

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

Est. 1864



Pastors:

Matthew V. Moss and Matthew P. Johnson

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9141 County Road 101
Corcoran, MN 55340

Important Announcements

For those who watch services on Live-Stream during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Stay Home when Sick: If you are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 please stay home. If you start to experience symptoms while in attendance at a service or out anywhere else, please go home immediately. If at a service, notify a Safety Team member on your way out so we may direct our cleaning and communication efforts.

Singing (updated): MDH has gone from requiring no congregational singing to “not recommended” but does say that if a congregation sings masks and distancing are required. Please tune in early and stay late for the preludes, postludes, and sing with us the hymns that will be provided in the online bulletins.

Maintaining Piety when Worshiping at Home: The best way to get the most out of this temporary set-up is to keep things in your household as regular as possible:

- Print the bulletin or use your hymnals
- Dress like you would dress for church
- Stand when we stand, sit when we sit
- Sing along with the hymns
- Watch at the live time, Sunday morning, setting it aside as first priority instead of looking for whatever time is most convenient for you
- Limit the distractions, toys, and tech so that the time is truly "sacred" (set-apart) for Christ and His means of grace

These ideas can help you focus on the Service of the Word and will also help you prevent bad habits from developing during our temporary suspension of Divine Services

The Third Sunday in Advent

Gaudete

December 13, 2020

Preacher: Pr. Matthew Johnson

Liturgist: Pr. Matthew Moss

Kantor: Dr. Crystal Rossow

Special Note for the Live Stream: Because the Absolution and Communion are sacramental acts that require the in-person interaction of penitent & pastor and communicant & pastor, we will not Live Stream those portions of the Divine Service. If you desire a more detailed explanation of the status of the controversies in Christianity and the LCMS around these acts that have led us to this decision on this practice, your pastors are more than willing to discuss it with you.

Service of the Word

354 Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text and tune: Public domain

Introit

Psalm 85:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 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.

Kyrie

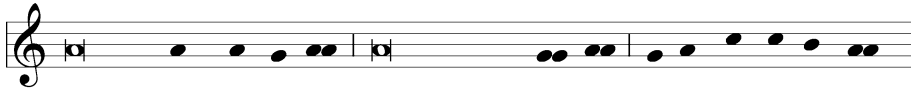
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



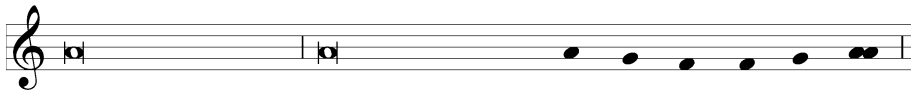
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



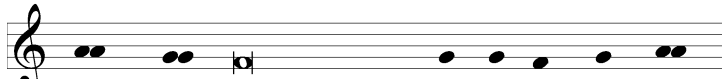
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 170

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

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.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 80:1–2

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.*
Stir up your might and come to | save us!
Give ear, O Shepherd of | Israel,*
you who lead Joseph | like a flock!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 4:1–5

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the Alleluia and the beginning of the verse. The second staff continues the melody for the verse. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: “The Blessed Repetition of the Christian Life and the Testimony of Jesus that Furthers Faith” (Matthew 11:2-11)

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,

**maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Following the prayers, the Live Stream ends and the Service of the Sacrament begins.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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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), Ilene Shepherd, Brigette Ritter, Dr. Crystal Rossow, Charice McDowell, Mavis Kalk, Joyce O’Hern, Melvin Haag, Patrick Oberle, Ramona Von Ende, Bruce Hansen, Justin Brynjulfson, Pat Ellinger, Doris Gangelhoff, Harold & Barb Grambart, Dick Rau, and Randy Goerke. 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 John and Arleen Barrett, Sue Erickson, Inez Koehler, Steve Orbin, Mark Pruhs, Amy Schalo, and Ilene Shepherd.

All those serving in our Armed Forces— Agena Christophersen (Belgium), Kevin Mazurowski (Arizona), Nathan Mazurowski (Arizona), Isak Preus (Florida), Brian Pruhs (Germany), Joseph Radintz (home), Emily Sawyer (Florida), and Danny Schilling (home).

