



Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are visiting!

*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'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.

Please ask an usher if you would like one.



*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 EVE VESPERS

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 24, 2018 † 3:00 & 5:00 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn — No. 283

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Stanzas 1, 2, and 3

*Litany of Light

- P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
- C** **The light no darkness can overcome.**
- P** Let your light scatter the darkness,
- C** **and illumine your church.**

*Prayer of the Day

- P** Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise — No. 279

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Stanzas 1 and 2

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Reading — Isaiah 9:2-7

Pew Bible, page 555

(3:00) **Anthem** — “On Christmas Night”

SUSSEX CAROL, Jody W. Lindh

Jubilate and Laudate Choirs

(5:00) **Anthem** — “Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain”

Carolyn Jennings

St. John's Chorale

Reading — Luke 2:1-20

Pew Bible, page 832, Spark Story Bible, page 212

Homily

(3:00) Pastor Pam Fickenscher

(5:00) Pastor Jonathan Davis

(3:00) **Hymn** — No. 277

“Away in a Manger”

Stanza 1 — all children

All singing:

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Following the hymn, children not in the choir may return to their seat.

(3:00) **Anthem** — “The Angels’ Song”

Garry A. Cornell

Jubilate and Laudate Choirs

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn — No. 289

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Prayers of the People

After each petition:

☒ On this holy night, ☑ hear our prayer.

*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.**

Anthem at the Offering

(3:00) “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

Stephen Gabrielsen

(5:00) “Joyous Christmas Song”

Peder Knudsen, arr. Paul J Christiansen

Jeg er så glad hver julekveld, ti da blev Jesus født; da lyste stjernen som en sol, og engler sang så sødt. We are so glad on Christmas Eve, the little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed! For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need. We are so glad on Christmas Eve; his praises then we sing, he opens now for ev'ry child the palace of the king. We are so glad on Christmas Eve, the night of his birth! Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.

*Offering Hymn — “What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;

joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

*Offering Prayer

☪ Let us pray together.

🔊 **Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessings for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

*Sharing the Light of Christ

(3:00) To light your glow stick, gently bend it until you hear it crack.

(5:00) As the light comes to you, please dip your unlit candle towards the flame.

*Hymn — “Silent Night, Holy Night!”

STILLE NACHT

All singing:

**Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherd quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

***Prayer for Peace**

P Let us pray.

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

***Blessing**

C Amen.

*(5:00) As the lights come up, please carefully extinguish your candle.
Please leave your candle in baskets outside the sanctuary.*

***Hymn** — No. 290

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

***Peace**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

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

***Postlude** — “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Eleanor Whitsett



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher and Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(3:00) Sam and Violet Froehle (5:00) David Legvold
Organist	Nathan Proctor, Director of Worship, Music, and Arts
Choirs	(3:00) Jubilate Choir; Carol Benson, director Laudate Choir; Nathan Proctor, director with members of Alleluia Choir; Arielle Loy, director (5:00) St. John's Chorale; Nathan Proctor, director
Pianist	(3:00) Marcia Yernberg
Violin	(3:00) Sonja Wermager
Harp	(5:00) Elinor Niemisto
Greeters / Welcome Desk	(3:00) Rick Hillard, Donna Paulsen (5:00) Judy Karlson, Bonnie Peterson, Dave and Sue Schorr
Nursery	(3:00) The Taggart Family (5:00) Anne France
Ushers	(3:00) Mark Anderson, Doug Child, Rick Hillard (5:00) Bonnie Jean Flom, Doug Johnson, Greg Norman, Bob Nyvall



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 evening is by Judy Swanson, from Christmas Eve, December 24, 1993.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This afternoon's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Don McRae by Marilyn McRae Raadt 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: January 20 & 27. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television – cable channel 180, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Dinner for All!

Dinner will be served tomorrow, 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.

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.

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!

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

10:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

(Please note there is only one worship service this day.)

