

# *Welcome to worship at St. John's!*

**We 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 hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship), or purple hymnal  
(All Creation Sings), hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn section,  
and page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front 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.*

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION  
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD — CHRISTMAS DAY  
DECEMBER 25, 2024 † 10:00 A.M.  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

**GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**Prelude** — *Three Carols for Clarinet and Organ*

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| I. "O Little Town of Bethlehem"        | Gordon Schuster |
| II. "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" | Lani Smith      |
| III. "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"   | Lani Smith      |
- Jo Ann Polley, clarinet*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**\*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** — ELW No. 279 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Stanzas 1 & 2*

## \*Prayer of the Day

**P** 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.

**G** Amen.

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

## First Reading — Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Psalmody — Psalm 98

Hymn — ELW No. 267

"Joy to the World"

## Second Reading — Hebrews 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** 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 240

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn of the Day** — ELW No. 288

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

## \*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:*

“Rise Up Shepherd, Tell It on the Mountain”

Spirituals, arr. Evelyn Larter

**\*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.

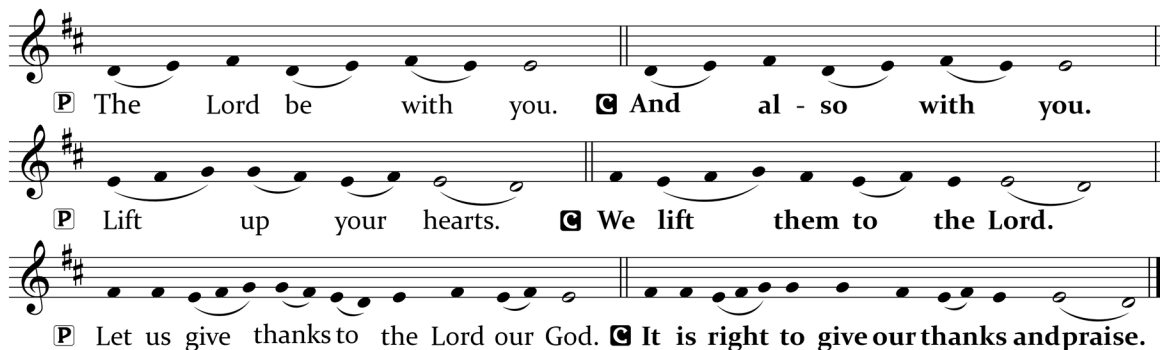
**\*Offering Prayer**

☐ Let us pray.

☑ **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**

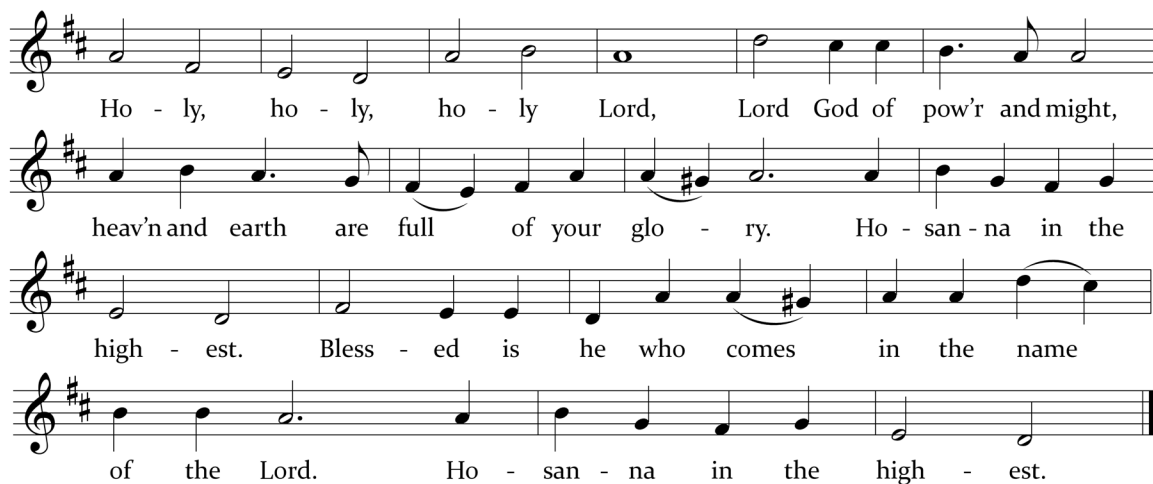


☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ☑ 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

- 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 stations in the front of sanctuary;  
 ushers will direct you forward. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the center.  
 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 Sussex Carol”

English carol, arr. Evelyn Larter

**Hymn** — ELW No. 282

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

## \*Post-Communion Blessing

### \*Prayer after Communion

☐ Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus 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

*Response:*

**C** Amen.

## \*Sending Hymn — “There’s a Star in the East”

RISE UP, SHEPHERD



There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.  
If you take good heed to the an - gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.  
You'll for-get your flocks, you'll for-get your herds, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



Fol - low, fol - low, rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.



