

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2017

10:00 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.*

***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.*

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.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — *Three Carols for Clarinet and Organ*

Michael Burkhardt

- I. "Oh, Come, Little Children"
- II. "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
- III. "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Jo Ann Polley, clarinet

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — No. 283

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Stanzas 1, 2, and 3

*Litany and Greeting

- P** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
- C** **and the Word was God.**
- P** The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
- C** **the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.**
- P** The grace, truth, and light of Christ be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

***Hymn of Praise** — No. 289

"Angels, We Have Heard on High"

Stanza 1 and Refrain

*Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 52:7-10

Pew Bible, page 596

After the reading:

℣ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn — No. 299

“Cold December Flies Away”

Second Reading — Hebrews 1:1-12

Pew Bible, page 970

After the reading:

℣ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** — “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *stanza 4*

ADESTE FIDELES

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

***Gospel** — John 1:1-14

Spark Story Bible, page 212; Pew Bible, page 862

Before the reading:

℣ The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading:

℣ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — No. 292

“Love Has Come”

*The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*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 Christ's peace with those around you.

Offering our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Traditional French Carol
arr. Gordon Schuster

*Offering Hymn — “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” *stanza 2* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world’s redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**

*Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray together.
- ☩ **God with us: you came as a baby to a manger.
You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.
You come again in bread and wine.
Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.
And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others
in the strength of your holy name.
Amen**

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

[P] The Lord be with you. [C] And al - so 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name

of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Eucharistic Prayer

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



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.

Solo — “The Wexford Carol”

Traditional Irish Carol, arr. Evelyn Larter

Hymn — No. 296

“What Child Is This”

Hymn — No. 287

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray together.

All Great and saving God,

you have gathered your scattered people
around gifts of bread and wine,
the body and blood of our Savior Christ.

As we, like the shepherds, return on our way,
may we proclaim all we have heard and seen,
praising you in word and loving deed
for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing

The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among all people,
To make music in the heart.

*Sending Hymn — No. 288

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*Dismissal

℣ Go in peace. Christ is with you.

℟ Thanks be to God!

*Postlude — on IN DULCI JUBILO

Eleanor Whitsett



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY

Preaching

Pastor Jonathan Davis

Presiding

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

Assisting Minister

Rob Quanbeck and Dawn Tommerdahl

Organist

Nathan Proctor

Clarinet

Jo Ann Polley

Communion Prep and Cleanup

Scott Swanson

Greeters

Bill Carlson, Carolyn Jennings

Ushers

Dallas Berg, Barry Becker, Erik Hong, Eric Lund,

Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art: **Nativity** © 2008 **John August Swanson** | **Eyekons**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Chuck Jacobson by family and friends. 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 28 and February 4, 11, 18 & 25. 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.

Christmas Dinner for All!

Dinner will be served today from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time in helping with this important community event. Merry Christmas!

The Church building will be closed tomorrow, Tuesday, December 26.

This week church office hours will be limited.

There will be one worship service on Sunday, December 31, at 10:00 a.m.

The Church Building will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 29, and will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018.

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 14. 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 2017 can be submitted online until midnight December 31, post-marked by 12/31 by mail, or dropped off in person through noon on January 5. Thank you!!

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

10:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

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

Christmas Poinsettias 2017

Given in memory of:

Sawyer Grant Garlie by Matt, Leah, Clayton & Rhett Garlie
James & Frances Anderson and John Carlson by the John W. Anderson Family
Helene Anglin and Lowell Smestad by Ruth & Ronnie Anglin
Joseph Babbini, Sheena Babbini-Johnson, Richard Purcell, and Mabel Purcell
by Tim, Trish, Carson & Mason Babbini

Dorene Olson by Barry & Julie Becker
Parents and Family by Duane & Marie Benson
Grandson Andrew Thompson and Husband Eugene Boschee by Marilyn Boschee
Gert Brosz by David & Cheryl Buck
Siri Thompson Raskob by David & Cheryl Buck
Ed Lindell by David & Cheryl Buck and Herb & Pat Fick
Larry Carlson by Bill & Charlotte Carlson
Lorene Hastings (mother of Deb) by Rod & Deb Christensen
Tim Twito by Rod & Deb Christensen
Leonard Anderson by Phil & Barb Eaves
Steve Edwins by Jennifer Edwins
Della Gunderson and John Gunderson by Lester Gunderson and Family
Randy Pearson, brother of Andrea by Bryan & Andrea Hoff
Irene Nelson by Bob & Sigrid Johnson
Gustav & Genevieve Olegard by David & Ruth Legvold
Ole & Birdie Legvold and Mayvis Harkness by David & Ruth Legvold
Jon Nicholson by the Nicholson Family
Our Moms, Joan Ralstin and Thelma Nitz Lee by David & Debby Nitz
The Family of Ana Sikhashvili by Zack, Jenny, Nicholas, Gregory & Jeanette Pelletier
Deaun Peterson by Paul Peterson
Agnes Hammer, Mother of Louise, whose birthday was Christmas Eve by John & Louise Quam
Don McRae and Sybil Raadt by Marilyn McRae Raadt & Paul Raadt
Our Parents by Jon & Jeanette Rondestvedt
Myron Solid by David Solid
Loved Ones by Gary & Elizabeth Wicks

Given in Honor of:

The 2017 Fall Accompany Members and Sponsors by Jo Franklin & Sandra Nyvall
Peggy Dell, Kristy Harms, and the Wednesday Night Meal Crew by Bob & Sandra Nyvall
The St. John's Chorale by Nathan Proctor
Our Children and their Families by Gary & Elizabeth Wicks

Given in Celebration of Christmas:

Jerry & Karen Appeldoorn, Herb & Pat Fick, Suzanne Pfau, Bernie & Sue Renander, Troy & Jennie Sorensen

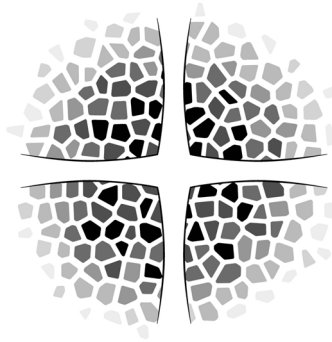
Thank you to all who have given these plants which bring God's beauty into our worship space. Plants may be taken home after worship today.



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 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.