

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2019 † 8:30 A.M. & 10:45 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 black folders at the end of the pews.*

*Please pass them 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.*

P Pastor, **L** Leader (Assisting Minister), **C** Congregation

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.*

Children's Bibles and activity bags
are available at both entrances to the Sanctuary
and scribble cards are available in the pews.

*Hearing assistance devices are available outside the Sanctuary or from an usher.
For those with hearing aids, the Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop.*

Large print bulletins and hymns are available for worship services.



*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.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — on REJOICE, REJOICE

Aaron David Miller

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Prelude — “Lost in the Night”

Finnish folk tune, arr. Kyle Haugen

Lost in the night do the people yet languish, longing for morning the darkness to vanquish, plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish. Will not day come soon? Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow? Shall those who have light no light let us borrow, giving no heed to our burden of sorrow? Will you help us soon? Sorrowing wanderers, in darkness yet dwelling, dawned has the day of a radiance excelling, death's dreaded darkness forever dispelling. Christ is coming soon.

*Advent Affirmation of Hope

P Let us affirm our hope in Christ, who came,
who comes, and who is to come:

When violence reigns, and war seems never-ending, Christ is our hope,

C **born among us, crucified and risen.**

P When despair lies in wait and life loses meaning, Christ is our hope,

C **born among us, crucified and risen.**

P When people claim to know what God alone knows,
and say the end is near, Christ is our hope,

C **born among us, crucified and risen.**

P When life on earth is extinguished this year, next year,
or in a hundred million years, Christ is our hope,

C **born among us, crucified and risen.**

P In sorrow and joy, today and tomorrow,
in life and in death, Christ is our hope,

C **born among us, crucified and risen.**

A **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn** — No. 242

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

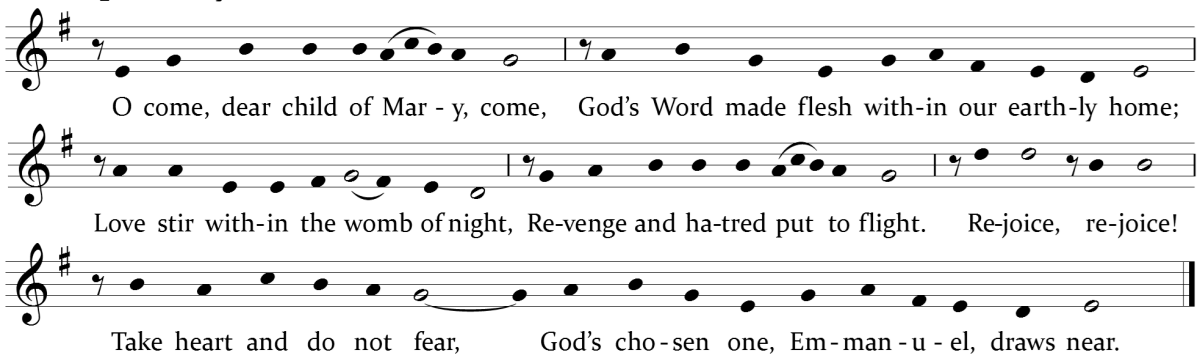
- Ⓐ We light candles during Advent, praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us to look outward in love, and to look forward in hope.

Let us pray that waiting for Christmas may show us how to be patient when things take time, how to live for Christ day by day, and how to wait for promises not yet fulfilled.

- Ⓒ **Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.**
- Ⓐ The prophet Isaiah declares, “A young woman is with child, and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (which means: God-with-us).” The risen Christ declares, “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” We light this candle as a sign of God’s presence in Christ, now and always. That we may trust that God is with us and live in the light of Christ’s coming—
- Ⓒ **Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

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

VENI, EMMANUEL



O come, dear child of Mar - y, come, God's Word made flesh with-in our earth-ly home;
Love stir with-in the womb of night, Re-venge and ha-tred put to flight. Re-joyce, re-joyce!
Take heart and do not fear, God's cho-sen one, Em-man-u-el, draws near.

Text: Barbara Lundblad, 2013. Used with permission.

*Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- Ⓒ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Romans 1:1-7

Pew Bible, page 913

After the reading:

- The word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Music: Jacques Berthier, © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin GIA Publications, reprinted under OneLicense A-708009

***Gospel** — Matthew 1:1-25

Spark Story Bible, page 196; Pew Bible, page 783

Before the reading:

- The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.
- Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

- The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — No. 263

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Stanza 1 and 2 — all
Stanza 3 — treble voices
Stanza 4 — bass voices
Stanzas 5 and 6 — all

(10:45) **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism** — *Front of hymnal, pages 227-231*

The Triune God proclaims August Liam Hayek Traaseth as a beloved child this morning in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. August's parents are Stephanie and Nate Traaseth, and his sponsors are Kristin Hayek and Mandy Vaughn.

Presentation

- P** People of God, do you promise to support August Liam and pray for him in his new life in Christ?
C We do.

***Profession of Faith** — *Front of hymnal, page 229*

***Baptismal Hymn** — No. 286

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”

Stanza 1

(During the hymn, all children are invited to join the baptismal group at the font.)

