



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.*

P Pastor, **L** Leader (Assisting Minister), **C** 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 and hymns 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, 2019 † 3:00 & 5:00 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

(5:00) "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

Gordon Schuster

"Bring a Torch"

Lani Smith

"God Rest You Merry"

Lani Smith

Jo Ann Polley, clarinet

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn — No. 283

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Stanzas 1, 2, and 3

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- Ⓔ Tonight we light the Christ candle, thankful that God has come to us, not as a conquering hero but as a child, whose faithful, peaceful life will follow God's way of love.
- ☑ **Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.**
- Ⓔ Let us pray that we may know the warmth and brightness of Jesus Christ, and show Christ's love to the world.
- ☑ **Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

*Hymn of Praise — No. 279

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Stanzas 1 and 2

*Prayer of the Day

☐ 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.

☑ Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Reading — Isaiah 9:2-7

Pew Bible, page 555

(3:00) **Anthem** — “Glory to God”

Latin American, arr. A. H. Green

Jubilate and Laudate Choirs

(5:00) **Anthem** — “Where Shepherd's Lately Knel't”

Carl Schalk

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word, I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred; but there is room and welcome there for me. In that unlikely place I find him as they said: sweet, newborn babe, how frail, and in a manger bed: a still small voice to cry one day for me. How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare: a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me. Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned its way into my heart: unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me.

- Jaroslav J. Vajda

St. John's Chorale

Gospel Reading — Luke 2:1-20

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

Homily

(3:00) Pastor Jonathan Davis

(5:00) Pastor Pam Fickenscher

(3:00) **Hymn** — No. 277

“Away in a Manger”

Stanzas 1 and 2

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

(3:00) **Anthem** — “Sing Gloria”

Katherine K. Davis

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) “Candlelight Carol”

John Rutter

*How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother, or how can you write down a baby's first
cry? Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star glow shine on his cradle till breaking of
dawn. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born. Shepherds and
wise men will kneel and adore him, seraphim round him their vigil will keep; nations
proclaim him their Lord and their Savior, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.
Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger: Christ our redeemer asleep in the hay. Godhead
incarnate and hope of salvation: a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.*

*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

Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight;
Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light

round you vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav'n-ly hosts ... sing, al - le - lu -
ra - dian beams from your ho-ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing

mild, sleep in heav-en - ly peace, sleep in heav-en - ly peace.
ia! Christ, the Sav-ior, is born! Christ, the Sav-ior, is born!
grace, Je - sus, Lord at your birth, Je - sus, 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**

Response:

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) Bash/Goodrich Family (5:00) Martin Thorsheim
Advent Wreath Lighters	(5:00) Jackman Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor, Director of Worship, Music, and Arts
Choirs	(3:00) Jubilate Choir; Carol Benson, director Laudate Choir; Nathan Proctor, director (5:00) St. John's Chorale; Nathan Proctor, director
Pianist	(3:00) Marcia Yernberg
Greeters / Welcome Desk	(3:00) Brent Bash and Trish Goodrich, Jerry Ugland (5:00) Judy Karlson, Rick and Wanda Koehler, Bob and Sandra Nyvall
Nursery	(3:00) TBD
Ushers	(3:00) Doug Child, Reed Hagberg, Wally Wegner (5:00) Dan Franklin, Rick Hillard, Bob Nyvall

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This afternoon's Radio Broadcast was given by Duane and Marie Benson. 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 – 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.

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 Office and Building will be closed on Thursday, December 26, and Friday, December 27.

The Church Building will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31, and will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 12. 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 2019 can be received 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!

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

10:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

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

Christmas Poinsettias 2019

Given in Memory of:

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

Ruth Ferguson by Nathan Proctor

James R. & Frances Anderson by John W. & Sue Anderson

Joann Isabelle Johnson Smith by the Becker Nelson Family

Sgt. Larry Carlson by Bill & Charlotte Carlson

Merle & Idella Clausen by Michael & Cindy Clausen

Our parents by Tim & Carol Cowles and Paul & Anne Klinefelter

Leonard Anderson by Phil & Barb Eaves

Steve Edwins by Jennifer Edwins

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

Don Kasa by wife Janice and sons Jeff & Doug

Walter Lee by the Nitz Family

Margaret Hayford O'Leary by Doug O'Leary

Family members by Suzanne Pfau

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

Sylvia Solberg and Jackson Rinehart by Dennis & Jane Rinehart

Russell & Rita Becker by Dave & Debby Becker

Paul & Iris Becker by Dave & Debby Becker

Bob Matta by Dave & Cheryl Buck

Ed Lindell by Herb & Pat Fick

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

Gustav & Genevieve Odegard by David & Ruth Legvold

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

Andy Westerback by Emily and Julie Westerback

Richard & Carol Schaefer by Emily and Julie Westerback

Christmas Poinsettias 2019

Given in Honor of:

Cindy Clausen

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

Margery Evenson, by Brian Evenson & Susan Brockman

Duane & Marlene Engstrom by Chris Engstrom

Ana, Amy and Ara by the Pelletier Family

Our grandparents by Dave & Cheryl Buck

Our grandchildren by Herb & Pat Fick

Emma, Willa, Merri and Sophie by Brad Kmoch & Nancy Ordahl Kmoch

Zack Pelletier by the Rejoice Ringers

Given in Celebration of Christmas:

Duane & Marlene Engstrom

Doug Johnson

Otto & LaVerne Reitz

Gary & Liz Wicks

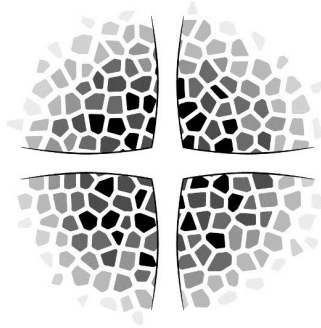
Thank you to all who have given these plants which bring God's beauty into our worship space. Plants may be taken home after worship tomorrow, Christmas Day.



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*
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 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.