

*Our mission is to glorify God as we seek to make disciples of all nations
by bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people within and outside
of the one holy Christian Church.*

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ST. JOHNS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Missouri Synod)

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Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022

Divine Service, Setting Three, LSB Page 184

The Sermon: "The Sign"

The Text: Isaiah 7:10-17

The Special Music:

"He is Born"/"Christmas Hymn" - Sr. Choir

"Christmas Night"/"How Far Is It to Bethlehem" - Bell Choir

The Opening Hymn: *"Joy Has Dawned" (on screen)*

The Hymn of Praise: *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LSB 357*
(vs. 1,5)

The Sermon Hymn: *"The Angel Gabriel" LSB 356*

The Communion Hymns (10:30 a.m.):
"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" LSB 338
"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" LSB 341

The Closing Hymn: *"Angels We Have Heard on High" LSB 368*

+Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. service today. Guests, it is our desire for you to commune with us. In the Lord's Supper, in with and under the bread and the wine, we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. You should also know that when you commune with a group of Christians, you are saying you agree with the teachings of that church body. If you are a member of a different church body, please use this time for prayer and reflection upon God's Word. We then invite you to speak with one of the pastors about how you, too, can share in this wonderful gift. If you believe what Christ says about His supper and share the beliefs we have at St. Johns, an LCMS congregation, you are welcome to join us for communion. Gluten free wafers are available. If you prefer a gluten free wafer please let the pastors know.

This Week at St. Johns

Monday	Staff Meeting	8:45 AM
Tuesday	Bible Study - <i>Provoking Proverbs</i>	8:30 AM
Tuesday	TOPS	9:00 AM
Wednesday	Release Time Classes	8:25 AM
Wednesday	Bible Study - <i>"A Christmas Carol"</i>	10:30 AM
Wednesday	Bell Choir	5:00 PM
Wednesday	Senior Choir	5:30 PM
Saturday	Christmas Eve Services	1:00, 3:00, 5:30 PM

Next Sunday - Christmas Day

Christmas Worship (Comm.)	9:00 AM
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FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR this morning were given in loving memory of Don Town by his family.

ON MAIN STREET LIVING NORTH: Rev. Craig Fenske, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message. Lutheran Hour seasonal program: "Christmas Is" - A shepherd in a Christmas play learns the importance of Christmas. Main Street Living is broadcast Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on KVRr Fargo-Moorhead or watch online at www.mainstreetliving.com, "North (Fargo)."

LISTEN to the Lutheran Hour Sundays on KPRM 870 AM at 9:30 a.m., or KTIG 102.7 and 95.9 FM at 5:00 p.m. You can also listen on Sirius XM Family Talk Channel 133 on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. or any time on lhm.org/sentradio. Today's sermon is titled "Gestures of Hope" (Isaiah 7:14). Speaker, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler shows how even the smallest acts of kindness can go a long way, by God's grace.

COOKIES AND CAROLS is between services this morning. We will sing our favorite carols and indulge in our favorite cookies! After singing, the Board of Fellowship will make up gift packages of goodies and deliver them to our shut-ins.

BASKET FUNDRAISER: We'll close bidding on our record number of baskets today during Cookies and Carols.

Proceeds go to Good Shepherd, North Fort Myers, Florida for hurricane relief. Thanks to everyone who donated and bid on the baskets!

LUMINARIES: Honor or remember a loved one on Christmas Eve with a luminary. Forms are available by the church office. Freewill donations for the youth are appreciated. Place your form and donation in the envelope by the office by December 18. All luminary information will be printed in a special insert for Christmas Eve services.

STAR TRIP, the Sunday School's Christmas play, will be presented this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in the social hall with cookies and hot chocolate following the program.

RECEIVED into God's family through Holy Baptism yesterday was Noah Malaki Koch, infant son of Caroline Koch. "See this wonder in the making: God Himself this child is taking as a lamb safe in His keeping, His to be awake or sleeping."

TOYS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS AND TINY TOTS: Thank you, St. Johns parishioners! You donated gifts to help make this a happier Christmas for 56 children in 17 local families. The Board of Evangelism would like to thank you for your generosity and Christmas spirit.

COME CELEBRATE the birth of Jesus with us at our Christmas Eve services on December 24 at 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. We will have one service with communion at 9:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. No coffee, Sunday School or Bible study that day. Worship Christ, the newborn King!
WORSHIP CHANGES IN JANUARY: **Worship will be at 9:00 a.m. with communion on the first and third Sunday. Coffee, Sunday School and Bible study will be at 10:15 a.m.**
SUNDAY SCHOOL: Att. - 20. Offering - \$13.00.

LAST SUNDAY: Att. 8:00 a.m. - 84. 10:30 a.m. - 49. Total - 133. Offering: Unified (Envelopes) - \$5,330.00. Unified (Electronic) - \$695.63. Plate - \$100.01. Ladies Aid - \$50.00. Front Entry - \$70.00. Advent - \$75.00. Healthy Balance - \$25.00. Total - \$6,345.64.

ADVENT SERVICE: Att. Noon - 16. 6:00 p.m. - 32. Total - 48. Offering: Unified - \$125.00. Advent - \$245.00. Plate - \$10.00. Front Entry - \$1,500.00. Bd for Higher Ed. - \$100.00. Christmas Eve - \$10.00. Christmas Day - \$10.00. New Year's Eve - \$10.00. Total - \$2,130.00.

From the December, 1982 Newsletter:

How Shall We Keep Christmas?

Xmas	or	Christmas
Xhausting preparations		+
Xtensive shopping		My
Xtreme decorations		Savior,
Xciting parties		Grant me
Xcessive feasting		Thy grace
Xtravagant gifts		that I may find
Xalting Santa		fullness of joy in
Xcluding Christ		the forgiveness of sins
		obtained for me by Thy birth,
		Thy life, and Thy death.
		Amen.

Let us keep Christ in Christmas by kneeling in worship with the shepherds, and like them, make known abroad His salvation!