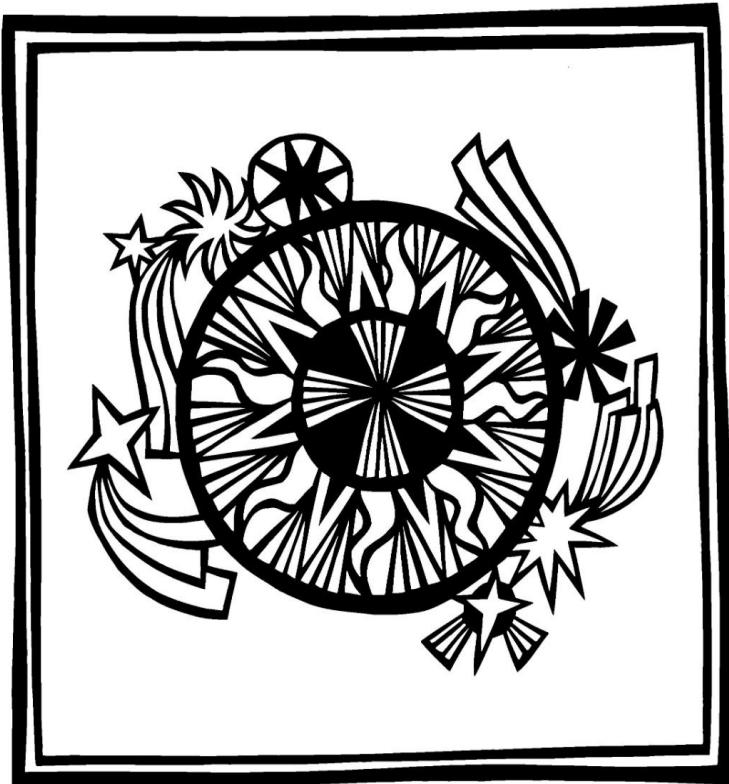


# St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH



## **Second Week of Christmas**

January 3, 2026 at 5:30 PM

January 4, 2026 at 9:30 AM

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church as we gather for this time of worship and reflection on God's love for the world.*

## **Worship Leaders – Saturday, January 3, 2026 (5:30 pm)**

<b>Deacon</b>	Sandy Smith
<b>Usher</b>	Elizabeth Fee
<b>Piano</b>	Susan Yokubonis
<b>Music Director</b>	Tori Hicks
<b>Welcome Center</b>	Nicki Alander
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Karen Becker, Chris Markwell

## **Worship Leaders – Sunday, January 4, 2026 (9:30 am)**

<b>Deacon</b>	Jill Doyle
<b>Usher</b>	Jon Blomquist, Erik Hoffman
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Joyce Vyhnanek
<b>Greeters</b>	Hoffman family
<b>Acolytes</b>	Connor Schlosser, Lilith Schlosser
<b>Piano &amp; Organ</b>	Janet Blomquist
<b>Music Director</b>	Tori Hicks
<b>Audio Board</b>	Bill Bromer
<b>Livestream</b>	Gordon Butler, Matt Markwell
<b>Counters</b>	Barb Furmankiewicz, Nancy Kautz
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Joan Nunemaker
<b>Wiggle Room</b>	Beth Marcum
<b>Welcome Center</b>	Ken & Erica Swanson

## **Contact Information**

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### **St. John Lutheran Church**

**2650 Plainfield Road, Joliet, IL 60435**

**815-439-2320 contact@stjohnjoliet.org stjohnjoliet.org**



**St. John by the Mall – Joliet, IL**



**St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet**

*\*Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

**Prelude (9:30)**

“Prelude (Op. 89, No. 3)”

Goltermann

## Welcome and Announcements

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

P      Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\ddagger$  one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace.

C      **Amen.**

P      Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P      Reconciling God,  
C      **we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.**  
**We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.  
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.  
We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.  
Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
Amen.**

P God's grace upon grace flows over you.  
 ‡ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.  
 Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C Amen.

## \*Opening Hymn

**"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"**

**# 288, Vs. 2-3**

## \*Greeting

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

*Assistant: In peace, in peace,*      *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mercy,  
 Christ, have mercy, Lord, have  
 mercy, - cy.

*Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)*

*Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)*

Help, save and defend us, O God.

*Congregation:*

A - - - - men.

**“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

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**Verse 1**      Angels we have heard on high,  
                    Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
                    And the mountains in reply,  
                    Echoing their joyous strains.

