

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran
Church & School**



The Service of the Sacrament of the Altar page 194-202
Please review our statements about who may commune, found at the top of the strip on the front page of this bulletin.

Distribution Hymn: *On Jordan's Bank* LSB 344
Distribution Hymn: *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* LSB 347

Canticle: *Nunc Dimittis* page 199

Benedicamus & Benediction page 201

Closing Hymn: *Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord* LSB 352

Postlude: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Charles W. Ore)

Preacher: Pr. Steven Briel
Liturgists: Pr. Matthew Moss
Pr. Matthew Johnson
Kantor: Dr. Crystal Rossow

Thanks to all who serve this week:

Altar Guild: Arlene Rogge and LuAn Schutte

Soloist: Mike Gaffer

Worship Assistants:
8:00 am: Jerry Rogge
10:30 am: Ross Meyer

Acolytes:
8:00 am: Jeremy Kappel & Zach Kappel
10:30 am: Matthew Koosman & Joy
Koosman

Ushers:
8:00 am: Larry Jobs, Rod Priebe,
Jack Schalo
10:30 am: Joel Johnson, John Meyer

Money Counters:
Scott Kulberg, John Meyer,
Bob Radintz, Bill Walters

**Schedule of Services for
The Nativity of Our Lord:**

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols
3:00 P.M. & 5:00 P.M.

The Divine Service for Christmas Day
10:00 A.M.

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran
Church and School**
(LCMS)

Est. 1864



Pastors:

Matthew V. Moss and Matthew P. Johnson
763-496-5350 763-772-7315
pastor.moss@stjlutheran.org pastor.johnson@stjlutheran.org

9141 County Road 101
Corcoran, MN 55340

† **The Fourth Sunday in Advent** †
December 23, 2018

Pre-Service Verse, Prayer, and Music for Personal Preparation and Reflection

Verse: Alleluia. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God! Alleluia. (Psalm 40:17b)

Prayer: Gracious Lord Jesus, prepare my heart to receive You in faith, not only this coming Christmas as I celebrate Your holy birth in the manger, but every week as You come to me lying on our altar here at St. John's clothed in the "swaddling cloths" of bread and wine. To You be all glory on high and to me and all Christians on earth, peace and goodwill. Amen.

Prelude: Savior of the Nations, Come (John A. Behnke)

THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Baptism of Tyler Jace Philipp (8:00 A.M.) page 268

Hymn of the Day: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* LSB 357, v.1
The Scriptural basis of the Old Testament names of the Christ are read
The corresponding "O Antiphon" is chanted
The congregation sings the corresponding verses, beginning at v. 2

Collect of the Day

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.'¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken.¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Ps. 145:18, 21

The LORD is near to all who | call on him, *
to all who call on | him in truth.

My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD, *
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever

The Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Alleluia Verse page 190

The Holy Gospel: John 1:19-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: [sung] **Glory be to Thee, O Lord**

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: [sung] **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

The Nicene Creed page 191

Sermon Hymn: Arise, O Christian People LSB 354

Sermon: "It's Not About You" (John 1:19-28)

Offertory: Create in Me (Psalm 51:10-12) page 192

Offering: Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen (Johannes Brahms)

Prayer of the Church

† **The Fourth Sunday in Advent** †

- 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 329-330).

Divine Service, Setting III

Hymn of the Day <i>See left for special arrangement of hymn</i>	357
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Distribution Hymn	347
<i>Nunc Dimittis</i>	199
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BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION & YOUTH (Rich Oakland):

ST. JOHN'S-WIDE "FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN" EVENT: The Youth Group is organizing the 2nd Annual FMSC Event and we want YOU to attend! The goal of this event is to connect the youth, congregation members, school families, staff, faculty - anyone that is connected to STJL - in an event that includes fellowship as well as giving back. Last year, we had 125 people attend the event so this year our goal is 140! The event is on Saturday, January 26. We will have a potluck at STJL from 12:00 - 1:15 and then head over (via STJ bus and/or car) to FMSC in Coon Rapids for a shift from 2:00 - 4:00. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for a large sign-up sheet coming soon in the Narthex! (Contact Jayme Kruse with questions)



HOLIDAY GATHERING FOR COLLEGE AGE MEMBERS: Get together with friends & the Pastors over Christmas break! **NEXT** Sunday, December 30th after services meet in the ESP room for lunch, conversation and games.

TEACH SUNDAY SCHOOL: We are again looking for teachers for the final Sunday School term starting 1/6/2019 thru 3/10/2019. The program's success relies on the help from all our volunteers, so please consider giving a little of your time and sharing your faith with the children. All materials and tools are provided. Please contact: tara.eder@gmail.com 763-203-4095



Youth Group

GET CONNECTED: We have many Youth Group events throughout the year and we want to make sure YOU know about them. Keep an eye on your email, the Church bulletin and the School newsletter for info on the events. Contact Jayme Kruse with questions on how to get connected - jayme.kruse@gmail.com/612-807-6526.

