



† The Third Sunday in Advent †  
December 17, 2017 (8 am service)

**VERSE:** Alleluia. Stir up your might and come to save us. Alleluia. (Ps. 80:2b)

**PRAYER:** O Lord, accept our prayer and supplication and grant that we may heed the call of John to prepare the way for Your Son, and receive Him into our hearts, that we may become Your children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sermon:** "Rejoicing rather than Taking Offense at the Coming of the Christ"  
(Saint Matthew 11:2-10)

**Preacher:** Pr. Matthew Moss  
**Liturgist:** Pr. Matthew Johnson  
**Kantor:** Dr. Crystal Rossow

**Prelude:** Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding (James L. Brauer)  
**Offering:** Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (Charles W. Ore)  
**Postlude:** On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (Jacob B. Weber)

Altar Guild: Theresa Gaffer & Jill Gehl

Worship Assistants: 8:00 am: Greg Christopher  
10:30 am: Dan Holthus

Acolytes: 8:00 am: Sam Say & Zach Kappel  
10:30 am: Jack Stoffels & Reece Fish

Ushers: 8:00 am: Larry Jobes, Rod Priebe, Jack Schalo  
10:30 am: Joel Johnson, Ben Kemna, John Meyer,  
Danny Schilling, Wayne Schutte

Money Counters: Courtney Oakland, Russ Reznecheck,  
Craig Schutte, Jack Wold

**THIS WEEK:** The congregations in our circuit are praying for Shepherd of the Grove Lutheran & Childcare Center, Maple Grove, and Pastor Tim Lamkin, Sr.

**PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL:** This week we pray for BOE Deacons Dave Huth & Stu Glock and the Board Members, and also for our Sixth Grade Teacher Kyle Peterman.

**SCHEDULE FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER:** At the Reformation the Lutheran Churches celebrated the Lord's Supper "every Sunday and on other festivals" (Apology XXIV, 1). We follow this fine custom and so offer the Lord's Supper every Sunday at both morning Divine Services. Individual glasses are used in the 8:00 a.m. Divine Service on the first Sunday in the month and in the 10:30 a.m. Divine Service on the second Sunday in the month. All other celebrations use the chalice.

**TWO LARGE PRINT LSB HYMNALS NOW AVAILABLE:** (4 NOTE-BOOKS) Please ask the ushers about the notebooks that are now available for those who have difficulties with small print hymns.

**PARENTS:** We're happy you've brought your children to worship today. Jesus says, "The kingdom of God belongs to such as these." If you must leave during the service for any reason, please be aware that there are also exits at the front of the sanctuary to the left and right; that you will be able to hear the service over loudspeakers in the entrance area and in the upper room to the left of the sanctuary; and that there is a changing table in the restroom near the elevator.

**THE DIVINE SERVICE** The Divine Service is the time when God serves His people with His forgiving grace in Word and Sacrament. It is not a time to be entertained. To show she is not a sect or cult the Lutheran Church retained the historic liturgy as much as was possible. The liturgical service makes no attempt to meet current cultural norms or personal needs but is the time when God comes in Word and Sacrament to meet our deepest spiritual needs. The Lutheran Church uses an ordered liturgy so that God's holy "priesthood" can participate and "declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). The Augsburg Confession concludes, "It is quite clear that among us nothing in doctrine or ceremonies has been accepted that would contradict either Holy Scripture or the universal Christian Church (AC, Conclusion).

**INTROIT** Ps. 85:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will | say, Rejoice.  
Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\*  
The Lord | is at hand.

Lord, you were favorable | to your land;\*  
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.  
You forgave the iniquity of your | people;\*  
you covered | all their sin.

Will you not revive | us again,\*  
that your people may re- | joice in you?  
Let me hear what God the | Lord will speak,\*  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not  
turn back to | folly.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will | say, Rejoice.  
Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\*  
The Lord | is at hand.