**Refrain**      Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
                    Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Verse 2**      Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
                    Why your joyous strains prolong?  
                    What the gladsome tidings be  
                    Which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

P      The Lord be with you.  
C      **And also with you.**

P      Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light  
                    and wisdom of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to  
                    reflect your light and wisdom in all that we do, through Jesus Christ,  
                    our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
                    Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C      **Amen.**

**Reading****Sirach 24:1-12**

D      A reading from the book of Sirach, the 24th chapter.  
                    Listen for the Word of the Lord.  
C      **Our hearts are open.**

Wisdom praises herself  
    and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.  
In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,  
    and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:  
“I came forth from the mouth of the Most High  
    and covered the earth like a mist.  
I encamped in the heights,  
    and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.  
Alone I compassed the vault of heaven  
    and traversed the depths of the abyss.  
Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,  
    and over every people and nation I have held sway.  
Among all these I sought a resting place;  
    in whose inheritance should I abide?

"Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,  
and my Creator pitched my tent.  
He said, 'Encamp in Jacob,  
and in Israel receive your inheritance.'  
Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,  
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.  
In the holy tent I ministered before him,  
and so I was established in Zion.  
Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place,  
and in Jerusalem was my domain.  
I took root in an honored people;  
in the portion of the Lord is my inheritance.

D Word of God, Word of Life!  
C **Thanks be to God!**

**Special Music**     "Go Tell It On the Mountain"     arr. Liles  
**The Refourmers**  
*Trenton Ferro, Glenn Faikus  
Stephen Heath, Jim Eklund*

**Responsive Reading**     **Psalm 147:12-20**

D A responsive reading from the book of Psalms.  
Listen for the Word of the Lord.  
C **Our hearts are open.**

Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!  
**For he strengthens the bars of your gates;**  
**he blesses your children within you.**

He grants peace within your borders;  
he fills you with the finest of wheat.  
**He sends out his command to the earth;**  
**his word runs swiftly.**

He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters frost like ashes.  
**He hurls down hail like crumbs—**  
**who can stand before his cold?**

He sends out his word and melts them;  
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.  
**He declares his word to Jacob,**  
**his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know his ordinances.  
Praise the LORD!

D Word of God, Word of Life!  
C Thanks be to God!

### \*Gospel Acclamation

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

### \*Gospel

**John 1:1-18**

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.  
C **Glory to you O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ")

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**D** Word of God, Word of Life!  
**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## **Children's Sermon (9:30)**

*After the Children's Sermon, parents with children of all ages, may bring them to the Wiggle Room Leader standing at the end of the center aisle. They will then take the children to the Wiggle Room. The children will return to the sanctuary during the Sharing of the Peace.*

## Reflection & Prayer Station

Pastor Evan Mayhew

## Reflection Music

**“The Father’s Rose”**  
*Susan Yokubonis, piano (5:30)*

“Still, Still, Still”  
*Janet Blomquist, piano (9:30)*

arr. Martin

## \*Hymn of the Day

## **“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”**

**# 295, Vs. 1-5**

## Prayers of the Church

*In the hope of God's grace and salvation, the church prays for all the great needs of the world.*

*Your prayer requests may be shared silently during today's prayers, by filling out a green prayer request card in your pew or completing the Prayer Request form at [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org).*

P Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*Congregation sings the response:*

### **“Deep Peace”**

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**Deep peace of the running waves,  
Deep peace of the flowing air,  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P With the joy of Christ’s birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

### **\*Sharing the Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share the peace with those around you.  
Feel free to introduce yourself to someone new,  
to hug someone you haven’t seen in a while,  
and to relish in the joy of community.*

**Offertory (9:30)**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

arr. Keveren

### **Commitment to Community**

*Today we celebrate the gift of God’s love for the world. In turn, we share that love by giving what we feel called and able to give. We pray that whatever we offer of our time, money, and talents will be used by the Holy Spirit to create a more purposeful world of love and belonging for one another.*

*Let our offering give birth to a better world.*

*Please place any financial gifts, attendance sheets, and prayer requests in the offering plate when it comes to you and pass it on to the person next to you or behind you. May God bless your generous heart!*



Now Accepting



## \*Offertory Response

# 465, Vs. 1

### **“As the Grains of Wheat”**

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#### **Refrain**

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
Were gathered into one to become our bread;  
So may all your people from all the ends of earth  
Be gathered into one in you.

#### **Verse**

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst  
May we share the presence of your love. **Refrain**

## \*Offertory Prayer

D Let us pray. **God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## \*Great Thanksgiving

*Presider:*

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

*Presider:*

Lift up your hearts. We

*Presider:*

lift them to the Lord. Let us give

*Congregation:*

thanks to the Lord our God. It is

*Congregation:*

right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav-en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless-ed is the  
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## \*Words of Institution

### \*The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

### \*Invitation to Communion

P God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!  
C Thanks be to God!