YOUTH GROUP SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY (grades 5-12): The STJL Youth Group program is geared towards 6th-12th graders; however, beginning this year, we have invited 5th graders to attend Youth Group Bible Study on Sunday mornings. This gives them an opportunity to start getting to know the other kids in Youth Group as well as take advantage of age-appropriate topics we discuss. Each Sunday, between services, 5th and 6th graders will meet in the Auxiliary Room and 7th-12th graders will meet in the 6th grade (Mr. Peterman's) room upstairs. We have some great topics planned, you won't want to miss it!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING to our shut-ins is **TODAY** Sunday Dec 23rd leaving 1:00pm.

† The Fourth Sunday in Advent †

December 23, 2018

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Members who are sick and in need of healing and comfort—Rick Bymark (wife Jackie, son Hank), Lynn Slauson, Pam Linton (daughter of LaVerne & Arlene Bagne), Robert Malwitz, Alvin Cook, Diann Bates (mother of Toya Fish), Ilene Shepherd, and Brigitte Miest. 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 Schmiege, and Ilene Shepherd.

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

Those who have lost loved ones during the past year—The family of William Dodds, the family of Caroline Lucht, and the family of Dorothy Schutte, Paul & Diane Radintz (at the loss of their son Bill), John Malikowski & family (at the loss of his mother Frances), Cindy Cook & family (at the loss of her sister Jackie), the family of William Cahlander, Kathleen Cooper & family (at the loss of her father John Giguere), and the family of Ron Conley.

And we remember those who have recently lost loved ones—Steve Orbin & family (at the loss of his mother Vonnie), Russ Reznecheck & family (at the loss of his mother Doris), Mark Franz & family (at the loss of his mother Joyce), Beth Giefer & family (at the loss of her father Lyle Boyd), and Dick Rau & family (at the loss of his sister Helen Kalthoff).

THIS WEEK: The congregations in our circuit are praying for Rev. Matthew Harrison, our Synod President and all our elected officers and board members in the LCMS.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL: This week we pray for SEWAC Deacons Mark Ellinger & Phil Schutte and the Board Members, and also for our Third Grade Teacher Ruth Droogsma.

THE SERVICE OF INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION is available January 5th and January 12th in the sanctuary from 9-11am (and by appointment any time with your pastors). 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).

† Announcements †

FROM THE PASTORS:

SPECIAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK: *The Twelve Days of Christmas include: St. Stephen (26th), St. John (27th), Holy Innocents (28th), and the Circumcision of Our Lord (1st).*

BAPTISED TODAY: is Tyler Jace Philipp, infant son of Colin and Casey Philipp born on December 17th. May our gracious Lord Jesus keep Tyler safe in the holy Ark of the Church until he reaches his new home in heaven. "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Matthew 19:14



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY: "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver (Prov. 25:11)" – that word is none other than God's Word. Besides the Divine Service of Word & Sacrament, there is no more valuable use of your time than studying God's Word together as a congregation.

This week: Pastor Moss ~ "The Christmas Dragon"

Next week: Christmas Hymn-Sing in the Fellowship Hall

Video Recordings Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/lutheranbiblestudy>

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: We study the *Book of Proverbs*, meeting Tuesdays in the Auxiliary Room; *we meet at 9:45 am*. You can also watch live online using Facebook Live; just go to St. John's Facebook page. Join us as we reflect on Jesus Christ, the Wisdom from on High. All knowledge *begins* with the Fear of the Lord and many practical insights flow from that knowledge- the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE: The Wednesday night class will resume on January 9th at it's 6:00 pm regular time schedule.

KENYA, AFRICA: The LCMS Office for International Mission has asked Pr. Briel to go on another missionary trip this coming January to teach at the Lutheran seminary in Matongo, Kenya (his last trip, you may remember, was to Uyo, Nigeria). He will be teaching there for an entire semester (January through May). He has been asked to teach four courses-



-Psalms, Wisdom Literature, Introduction and Survey of the New Testament, and a course called Intro. to Christian Doctrine. This time Katy will accompany him. Once again, he is in need of funds to help finance his travel and expenses while living in Kenya. God bless those who are willing to contribute to another important mission opportunity God has given him and, through him, to us here at St. John's as we do what we can to answer our Lord's command to make disciples of the nations by baptizing and teaching them God's Word. Your generosity is deeply appreciated, and contributions should be made payable to "St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church" with a note, "Briel Kenya Trip."