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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- Since the Lord's Supper is testimony of our unity in the faith, the Sacrament is reserved for members in good standing of congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.
- Visitors from sister LCMS congregations who agree with our doctrine and practice should announce your desire to commune to a pastor before joining us at the Lord's Table.
- Members may prepare by reading Luther's "Questions & Answers for those who intend to go to the Sacrament" (LSB 329-340).

**ABSOLUTION:** LSB 184

**HYMN:** LSB 344

**COLLECT:** insert

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Gradual: insert

Responses: LSB190

**CREED:** LSB 191 (or inside back cover)

**HYMN OF DAY:** LSB 345

**SERMON**

**OFFERTORY:** LSB 192 ("Create in Me")

**THE OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**COMMUNION LIT:** LSB 194ff

**DIST HYMNS:** LSB 347;  
LSB 346

**CLSG CANTICLE:** LSB 199  
("Nunc Dimittis")

**CLOSING HYMN:** LSB 331

**BIRTHDAYS THE WEEK OF  
December 17 - December 23**

| SUNDAY   | WEDNESDAY                                      |
|--|--|
| Gretchen Dolan<br>Connie Goerke<br>Taryn Stromback | Gina Bussing<br>Heidi Campbell<br>Cindy Kmecik |
| MONDAY   | THURSDAY                                       |
| Lisa Carroll<br>Kaley Jacobson                     | Sadie Halfrich<br>Sara Halfrich                |
| TUESDAY  | FRIDAY   |
|  | Evan Orth                                      |
|  | SATURDAY                                       |
|  | Kyle Christopher<br>John Kothrade              |

If you notice an update is needed, kindly advise the church secretary to make sure we have the correct information to publish.

**Jr./Sr. High Youth**

**GET CONNECTED:** Are you in 6th-12th grade? Are you a parent of a youth in 6th-12th grade? If you answered yes to either of those questions, then I want to hear from you! We have many youth group events throughout the year and I want to make sure YOU know about them. Please email me (Jayme Kruse) so that I can put you on the email list and keep you informed throughout the year! - jayme.kruse@gmail.com Also, be sure to request to join the "St. John's Youth Group" private group on FB!

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** THIS Saturday, December 23, meet at St. John's at 12:30 pm; return by 4:00 pm.

**BIBLE CLASS TOPICS**

**12/17:** What year was Jesus born? What's the difference between B.C. and A.D.? How old was Jesus in 1 A.D.? How come when Mrs. Kliche was born in 1948 the world didn't start over counting the years? How about a FEW years later when Pastor Moss was born? Is there anyone else who should have that honor? Why or why not? We'll include practice for Pastor Briel's retirement party program.

**12/24:** Christmas activities for grades 1-12 held in the auxiliary room after 9 a.m. service. We'll include practice for Pastor Briel's retirement party program.

**Please lock all doors before leaving this building.  
If you unlock to enter, please lock as you leave!**

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**SPECIAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK:** *Thursday, December 21 – the Feast of Saint Thomas (read Judges 6:36-40; Eph. 4:7, 11-16; and John 20:24-29).*

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Members who are sick and in need of healing and comfort—** Rick Bymark (wife Jackie, son Hank), Lynn Slauson, Bill Radintz (son of Paul & Diane), Bill Wacker, Dorothy Schutte, Gail Ledstrom>moved to West Virginia (her address can be found on the printed homebound/military list), Pam Linton (daughter of LaVerne & Arlene Bagne), Doris Gangelhoff, and Katie Titler (daughter of Joe & Cilla Nadeau). Our Lord Jesus, who reached out to heal and comfort the sick and dying, continues to reach out with His healing Word through us. Cards, phone calls, and prayers are always appreciated. If you know of someone who is sick or hospitalized, please inform your pastors.

**Our homebound members** are Linda Bredenberg, Dorothy Cooper, Sue Erickson, Audrey Hansen, Marlys Johnson, Inez Koehler, Steve Orbin, Gerald Oswald, Mark Pruhs, Amy Schalo, Betty Schmiede, Ilene Shepherd, and Bill Wacker.

