

December 13 & 16, 2018



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

Juneau, Wisconsin



St. John's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Spreading the Joy of Christmas throughout Dodge County.

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: Our Lord Jesus is coming, bearing real gifts, profoundly important gifts. He came that first Christmas to win forgiveness and give all the gifts that come with it: hope, peace, joy, love. He is coming again at the end of this world to give the gift of resurrection to eternal life. In the season of Advent, we connect Christ's first coming with his second coming. We rejoice in all the unconditional gifts he gives. Each Sunday during the gathering rite Advent candles are lighted. Music occurs throughout this rite to accompany singing and as background music to communicate themes of longing and repentance.

THEME OF THE DAY: The ancient church had Latin titles for all their Sundays. They called the third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin word *gaudete* means rejoice. On some Advent wreaths, the third candle is a pinkish rose color, symbolizing joy.

An encouragement to rejoice might sound odd in light of this Advent season's themes, especially Christ's second coming to this world. We have seen that when Jesus comes again he is going to judge all mankind and destroy the universe. Even the gospel reading for today warns about "the coming wrath" which will include "unquenchable fire." If that is what Christ will bring at his second coming, how can we possibly live joyfully?

Answer: because of Christ's first coming. When Jesus came that first Christmas, it wasn't to bring judgment, but to bear judgment. Jesus was born, not to punish sin, but to be punished for sin. All those with faith in Christ know that when he comes for the second time, it will be to deliver us, not destroy us. He will not increase our pain but take every pain away. Then, and not a moment before, our lives will finally be perfect! And so, we live joyfully and thankfully, looking forward to Christ's return.

Advent 2018 - Joy

Hymn #5 v. 1-4

“As Angels Joyed with One Accord”

Please stand

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND LIGHTING RITE

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation-the human race-in his image (Genesis 1:26). Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C: **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death (Romans 6:23). We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

M: However, God-who is Love-did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

All:

O, come, O, come, Em-man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Un-til the Son of God ap-pear. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven (Galatians 4:4,5). In view of God's mercy, today we light the joy candle. Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him (1 Peter 1:8).

C: **And we are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for we are receiving the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls** (1 Peter 1:8-9).

All:

O, come, our Joy, whose love for-gives— Whose death as-sures that
we will live! Move us to heed the call, "Re - pent!"
And trust, for your sake, God re - lents. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

M: In the joy of God we go to the world-to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16-18).

C: **God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:19-21).**

All:
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u-el Shall come to you, O Is - ra-el!

Please be seated

THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-17 (NIV)

The LORD has taken away the punishment of our sins. Therefore, the prophet tells us that when we see Christ, our joy will be complete...and also that the LORD will find joy in us.

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment,

he has turned back your enemy.
The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.
¹⁶ On that day
they will say to Jerusalem,
“Do not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.
¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7 (EHV)

Because our sins have been forgiven, Christ is always near us. We have the peace of knowing we will live forever with him. Therefore, we can live joyfully instead of anxiously, no matter our earthly circumstances.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Special Singing

8:00 am Service
10:30 am Service

Junior Choir
Adult Choir

"Alleluia Christ is Born"
"Come, Messiah!"

Please stand

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:7-18 (EHV)

Repentance is actually a joyful activity. While we are contrite about sin, we rejoice that we have a Savior whose life, death, and resurrection mean that we will escape sin's punishment. We joyfully turn to him in faith. And in gratitude, we joyfully produce fruits of repentance.

⁷ So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹ Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ The crowds began to ask him, “What should we do then?”

¹¹ He answered them, “Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”

¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³ To them he said, “Collect no more than what you were authorized to.”

¹⁴ Soldiers were also asking him, “And what should we do?”

He told them, “Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day #7

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Sermon

Luke 3:7-18

Please stand

Confession of Faith – Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

Offering / WELS Connection

Prayer of the Church for Advent

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent’s head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: **Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen. (spoken)

Please be seated

Closing Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee;
Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Pastor: David Brandt

Organist: Ruth Affeld

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**Poinsettias for Church:** Once again 35 poinsettias have been ordered from Robin's Countryside Gardens to be purchased by members. The cost for the plant is \$14. If you would like to donate a poinsettia to church for the Christmas season, please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

**Christmas Cards:** Ladies Aid now has their 2018 Christmas Cards for sale! Please place exact change or a check payable to St. John's Ladies Aid in the box downstairs next to the cards.

