

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026 8:30 A.M.

St. John's Lutheran Church

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

Announcements

Prelude:

Ringling of the Church Bell

Confession and Forgiveness

page 116-117

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being.

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 turn in confession to the one who knows us completely. Mighty God,

C: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

L: God, shows us His mercy in that He loves us even when we are convicted of our sin. God covers all who believe, with the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✠ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

ELW # 308 VS 1-3

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: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 49: 1-7

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God." ⁵ And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—⁶ he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." ⁷ Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Psalms: 40: 1-11 (read responsively)

P: ¹ I waited patiently upon the Lord, who stooped to me and heard my cry.

C: ² The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.

P: ³ The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

C: ⁴ Happy are they who trust in the Lord! They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

P: ⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you! Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

C: ⁶ Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.

P: ⁷ And so I said, "Here I am; I come. In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

C: ⁸ 'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.' "

P: ⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly; I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

C: ¹⁰ I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.

P: ¹¹ You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Special Music/Anthem

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: John 1: 29-42

Glory to You, O Lord! / Praise to You, O Christ!

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One." ³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Message

Pastor Mark Oehlert

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: *Jesus Calls Us: O'er the Tumult* ELW# 696 VS 1-3

Offering Prayer:

P: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church: L: Merciful God....

C: Receive 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 Distribution Hymns : ELW# 336 *Lamb of God* ELW# 448 *This is the Spirit's Entry Now*

Prayer Following Communion:

P: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction:

P: 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: *Hail To the Lord's Anointed* ELW# 311 VS 1-3

Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Activities this Week at St. John's**Jan 18, 2026, to Jan 28, 2026**

Sun, Jan 18	8:30am & 10:30am 9:30am Update 1/14 No Men's Choir	Worship Services W/ Communion Senior Choir/Sunday School
Tues, Jan 20	1:30pm 6:00pm	WELCA mtg, Lounge Trustee Mtg
Wed, Jan 21	6:00pm 7:00pm	Youth Bell Choir Senior Bell Choir, Confirmation
Sun, Jan 25	8:30am & 10:30am 9:30am 11:00am 12:30pm 7:00 pm	Worship Services Senior Choir/Sunday School LYO Luncheon Annual Meeting Men's Choir
Tues, Jan 27	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm	Northgate Visit Good Sam Visit Evergreen Court Visit
Wed, Jan 28	6:00pm 7:00pm	Youth Bell Choir Senior Bell Choir, Confirmation

General Funds (undesignated)**Attendance****Jan 1 – Jan 14, 2026**

2026 Average 86

Actual Income \$5,111.81

2025 Average 103

Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2026

Budget Expenses \$17,239

Greeters	8:30am 10:30am	David & Wendy Sanderson
Readers	8:30am 10:30am	Sue Blagsvedt Karen Stamper
Ushers	8:30am 10:30am	Tom & Bev Leiran Family Yohe/Fahey Family
Comm. Asst	8:30am 10:30am	Randy Hesse, Bonnie Roe, Vickie Larson Karen Stamper
Comm. Prep	8:30am 10:30am	Kayla Leiran, Kreed Leiran Altar Guild
Secretary		Lana Dahlstrom
Custodians		John & Sharon Roe
Organist/Director of Music		James H. Bieber
Interim Pastor		Mark Oehlert

Today we are pleased to welcome our Interim **Pastor, Mark Oehlert**, as he leads 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.

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 (January 1–December 31) were mailed on Monday, January 12, along with the 2026 pledge cards.

Please direct any questions to the Church Office.

Church Committees: All committees were asked to submit their reports to the Church Office by January 8, 2026, to allow the Financial Review Committee to complete its work. Committees that have not submitted a report will be listed as "Report Pending" in the 2025 Annual Report.

Please contact the Church Office with questions or to inquire about late submissions.

The **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for January 25, 2026 at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The **LYO** will be having their annual soup, sandwich, and dessert Luncheon prior to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2026, serving from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm. We will be serving soup and chili, along with ham and grilled cheese sandwiches, dessert, coffee and milk.

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 yet 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! Registration is NOW OPEN on the website www.ewalu.org/Summer-Camp, or call the EWALU office M-F at 563-933-4700.

Walk with Ease February 2- April 2 Monday/Thursday 2-3pm at the Waukon Wellness Center. Registration deadline January 16, see bulletin board for more information.

Volunteers for Jan 25, 2026, service:

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

Greeters: 8:30 am 10:30 am:

Readers: 8:30 am Brenda Dougherty; 10:30 am Linda Groe