



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 31, 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.*

*As members of the church we share in the healing ministry of Jesus,
trusting that the peace, hope, and forgiveness of Christ can make us well.
On the last Sunday of the month, members of the Prayer Ministry Team
and pastoral staff offer anointing of oil and prayers for healing.
Those who wish for prayers, may do so following communion.*

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — “A Rosetti Christmas”

arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — No. 270

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

***Opening Litany:** Zephaniah 3:14-15, 18-20 (Read responsively)

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

**Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!**

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
and has turned away your enemies.

¹⁸**I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.**

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

**And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,**

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰**At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;**

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

**when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.**

***Gloria** — Hymn No. 289

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Stanza 1 and Refrain

***Greeting**

- Ⓟ 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.**

***Prayer of the Day**

- Ⓟ Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever
- ☩ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD’S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Pew Bible, page 604

After the reading:

- Ⓛ The word of the Lord.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98 paraphrase — Hymn No. 267

“Joy to the World”

Second Reading — Galatians 4:4-7

Pew Bible, page 947

After the reading:

- Ⓛ The word of the Lord.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Carol — No. 276

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

*Gospel — Luke 2:22-40

Spark Story Bible, page 226; Pew Bible, page 833

Before the reading:

📖 The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading:

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🔊 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Andres Albertsson

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — No. 313

“O Lord, Now Let Your Servant”

*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 God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

"The Father's Rose"

arr. Mark Hayes

*Offering Hymn — "What Child Is This" stanza 3

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**

L Let us pray together.

All 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



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.

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.

☐ It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Words of Institution**

***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.



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.

Music during Communion

“Lamb of God”

Carol — No. 282

Carol — No. 275

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Prayer at the End of the Year

☞ Let us pray.

☞ Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time,
and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love.
Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at
work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—
the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:

C Amen.

*Sending Hymn — No. 290

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*Dismissal

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

*Postlude— “Ding! Dong! Merrily on High”

arr. Mark Hayes



SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor John Gorder
Preaching	Pastor Andres Albertsson
Assisting Minister	Dennis Rinehart
Pianist	Donna Paulsen
Healing Prayers	Melissa Berthelsen and Jane Rinehart
Acolytes	Kaylee Malecha, Stefany Perez
Communion Service	John and Barbara Walters
Communion Server	Christy Hall-Holt
Greeters / Welcome Desk	Carolyn Jennings, Elden and Soveig Zempel
Nursery	Amy and Cora McBroom
Counters	Sue Brockman, Jim Enestvedt, Chris and Martha Erickson

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.*



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

Menu for Wednesday, January 3:
Baked Potato Bar

All are welcome!

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (January 7):

Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 † Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 † Acts 19: 1-7 † Mark 1:4-11

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

Next Week (January 7):

Coffee and Fellowship in the Commons

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons

Sunday School: Preschool-Grade 5 (9:45-10:30 a.m., Lower Level)

Sunday Life Group: Grades 6-12 (9:45 a.m., Youth Room)

St. John's Forum: Re-Membering: Connecting Through Our Stories (9:45 a.m., St. John's Hall)

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Della Gunderson by family and friends. 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: 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.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH THE CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER!!

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 tonight until midnight or dropped off in person through noon on January 5. Thank you!!

Annual Meeting Reports Due

A reminder that reports were due on Friday, December 15. Please submit them via email to Leah at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you.

Women of St. John's Annual Christmas & Carols Luncheon

Thursday, January 4, 11:30 a.m., King's Room at St. Olaf

Delightful music and delicious food are always the fare at our annual Christmas luncheon. Reserve your place by signing up at the St. John's Women bulletin board in the Commons. Cost is \$15.

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 as we 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.

St. John's Website

Please check out our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Our website contains additional information regarding events and programs, along with a link to our online church directory, Church Community Builder (CCB), in the top right hand corner. You can also access the church calendar.

Be sure to follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter** (@StJohnsNF). If you have pictures we could add to our Facebook site of the happenings of our church, please email them to: office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Shared Ministry

Sign ups for all events are available in the Commons, by emailing Christy Hall-Holt and Mary Kelvie at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org, by calling 507-645-4429 or online thru CCB.

The Annual Meeting and Potluck on January 21 is quickly coming!