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
	1:00 pm:	St. John's Christmas Caroling
	4:00 pm:	Adult Open Gym Basketball
MON:		No School/Office Closed
	3:00 pm:	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	5:00 pm:	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
TUES:		No School/Office Closed
	9:45 am:	No Adult Bible Study Today
	10:00 am:	Christmas Day ~ Feast of the Nativity
WED:		No School/Office Closed
	5:30 pm:	No PS Catechism
	6:00 pm:	No Choir Practice
THUR:		No School/Office Closed
FRI:		No School/Office Closed
SAT:		
SUN:	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
	11:45 am:	College Age Holiday Gathering
	4:00 pm:	Adult Open Gym Basketball

BOARD OF EDUCATION (Stu Glock, Dan Kolander):

ADMINISTRATOR CALL COMMITTEE has been working hard to identify candidates to be the next Administrator for St John's. Please keep the committee in your prayers as we deliberate and find our best Candidate that will make St Johns even greater. We have sifted through approximately (300) names, identified over (40) candidates and have interviewed (4). As per our constitution the names of those individuals we are considering at this time are: James Violette, (Orange, CA), James Van Dellen (Wauwatosa, WI), Ron Wittler (St Louis, MO) and Joshua Baumann (Mayer, MN). If you have any comments or questions about the individuals listed here please reach out to Brian Callahan 763-242-3837 or brian.callahan@centurylink.com



CALENDARS: The 7th/8th graders still have some calendars remaining from their Washington, D.C. fundraiser; please help them get rid of these by purchasing at a discounted price! Large calendars are \$8; \$5 for the pocket size. These would make great gifts or stocking stuffers! If you are interested in purchasing, please contact Gretchen Dolan at gretchen.dolan@stjlutheran.org and let her know how many you'd like reserved. First come, first serve. Thanks for your support!



Those Serving Tomorrow, Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th:

Choir: St. John's Adult Choir
 Hand Chimes: Johanna Rossow & Erika Rossow
 Soloist: Alexandra Meyer
 Processional: 3:00 pm: Crucifer ~ Jenna Vogt
 Candlebearer~ Hannah Thurber
 5:00 pm: Crucifer ~ Eric Toelle
 Candlebearer~Mackenzie Coombs
 Worship Assistants: 3:00 pm: Ross Meyer
 5:00 pm: Dan Holthus
 Acolytes: 3:00 pm: Isaac Vogt & Sam Vogt
 5:00 pm: Jordan Brustuen

Those Serving Tuesday, Christmas Day, 10am December 25th:

Choir: St. John's Adult Choir
 Hand Chimes: Johanna Rossow & Matthew Koosman
 Brass Ensemble: Trumpets~ Kevin Pomeranke & Wyatt Thurber
 Horn~ Gretchen Kliche
 Trombone~ Tom Eversman
 Baritone~ Johanna Rossow
 Processional: Crucifer ~ Alexis Brockberg
 Torchbearer~ Adam Kiesow
 Torchbearer~ Benjamin Kiesow
 Worship Assistant: Erik Preus
 Acolytes: Diana Schilling & Naomi Schilling

Those Serving Next Week, Sunday, December 30th:

Altar Guild: Arlene Rogge and LuAn Schutte
 Worship Assistants: 8:00 am: Joe Koehler
 10:30 am: Todd Haag
 Acolytes: 8:00 am: Gabriel Lodholz & Gabe Miest
 10:30 am: Evan Orth & Evan Pulju
 Ushers: 8:00 am: Larry Jobs, Rod Priebe, Jack Schalo
 10:30 am: Joel Johnson, John Meyer
 Money Counters: Mike Desplinter, Paul Dolan,
 Mike McFerrin, Russ Reznecheck

FROM OTHER CONGREGATIONS:

FROM THE CONGREGATION AT LARGE:

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



FROM THE SECRETARIES:

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.

SCHEDULING CHURCH AND SCHOOL EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S:

Please remember to check with the church/school secretary about scheduling any event; all church and school events need to be coordinated through this main calendar. Thank you! 763-420-2426 Julie A.: secretary@stjlutheran.org

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Due to the holiday limited office work schedule, announcement requests submitted this week will appear in the January 6th bulletin. Ruth D.: secretary2@stjlutheran.org



As another calendar year draws near to a close, we reflect with the happiness of accomplishment and look forward to pleasant days ahead. Grateful for the blessing of our positions here at St. John's, it is our pleasure in serving to accommodate all of the administrative needs of our beautiful Church and School.

We wish you one and all a very blessed Christmas Season and the creation of Treasured Holiday Memories with your families and friends.

