10:45) Sharon Bishop, Ruth Dahl
Coffee and Refreshments	Bill and Char Carlson, Mary Hoff, Erik Lindell, Bruce and Alice Rickert, Mike Roth
Nursery	TBD
Counters	Amy Boxrud, Jerry Kipp, Bill and Jane Rizzo
Ushers	(8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug (10:45) Margaret Hayford O’Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Susan Immel, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O’Leary

WELCOME STATEMENT

St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace, and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

*While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.
We warmly welcome you here.*

Christmas Dinner Workshop! Everyone is Welcome! Today at 9:45 a.m. in St. John's Hall

Elves of all ages are needed to decorate placemats, make table decorations, and roll napkins for our St. John's Community Christmas Day Dinner.

Come join in the Christmas Spirit of helping others while enjoying a Christmas carol sing, cookies, and camaraderie.
(Sunday School and Sunday Life Group will meet in St. John's Hall)

Christmas Worship & Events at St. John's

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Vespers at 3:00 p.m. (Especially for Children and Families)

Christmas Vespers at 5:00 p.m. (Service Broadcast on KYMN 1080AM)

Christmas Candlelight and Holy Communion at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25

Christmas Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. (Service Broadcast on KYMN 1080AM)

Christmas Dinner for All from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 31

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. (Service Broadcast on KYMN 1080AM)

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Jon Nicholson by Kris Parker and family. Services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Dates available: December 24, 25 & 31. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television – cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Your 2018 Intent Cards are Needed!

Please help us plan our budget and ministry in the year ahead. No matter what amount you are able to give, we value your prayerful response! You can return your card to the church office in person, in the offering plate, by mail or by emailing your intent to finance@StJohnsNorthfield.org. THANK YOU!

High School Club (Grades 9-12)

Today, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Peggy Hanson's, 205 Elm Street

We will start preparing for the high school Christmas party: making desserts and party favors! Tea, cocoa, cider, and treats will be provided. Please come and bring friends. Any questions please call Peggy Hanson at 952-210-2358.

Community Christmas Dinner

We still need donations of food and/or your time to help make this annual event a huge success. Please stop by our table in the Commons area and sign up. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Christmas & New Year's Hospitality Needs

These needs are **not** covered by monthly hospitality groups. Can you help with greeting, communion prep, or communion clean up? We have many opportunities available to serve during the holidays. Signups are available in the Commons or in CCB under "Christmas and New Year's Eve Services Hospitality." If you can help please let Mary know at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Thank You!

Thank you for your donations to Northfield's Christmas Sharing at the Community Action Center!

Divorce Support Group for Women

This past summer, St. John's Stephen Ministry started a divorce support group for men. It was very successful in supporting people during an extremely difficult and isolating time of life. At this time, we are considering piloting another group for women living through divorce. If you or someone you know would benefit from and be interested in this, please contact Pastor Jonathan at 507-645-4429 or jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Congratulations to Jerry and Karen Appeldoorn as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary today.

Prayer Requests

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.

Healing and Support

Those in the hospital or recovering
Vera Haugen

Those mourning the loss of a loved one
Family of Gert Brosz
Family of Wilbur Christensen

Those with ongoing health concerns
Fred Gonnerman, Elvin Heiberg, Mary Ingbritsen, Elaine Kringen, Ed Lindell, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, Margaret O'Leary, Bette Quinnell, Joanne Sommers, Dick Werdahl, Laila Burns Hedstrom, Earl Hoffbeck, Timothy Johnson, George Schneider, Carol Stubbs, Paul Wolff

All who are homebound, including
Virley Brown, Cliff Gilomen, Richard and Sigrid Gronning

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's
The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;
Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania; Randy and Carol Stubbs & Family,
ELCA missionaries in Tanzania; Curtis and Katie Kline, ELCA missionaries in Colombia

Members of St. John's studying at seminary, including
Henry Burt, Hayden Kvamme

Refugees from Ethiopia being sponsored by St. John's
Paul, Ariat, and their family

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests
Call Joan Halvorson at 507-645-8445 or one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests
Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor.

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 24):

Fourth Sunday of Advent

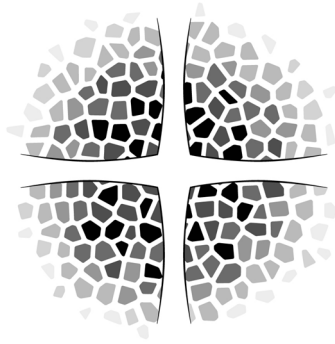
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 † Luke 1:46b-55 † Romans 16:25-27 † Luke 1:26-38

This Week At-a-Glance

Monday, Dec. 18	8:30 a.m.	Quilting, Fellowship Hall
	11:30 a.m.	Dinner followed by Communion at NRC, Offsite
	12:00 p.m.	Manna & Mercy Mondays, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
		Anniversary Fundraising Committee, Fireside Room
Tuesday, Dec. 19	8:45 a.m.	Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting, Fireside Room
	12:30 p.m.	Weekly Lectionary Text Study, Fireside Room
	2:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff, Room 212
	6:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministers, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council, Undercroft
Wed., Dec. 20	12:00 p.m.	NFLD Public Schools Instructional Coaches, Fireside Room
	5:15 p.m.	Alleluia Choir (Grades K-2), Room 205
		Jubilate Choir (Grades 3-5), Room 209
		Laudate Choir (Grades 6-12), Room 205
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Dec. 21	8:30 a.m.	Quilting, Fellowship Hall
Friday, Dec. 22	8:45 a.m.	Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall
Saturday, Dec. 23		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed

(For Christmas Worship and Events, please see page 12)

 <p>Wednesday Night MEALS</p>	<p>Served from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall</p> <p>No Meals on December 20 or December 27 Meals will resume on January 3, 2018</p> <p>All are welcome!</p>
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St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher and Jonathan Davis, *Pastors*

Carol Benson, *Director of Alleluia and Jubilate Choirs*

Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*

Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager*

Angie Gehring / Rebekah Thomas, *Youth Support Staff*

Christy Hall-Holt / Mary Kelvie, *Shared Ministry Coordinators*

Zachery Pelletier, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*

Marvin Perez, *Security and Custodial Assistant*

Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

Bernie Renander, *Financial Manager*

Melissa Berthelsen, *Parish Nurse*

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.