**2018 St. John's Pictorial Directories:** Our 2018 Pictorial Directories have arrived! Please pick yours up in the narthex today. There is a \$10 suggested donation per book to help cover the cost of printing. Thank you!

**Snow Removal:** Would you be willing to help with snow removal this upcoming winter? If so, this year our Trustees are looking to recreate a rotation of volunteers to be “on-call” for a few weeks during the winter season (similar to the lawn mowing schedule). If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up in the narthex.

**Young Adult Service:** We are inviting all our high school and college aged young adults to assist with a special Advent Service on Sunday, December 23rd in the 8 & 10:30 services. Our young adults will participate in a special choir for the service. The rehearsals are Sunday, December 16th from 9:15-10:15am and Saturday, December 22nd from 9:00-10:30am. Please contact the church office for more information at church@stjohnsjuneau.org or 386-3313. Thank you!

**Adopt a Seminary Family this Christmas:**

Please bring your gift for our “adopted” seminary family by Sunday, December 16th. You’ll find the drop box in the narthex on the table back by the library. Gift cards to restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, etc. are also a good idea! Thanks to all who are participating!

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Statistics for the weekend of</b> |             |
| <b>December 9th</b>                  |             |
| Attendance: 459 (52, 30, 190, 187)   |             |
| <b>Offerings given to our Lord:</b>  |             |
| General                              | \$14,329.03 |
| Debt                                 | \$758.00    |
| Improvement                          | \$75.00     |
| Lakeside                             | \$117.50    |
| Missions                             | \$1,059.50  |
| Total                                | \$16,339.03 |

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>This Week at St. John’s</b>      |  |
| Sunday (12/16)                      |  |
| Worship 8 & 10:30am                 |  |
| Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am  |  |
| Confirmation 9:15am                 |  |
| Blood Pressure Screening 9:15am     |  |
| Young Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:15am  |  |
| Church Council 10:30am              |  |
| Brass Choir Rehearsal 11:30am       |  |
| Monday (12/17)                      |  |
| Board of Education 7:00pm           |  |
| Tuesday (12/18)                     |  |
| Jesus Cares 1:30pm                  |  |
| Nehemiah Bible Class 7:00pm         |  |
| Wednesday (12/19)                   |  |
| Matthew’s Place 9:00am              |  |
| Clearview 10:00am                   |  |
| Shut-In Meeting 10:45am             |  |
| Mid-Week Communion                  |  |
| with Children 11:00am               |  |
| Confirmation 5:00pm                 |  |
| Choir 7:00pm                        |  |
| Thursday (12/20)                    |  |
| Worship 6:30pm                      |  |
| Friday (12/21)                      |  |
| Children’s Christmas Service 1:30pm |  |
| Saturday (12/22)                    |  |
| Young Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:00am  |  |
| Brass Choir Rehearsal 10:30am       |  |
| Christmas Worship in Horicon 5:00pm |  |

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

We are so glad you joined us to worship our Lord Jesus today. St. John's is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are happy to answer your questions about our service, our beliefs, or communicant membership in our congregation. Please join us again soon!

## INFORMATION

- Our ushers are here to point you in the right direction and assist you in any way. Please ask.
- Restrooms: our first restroom is located inside the comfort station/children's room by turning right outside the sanctuary doors. A second restroom is located left in the narthex, across from the elevator. Additional restrooms are in the basement.
- We have two comfort stations/children's rooms if your little ones need a moment. Proceed left out of the sanctuary doors and turn either right or left.
- Children's activity bags are available and are located in the comfort station/children's room. Proceed out of the sanctuary doors and turn right. We also have Children's Bulletins. Please ask an usher for assistance.



### Pastors:

David Brandt  
Paul Schupmann

### Principal:

Richard Cody

### Services in Juneau:

Thursday 6:30pm  
Sunday 8 & 10:30am

### Service in Horicon:

Saturday 5:00pm

### Bible Class:

Sunday 9:15am  
Select Tuesdays 7:00pm

### Sunday School:

Sunday 9:15am

### Church Office:

920-386-3313  
400 S. Main St.  
Juneau, Wisconsin

### School Office:

920-386-4644  
402 S. Main St.  
Juneau, Wisconsin

### Horicon Campus:

716 Clinton St.

Horicon, Wisconsin

[www.stjohnsjuneau.org](http://www.stjohnsjuneau.org)