## Distribution

*We believe Jesus Christ is the host of this table,  
his true presence is in this meal, and you are welcome to receive  
the bread and wine of resurrection.*

*If you prefer your child to receive a blessing,  
place your hand upon their head or their hands.*

### Communion Instruction

- You will be invited forward by the usher or pastor.
- To receive communion, hold your hands open to receive the bread in your palm.
- Gluten-free/vegan wafers are available upon request. Inform the pastor when receiving communion.
- Red wine is on the outer rings of the tray; white grape juice is on the inner rings of the tray.
- After receiving communion, place the used communion cup in the basket, and return to your pew via the side aisle.
- If you prefer to receive communion in your pew, communion pods are available at the entrance to the sanctuary. The pastor will say the words of distribution after the Invitation to Communion.

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have  
you are the way of jus-tice and peace:  
you are God's light to all of the world:  
mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:  
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Music

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

**# 294, Vs. 1-3**

“Once In Royal David’s City”

**# 269, Vs. 1, 2, 4**

**\*Blessing** (9:30)

C      Amen.

**\*Prayer after Communion**

D      Let us pray. Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C      Amen.

**\*Benediction**

*Congregation:*



A

-

men.

**\*Sending Song**

**# 269, Vs. 2**

**“Once in Royal David’s City”**

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**Verse 2**

He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

**\*Sending**

D      Glory to God in the highest!  
C      **And peace to God’s people on earth!**  
D      Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.  
C      **Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude (9:30)

## “Once In Royal David’s City” (reprise)

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# January

<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 4</b>	<i>(Monthly Special Offering: Daybreak)</i>
9:30am - 10:30am	Worship: Sanctuary
9:45am - 10:00am	Sunday School Sings Rehearsal (RECESS)
9:45am - 10:45am	Sunday School: Karin Johnson Hall, West Wing (RECESS)
10:45am - 11:45am	Forum: Screens & Signs: AV Upgrades: Sanctuary
11:00am - 3:00pm	Church De-Decorating: Building
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Spanish Worship: Sanctuary
<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 5</b>	
5:30pm - 8:30pm	A.A. Woman's Group: Karin Johnson Hall
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Stewardship Meeting: Youth Room
6:30pm - 8:30pm	Monday Night Small Group: Trinity Room
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Al-Anon: West Wing 3 & 4
<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 6</b>	
1:00pm - 3:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry: Youth Room
7:00pm - 8:30pm	MOMCO: Youth Room
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7</b>	
8:30am - 12:00pm	Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
12:00am - 1:00pm	Good Grief Group: Youth Room
7:00pm - 8:30pm	Confirmation: (RECESS)
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Confirmation Care Group Meeting: Trinity Room
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 8</b>	
9:00am - 11:30am	Coffee with Friends (Women)
9:00am - 1:00pm	Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
2:00pm - 7:00pm	Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
7:00pm - 8:00pm	A.A. Men's Group: Zoom
7:00pm - 8:00pm	St. John Chorale: Choir Room
8:00pm - 9:00pm	Praise Team: Sanctuary
<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 9</b>	
8:30am - 12:00pm	Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
9:00am - 11:00am	Quilters: West Wing 5
9:00am - 10:30am	Meals on Wheels: Senior Services of Will County
9:30am - 11:30am	MOMCO: Narthex & West Wing
<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 10</b>	
7:00am - 11:00am	Food Pantry Volunteer Shifts: Karin Johnson Hall
8:00am - 10:00am	Food Pantry Distribution Drive: Parking Lot
12:00pm - 3:00pm	Doyle Birthday Party: Approval Pending
5:30pm - 6:30pm	Worship: Sanctuary
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 11</b>	
8:30am - 9:30am	Worship: Sanctuary
9:45am - 10:45am	Coffee Hour: Mark Lenz Retirement/Welcome Howie Murray
9:45am - 10:00am	Sunday School Sings Rehearsal: Choir Room
9:45am - 10:45am	Sunday School: Karin Johnson Hall, West Wing
9:45am - 10:45am	Parent Care Group Meeting: Trinity Room
11:00am - 12:00pm	Worship: Sanctuary
4:00pm - 7:00pm	Girl Scouts: Karin Johnson Hall
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Spanish Worship: Sanctuary

*\*Check [stjohnfood.org](http://stjohnfood.org) for Food Pantry distribution times and volunteer opportunities.*