



† **The Fourth Sunday in Advent** †  
**December 24, 2017 (9 am service)**

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

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus Christ, our Light and our Salvation, who alone has come to save us sinners; we thank You for Your coming and for Your will to perform in us again Your saving work. We beg You, rule us by Your Holy Spirit, that henceforth we may put our trust in nothing in heaven or earth except You alone, our Lord. Amen.

**Sermon:** "The Christ Stands Among You" (John 1:26)

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

**Prelude:** Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel (Charles W. Ore)  
**Offering:** Lo, How a Rose (Johannes Brahms)  
**Postlude:** Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord (Paul Manz)

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 Jobs, 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

**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 ESP Program Director Julie Zemke and Assistants Heather Bursch, Kaitlyn Eder, Leah Johnson, Karen Orth, Lynn Schutte, and Logan Zemke.

**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. 19:1, 4-6; antiphon: Is. 45:8a

Shower, O heavens, | from above,\*  
and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit;\*  
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.  
The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,\*  
and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.  
Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end | of the world.\*  
In them he has set a tent | for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,\*  
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.  
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,\*  
and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.  
**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.**

Shower, O heavens, | from above,\*  
and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit;\*  
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.

**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.

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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).

**OPENING HYMN:** LSB 357

Scriptural basis of Old Testament  
name of the coming Christ  
Corresponding "O Antiphon"  
Corresponding verse of the hymn  
(beginning with v. 2)

**SALUTATION:**

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And with thy spirit**

**COLLECT:** insert

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Gradual: insert

Responses: LSB 190

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

**HYMN OF DAY:** LSB 354

**SERMON**

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

**THE OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**COMMUNION LIT:** LSB 194ff

**DIST HYMNS:** LSB 337; LSB 355

**CLSG CANTICLE:** LSB 199

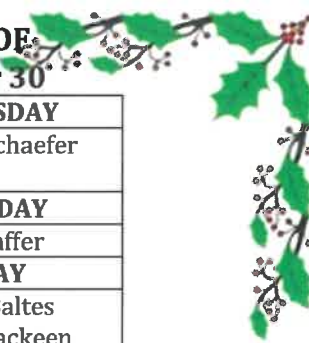
("Nunc Dimittis")

**CLOSING HYMN:** LSB 352



**BIRTHDAYS THE WEEK OF  
December 24 – December 30**

SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY
David Dufault Andrew Heinen	Caroline Schaefer
MONDAY	THURSDAY
Linda Bredenberg	Mike Gaffer
TUESDAY	FRIDAY
	Ashley Baltes Rachel Brackeen Mark Coombs Rebecca Klesk Selina Werner
	SATURDAY
	Larry Anderson Richard Haver Sydney Sivongsay



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!

**BIBLE CLASS TOPICS**

**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.

**12/31:** The Wise Men visit Jesus and bring 3 gifts. How many Wise Men were there? Come and see the 3 gifts: gold (from Alaska, not Africa or Asia), frankincense (What is it? How is it used? Where in the world is it extracted today? How precious is it?), myrrh (What is it? How is it used?) Gold, frankincense, and myrrh will be on display in class. Bring lots of questions and think about how this should increase your faith. We'll include practice for Pastor Briel's retirement party program. Last chance to be in the youth video for Pastor Briel.

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



† **The Fourth Sunday in Advent** †

**Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2017**

**SPECIAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK AND NEXT:**

**THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

- Dec 24/25- Christmas Eve (3pm & 5pm services) and Day (10am Divine Svc)
- Dec 26- The Feast of Saint Stephen
- Dec 27- The Feast of Saint John
- Dec 28- Commemoration of the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem
- Dec 29- Commemoration of Prince Jonathan, friend of David
- Dec 30- Commemoration of King David
- Dec 31/Jan 1- Eve and Feast of the Circumcision and Naming of Jesus
- Jan 2- Commemoration of Abel & Seth (Gen. 4:1-2, 25)
- Jan 3- Commemoration of Enoch (Gen. 5:18-25)
- Jan 4- Feast of Saint Titus
- Jan 5- Commemoration of Simeon (Luke 2:25-36)
- Jan 6- The Feast of the Epiphany

**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: Happy Holy-Days: *a special Bible study on the observance of Holidays*  
Next week: The Call of Moses & Name of "the LORD" (Ex. 3)



