



CHRISTMAS EVE VESPERS

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 24, 2017 † 3:00 AND 5:00 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are visiting!

*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 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'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 — (3:00) A Garland of Christmas Carols

(5:00) “On Christmas Night”

“The Winter Moon”

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

arr. Evelyn Larter

arr. Daniel Burton

arr. Arne Running

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** — “To Bethlehem”

W. H. Parry

Jubilate and Laudate Choirs

(5:00) **Anthem** — “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

arr. John Ferguson

St. John's Chorale

Reading — Luke 2:1-20

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

Homily

(3:00) Pastor Jonathan Davis

(5:00) Pastor Pam Fickenscher

(3:00) **Hymn** — No. 277

“Away in a Manger”

Stanza 1 — 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 seats.

Anthem — “One Starry Night”

Dale and Linda Wood

Alleluia Choir

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn — No. 267

“Joy to the World”

*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) “Gloria”

16th Century French

(5:00) “O Yule, Full of Gladness”

Norwegian Carol, arr. Carolyn Jennings

*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 — No. 281**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Stanza 1 — Solo, sung in Georgian

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

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The peace of ✠ God, which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

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 — “Joy to the World”

Kristina Langlois



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Presiding | Pastor Pam Fickenscher and Pastor Jonathan Davis |
| Assisting Minister | (3:00) Peder Lindell (5:00) Eva Posfay |
| Organist | Nathan Proctor, Director of Worship, Music, and Arts |
| Choirs | (3:00) Alleluia Choir; Carol Benson, director Jubilate Choir; Carol Benson, director Assisted by members of Laudate Choir; Nathan Proctor, director (5:00) St. John's Chorale; Nathan Proctor, director |
| Pianist | (3:00) Marcia Yernberg |
| Flute | (3:00) Jenny Pelletier and Krista Middlebrooks (5:00) Jenny Pelletier and Pastor Pam Fickenscher |
| Clarinet | (5:00) Jo Ann Polley |
| Cello | Zachery Pelletier |
| Harp | Elinor Niemisto and Jeanette Pelletier |
| Silent Night soloist | Ana Sikhashvili |
| Greeters / Welcome Desk | (3:00) Trish Goodrich, Jonathan Norrie (5:00) Phil and Barb Eaves |
| Nursery | (3:00) Julie Brehmer (5:00) Connie and Lucy Menssen |
| Ushers | (3:00) Mark Anderson, Rick Hillard, Bob Nyvall, Rob Nutt (5:00) Doug Child, Dan Franklin, Doug Johnson |

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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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 Olegaard 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 tomorrow, Christmas Day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This afternoon's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Steve Swanson 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 tomorrow, December 25, beginning at 11:30 a.m. until 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 on Tuesday, December 26.

Next 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 12/30 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

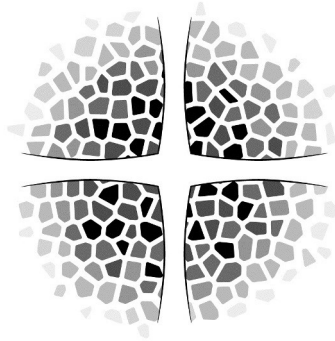
(Please note there is only one worship service this day.)



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

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

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.