Fol - low the star of Beth-le - hem, rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.

Text and Tune: African American spiritual

## \*Dismissal

**L** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## \*Postlude — “There’s a Star in the East”

David Sims



# **SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY**

## **Preaching**

*Pastor Pam Fickenscher*

## **Presiding**

*Pastor Jonathan Davis*

## **Assisting Ministers**

*Schroeer-Fickenscher Family*

## **Organ**

*Nathan Proctor*

*David Sims*

## **Clarinet**

*Jo Ann Polley*

## **Communion Service**

*Jill Enestvedt*

## **Greeters**

*Judy Karlson*

## **Ushers**

*Cindy Clauson, Rick Hillard,  
John Ophaug, Bruce Rickert*

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Cover art by Donna Lee from Christmas Day, 1977.

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #14028-LIT. Other liturgical aids are from *Sundays and Seasons* © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission.

Liturgy setting: Setting Four by Ronald A. Nelson; Festival Setting by John Ferguson.

Music reprinted and podcasted under One License A-708009.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**This morning's Radio Broadcast** is given in thanksgiving for Jo Ann Polley sharing her gift of music with us in worship. 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 Leah Garlie at [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429. Available Dates: January 12, 19 & 26. 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.

**Join us today for a free Christmas Dinner in St. John's Hall served from 11:15 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

**The Church Office and Building will be closed Thursday, December 26.**

**There will be one worship service next Sunday, December 29, at 10:00 a.m.**

**The Church Office and Building will be closing** at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31, and will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

**Our financial contributions** are one of the ways that we together support the ministry of St. John's. Contributions for 2024 can be received in the following ways:

- given online by Tuesday, December 26 (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 19**. 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.

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

10:00 a.m.

**Worship with Holy Communion**

*(Please note there is only one worship service that morning.)*



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

# Christmas Poinsettias 2024

## Given in Memory of:

*Dr. David A. Garlie Sr. and Sawyer Garlie* by Matt, Leah, Clayton & Rhett Garlie

*Edgar E. Larson* by Helen Larson

*Tim Twito and Our Parents* by Rod & Deb Christensen

*Our Son, Larry,* by Bill & Char Carlson

*Michael Clauson and Merle & Idella Clauson* by Cindy Clauson

*Beloved Spouses & Parents* by Jon & Alison Kavanaugh

*My Parents George & Harriet LaPier and Stepmother Alice LaPier* by Gerri Licke

*My Parents Art & Polly Nordstrand* by Patrice Nordstrand

*Bob and Wendy Scholz* by Cora Scholz

*Carroll & Palrud and Mary Beth Bremer* by John Bremer

*Larry Carlson and Ron Hebensberger Sr.* by Andi Carlson & Ron Hebensberger

*Dalton Distad* by Jeff & Michelle Distad and Family

*Steve Edwins* by Jennifer Edwins

*Ed Lindell* by Herb & Pat Fick

*Ruth Hansen* by Dan & Jo Franklin

*Fred J. Gaggioli Jr.* by Pamela Groves-Gaggioli

*Jim Johnson* by Bev Johnson

*Our Parents* by David & Ruth Legvold

*Our Parents, Leonard & Marie DeWolfe and Orvil & Doris Marks,* by Alan & Lynette Marks

*Our Departed Parents and other Loved Ones* by Gordon & Jane Moore

*Dennis & Carol Ziemba (Amanda's Parents)* by Mason & Amanda Randall

*Erick & Doris Ellingboe* by Dale & Karen Schuette

*My Parents Con F. and Edith Shea* by Kathy Shea

*Charles & Eileen Muckey and Debra and Carla* by Charleen Volkert

# Christmas Poinsettias 2024

## Given in Honor of:

*The St. John's Chorale by Ruth Smestad Anglin & Ronnie Anglin*

*All those who have Supported St. John's by Cindy Clauson*

*Our New Granddaughter Molly Ruth Neville by David & Debby Nitz*

*Grandchildren Born this Year: Junia and Kai by Dennis & Jane Rinehart*

*Bill & Char Carlson by Andi Carlson & Ron Hebensberger*

## Given in Celebration of Christmas:

*Dave & Debby Becker*

*Cindy Clauson*

*Phil & Barb Eaves*

*Herb & Pat Fick*

*Doug Johnson*

*Ted & Tricia Peterson*

*Suzanne Pfau*

**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  
this morning.**



# St. John's

ELCA · NORTHFIELD · MN

500 Third Street West  
Northfield, MN 55057  
507-645-4429

[office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org)  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*  
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*  
Green Bouzard, *Jubilate Choir Director*  
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*  
Steve Harner, *Facility Manager*  
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*  
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*  
Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*  
Arielle Loy, *Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist*  
Kristin Partlo, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*  
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*  
David Sims, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*

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

*St. John's Lutheran Church stands on the  
ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation.  
We respect and are grateful for the generations of native people who have cared for this land.*