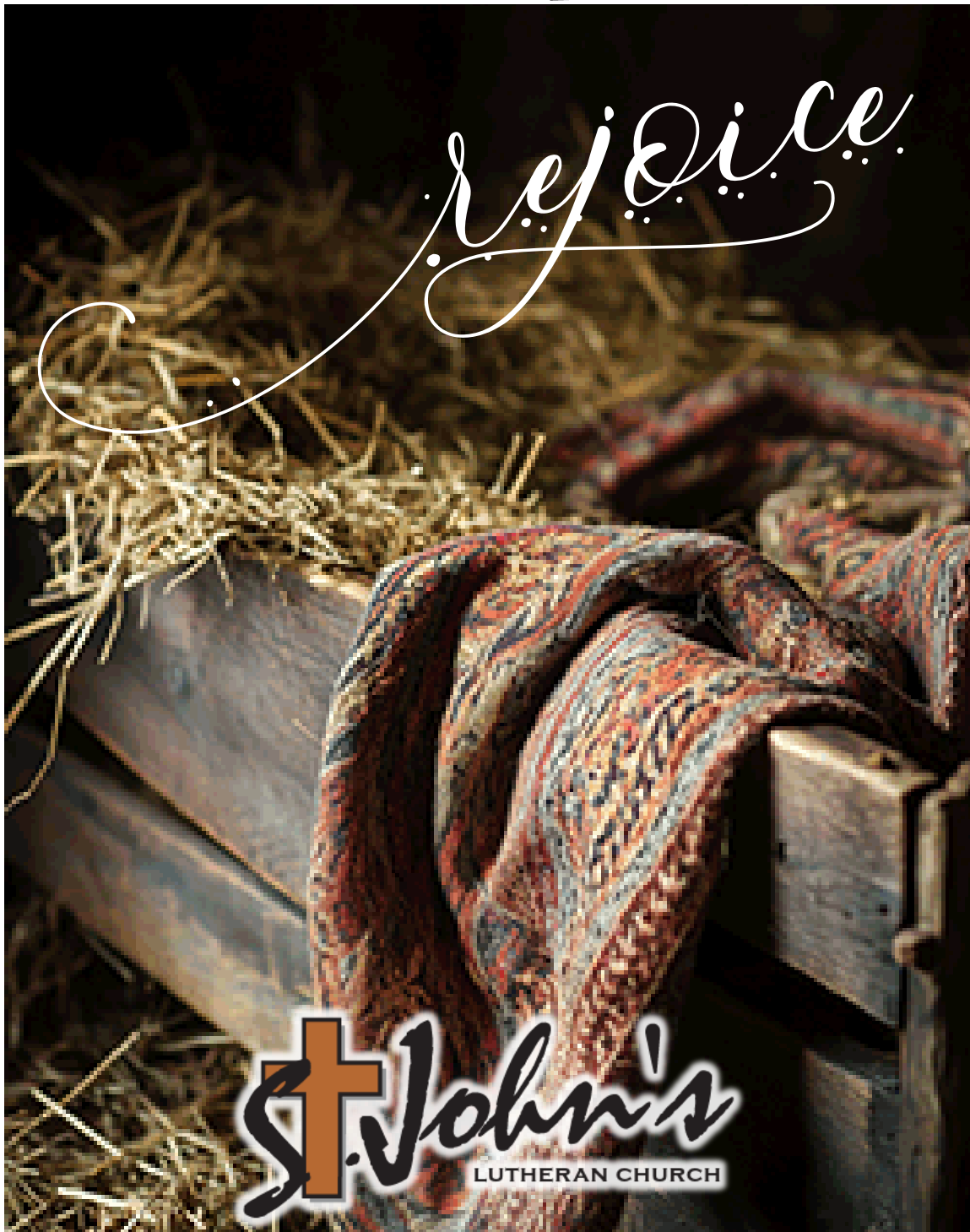


Christmas Eve Worship, December 24th



St. John's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Chris Schoon Phone: 815-498-3810 • Cell: 815-768-7452 • Email: pastor@elcastjohns.org