***Thanksgiving at the Font** — *Front of hymnal, page 230*

Baptism

Welcome

Baptismal Hymn — No. 286

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”

Stanza 4

***Prayers of Intercession**

After each petition:

- L** Lord, in your mercy,
C 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:

(8:30) “Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day” English Carol, arr. David Sims
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance. Sing, O my love, this have I done for my true love. Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance; thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance. Sing, O my love, this have I done for my true love. In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor this was my chance, betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance. Sing, O my love, this have I done for my true love.

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) ““Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day” English Carol, arr. John Rutter
Kristin Partlo, soprano

*Offering Hymn — “Of the Father's Love Begotten” stanza 1 DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

*Offering Prayer

☞ Let us pray.

☞ **Savior of the nations, come.**

Make your home here in us.

**Feed us with your love, that our faith shine
ever new and our lives reveal your light.**

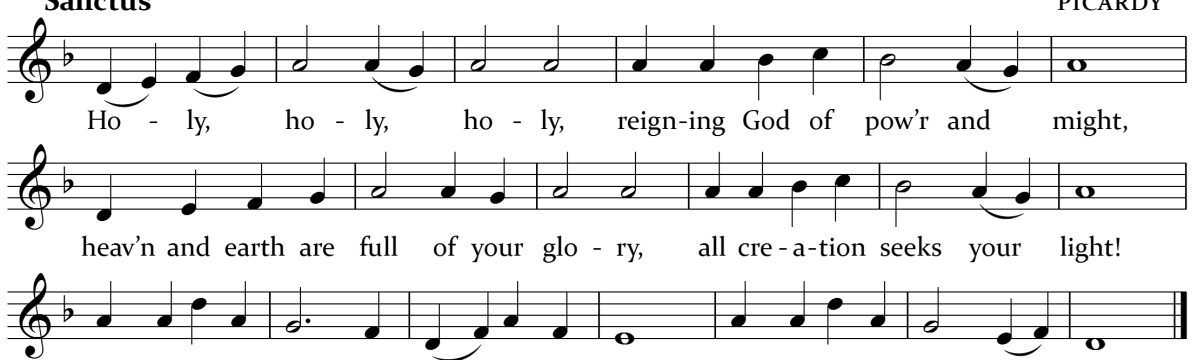
Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P** 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

*Eucharistic Prayer

- P** Holy One, the beginning and the end...Do this for the remembrance of me.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P** With this bread and cup...we look with hope for his coming.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Holy God, we long for your Spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P** All praise and glory are yours...one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

*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"



The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn "Lamb of God". Each staff is in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves are identical, and the third staff has a different ending.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(8:30) **Anthem** — "To a Virgin Meek and Mild" Spanish Carol, arr. David N. Johnson
To a virgin meek and mild came an angel holy, greeting her, the undefiled, in her chamber lowly; hail to thee, thou blessed one, chosen mother of God's Son. Through a wondrous birth he shall come to earth, and shall reign as a king forever, Jesus, blessed Savior. By the sages long foretold, now the day is nearing, promises of God unfold in the son appearing. He, the child of Bethlehem, branch divine of Jesse's stem, shall have great increase as the Prince of Peace, and the earth shall be filled with the Lord's salvation, hope of every nation. Come into this heart of mine, Jesus, guest from heaven. Cradled there, O babe divine, earth shall be a heaven. Angels, sing your lullaby; keep your vigil in the sky, till the dawn shall break, and all earth awake to proclaim him the king who shall reign forever, Jesus blessed Savior. - English tr. V.E. Boe and Oscar Overby

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

℣ Let us pray.

℟ **God of abundance, we give you thanks in this holy meal.
May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words
and our work in your name invite others into your grace.
Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we
await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

☩ **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** — No. 257

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Verses 1-4

***Dismissal**

℣ Go in peace. Christ is with you.

℟ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude — Partita on NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
IV. Fugue

Jacob Weber



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	Kristin Partlo
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Cantor	(10:45) Kristin Partlo
Advent Wreath Lighters	(8:30) Becker Family (10:45) Menssen Family
Acolytes	(8:30) Will Becker, Erik Boehning (10:45) Merri-Elisabeth Kmoch, Osiris Perez
Communion Preparer	Sharon Bishop
Communion Servers	(8:30) TBD (10:45) TBD
Communion Cleanup	Sharon Bishop, Georgene Johnson
Greeters / Welcome Desk	(8:30) Jane Becker-Nelson, Brenda Bultman (10:45) Ruth Dahl, Ruthie Neuger
Coffee and Refreshments	Jane Becker-Nelson, Demian Jackman, Dennis and Jane Rinehart
Nursery	Anne France
Counters	Bill and Char Carlson, Martha Erickson, Bob Tabery
Ushers	(8:30) Dallas Berg, Barry Becker, Erik Hong, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert (10:45) David Rudser, Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Connie Menssen, Todd Menssen, Robert Nyvall, Susan Rudser, Mark Rydberg, Terry Rydberg

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

"Cardinals" - Advent bulletin art series by Ricardo Levins Morales. www.rlmartstudio.com

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Christmas Worship and Events

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Vespers at 3:00 p.m. (especially for families with children)

Christmas Vespers with Candlelight at 5:00 p.m.

