

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29



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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

for the week of
Dec. 30 – Jan. 5

Sunday	9:45am Worship
Saturday	5:00pm Worship Chili Supper with Games after worship
Sunday	9:45am Worship



Join us for a night of
fun and fellowship

Saturday,
January 4th

After worship



Next **Reading Buddies** date:

Tuesday, January 28

**Sign up in the Welcome Center to read
with Wendy Merkel's kindergarten class.**



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

2025



*If you'd like to
provide flowers for
the altar for any given
weekend, there is
always a sign-up sheet
for available
weekends in the
Welcome Center.*

Prayer Requests

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

Dates to Remember

Month	Date	Occasion
JANUARY	4	CHILI SUPPER
JANUARY	26	ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY	11	COMMUNITY FEAST @ ST. JOHNS

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God-with-us,

C: **we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn ELW 288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Prayer of the Day

P: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God,

C: **and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

A: The **First Reading** for this 1st weekend of Christmas comes from 1st Samuel Chapter 2 verses 18-20 & 26

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A: Our **Psalm** today is Psalm 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹ mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² **young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel,
a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

A: The **Second Reading** comes from Colossians Chapter 3 verses 12-17

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd Chapter

C: **Glory to you O Lord.**

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day WOV 638 Holy Child Within the Manger

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: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

A: ...God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The congregation may shake one another's hand. If you do not wish to shake hands, please hold your hands in a prayer position and bow to the other person.

Offering

Please stand as you are able.

Offering Prayer

P: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

C: Amen.

Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy" words on screen

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.
Please be seated. The usher will direct you when to come forward for Holy Communion.

Holy Communion is served

Communion Hymns WOV 646 We Three Kings of Orient Are
Please stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

A: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

P: The God of love, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ELW 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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