Worship Services: Saturdays at 5:00pm • Sundays at 9:45am

Parish Education: Sunday School - Grades Pre-K to 6th - 8:30am • Adult Forum - 8:30am
Confirmation - Grades 7 & 8 - Wednesdays 6:30pm

Church Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9am-2pm • Fri 9am-12pm

235 S Green Street | PO Box 245 | Somonauk, IL 60552 | 815-498-3667

office@elcastjohns.org | www.elcastjohns.org



Join us for a night of fun and fellowship
Saturday, January 4th
 After worship



Northern Illinois Food Bank
Tuesday, Jan. 21st
 Sign up in the Welcome Center by January 5th.

Be sure to sign the giant Christmas card in the Welcome Center, and spread greetings to our church family!

Prayer Requests

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Marilyn Abbott | Mary Ann Hulon | Larry Rogers |
| Mary Bark | Jen | Doris Rogers & family |
| Lance Davenport | Judy | Shelly |
| Lee Gehrke | Karen | Lynn Skryzpiec |
| Gianna | Rhea Lumsden | Lynn Skryzpiec's great-nephew, Oakley |
| Sharon Goode | Linda Martin | Jack Smith |
| Pastor Grafe | James Moris | Jackie Wendland |
| Family of Chuck | Lonnie Murray | Susan White |
| Hoeppe's sister, Carol | Sharon Rhea's son, Jeff | |

Dates to Remember

| Month | Date | Occasion |
|----------|------|-----------------------------|
| JANUARY | 4 | CHILI SUPPER |
| JANUARY | 19 | ANNUAL MEETING |
| FEBRUARY | 11 | COMMUNITY FEAST @ ST. JOHNS |

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

The Call to Worship

- P:** Welcome to the celebration!
- C:** **We come to proclaim what angels proclaimed on the first Christmas. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to everyone!**
- P:** Welcome to Christmas, and God's table. Welcome to the supper of love, and the celebration of new life in Jesus.
- C:** **We come to worship the Christ. This baby of God is the Messiah for the world and the Savior of us all.**
- P:** We begin our worship in the name of God our Creator, Jesus, our Savior, and the Holy Spirit.
- C:** **Amen!**

Christmas Confession and Forgiveness

- P:** Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

A brief silence

- P:** God of peace,
- C:** **we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**
- P:** In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of † Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.
- C:** **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

G: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray the Prayer of the Day together. ... Almighty God,

G: **you made this day holy in order to 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. Amen.**

Please be seated

ELW 240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Light the 4 outer candles of the Advent Wreath

Karol Grandgeorge:

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus and rejoice in His coming to us, we light the Christ candle. Jesus Christ is our hope. He is our peace. Jesus Christ is our joy. He is love-- pure, holy, undying love. Whoever believes in Him will never perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Light the Christ Candle

The Christ Candle

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Kherington Killey: | Christmas is come! |
| Adam Killey: | Christ has come! |
| Kherington Killey: | No more waiting! |
| Adam Killey: | No more darkness! We light the Christ candle because the light banishes the dark. |

Mike Hamer:

This is the story of The Nativity, the birth of our Savior. How we humans were living in darkness and despair. ... And then... there came a Light from Heaven; A Light of salvation and forgiveness and joy!...we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. A birth into the world and a birth within our hearts...

John 1:1-14

Lily Horsch : **P**

The first reading comes from the Gospel of John Chapter 1 verses 1 through 14.

^{1:1} In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Here ends the lesson.

ELW 244 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

v.1 & 4

Mike Hamer:

However, the story of Jesus does not begin on Christmas morning. No, it winds through eons of time ...

Mark 1:1-5 & 6-8

Jeanette Pfiefer:

The Proclamation of John the Baptist as recorded in the Gospel according to St. Mark

Chapter 1 verses 1-8:

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight” ’,

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

ELW 283 O Come All Ye Faithful

v. 1 & 3

Wayne Karp:

⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

Here ends the lesson.