**All those serving in our Armed Forces—**Agena Hamilton (Oklahoma), Nicholas Malikowski (California), Kevin Mazurowski (Idaho), Nathan Mazurowski (Texas), Brian and Veronica Pruhs (Hawaii), Joseph Radintz (home), Marty Schiltz (home), and Andrew Zupfer (home).

**Those who have lost loved ones during the past year—**Jane Kothrade and family (at the loss of her father Loren Zander), Karen Orth (at the loss of her mother Elaine Larson), Tim Kanz & family (at the loss of his father William), the family of Harold Bauermeister, Lori Kaiser & family (at the loss of her father Raymond Kinzler), Ed Kemna & family (at the loss of his brother Ted), the family of Marcella Faue, the family of Elaine Underdahl, Katy Briel & family and Erik Preus & family (at the loss of their mother Donna Preus), Dan Kolander & family (at the loss of his father Donald), Marv Cummins & family (at the loss of his brother Larry), Gloria Burns & family (at the loss of her mother LaVonne Richert), the family of Caroline Christophersen, and Mark Coombs & family (at the loss of his father Paul).

**And we remember those who have recently lost loved ones—** Karen MacMillan & family (at the loss of her mother), the family of Alex Hansen, and Scott Gehl & family (at the loss of his father William).

**THE SERVICE OF INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** is available the first Thursday of every month in the sanctuary from 6:30 until 7:00 pm or by appointment. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear God's Word of forgiveness spoken to you individually in Jesus' Name. "If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

**EACH QUARTER:** FIVE COPIES OF LARGE PRINT PORTALS OF PRAYER will be available to share with those who need this magazine in larger print.

**"LUTHERAN HOUR"** this week on WCCO 830 AM at 6:00 a.m., WWJO 98.1 FM at 7:30 a.m., and KRWC AM Buffalo at 9:30 a.m.

**MISSION:** See Pastor David Preus's Fall Newsletter on the narthex table for the latest updates. Remember also the Rev. Daniel Jastram and his wife Joan who have been deployed to Japan and the Rev. Charles Wokoma in Nigeria. Your regular financial gifts are desperately needed by these missionaries; with your prayers and financial gifts you take part in our Lord's great commission to make disciples of all nations.

† Announcements †

**BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR MOSS:** The Book of Exodus has been called “the Old Testament of the Old Testament”. It sets the stage for everything that comes after it! In it we hear of God’s deliverance of His chosen people from slavery and death. Countless prophets and poets of the Old Testament look back to the events recorded in this book even as they look ahead to the coming of the Christ for the final deliverance from slavery to sin and Death. Join us in between services as we cull out the Charleton Heston version of Moses (and the Christian Bale version for more recent movie-goers) and learn about the real man, Moses, drawn up from a watery death in the Nile to lead God’s people out of slavery and to the very land God promised to give to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. This week: The Burning Bush and the Holy Places (Ex. 3)  
Next week: Happy Holy-Days: a special Bible study on the observance of Holidays



† HOLIDAY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS †

**TODAY Sunday, December 17** 10:30 am: D.S., St. John's Sunday School Program  
**Wednesday, December 20** 7:00 pm: Advent Mid-week Service  
**Saturday, December 23** 12:30 pm: Annual Christmas Caroling  
**Sunday, December 24** 9:00 am: Christmas Eve Day Divine Service  
 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm: Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Readings and Carols  
**Monday, December 25** 10:00 am: Christmas Day Divine Service~  
 Celebrating the Feast of the Nativity (Lord's Supper Celebrated)  
**Saturday, January 06** 7:00 pm: Epiphany Divine Service



**RETIREMENT CELEBRATION:** A celebration in honor of Pastor Briel is planned for January 7, 2018. Following the second service there will be a dinner and program. For questions, contact Gretchen Kliche or any SEWAC Board member. **RSVP** via the insert in the bulletin OR online here: <https://tinyurl.com/PastorBrielRetirement>

**PUBLIC SCHOOL CATECHISM CLASS SCHEDULE:** Please note the start time change during Advent for the Wednesday night class on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. Class will be held earlier that evening from 5:30-6:50 pm due to the Advent Service schedule.



**OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** is TODAY Sunday, December 17th during the 10:30 service. The children have been practicing and are very excited to share with you their hard work. There WILL be Sunday School on December 17, as we will be doing a dress rehearsal during this time. Children should meet in the music room at 10:15 and we will all go into the sanctuary together. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me: tara.eder@gmail.com Tara Eder, St. John's Sunday School Superintendent.

This Week at St. John's Lutheran

**TODAY** 8:00 am: Divine Service with Lord's Supper  
 9:15 am: Sunday School  
 9:30 am: Bible Study  
 10:30 am: Divine Service with Lord's Supper, Sunday School Christmas Program  
 3:00 pm: Northstar Boys Choir Christmas Concert  
 4:00 pm: Adult Open Gym  
 5:00 pm: Lego Sectionals Prep  
**MON:** 6:00pm: Lego Programming adjustments  
**TUES:** 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study  
 7:00 pm: Board Meetings  
**WED:** 5:30 pm: Public School Catechism  
 6:00 pm: Brass & Choir Practice  
 7:00 pm: Advent Midweek Service  
 7:30 pm: Adult Open Gym Basketball  
**THUR:** 8:00 am: Chapel ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Sings  
 7:15 pm: Table Tennis  
**FRI:** 8:00 am: No School through January 2nd  
**SAT:** 12:30 pm: Annual Christmas Caroling  
**SUN:** 9:00 am: Divine Service with Lord's Supper  
 3:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
 5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Those Serving This Week, Wednesday, Advent Midweek, December 20<sup>th</sup>:**

Worship Assistant: 7:00 pm: John Radintz  
 Acolytes: 7:00 pm: Leah Gordon & Miranda Blanck

**Those Serving Next Week, Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>:**

Altar Guild: Theresa Gaffer & Jill Gehl  
 Worship Assistants: 9:00 am: Erik Preus  
 3:00 pm: Ed Kemna  
 5:00 pm: Barron Cate  
 Processionals: 3:00 pm: Jasmine Brockberg(Crucifer), Alexis Brockberg(Cndlbr)  
 5:00 pm: Danny Schilling(Crucifer), Christina Kolstad(Cndlbr)  
 Acolytes: 9:00 am: Adam Kiesow & Benjamin Kiesow  
 3:00 pm: Madelyn Gangelhoff & Jacob Gangelhoff  
 5:00 pm: Samantha Brustuen & Naomi Schilling  
 Ushers: 9:00 am: Larry Jobes, Rod Priebe, Jack Schalo  
 3:00pm/5:00pm: Joel Johnson, Ben Kemna, John Meyer, Danny Schilling, Wayne Schutte  
 Money Counters: Mike DeSplinter, Scott Kulberg, Paul Radintz, Mark Schutte

**Those Serving Next Week, Monday, Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>:**

Worship Assistant: 10:00 am: Jack Wold  
 Acolytes: 10:00 am: Leah Gordon & Matthew Koosman  
 Processionals: Hannah Thurber (Crucifer), Alexa Zupfer & Luke Walton (Trchbrs)



**POINSETTIAS:** The Altar Guild is providing an opportunity for members of St. John's to purchase a festive poinsettia for the holiday season. The poinsettia will be used to decorate the Church during the Christmas services, and then can be picked-up and enjoyed by you at your home. A Poinsettia order form was placed in everyone's mailbox in the narthex, and extra forms are also available. Please complete and return the form if you wish to purchase a poinsettia. The deadline is TODAY Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.



**FOURTH ANNUAL GALA:** A huge thank you to everyone who attended, participated, and volunteered in creating another successful evening of giving and dining held at Rush Creek on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Financials will be announced as soon as available.



**CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER:** It's not too late to include this mission donation on your 2017 income taxes. Pr. Briel's Nigerian trip this coming February to teach at Pr. Wokoma's Lutheran seminary is in need of funding for his travel expenses and the cost of instruction materials. Overages will benefit the seminary. If you are able to help with this special cause, kindly make your donation payable to St. John's and please clearly identify "Briel Feb Trip" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity and continued support!!