Christmas Poinsettias 2018

Given in memory of:

Sawyer Grant Garlie by Matt, Leah, Clayton & Rhett Garlie

Ruth Ferguson by Nathan Proctor

Dorene Olson by Barry, Julie, Andrew, Amelia & Will Becker

Grandson Andrew Thompson and Husband Eugene Boschee by Marilyn Boschee

Siri Thompson Raskob by the David & Cheryl Buck Family

Ed Lindell by Herb & Pat Fick

Sgt. Larry Carlson by Bill & Charlotte Carlson

Our parents, Wayne & Ila Mae Christensen and Don & Lorene Hastings by Rod & Deb Christensen

Tim Twito by Rod & Deb Christensen

Leonard Anderson by Phil & Barb Eaves

Della Gunderson and John Gunderson by Lester Gunderson and Family

Gustav & Genevieve Odegaard by David & Ruth Legvold

Ole & Birdie Legvold and Mayvis Harkness by David & Ruth Legvold

Jon Nicholson by the Nicholson Family

Agnes Hammer, Mother of Louise, whose birthday was Christmas Eve by John & Louise Quam

Our Parents by Jon & Jeanette Rondestvedt

Loved Ones by Gary & Elizabeth Wicks

Our Parents by Dave & Ruthie Neuger

Don Kasa by wife Janice and sons Jeff & Doug

Jim Johnson and June & Alton Olsen by Bev Johnson

Richard Kraus (brother of Joan) by Joan & Vern Koester

Louis & Lucille Vang and Harold Vang by Kathy Vang

Elaine Kringen by Duane Kringen

Our parents, Leonard & Marie DeWolfe and Orv & Doris Marks by the Alan & Lynette Marks Family

Lori Lynn Calcutt by Merilyn Calcutt

Bill & Helen Cowles by Tim & Carol Cowles

Grace Madson by Marland Madson

Walter, Maxine & Angela Johnson by Doug Johnson

Orv, Jean, Scott, Martin, and Mathilda Perman by Tim & Carol Cowles and Paul & Anne Klinefelter

Hedwig & Don Sr. and Don Jr. Klinefelter by Tim & Carol Cowles and Paul & Anne Klinefelter

Phyllis & Nicolai Ordahl and Norman Kmoch by Brad, Nancy, Emma, Willa & Merri Kmoch

Kenneth & Patricia Conrad and Harold (Red) & Lucille Swanson by Kristy Harms

Margo Otte by Doneen and Nick Viall

Margaret Hayford O'Leary by Doug, Kari, Erik & Sean O'Leary

Joe & Anita Hellie and Walter & Pearl Svard by Charles & Anita Hellie

Dick Dahlin by Jo Dahlin

Ruth Ferguson by John Ferguson

Millie Berg by Sidney Olson

Christmas Poinsettias 2018

Given in Honor of:

The St. John's Chorale by Nathan Proctor

Our Children and their Families by Gary & Elizabeth Wicks

Our Children by Dave & Ruthie Neuger

Grandparents Pat & Herb, Grace & Jack, Frank & Karen by the Dave & Cheryl Buck Family

All the people who give of their time on Christmas Day by Bill & Charlotte Carlson

Our children, Zachary and Elizabeth Evenson by Brian Evenson & Susan Brockman

Our grandchildren, Emma, Grace, Gunnar, and Thea by Duane & Marie Benson

Zack Pelletier and the Rejoice Ringers by Dennis & Jane Rinehart

My children by Ruth Dahl

Duane & Marlene Engstrom by Chris & Irv

Given in Celebration of Christmas:

Herb & Pat Fick

Barb Knaak

Suzanne Pfau

Bernie & Sue Renander

Joyce Revne Stofft

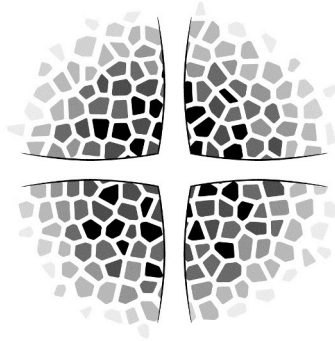
Thank you to all who have given these plants which bring God's beauty into our worship space. Plants may be taken home after worship tomorrow, Christmas Day.



The blessings of God, who has come to be with us, be with you all at this season and throughout the new year.

Thank you for the joy and privilege of sharing the ministry of Christ with you, and for all your support and kindness!

—The Pastors and Staff of St. John's



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.