† **HOLIDAY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS** †

**TODAY Sunday, December 24** 9:00 am: *The Fourth Sunday in Advent 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 printed invitation in the narthex OR online here: <https://tinyurl.com/PastorBrielRetirement>



**This Week at St. John's Lutheran**

<b>TODAY</b>	9:00 am:	Divine Service with Lord's Supper
	3:00 pm:	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	5:00 pm:	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
<b>MON:</b>	10:00 am:	Christmas Day~Divine Service with Lord's Supper Office Closed
<b>TUES:</b>	3:00 pm:	Lego Programming Fixes
<b>WED:</b>	5:30 pm:	No Public School Catechism
	6:00 pm:	No Brass & Choir Practice
	7:30 pm:	Adult Open Gym Basketball
<b>THUR:</b>	6:00 pm:	Lego Programming Fixes
	7:15 pm:	Table Tennis
<b>FRI:</b>		
<b>SAT:</b>		
<b>SUN:</b>	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
	4:00 pm:	Adult Open Gym



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

Worship Assistant: 10:00 am: Jack Wold  
Acolytes: 10:00 am: Leah Gordon & Matthew Koosman  
Processional: Hannah Thurber (Crucifer), Noelle Dolan & Luke Walton (Trchbrs)

**Those Serving Next Week, Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>:**

Altar Guild: Theresa Gaffer & Jill Gehl  
Worship Assistants: 8:00 am: Jerry Rogge  
10:30 am: Ross Meyer  
Acolytes: 8:00 am: Adam Kiesow & Benjamin Kiesow  
10:30 am: Colin Vetsch & Alex Vetsch  
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: Duane Abraham, Jon Bode,  
Mike McFerrin, Mark Radintz

**Those Serving Next Week, Saturday, Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>:**

Worship Assistant: 7:00 pm: John Radintz  
Acolytes: 7:00 pm: Eric Toelle & Miranda Blanck  
Processional: Luke Walton (Crucifer), Carter Cate (Candlebearer)

**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!



**CLOSED COMMUNION:** Our celebration of the Lord's Supper agrees with Scripture and the practice of the ancient Christian Church and so is reserved for members in good standing of congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (the phrase "*in good standing*" means that one is not under church discipline) who agree with the doctrine and practice of our congregation. If you have questions about this practice, please contact one of our pastors; they are eager and most willing to explain this practice more thoroughly.

Visitors from sister LCMS congregations with whom our pastors are not yet acquainted should announce to one of our pastors your desire to commune before joining us at the Lord's Table. Thank you. Members should sign the registration form found in the Narthex. You may prepare by reading, "*Christian Questions*" for "*those who intend to go to the Sacrament*" (LSB pages 329-330).

**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.

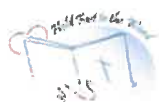
**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no Sunday School TODAY, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

**PLEASE ALSO NOTE:** No Wednesday December 27<sup>th</sup> Public School Catechism.

**FURTHER NOTE:** No Wednesday December 27<sup>th</sup> Brass or Choir Practice.

**HOLIDAY SEASON OFFICE HOURS:** Will be on a limited schedule. Please note the office is closed on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in observation of Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays to All!

**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/>.

**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!



**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. If you would like a church mailbox, please contact the secretary.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all the people who donated to the pregnancy centers. We recently visited and they were so appreciative of all the gifts we brought.

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN EVENT:** The Youth Group is organizing a FMSC event and we want YOU to attend! Our goal 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. We reserved 140 spots and would like to fill them all! The event is on Saturday, January 27. We will have a potluck at STJL from 12:00 - 1:15 or so and then head over to FMSC in Coon Rapids for a shift from 2:00 - 4:00. Sign up on the large sign-up sheet in the Narthex or by contacting the office or Jayme Kruse!

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK** Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>: 8:00 am: CT: 165 CM: 154  
10:30 am: CT: 213 CM: 110  
Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 pm: CT: 75

FINANCIAL UPDATE	Month-to-date	Year-to-date
	12/17/17	since 07/01/17
Offerings Received	\$ 14,512	\$ 323,980
Amount Needed	\$ 13,635	\$ 340,875
Amount Ahead (Behind)	\$ 877	\$ (16,895)
% Ahead (-Behind)	6%	-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!!