**SCHOOL UPDATES:** We want you (as church members) to stay informed about all the wonderful things happening at our school! Here are two ways to find information:

- Read the Eagle Connection all-school weekly newsletter. This can be found on the website [www.stjlutheranschool.org](http://www.stjlutheranschool.org) and printed copies are available outside the sanctuary and at the secretary's desk.
- Follow us on Facebook for daily posts: <https://www.facebook.com/stjleagles/>.

**NORTHSTAR BOYS CHOIR:** Please join us TODAY Sunday, December 17, 2017 at St. John's for our all-choir Christmas concert, "A Choirboy Christmas". The concert begins at 3:00 pm with a reception to follow. Tickets are not required; a freewill offering will be accepted after the performance. For additional info: 763-221-9466

**HOLIDAY FAMILY & FRIENDS EVENT:** Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us for our Annual Christmas Caroling outing THIS Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. All ages and abilities are welcome. Bring your children-make it a family tradition! We meet at ST. John's Lutheran Church at 12:30pm before venturing out in car pools to spread good will with our voices raised in holiday cheer! Also, we will be presenting special Christmas gifts to the homebound as we visit. RSVP not required, but requested for planning purposes. Just call in to the secretary: 763-420-2426



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE!!** We need Head Counters and Money Counters!!!! It is a vital role in making sure the offerings are counted and deposited every Sunday. The rotation will be every 6-8 weeks. Money counting takes about 30 minutes each Sunday, and is done after the 2nd service. If you could, please take just a short time of your Sunday to help out. We are in the process of making the schedule for 2018, so if you are interested, please contact Mike McFerrin at [mike.mcferrin@aol.com](mailto:mike.mcferrin@aol.com) or Cindy Kiekow at [cak\\_woman79@hotmail.com](mailto:cak_woman79@hotmail.com). Thank you so much!

**CROSS...FOOD NEEDS:** Each month CROSS collects food items to be donated to the needy. Items desired from STJL during the month of **DECEMBER** are: Pasta (Spaghetti, Egg Noodles, Macaroni, etc.) and Laundry Detergent (16 oz. or smaller). Thank you for helping when you can; your contributions placed in the narthex area are greatly appreciated. St. John's donated 237 lbs of food in September - November!



**CHRISTMAS AT WEST:** West Lutheran High School's Christmas Concert is Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the gymnasium, 3350 Harbor Lane N, Plymouth, MN.

**APPRECIATION:** Thank you for your generosity in support of LCMS mission work in Japan and Asia! And...we look forward to seeing you perhaps when we are back in the States for the next two and a half months! With thankful hearts, ~The Jastroms

**2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES:** The new boxes are available for use in the coming year and have been placed in members' church mailboxes this week. If you would like a church mailbox, please contact the secretary.

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK** Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: 8:00 am: CT: 159 CM: 137  
10:30 am: CT: 167 CM: 117  
Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 pm: CT: 88

| FINANCIAL UPDATE      | Month-to-date | Year-to-date   |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
|                       | 12/10/17      | since 07/01/17 |
| Offerings Received    | \$ 24,910     | \$ 309,467     |
| Amount Needed         | \$ 13,635     | \$ 327,240     |
| Amount Ahead (Behind) | \$ 11,275     | \$ (17,773)    |
| % Ahead (-Behind)     | 83%           | -5%            |

Please contact BOA Deacon Mike Gaffer, BOA Deacon Tom Eversman, or Church Treasurer Chad Brown if you have any questions on St. John's financial condition.

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Items received by the end of the day on Wednesday will be included in the Sunday bulletin. If there is an accompanying flyer or insert, kindly provide the information by the Monday beforehand to allow appropriate processing time to accommodate your posting. Thank you!!



**SCHEDULING CHURCH AND SCHOOL EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S!** Please remember to check with the church/school secretary about scheduling any event! The Secretary keeps a main calendar and all church and school events need to be coordinated through this main calendar!