

COME OSUN OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS
SHINE INTO EARTH'S
DARK NIGHT
BRING YOUR WHOLE
BELOVED CREATION
INTO THE
BRILLIANCE
OF YOUR
HEALING LIGHT



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.*

Pastor, Leader (Assisting Minister), 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.

Large print bulletins 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.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 2018 † 10:00 A.M.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — “Canticle of the Turning”

Marianne Kim

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn — No. 257

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Stanzas 1-4

*Greeting

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

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- ℒ At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.
O Emmanuel,
- ☩ **Surprise us by your coming.**
- ℒ We gather together to let God's good news reorient our lives. O Emmanuel,
- ☩ **Surprise us by your coming.**
- ℒ We wait for the day when all the world will see the sign that God is with us.
O Emmanuel,
- ☩ **Surprise us by your coming.**
- ℒ We are shocked by how God comes close, even at this very moment.
O Emmanuel,
- ☩ **Surprise us by your coming.**
- ℒ Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose
flames bring brightness to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.
- ☩ **Amen.**

***Response Hymn** — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *stanza 6* VENI, EMMANUEL

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

***Prayer of the Day**

- ☐ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD’S WORD

First Reading — Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible, page 756

After the reading:

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

Second Reading — Hebrews 10:5-10

Pew Bible, page 976

After the reading:

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

Children’s Message

***Gospel Acclamation** — No. 552

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

Stanza 1

Before the reading:

📖 The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

🗣️ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Magnificat”

setting by John Ferguson

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his descendants forever, forevermore.*

After the reading:

📖 The Gospel of the Lord. 🗣️ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenschner

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — No. 723

“Canticle of the Turning”

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism — *Front of hymnal, pages 227-231*

The Triune God proclaims Tegan Gavia O’Boyle as a beloved child this morning in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Tegan’s parents are Dita and Mike O’Boyle, and her sponsors are Austen Hartke and Nicole St. James.

Presentation

📖 People of God, do you promise to support Tegan Gavia and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

🗣️ **We do.**

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

***Baptismal Hymn** — “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” *stanza 1*

**Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev’ry soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.**

(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** — “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” *stanza 4*

**Until at last we too proclaim, with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew, and praise you as the angels do.**

***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:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Natalie Sleeth

St. John’s Chorale

***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

- ℳ Let us pray.
- ☞ **God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

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

*Eucharistic Prayer

- P** Holy One, the beginning and the end...Do this for remembrance of me.
- P** 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. This morning we commune by means of **intinction** (dipping the wafer into the chalice). You will be given a wafer and offered a choice of two chalices.*

*The **wine** is red; the **grape juice** is white. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the center, and there is a chalice of grape juice in the center for the gluten-free wafers only.*

If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know, and communion will be brought to you.

Music during Communion

"Lamb of God"



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.

Hymn — No. 266

“All Earth Is Hopeful”

Hymn — No. 241

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

P Let us pray.

All Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives that we may be messengers to prepare your way, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

C Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — No. 267

“Joy to the World”

***Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “Joy to the World”

Kristina Langlois



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	Ruthie Neuger
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	St. John's Chorale, Nathan Proctor, director
Offering anthem	Carol Benson, director
Trumpet	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Advent Wreath Lighters	Bash/Goodrich Family
Acolytes	Owen Brownlee, Madison Hansen
Communion Preparer	Anne Klinefelter
Communion Servers	The Neuger Family
Communion Cleanup	Anne Klinefelter
Greeters / Welcome Desk	Ruth Dahl, Carolyn Jennings
Nursery	Anne France
Counters	Merilyn Calcutt, Chuck and Anita Hellie
Ushers	David Rudser, Robert Nyvall, Susan Rudser, Mark Rydberg, Terry Rydberg, Grit Youngquist

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Advent and Christmas Worship & Events

Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24

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

Christmas Vespers w/Candlelight at 5:00 p.m. (Service Broadcast on KYMN 1080AM/95.1 FM)

Choir Rehearsal 10:00 p.m.

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

Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. (Service Broadcast on KYMN 1080AM/95.1 FM)

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

Sunday, December 30

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. (Service Broadcast on KYMN 1080AM/95.1 FM)



In anticipation of our upcoming 150th church anniversary year, our bulletin covers this Advent and Christmas season pay tribute to the many artists and designers whose artistic vision welcomes us into worship week after week over many decades. The cover this morning is the inspiration for the Advent banner created by John and Bobbie Maakestad, from the Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 23, 1990.

We invite you to **mark your calendars now** for these special anniversary events:

Sunday, January 13: We will welcome the St. Olaf Choir in worship and celebrate the historic and ongoing relationship between St. John's and the St. Olaf Choir with a special forum and reception between services.

Sunday, April 28: We will continue our Easter celebrations with a special focus on local composers and local visual artists.

