

**The First Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 2025 8:30 A.M.
St. John's Lutheran Church**

***Bulletins are subject to change based on the Pastors' discretion**

Announcements

Prelude

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Arr. James Biery

Ringing of the Church Bell

Confession and Forgiveness

page 116-117

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, [☩] one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

The First Noel

ELW# 300 VS 1-3

Greeting and Kyrie

pp.146-147

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.

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

C: Amen

The Hymn of Praise (*Glory to God in the Highest...*)

pp. 148-149

L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day:

P: O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 63: 7-9

Lector: ⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior ⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Psalm: 148 (read responsively)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C: ¹² young men and maidens, old and young together.

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

C: 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!

Second Reading: Hebrews 2: 10-18

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.” ¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.” ⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Special Music:

Born 'Neath A Star
Senior Choir

Cynthia Gray

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?”

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C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-23

C: Glory to You, O Lord/ Praise to You, O Christ.

P: ¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” ¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” ¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

Confession of Faith*Apostle's Creed*

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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.

Offering Hymn:*Angels We Have Heard on High*

ELW# 289

Offering Prayer: P: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church: P: Hear us O God.... C: Your mercy is great!!

The Lord's Prayer

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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.

Benediction:

P: May the triune God, who comes among us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn:*Go, Tell It On The Mountain*

ELW# 290

Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:*Noel X**Louis Claude Daquin.*

<u>Activities this Week at St. John's</u>		<u>Dec 28, 2025, to Jan 7, 2026</u>
Sun, Dec 28	8:30am & 10:30am	Worship Services
Tues, Dec 30	10:30am	Nursing Home Visit- Northgate Care Center
	2:00pm	Nursing Home Visit- Good Samaritan Center
	2:45pm	Nursing Home Visit- Evergreen Court
Sun, Jan 4	8:30am & 10:30am	Worship Services W/ Communion
	9:30am	Senior Choir
Wed, Jan 7	6:00pm	Youth Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Senior Bell Choir, Confirmation

General Funds (undesignated)

Jan 1 – Dec 23, 2025	
Actual Income	\$197,960
Actual Expenses	\$165,133
Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2025	
Budget Expenses	\$203,089

Attendance

Last Sunday	176
2025 Average	99
2024 Average	99

Greeters	8:30am	Cindy Barness
	10:30am	
Readers	8:30am	Mary Jackson
	10:30am	Jill Kistler
Ushers	8:30am	John Bauercamper, Jens Kallevang, Randy Hesse
	10:30am	
Secretary		Lana Dahlstrom
Custodians		John & Sharon Roe
Organist/Director of Music		James H. Bieber
Pastor		Charis Combs-Lay

Today we warmly welcome Pastor Charis Combs-Lay of Oelwein, Iowa, as she leads us in worship.

~ We extend a special thank-you to the Deacons for securing the supply pastors for St. John's during this time. We have been blessed by the insight of each pastor and the sermons they have shared with us each week. Thank you for your faithful service.

Radio Broadcast Ministry Today's radio broadcast is joyfully made possible by generous donations. Thank you for your generous and continued support of this important outreach ministry. Join us Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. on KNEI 103.5 FM to listen to the service.

Note: When sponsoring a broadcast, you have the opportunity to select a hymn of your choice for that service.

The congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church extends its sincere sympathy to the family of Susan "Sue" Freese. Sue passed away on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at Veterans Memorial Hospital in Waukon. Funeral services were held December 22 at Waterville Lutheran Church.

Solar Project Update: Installation is complete, and we are now running on solar power! The Allamakee

Energy District recently stopped by to take a look at the project.

Attention Members: Please contact the Church Office at 563-568-3623 or email stjohnswaukon@gmail.com with your current email, address, phone so we can update our records for all 2026 Church correspondence. If you prefer to pick up printed correspondence instead of receiving emails, please let us know. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

Share Your Time and Talents! Please mark the areas where you'd like to serve on the time-and-talent form, pick up a copy in the pews or the church office. Thank you for helping us grow in faith and service!

Please submit your 2025 contributions to the church office by Dec 30, 2025. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of St. John's Lutheran Church. Giving statements for Jan 1–Dec 2, 2025, have been emailed members who opted to receive their statements electronically, printed statements were mailed out. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

Church Committees: Please submit your reports to the church office by **Jan 8, 2026**, so the **Financial Review Committee** can complete their review for 2026.

Call Committee Update: We have completed the Ministry Site Profile and submitted it to Synod staff for review. We are continuing to move forward in the process. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to complete the Congregational Questionnaire. Copies are available in the narthex. Please return your completed form to the wooden drop box at the back of the church or to the church office.

Camp EWALU Summer camp registration IS NOW OPEN! **Adult Enrichment Event** with outdoor photographer Kip Ladage has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 15, at camp. **Winter Family Fun Day** is Saturday, January 17, at camp and would make a great group outing for youth and families. Registration is NOW OPEN on the website www.ewalu.org/Summer-Camp, or call the EWALU office M-F at 563-933-4700.

Volunteers for Jan 4, 2026 service:

Ushers for January: 8:30 am Tom & Bev Leiran Family; 10:30 am: Yohe/Fahey Family

Greeters: 8:30 am Bev Haas 10:30 am:

Readers: 8:30 am Mary Jackson; 10:30 am Kristi Fahey

Comm. Asst: 8:30am Randy Hesse, Bonnie Roe, Sarah Bieber; 10:30am Wendy Bucheit

Comm. Prep: 8:30am Bev Leiran, Kreegan Leiran; 10:30am Carole Yohe, Kristi Fahey

We are pleased to welcome Pastor Mark Oehlert, Peosta, IA ~ please see your January Newsletter for his introduction letter.