Sign up now and be a tremendous blessing by helping to set up and clean up for the potluck. You can also sign up what type of dish you would like to bring to share. Sign ups are now available in the Commons, or online thru CCB.

Children and Youth Ministries

Wednesday programming and Sunday School / Sunday Life Group resume this week!

- Wednesday programming and confirmation resume on Wednesday, January 3, which is also the return of 4th and 5th grade CAT.
- Sunday School and Sunday Life Group resume next Sunday, January 7.

Prayer Buddies during Lent

Starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing through the Lenten season, our 4th and 5th grade Catechism kids will be paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their “Prayer Buddy”. We ask the adult to pray for their buddy and to acknowledge them when they see their child in church. With this program, we hope to create spiritual and caring connections with children and adults in our church community. If you are interested in being a Prayer Buddy for a child, please contact Julie Brehmer, children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. We’re looking for about 25 adult members from St. John’s congregation. Thank you!

Let’s Go Bowling!

Who: Grades 2-8, Friends are always welcome!

Where: Jesse James Lanes, Hwy 3, Northfield

When: Monday, January 15 – **NO SCHOOL!**

Time: 12:30–2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10.00/child for 2 games and shoe rental

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or downstairs by the Nursery.

Parents: Please drop off and pick up your child at the bowling alley. If they need a ride or a financial assistance to participate, give Julie a call at 507*645-4429. Parent or high school chaperones are needed.

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 recovering

Vera Haugen, Judith Stoutland

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Larry Christenson

Those with ongoing health concerns

Fred Gonnerman, Elvin Heiberg, Mary Ingbritsen, Elaine Kringen, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, Margaret O'Leary, Bette Quinnell, Joanne Sommers, Dick Werdahl, Laila Burns Hedstrom, Earl Hoffbeck, Timothy Johnson, George Schneider, Carol Stubbs, Paul Wolff

All who are homebound, including

Linda Beckman, Maggie Lindell, Lillian Anderson

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 and Carol 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.

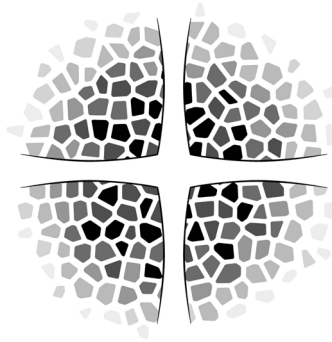
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover photography by Mark Ulmer.

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Liturgy setting: Setting Four, Reprinted with permission.

This Week At-a-Glance

Monday, Jan. 1		<i>Church Office and Building Closed</i>
Tuesday, Jan. 2	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Weekly Lectionary Text Study, Fireside Room Worship Planning for Staff, Room 212 Northfielders for Justice & Peace, Fireside Room
Wed., Jan. 3	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:15 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	3 Links Communion, Offsite NFLD Public Schools Instructional Coaches, Fireside Room Wednesday After School Programming (Grades K-5) CAT (Grades 4-5), Grade 4-Undercroft / Grade 5-Room 20 Alleluia Choir (Grades K-2), Room 205 "DOG" - Discovering Our Gifts (Grade 3), Undercroft Homework Hangout (Grades 6-8), Youth Room Kid's Club (Grades K-2), Fellowship Hall Jubilate Choir (Grades 3-5), Room 209 Homework Café (Grade 5), Resource Room Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall Laudate Choir (Grades 6-12), Room 205 Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fellowship Hall Confirmation (Grade 9), Undercroft High School Youth Group (Grades 10-12), Youth Room St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Jan. 4	11:30 a.m. 6:00 a.m.	Women of St. John's Luncheon, Kings' Room at St. Olaf Rejoice Ringers, Balcony
Friday, Jan. 5	9:00 a.m.	Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall
Saturday, Jan. 6	9:00 a.m.	Budget Committee, Fireside Room
Sunday, Jan. 7	8:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Worship / Nursery <i>(For Schedule Between Services, please see page 11)</i> Worship / Nursery (Baptism Recognition) Memorial Service - Grace Madson, Sanctuary



St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

500 Third Street West

Northfield, MN 55057

507-645-4429

office@stjohnsnorthfield.org

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher and Jonathan Davis, *Pastors*

Carol Benson, *Director of Alleluia Choir*

Melissa Berthelsen, *Parish Nurse*

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*

Dylan 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.