Those who have lost loved ones during the past year— the family of Betty Schmiede, Justin Bermel & family (at the loss of his father Douglas, and his brother Jeffrey), Rob Borcharding & family (at the loss of his mother Carol), the family of Rev. Greg Tyler (Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran in Osseo), Lisa Kolander & family (at the loss of her mother Lucy Fairchild), Jan Stadler & family (at the loss of her sister, JoAnne Hackbarth), John Meyer & family (at the loss of his brother Jeff), the family of Larry Jobes, Dan Kappel & family (at the loss of his father Francis), Joellyn Wicht & family (at the loss of her mother Frances Spielman), Larissa Alvarez & family (at the loss of her grandmother Luci Correa), the family of Fred Hunt, the family of Diane Lawrence, Gerald Anderson & family (at the loss of his father Dale), Joyce O’Hern & family (at the loss of her father-in-law Marland), Arlene Rogge & family (at the loss of her father George Hackler), Lois Foggia & family (at the loss of her brother-in-law Tom Hooker), the family of Vivian Kuns, Stephanie Haver & family (at the loss of her brother Brandon), and Char Abraham & family (at the loss of her brother Russell).

And we remember those who have recently lost loved ones— the family of Linda Bredenberg, the family of Tracey Rosso, Cindy Cook & family (at the loss of her brother, Daniel Anderson), the family of Gerald Oswald, Kyle Gaffaney & family (at the loss of his grandfather Bill Reese), Jim Day & family (at the loss of his sister), and the family of Marlys Johnson.

All expecting families and their unborn children— especially Brittany & Adam Strohschein, Stephanie & Noah Heidorn, and Martha & Aaron Reseburg. If you would like to announce your pregnancy to the Church that we might pray for you, please contact one of our pastors.

THIS WEEK: The congregations in our circuit are praying for Rev. Lucas Woodford, our District President, and all of our elected officers and board members in the MN South District.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL: This week we pray for our Custodial Maintenance Team of Noah Walton and Manager John Draskovich, and also for our ESP Director/Administrative Assistant Tori Kuehne and all of the program Assistants.

† Announcements †

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, Phased-Reopening: *All St. John's events and activities have been cancelled or postponed until further notice, however, we now are able to hold Divine Services, weddings, and funerals that adhere to our protocols, as published in the pastoral letter of May 24, and available in our church's "Covid-19 Preparedness Plan". Please visit our website for the link to these documents and to stay informed as updates can happen quickly.*

SOCIAL DISTANCING: Please keep in mind your social distancing awareness and hygiene when entering the building and encountering other individuals; you are required to wear a mask as you enter, exit, or at any time when not social distancing. Our Custodial Staff has been working diligently maintaining disinfection measures throughout the building to help keep our limited staff & visitors safe.

SPECIAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK: *no special feast days this week.*

NOTICE OF CHURCH MEMBER'S PASSING: It has pleased Our Heavenly Father to call home devoted church member Marlys Johnson on December 6th, 2020. A private Funeral Service and Christian Burial at St. John's took place yesterday. Please keep her family in your prayers.

VIDEO BIBLE STUDY: We continue to study The Book of Daniel. A video recording will be uploaded to the YouTube Channel "Matthew Moss" and shared on Facebook and our website. Enjoy!
December 13: Daniel 12- The Resurrection and Conclusion

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY has resumed as we take up again the Book of Acts. We meet via Facebook Live at 9:45 am each Tuesday. This format will allow any questions you might have, simply post a comment and if it is seen it will be answered. We will complete a two-week study of Psalm 110, quoted by Peter in his Pentecost sermon to publicize God's vindication of His Servant and Son, Jesus.

POINSETTIAS: The Altar Guild is providing an opportunity for congregation members to purchase Poinsettias to decorate the Church for Christmas. It can then be picked-up after the last Christmas service and enjoyed by you at your home. Please complete and return the order form if you wish to purchase a Poinsettia. ***Today is the deadline.***

THE SERVICE OF INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION is available this month by appointment only. 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)

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Year-to-date</u>
	<i>12/06/20</i>	<i>since 07/01/20</i>
FINANCIAL UPDATE		
Total General Fund Receipts-All Sources	\$ 48,704	\$ 726,446
Amount Needed	\$ 31,353	\$ 745,993
Amount Ahead (Behind)	\$ 17,350	\$ (19,548)
% Ahead (-Behind)		-3%
Current Building Mortgage Balance (November 30, 2020):	\$228,057	