ELW 264 Prepare the Royal Highway

v. 1 & 3

Luke 1:26-38 The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Cindy Karp :

The Birth of Jesus Foretold according to Luke’s Gospel.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ ³⁴Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ ³⁵The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.’ ³⁸Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:46-56 Mary’s Song of Praise

Marian Larson:

The Magnificat is recorded in Luke’s Gospel Chapter 4 verses 4-56:

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

‘My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her [Elizabeth] for about three months and then returned to her home. Here ends the lesson.

ELW 251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

v. 1 & 2

Scott Horsch:

Back in Nazareth, Joseph has second thoughts about his engagement to Mary because he doesn't know about God's plan for Mary and her baby. So one night, an angel comes to Joseph in a dream.

The Angel says to Joseph,

"Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit, name him 'Jesus' because he will save his people from their sins."

Ortega Family Singers O Holy Night

Luke 2:1 The Birth of Jesus

Julie Horsch:

The Birth of Jesus as recorded in Luke's Gospel. ^{2:1} In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

ELW 278 Away In A Manger

v. 1 & 2

Luke 1:8-20 The Shepherds and the Angels

Aiden Wold:

We hear about the Shepherds and the Angels in Luke's Gospel:

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

ELW 289 Angels We Have Heard On High

v. 1 & 2

Reagan Hallman:

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Here ends the lesson.

ELW 300 The First Noel

v. 1 & 4

Jerry Lundeen:

Matthew 2:1-6

The Visit of the Wise Men is recorded in St. Matthew's Gospel; Chapter 2 verses 1-6 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Here ends the lesson.

ELW 290 Go Tell It On the Mountain

v. 1 & 3

Connie Hamer:

In a land far to the East, Wise Men see something strange in the sky. They travel to Bethlehem. Matthew's Gospel continues:

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Please stand as you are able

Matthew 1:22-23

Liam Wold:

The fulfillment of the prophecy is recorded in Matthew's Gospel Chapter 1 verses 22-23

²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel'.

Here ends the lesson.

ELW 257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

v. 1 & 2

Please be seated

Christmas Meditation

Apostle's Creed

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of
the Father, and he will come to judge**

the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Karol Grandgeorge:

For the increase of peace among all the nations of the world in the reign of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.

Aiden Wold:

For the spread of the good news of great joy that the Savior has come, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Christ the Lord, bring joy to the world.

Lily Horsch:

For the poor and those who find no room made for them, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Christ the Lord, bring help to the poor.

Wayne Karp:

For the renewal of the whole Church in unity and joy, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Christ the Lord, bring renewal to the Church.

Emerson Wold:

For the light of Christmas to shine on the grieving and the sick *especially those on our Prayer List ... We pray for those for whom we have a special concern ...* let us pray to the Lord.

C: Christ the Lord, bring hope to the sick.

Liam Wold:

For our sinfulness when we fail to bring God's light and peace and love to the world, let us ask for forgiveness.

C: Christ the Lord, have mercy on us.

P: Rejoicing in your birth and trusting in your mercy, O Christ our Lord, we commend to you all for whom we pray.

C: Amen.

Please stand as you are able

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Gathered at and around the Lord's table, we remember with thanksgiving that *"In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.'* Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.'"*

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven,

**hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.
Please be Seated

Holy Communion is served

**Communion Hymns ELW 271 I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve
ELW 293 That Boy Child of Mary**

Please Stand as you are able.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Jerry Lundeen:

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

Candle Lighting

ELW 281 Silent Night, Holy Night **all verses v. 1-3**

As you receive the light, please pass it to your neighbor. When passing the light, please tip only the unlit candle. To avoid burns and spilled wax, lighted candles should be held vertical at all times.

Reagan Hallman:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them the light of Christ has shined. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

Please carefully extinguish your candle.

The Benediction

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Sending Hymn

ELW 267 Joy to the World **all verses v. 1-4**

Dismissal

Mike Hamer:

Go in peace and love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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