

**The Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 25, 2026 8:30 AM/10:30AM**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**

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

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

*Jesus Love Me*

*Charles Callahan*

**Ringing of the Church Bell**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

**page 116-117**

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, <sup>☩</sup> one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, who sent His Son, Jesus to be the light of the world.

**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. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light and have been made 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**

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

*ELW# 798 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.**

**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 (*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. Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us, and follows after us. As you called the disciples to leave their fishing nets and follow you, summon us out of the darkness and into your light. Direct our steps as we gather to hear your Word. Send us to share the good news that others may be "caught in the net" of God's gracious love, and mercy that comes through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 9: 1-4**

L: <sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (read responsively)**

P: <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then, shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**C: <sup>4</sup> One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.**

P: <sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

**C: <sup>6</sup> Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore, I will offer sacrifices in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

P: <sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

C: <sup>8</sup> My heart speaks your message—“Seek my face.” Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

P: <sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

*Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.*

L: <sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Special Music:

*Give Me The Love  
Senior Choir*

*Eugene Bulter*

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 4: 12-23

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

P: <sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. <sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and

proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

**Message**

**“From Darkness to Light”**

**Pastor Ron Barth**

**Confession of Faith**

***Apostle's Creed***

**page 127**

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:**

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

*ELW #671*

**Offering Prayer:**

P: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet you reveal the wideness of your mercy and love in sending your Son. Use what we have gathered to feed all in need in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church:** P: Merciful God....

**C: Receive our prayer!**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**page 112**

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 Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the 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:**

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

*ELW# 674*

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:**

*Finale from Album Gregorian 1895*

*Eugene Gigout*

<u>Activities this Week at St. John's</u>		<u>Jan 25, 2026, to Feb 4, 2026</u>
Sun, Jan 25	8:30am & 10:30am	Worship Services
	9:30am	Senior Choir/Sunday School
	11:00am	LYO Luncheon
	12:30pm	Annual Meeting
	7:00 pm	Men's Choir
Tues, Jan 27	1:00pm	Northgate Visit
	2:00pm	Good Sam Visit
	2:45pm	Evergreen Court Visit
Wed, Jan 28	6:00pm	Youth Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Senior Bell Choir, Confirmation
Sun, Feb 1	8:30am & 10:30am	Worship Services W/Comm *Noisy Offering
	9:30am	Senior Choir/Sunday School
	7:00 pm	Men's Choir
Wed, Feb 4	6:00pm	Youth Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Senior Bell Choir, Confirmation

### **General Funds (undesignated)**

<b>Jan 1 – Jan 21, 2026</b>		<b>2026 Average</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>\$6,459.31</b>	<b>2025 Average</b>	<b>103</b>

Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2026

**Budget Expenses** **\$17,239**

<b>Greeters</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	
	<b>10:30am</b>	
<b>Readers</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Brenda Dougherty</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Linda Groe</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Tom &amp; Bev Leiran Family</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Yohe/Fahey Family</b>
<b>Secretary</b>		<b>Lana Dahlstrom</b>
<b>Custodians</b>		<b>John &amp; Sharon Roe</b>
<b>Organist/Director of Music</b>		<b>James H. Bieber</b>
<b>Guest Pastor</b>		<b>Ron Barth</b>

We are delighted to welcome our guest pastor today, Ron Barth from Owatonna, MN, who will be leading us in worship.

**Radio Broadcast Ministry** Today's radio broadcast is made possible through the generous donations of our congregation. We are grateful for your faithful 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 2026 Mailing Directories are now available! Please pick up your copy in the Church Narthex.**

**Thank you for your continued support of St. John's Lutheran Church.**

**2025 giving statements (January 1–December 31) were mailed on Monday, January 12, along with the 2026 pledge cards. Please direct any questions to the Church Office.**

The **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for TODAY, January 25 at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting booklets are in the Narthex. The **LYO** will be having their annual soup, sandwich, and dessert Luncheon prior to the Annual Meeting on serving from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm. They will be serving soup and chili, along with ham and grilled cheese sandwiches, dessert, coffee and milk.

**Call Committee Update:** We are pleased to share that our Ministry Site Profile has been completed and submitted to the Synod staff for review, and we continue to move forward in the call process. If you have not yet completed the Congregational Questionnaire, please do so. Copies are available in the narthex. Completed questionnaires may be returned to the wooden drop box at the back of the church or to the Church Office.

**Camp EWALU** Summer camp registration IS NOW OPEN! 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.

**Grace for the Journey Women's Conference.** Saturday, January 31, IC-Lansing, 8:30-2:00 pm. See flyer on bulletin board to register.

**Christian Experience Weekend (CEW)** The weekend is open to anyone age 18 and older. All faiths are welcome. Attendance is limited, and advance registration is required. The Men's Weekend will take place February 20–22; The Women's Weekend will take place February 27–March 1 both will be held at Village Creek Bible Camp. The cost is also \$120. Limited scholarships are available for those unable to afford the full cost of the weekend. For more information or registration forms, please see the bulletin board.

**Brooke Robertson, Christian music artist,** will be at Iron Ridge Church on Saturday, March 14, at 7:00 p.m. All youth grades 6 through young adult are invited! This is a great opportunity for youth from all denominations to gather, worship, and get to know one another in fellowship. *See the bulletin board for more information.*

**Volunteers for Feb 1, 2026, service:**

Ushers for January: 8:30 am Scott Houg, Logan Houg, Dave, Wendy Sanderson; 10:30 am:

Greeters: 8:30 am Jens & Jane Kallevang 10:30 am:

Readers: 8:30 am Chris Engstrom; 10:30 am Linda Groe

Comm. Asst	8:30am	Jens & Jane Kallevang, Bev Haas
	10:30am	Linda Groe
Comm. Prep	8:30am	Cindy Barness, Nona Sawyer
	10:30am	Sherry Knudtson, Kasey Iverson