Sunday, July 14: We will get outdoors together and celebrate with a family friendly social event.

October 26-28: Our **Capstone Event** will include something for everyone - kids, neighbors, history buffs, and people who just love to get together, share food, and celebrate.

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Rev. Lowell Smestad and Helene Anglin by their families. 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. Dates available: January 20 & 27. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television – cable channel 180 (please note change of channel number), Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

All Laudate 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!

Christmas Dinner for All!

Dinner will be served Tuesday, December 25, beginning at 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Thank you to all who are volunteering their time in helping with this important community event. Merry Christmas!

The Church building will be closed on Wednesday, December 26.

Next week church office hours will be limited.

There will be one worship service on Sunday, December 30, at 10:00 a.m.

The Church building will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 31, and will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, 2019.

Our financial contributions are one of the ways that we together support the ministry of St. John's. Contributions for 2018 can be received in the following ways

- given online by December 28 (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!

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 13. This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of its birth and are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music. A reception in honor of the choir will be held between services in St. John's Hall.

Announcements (continued)

Save the Date: Annual Meeting / Potluck!

The annual meeting of St. John's will take place on Sunday, January 20, at noon in St. John's Hall. Following a potluck lunch, we will meet to hear reports, elect council and board members for 2019, and approve the 2019 budget. The St. John's Foundation meeting will take place just before the congregational meeting. *For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report - please turn your report in as soon as possible!*

Children and Youth Ministries

Children and Youth programming takes a break during the school's winter break.

- No Sunday School or Middle School Youth Group on December 23 and 30.
- No Wednesday programming on December 19 and 26.

Save the Date(s):

- **Wednesday, January 2, 4:00-4:45 p.m.:** 4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes
- **Sunday, January 6, 1:30-3:30 p.m.:** Middle School Youth are invited to Peggy Hanson's home for hot chocolate, delicious treats, and fun! Watch for more info!
- **Monday, January 21, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.:** Grades 2-5 are invited to Jesse James Lanes for a St. John's Bowling Event. Watch for more info!
- **Monday, January 21, 12:00 p.m.:** High School Youth are invited to a "Trip to an Escape Room". We will carpool from St. John's and begin the day at Augsburg College to listen to a speaker talk about Martin Luther King, Jr., have lunch in the college cafeteria, then head over to Trapped in St. Paul. Watch for more info!

4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes January 2

Wednesday, January 2, 9, 16 & 23, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

The 4th grade class meets in Room 20 (lower level) and 5th grade in the Undercroft (lower level) from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. (snack is included). Please contact Julie Brehmer if your child would like to ride the St. John's afterschool bus on Wednesdays to CAT. The bus picks up at Sibley, Bridgewater, Greenvale and at the Middle School for PCCS kids.

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

Joann Jorgensen, Gloria Knutson, Jane Koskovich, Suzanne Pfau, Julie Westerback

Those celebrating the baptism of

Tegan Gavia O'Boyle (daughter of Dita and Michael O'Boyle)

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Cliff Gilomen

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marybeth Bremer, Fred Gonnerman, Elvin Heiberg, Fred Huemoeller, Mary Ingbritsen, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, Betty Schuette, Eulalie Smestad, Joanne Sommers, Jim Thompson, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Virley Brown, 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 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.

This Week At-a-Glance

Wed., Dec. 26		<i>Church Office and Building Closed</i>
Thursday, Dec. 27		No Scheduled Activities
Friday, Dec. 28	8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life), Fellowship Hall Visitation - Bette Quinnell Funeral - Bette Quinnell
Saturday, Dec. 29		<i>No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed</i>
Sunday, Dec. 30	10:00 a.m.	Worship / Nursery
Monday, Dec. 31		No Scheduled Activities
Tuesday, Jan. 1		<i>New Year's Day - Church Office and Building Closed</i>

Wednesday Night



**Served from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.
in St. John's Hall**

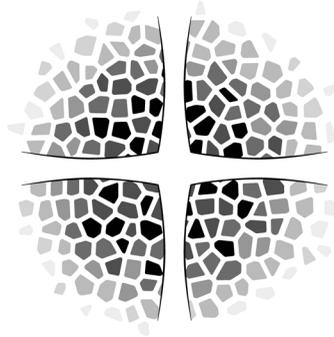
No Meal on Wednesday, December 26

All are welcome!

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 30):

First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 † Psalm 148 † Colossians 3:12-17 † Luke 2:41-52



St. John's

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Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*

Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*

Carol Benson, *Director of Jubilate Choir*

Melissa Berthelsen, *Parish Nurse*

Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*

Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager*

Angie Gehring / Emerson Clay, *Youth Support Staff*

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

Arielle Loy, *Director of Alleluia Choir*

Zachery Pelletier, *Director of Rejoice Rings*

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.