

**The Second Sunday of Christmas**  
**January 4, 2026, 8:30 A.M.**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**

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

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

*Pat A Pan*

*James Biery*

**Ringing of the Church Bell**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

page 116-117

**L:** Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

**C: Amen.**

**L:** 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.**

**L:** Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin. 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.**

**L:** 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**

**Brightest and Best...**

*ELW # 303 VS 1-3*

*\*Noisy Offering will be gathered during hymn*

**Greeting and Kyrie**

pp. 147-148

**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**

**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** (This is the feast)

pp. 149-150

L: This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia.

**C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever, Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Prayer of the Day:**

**P:** Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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: Jeremiah 31: 7-14**

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock." <sup>11</sup> For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

**Psalm: 147: 12-20 (read responsively)**

**P:** <sup>12</sup> Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

**C:** <sup>13</sup> who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.

**P:** <sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**C:** <sup>15</sup> God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.

**P:** <sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

C: <sup>17</sup> God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?

P: <sup>18</sup> The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

C: <sup>19</sup> God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.

P: <sup>20</sup> The Lord has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

### Second Reading: Ephesians 1: 3-14

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Special Music/Anthem

*Take This Light*

Mark Patterson

*Senior Choir and Handbells*

Children's Message (*Noisy Offering will be taken*)

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: John 1: [1-9] 10-18

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.] <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**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:***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

ELW#815

**Offering Prayer:**

P: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow upon us. . 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:** L: Hear Us, O God.... C: Your mercy is great.

**The Words of Institution****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.

**Communion Distribution Hymns:** ELW# 294, *In the Bleak Midwinter*

**Prayer Following Communion:**

P: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

**C: Amen.****Benediction:**

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,  $\pm$  bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**C: Amen.****Closing Hymn:***Shine, Jesus Shine*

ELW# 671

**Dismissal:** P: Glory to God in the highest!

**C: And peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:***As with Gladness*

Wayne Wold

<u>Activities this Week at St. John's</u>		<u>Jan 4, 2026, to Jan 14, 2026</u>
Sun, Jan 4	8:30am & 10:30am	Worship Services W/ Communion *Noisy Offering
	9:30am	Senior Choir
Wed, Jan 7	6:00pm	Youth Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Senior Bell Choir, Confirmation
Sun, Jan 11	8:30am & 10:30am	Worship Services
	9:30am	Senior Choir/Sunday School
	7:00 pm	Men's Choir
Tues, Jan 13	7:00pm	No Sarah Circle until April
	7:00pm	Virtually Dorcas Circle
Wed, Jan 14	6:00pm	Youth Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Senior Bell Choir, Confirmation
<b>General Funds</b> (undesignated)		<b>Attendance</b>
<b>Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2025</b>		Christmas Eve 296
Actual Income	\$210,197	Last Sunday 44
Actual Expenses	\$168,419	2025 Average 103
<b>Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2025</b>		2024 Average 99
Budget Expenses	\$203,089	
Greeters	8:30am 10:30am	Russ & Mary Jo Meyer Family
Readers	8:30am 10:30am	Mary Jackson Kris Fahey
Comm. Asst	8:30am 10:30am	Russ & Mary Jo Meyer Family, Sarah Bieber Wendy Buchheit
Comm. Prep	8:30am 10:30am	Bev Leiran, Kreegan Leiran Carole Yohe, Kristi Fahey
Ushers	8:30am 10:30am	Tom & Bev Leiran Family Yohe/Fahey Family
Secretary		Lana Dahlstrom
Custodians		John & Sharon Roe
Organist/Director of Music		James H. Bieber
Pastor		Mark Oehlert

Today we welcome our **Interim Pastor, Mark Oehlert of Peosta, Iowa**, who will be leading us in worship. Please refer to the January 2026 newsletter for his dates of worship and times in the office.

**Radio Broadcast Ministry** Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by generous donations in memory of Victor Stuckman. We thank you for your faithful support of this meaningful 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.

**Attention Members:** Please contact the Church Office at **563-568-3623** or email [stjohnswaukon@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnswaukon@gmail.com) with your current email, address, phone so we can update our records for all 2026 Church correspondence. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

**The 2026 Mailing Directories** are now available! Please pick up your copy in the Church Narthex.

**Baby kits** are again being made for World Relief. Thrivent Action Teams contributed \$250 to complete 20 kits with what we already had collected. You can help by supplying a larger blanket 36"-50", smaller blanket, 2 t-shirts (Sz 3-24 Mo), a sweatshirt with a hood, 2 sleepers or pajamas without feet, socks, or cloth flat fold diapers. Things can be gently used if donated. Thank you to all that keep this project going!

Thank you for your continued support of St. John's Lutheran Church. 2025 giving statements (**Jan 1-Dec 31**) will be printed after **January 5, 2026**, and mailed with the **2026 Pledge Cards**. Questions may be directed to the Church Office.

**Church Committees:** We ask all committees to submit their reports to the church office by **January 8, 2026**, to allow the Financial Review Committee to complete its work. The Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 25, 2026. Please watch for confirmation following approval by the Church Officers and Board of Trustees.

**Call Committee Update:** We have completed the Ministry Site Profile and submitted it to Synod staff for review, and we continue to move forward in the call process. If you have not already completed the Congregational Questionnaire, we invite you to do so. Copies are available in the narthex. Please return completed questionnaires 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](http://www.ewalu.org/Summer-Camp), or call the EWALU office M-F at 563-933-4700.

We have received many wonderful thank-you notes for our church contributions. Please take a moment to view them on the bulletin board.

**Volunteers for Jan 11, 2026, service (Epiphany Sunday):**

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

Greeters: 8:30 am Lee & Chris Ellickson 10:30 am:

Readers: 8:30 am Dave Sanderson; 10:30 am Ed Stamper