

**The Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 7, 2025, 8:30 A.M.**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**

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

**Prelude: The Waukon High School Choir, directed by Molly Woodard**

**Announcements**

**Ringing of the Church Bell**

**The Lighting of the Advent Candle**

*The Candle of Peace*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

page 116-117

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**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: 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.**

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**

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

ELW # 264 VS 1-3

**Greeting and Kyrie**

*"In peace, let us pray..."*

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.**

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**

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:** L: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming, nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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: First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10**

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Psalm: Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19**

P: <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

C: <sup>2</sup> that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

P: <sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

C: <sup>4</sup> Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

P: <sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

C: <sup>6</sup> Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

P: <sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

C: <sup>18</sup> Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!

P: <sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory.

Amen. Amen.

## Second Reading: Romans 15: 4-13

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”; <sup>10</sup> and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”; <sup>11</sup> and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; <sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.” <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

*“Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?”*

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

**Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12**

**Glory to you, O Lord/Praise to you, O Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” <sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

**Message**

**Pastor Charis Combs-Lay**

**Confession of Faith**

**Apostles' 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.**

**The Offering Hymn**

*He Came Down*

ELW # 253

**The Offering Prayer:** L: Holy God, maker of all things, who nourishes us with water and the WORD, through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love. Through this meal, refresh us with the gift of life, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church:** L: God of grace... C: Hear our prayer

**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 Songs:** ELW # 254; *Come, thou Long Expected Jesus*  
ELW # 260 *The King Shall Come*

**Prayer Following Communion** L: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have fed us with joy and gladness at this table. Send us forth, eager to share your word, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. C: Amen

**Benediction**

P: May the God who comes among us, Father + Son and Holy Spirit grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness and good news to share today and always. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen

**Closing Hymn**

*On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*

ELW # 249

**Dismissal:** P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

**Postlude:**

O Thou of God the Father

J.S. Bach

<u>Activities this Week at St. John's</u>		<u>Dec 7, 2025, to Dec 14, 2025</u>
Sun, Dec 7	8:30am & 10:30am 8:30-8:45 am 9:30am 7pm 8pm	Worship Services w/ Comm *Noisy Offering Waukon HS Choir-Church Tour Sr Choir, Sun School Ecumenical Choir Men's Choir
Wed, Dec 10	6pm 7pm	Youth Bells Confirmation & Sr Bells
Sun, Dec 14	8:30am & 10:30am 9:30am 1pm 7pm	Worship Services Sr Choir, Sunday School Ecumenical Choir Rehearsal Ecumenical Concert

**General Funds** (undesignated)

**Jan 1 – Dec 3, 2025**

Actual Income	\$187,533
Actual Expenses	\$160,134

**Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2025**

Budget Expenses	\$203,089
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Greeters	8:30am 10:30am	Bill & Sue Blagsvedt
Readers	8:30am 10:30am	Joan Moody Randy Johnsen
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 welcome **Pastor Charis Combs-Lay** from Oelwein, Iowa, as she leads us in worship today. We're grateful for her presence and ministry among us today.

**Radio Broadcast Ministry** Today's radio broadcast is made possible through the generous donations of our congregation. Thank you for your 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.

**Solar Project:** Installation is complete, and we are running on solar power!

Grateful hearts are getting **food baskets** ready for Christmas. The grocery cart is located in the coat room with a list of items. Please donate generously to this cause and if you would rather donate money, please make a check out to the St. John's and write Food Baskets in the memo. Thank You!

**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. 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!** St. John's is blessed with many gifts. Please mark the areas where you'd like to serve on the time-and-talent form emailed to you, or pick up a copy in the pews or church office. Thank you for helping our community grow in faith and service!

Please submit your **2025 contributions** to the church office by **December 30, 2025**. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of **St. John's Lutheran Church**. Giving statements for 2025 will be emailed in the coming week and mailed to those without email. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

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

**Call Committee Update** A congregational questionnaire has been prepared to help shape our ministry profile. If you have not yet completed one, 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.

**Waukon High School Choir – 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Church Tour:** The choir will perform [here](#) on **Sun, Dec 7, from 8:30–8:45 AM**. This visit also serves as a preview of the Waukon High School Band and Vocal Winter Concert on **Mon, Dec 15 at 7 PM**.

**Decorah Chorale Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Annual “Home for Christmas” Concert Dec 13.** The Decorah Chorale joyfully invites you to its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual “Home for Christmas” concert on Sat, Dec 13, at 7:00 p.m. at Decorah Lutheran Church. This cherished holiday tradition - now in its twenty-fifth year of supporting Winneshiek County Habitat for Humanity - promises an evening of festive music and cheer. The program will feature Christmas classics, along with other seasonal pieces.

**The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Allamakee Ecumenical Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols** will be held **Sun, Dec 14 at 7:00 PM** at **St. John's Lutheran Church in Waukon**. This candlelight service includes Scripture readings from local clergy, congregational carols accompanied by organ, and musical offerings from the Ecumenical Choir, Ecumenical Men's Choir, the **Ecumenical Children's Choir**, St. John's Youth and Senior Handbell Choirs, and the Waukon High School Brass Quintet. **A reception will follow the service.** All are welcome to join in this beautiful community celebration of the Christmas story. The program is directed by **James H. Bieber**, assisted by **Sarah J. Sweeney**. A reception will follow the service, and the concert will also be broadcast on **KNEI 103.5 on Christmas Day at 10:00 AM**.

You and your family are invited to the **Luren Singers Christmas Concert** on Sun, Dec 14 - 3:00 p.m. at Decorah Lutheran Church, 309 Winnebago St., Decorah, IA. The theme of the concert is “Angels We Have Heard” featuring Guest Artists The Rhapsody String Quartet. Pianists are Dr. Jessica Paul and Chris Hadley. Dr. David Judisch and Doug Poppen will be conducting. Free Will Offering will be accepted.

**Volunteers for Dec 14 service:**

Ushers for November: 8:30 am John Bauercamper, Jens Kallevang, Randy Hesse 10:30 am:

Greeters: 8:30 am Cindy Wuebker Family 10:30 am:

Readers: 8:30 am Bailey Benson 10:30 am Mary Jackson

We are pleased to host Pastor Waldemar Gies, Rochester MN.