Julie Anderson

Ruth Draskovich

Dawn Rolf



**BIRTHDAYS THE WEEK OF
 December 23 - December 29**

SUNDAY	THURSDAY
Kyle Christopher John Kothrade	Caroline Schaefer
MONDAY	FRIDAY
David Dufault Andrew Heinen	Mike Gaffer
TUESDAY	SATURDAY
Linda Bredenberg	Ashley Baltes Rachel Brackeen Mark Coombs Rebecca Klesk Selina Werner
WEDNESDAY	

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

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION (Tom Eversman, Mike Gaffer):

Reminders concerning weekly offerings/contributions:

- Offerings received through weekly offering envelopes without contribution designations on the face of the envelope will be directed to the General Fund, to pay the ongoing expenses of the Church and School.



- St. John's currently supports the following mission programs: *Synod, Issues, Etc., Japan/Jastrom, Lutherans for Life, and Nigeria/Wokoma.* Other or undesignated mission program contributions will be divided between all of the currently-supported mission options except Issues, Etc., which has a fixed annual contribution limit set by the Board of Stewardship.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday, December 16th ~ 8:00 am: CT: 126 CM: 122
 10:30 am: CT: 226 CM: 128
 Wednesday, December 19th ~ 7:00 pm: CT: 62

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Last Week *Year-to-date*
 12/16/18 since 07/01/18

Total General Fund Receipts-All Sources	\$ 13,732	\$ 667,885
Amount Needed	\$ 28,385	\$ 871,509
Amount Ahead (Behind)	\$ (14,654)	\$ (203,625)
% Ahead (-Behind)		-23%



Current Building Mortgage Balance (November 30) \$582,009

Important Notes:

Amount Needed above includes the prior years' cumulative deficit of \$131,500 at June 30, 2018, plus the pro-rated portion of the \$53,217 Congregation-approved deficit for the current budget year beginning July 1, 2018.

Please contact Board of Admin Deacons Mike Gaffer (mtgaff@comcast.net) or Tom Eversman (Theversman@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

BOARD OF PROPERTY & GROUNDS (Kevin Pomeranke, Dan Holthus):

BUILDING PROJECTS / NEEDS / NOTICES:

Roof replacement project ~ We have a comprehensive plan to replace the aging school roof over the next 7-10 yrs. The SE section of the building is in the worst shape, and we would like to replace that portion next summer; estimated cost \$60,000. If we do not proceed with this replacement schedule, the damage repair cost could be even greater. Funds are needed to start this project.



Emergency lighting replacement~ We are replacing the emergency lights throughout the building. The cost for the lights is \$1500 and we are doing the work ourselves.

(Please consider these needs by making a special contribution to the St. John's Improvement Fund.)

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP, EVANGELISM, WORSHIP, and ALTAR CARE (Mark Ellinger, Phil Schutte):



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: Dry Pasta and Laundry Detergent. Thank you for helping when you can; your contributions placed in the narthex area are greatly appreciated.



PRO-LIFE: Our Gift of Life team welcomes all who would like to help plan our 2019 pro-life activities to a meeting in the ESP room on Saturday, January 5 at 10:00 am.



MCCL March for Life will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, on the Capitol steps in St. Paul. It starts at noon. Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) sponsors this march every year on the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. For information call LeAnn Cummins, Patty Gardner, or Gretchen Kliche



LUTHERAN WITNESS: If you would like to get the monthly Lutheran Witness magazine, please sign up with the Usher or fill out a form at the narthex table. A magazine will be placed in the church mailbox for each family that signs up.

ESTATE PLANNING PRESENTATION: Thursday, January 17th 4pm. Susan Peterson, a shareholder in the firm of Henninson & Snoxell, Ltd., is chair of the Estate Planning Department and handles Estate Planning, Probate, Estate and Trust Administration, and Elder Law. Come learn more about this as she will be conducting a presentation to share information. Please let the secretary know that you will attend for planning purposes. 763.420.2426 or secretary@stjlutheran.org



CHRISTMAS CAROLING to our shut-ins is **TODAY** December 23rd after services. Meet at St. John's; depart at 1pm..return no later than 4pm. All members young and old are invited to sing familiar hymns and carols. A great family outing, and a joy shared with our shut-ins.

BOARD OF TECHNOLOGY (Sam Kulberg):

CONGREGATION PRESIDENT / DEACON CHAIRMAN (Erik Preus, Chris Kruse):



† **HOLIDAY DIVINE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS** †

Sunday, December 23	1:00 pm:	St. John's Christmas Caroling
Monday, December 24	3:00 pm and 5:00 pm:	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service~ Readings and Carols
Tuesday, December 25	10:00 am:	Christmas Day Divine Service~ Celebrating the Feast of the Nativity