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

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Worship with Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, December 29

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.



Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Shirley Falck in loving memory of husband John Falck. Sunday 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. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV) - cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Intergenerational Event: Christmas Dinner Workshop

Today, 9:45-10:30 a.m.

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 some carols, cookies, and camaraderie.

Stewardship Campaign Update

Thank you to all who have already submitted their 2020 pledge card. If you have not yet indicated your intent, please do so as soon as possible to help facilitate our work on next year's budget. You can return a card to the church office, in the offering plate, or you can email your intent to Bernie Renander at finance@StJohnsNorthfield.org. If you give electronically through automatic transfer, please review your giving and let us know your 2020 intent, even if it is to remain the same.

Announcements (continued)

All Laudate Choir Alumni, their friends and families, and anyone else interested in singing are again invited to form a choir to sing for the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Rehearsal begins at 10:00 p.m. in the choir room. We need your voice to help keep this great tradition going!

Community Christmas Day Dinner Alert

We are still in need of more salads and desserts as well as second shift help in the kitchen and dining room on Christmas day. If you think you could help with food items or fill some of the open shifts please stop by the sign-up desk in the Commons and see how you might contribute. Thank you in advance!

Your Year End Gifts are Needed

St. John's depends on robust December giving to make our budget. If you have not fulfilled your pledge, or if you can make an additional gift, we will receive 2019 financial offerings in the following ways:

- given online by December 27 (processing takes time to clear)
- delivered in person by noon, December 31, to the church office
- mailed and postmarked by midnight, December 31

THANK YOU!

Annual Meeting Reports

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report - please turn your report in as soon as possible (the deadline was Friday, December 20) and mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 26.

Carols on the Campus

Thursday, January 9, 11:30 a.m.

The Women of St. John's annual luncheon at the King's Room on St. Olaf campus will be Thursday, January 9. Please RSVP by signing up at the Women's bulletin board. Cost is \$15. Ride share will be available from St. John's and a bus from NRC will be available at 11:00 a.m.

Registration for our 2020 High School and Middle School Mission Trips is Now Open

This year we are working with CSM and Serve Boldly mission partners to plan for two mission experiences in Denver. For more information, pick up a brochure in the Commons. The signup sheet is posted in the Commons and on the bulletin board by the Youth Room. For additional information contact Emmanuel Kaghondi at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429.

Lost & Found Deadline

Are any of the items in the Lost & Found box and clothing rack by the Welcome Desk yours? Please take a look. Items will be donated after December 31. Thank you!

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 in need of healing

Donna Hunecke, Donna James, John Rukh, Betty Schuette

Those celebrating the baptism of

August Liam Hayek Traaseth, son of Stephanie and Nate Traaseth

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marybeth Bremer, Mary Ingbritsen, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, Betty Schuette,
Joanne Sommers, Tom Sorenson, Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Gloria Porter, Lois Rand, Dorothy Ostlie

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;

Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call 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 29):


First Sunday after Christmas

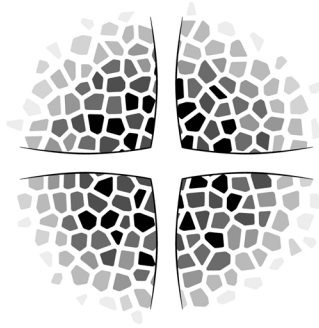
Isaiah 63:7-9 † Psalm 148 † Hebrews 2:10-18 † Matthew 2:13-23

This Week At-a-Glance

*The calendar below contains only St. John's events.
The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

Monday, Dec. 23	10:45 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	1000 Cannon Valley Drive Communion, Offsite Dinner Followed by Communion at NRC, Offsite Manna and Mercy Mondays, Fireside Room
Tuesday, Dec. 24	3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 11:00 p.m.	Worship ~ Christmas Vespers Worship ~ Christmas Vespers with Candlelight Worship ~ Christmas Candlelight and Holy Communion
Wed., Dec. 25	10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Worship ~ Festive Christmas Eucharist, Sanctuary Christmas Day Dinner, St. John's Hall
Thursday, Dec. 26		Church Office and Building Closed
Friday, Dec. 27		Church Office and Building Closed
Saturday, Dec. 28		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Dec. 29	10:00 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary

	<p>Served from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall</p> <p>Wednesday Night Meals Take A Break Meals Resume January 8</p> <p>All are welcome!</p>
<p><i>Consider this Amazing Fact: Wednesday Meals are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents. Dessert contributions are always welcome and needed!</i></p>	



St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*
Carol Benson, *Director of Jubilate Choir*
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager*
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*
Christy Hall-Holt, *Welcome Ministry Coordinator*
Emmanuel Kaghondi, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Director of Alleluia Choir*
Zachery Pelletier, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*
Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, *Security and Custodial Assistants*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*
Bernie Renander, *Financial Manager*

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