Amount Needed above includes all budgeted revenues, including offerings, school tuition and third-source income, for the current budget year beginning July 1, 2020. There was no cumulative deficit as of July 1. Questions can be directed to Church Treasurer Mike Gaffer (mtgaff@comcast.net)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK... Sunday, December 6th: Total 150 CM 108

Advent Midweek Dec 9th: Total 44

Note: The pastors and kantor are only counted once in both figures above, but take up three of the 150 slots at each service. Also, Safety Team members are positioned in the halls, and do not count against the 150 available spots in the sanctuary, however they are included in the numbers of those present for worship and communing if they communed.

MUSICIANS NEEDED: Singers and instrumentalists are wanted for our Advent and Christmas services. Soloists and small groups work best under our COVID-19 protection. Family groups work great, too. It can be as simple as singing or playing a hymn. If you are willing and able, contact Kantor Rossow or the church office.

MANY THANKS to my St. John's family for your prayers, dedication to music, and care. It is a blessing to have served you as Kantor for fifteen years, and I hope to do so for many more.
~Dr. Crystal Rossow

PLEASE CALL FIRST: In order to better protect you, our students and staff, we are limiting foot traffic through the building during the day. Please make an appointment with one of our secretaries to pick up any church items. Your materials can be placed in a holding bin located in the vestibule, between the double doorway for pick up at your designated appointment.

SCHEDULING CHURCH AND SCHOOL EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S: We are not scheduling member events at this time. Please direct any questions to 763-420-2426.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Items received by *noon* on Wednesday are considered for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin; kindly please submit your request timely to ensure your announcement gets published as needed.

EMAIL ADDRESS REQUESTED: If you are not already getting weekly emails from church, please submit your email address so we can communicate notices such as upcoming church services, funerals, weather closures, etc. Please provide your email address to secretary@stjlutheran.org.

MAYER LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL is hosting open houses Jan 19 and Feb 9, 6:30-8pm. Student/parent panel, presentation, campus tour, refreshments. Mask & distancing required. mayerlutheran.org/952-657-2251

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: (December 13 – December 19) ***Sunday-*** Bruce Hansen/Ava Kanz/Bella Kanz/Sarah Klein/Amy Mazurowski, ***Monday-*** Rick Bymark/Amy Dufault, ***Tuesday-*** Patrick Gardner/Ted Schmidt/Morgen Woods, ***Wednesday-*** Charlie Bermel, ***Thursday-*** Gretchen Dolan/Connie Goerke/Wes Grambart/Tyler Philipp/Taryn Stromback, ***Friday-*** Lisa Carroll/Paisley Hamilton/Ernest Koehler, ***Saturday-*** ...

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES: The boxes of envelopes for the 2021 calendar year are ready for distribution. We have a new housed area near the parking lot entryway that will allow us to have your box available for convenient pickup without entering the building. The distribution will be done in stages in groups by last name over the next several weeks in attempt to accommodate members using the following pickup schedule:

Families with LAST NAMES beginning with letters~

O-Z can find their envelopes in the station during stage 3: **Dec 9 through Dec 15.**

Please kindly note that avoiding the start of the school day (morning drop off 7:00-8:00 am) and dismissal times (2:45-3:30 pm) will be greatly appreciated.

After the appointed dates, any unclaimed boxes will be placed in the church mailboxes. Members will have the option of contacting the church office to make an appointment to pick them up on their own schedule.

Please also remember not to use the new boxes until Jan 1st; and discard your old ones after Dec 31st as your assigned number will likely change during the re-numbering process, and you will want your offerings assigned correctly to you.

HOLIDAY SERVICES & PROGRAMS:

Advent Midweek*	Wednesday, December 16	7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols	Dec 24	3:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols	Dec 24	5:00 pm
Christmas Midnight Divine Service	Thursday, December 24	11:00 pm
Christmas Day Divine Service	Friday, December 25	10:00 am
Epiphany Divine Service	Wednesday, January 06	7:00 pm

Keep an eye on our website and sign-up genius for changes to the schedule due to attendance maximums and Covid-19 restrictions.

*no sign up required