

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD
ST. JOHN'S EAGLE'S NEST PRESCHOOL**

MISSION STATEMENT
Fellowship of Hope, Teaching, Serving and Proclaiming!

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

"The King Shall Come To Bring Us love"



8:00AM — December 23, 2018

THOSE WHO SERVE US

Each Member of St. John's	A Minister
Rev. Ted Gall	Senior Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp	Liturgist
Mrs. Sandy Esker	Preschool Director
Mrs. Dana Keller	Organist
Mrs. Andrea Wendling	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band	10:30AM
Mr. Dave Wall	8AM Elder on Duty
Andrew Lotz	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Gayland Bourland	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Evan Pryor	10:30AM Acolyte
Mr. Chris Niebrugge 821-8854	Elder on Duty for December 24 – 28, 2018
Missionaries from Pakistan	Younis Darshan and Raja Shaleem
Missionaries from India	Ajay Paul & Sonne
Sister Congregation	in Blidene, Latvia
Adopted Chatelain School	Haiti
Mrs. Julie Scott	(343-3047) Prayer Chain Coordinator

WELCOME To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to the stranger, we extend our sincere greeting. If you are a visitor, please understand that you are our guest and we want you to feel welcome and comfortable. We are happy you chose to be with us in this service, and pray you have been blessed by our Lord today as He has blessed us by your presence.

CHRIST is important to us

- in our worship
- in our study
- in our fellowship
- in our lives.

YOU are important to us

- in our worship
- in our study
- in our fellowship
- in our lives.

HOLY COMMUNION – When the members of St. John’s Lutheran Church, (LCMS) celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we confess the Real Presence of Christ’s Body and Blood in the Bread and Wine, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. (*1 Cor 10:16 & 1 Cor 11:23-26*) We believe that Christ’s Body and Blood are present “in, with and under” the elements of the Holy Supper. (*Luther’s Small Catechism*) Members should register their intent to commune on the pew card. If you are visiting with us and you desire to join with us in communion fellowship in agreement with these beliefs, please speak to one of the Pastors or the elder on duty before the service.

HIS VISION FOR US:

St. John’s will be known for being involved in our changing community, for providing leadership in our changing world, and for serving others in Christian love.

We will welcome our diverse guests with open arms. Our friendly, loving and accepting people will engage our guests, mentor them in the faith, and inspire many to become members.

Our members will be motivated by the cross to be actively engaged in ministry, showing love and care to others. We will encourage one another, nurture one another, and enthusiastically serve our God together!

HIS GOAL FOR US:

We will pray and work with singleness of purpose to expand the impact of our ministry to God’s children of all ages, with special emphasis on young families, by developing new ways to strengthen the relationship between St. John’s, our members and our community, providing the facilities and resources to involve more people in ministry and outreach.

WELCOME CENTER Greeters are present at the Welcome Center in the atrium adjacent to our sanctuary before and after the service to answer any questions you may have, provide directions to restrooms, classrooms, etc. If you are a first time guest, we also have a gift for you. If you live in our community or surrounding area and you do not have a church home, we welcome your consideration. We offer true fellowship with a living Savior and membership in His Church.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER Kindly fill out a registration card (welcome side) located in the pew rack. Our guests are also asked to complete the address and phone number portion. Please pass your card to the center aisle to be gathered during the offering.

CELL PHONES Please turn your cell phones off before the service begins.

AS WE GATHER This is He whom seers in old time. Chanted of with one accord, Whom the voices of the prophets. Promised in their faithful word. (LSB 384:3) Micah is one such seer and prophet. He prophesies of the Savior's birthplace, Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." How fitting that the Bread of Life would be born in such a place. How fitting that He continues to feed us with His body and blood to this day. As we come to the Lord's Supper, we come to the house of bread. We come to Bethlehem or, rather, Bethlehem comes to us.

+ PREPARATION +

HYMN..... **"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**..... **[LSB 379]**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Blessed is the fruit of Mary's womb!

People: **He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord!**

Pastor: His flock shall dwell secure.

People: **And He will be their peace.**

Pastor: My soul magnifies the Lord,

People: **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love. Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we hope.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rest.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the source of all joy.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rejoice.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Lord of love.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word His love finds us.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Hebrews 10:10*

Pastor: In the season of Advent we prepare for Jesus to come. Sometimes in our preparations we lose sight of God's grace. Sometimes we are so desperate for God's approval we think we can earn His favor by doing more, by being better, or by scheming in just the right way. Despite God's unconditional love, we still try to earn our way into security and salvation. We turn to the Lord for forgiveness. Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have not trusted Your Word of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We have questioned if we are truly forgiven. We have doubted the new life we now live. We have distrusted Your way of salvation. Restore us, O God. Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Pastor: God's ways are not our ways. Despite our continued failures and our inability to trust as we ought, Christ's death and resurrection for Your forgiveness remains effective, and it always will. Hear these words of forgiveness for they are from Christ Himself: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

+ WORD +

INTROIT 1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47

Pastor: "My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation.

People: "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

Pastor: Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. ⁶ The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷ The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.

People: "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

KYRIE (p. 186 in hymnal)

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Micah 5:2-5a*
(The ruler of Israel shall come from Bethlehem.)

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Savior Of The Nations, Come" [stz 1,2,8 LSB 332]

EPISTLE..... Hebrews 10:5–10
(*“We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*)

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” ⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 1:23a*

Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.

8AM MINISTRY OF MUSIC.....“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”by Crosstones

HOLY GOSPEL..... Luke 1:39–56
(*Mary visits Elizabeth.*)

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” ⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ And 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 mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Once In Royal David’s City”*[LSB 376]

SERMON..... *“The King Of Kings Is Born In Bethlehem”*Micah 5:2-5a

OFFERING/OFFERTORY*“Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful”* [LSB 955]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord Jesus Christ, come to all those who are in bondage to sin and Satan. Break their chains and release them from their enslavement, that they serve You in peace and quietness. O come, O come, Emmanuel,

People: **and ransom captive Israel.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we live in a world where everyone does what is right in their own minds. Come to us with Your perfect wisdom, that we follow You and not our own selfish ways. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,

People: **who orders all things mightily.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, come to those whose life is in chaos and provide order, structure, and discipline, that they live in peace and unity with their neighbors. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,

People: **who gave the Law on Sinai’s height.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Satan remains an active voice in the world. Silence him by Your mighty power, and proclaim liberty to those who are under his influence. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,

People: **free us from Satan’s tyranny.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, there are many who do not know You and Your salvation. Send missionaries, pastors, teachers, and anyone willing to share Your grace

around the world, that more might believe in You and be saved by Your death and resurrection. O come, Thou Key of David, come,

People: **and open wide our heav'nly home.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, so many in this world are lonely and longing for friendship and a place to belong. Send us to those people, that we befriend them and bring them to You. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,

People: **and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, come to Your broken Church with the gifts of reconciliation and restoration. Unite Your people once again, that we enjoy fellowship rather than fractured division. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;

People: **bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.

People: **Amen.**

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

HYMN..... "O Bless The Lord, My Soul".....[LSB 814]

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI..... (p. 198 in hymnal)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “I Come, O Savior, To Thy Table” [LSB 618]
“Draw Near And Take The Body Of The Lord” [LSB 637]
“Sent Forth By God’s Blessing” [LSB 643]

HYMN..... “Joy To The World”..... [St. 4: LSB 387]

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

HYMN..... “O Little Town Of Bethlehem”.....[LSB 361]

SILENT PRAYER

GREETING OF PEACE

POSTLUDE

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