

HOLY EUCHARIST
THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD
FEBRUARY 1, 2026 | 10:30AM

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**



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We are delighted to have you with us today! To help us keep track of our cherished visitors, we kindly ask that you sign the visitor book located in the Narthex. This small gesture allows us to connect with you and offer any assistance you may need. Additionally, our ushers are more than happy to provide guidance and answer any questions you might have during worship. Whether you're here for the first time or returning, we hope you feel welcomed.



Join us for
Godly Play
Every Sunday at 10:30

Busy bags are in the Narthex for your little ones to enjoy. These bags are thoughtfully prepared to keep children engaged during the service. Additionally, we invite you to explore and make use of the Godly Play area at the back of the Nave, designed to provide a welcoming and enriching environment for our young attendees. We hope these resources help create a meaningful and enjoyable experience for your family.

MISSION STATEMENT

All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.

The prelude signals a time of silent prayer and reflection.

PRELUDE

We stand.

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the **☩** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Holy Name.**

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **☩** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *Angels, from the realms*

HYMN 275

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

GLORIA

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All



Lord God, heavenly King, al-might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

MALACHI 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

SEE, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the

offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Here ends the reading.

PSALM

PSALM 24: 7-10

Sung by the choir. Music by NKL, based on TRURO.

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
⁸ “Who is this King of glory?” *
“The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle.”
⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
¹⁰ “Who is he, this King of glory?” *
“The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory.”

EPISTLE

HEBREWS 2:14-18

A reading from Hebrews.

SINCE, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand and face the center aisle to welcome the Gospel.

SEQUENCE

Sing verses 1 & 2.



1 Light shone in dark - ness at the world's cre - a - tion,
2 Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;
3 Light shines in dark - ness till the full cre - a - tion;



bath - ing in beau - ty na - ture's rev - e - la - tion. All that has be - ing,
Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion. Sing, earth and heav - en,
Christ's bod - y, groan - ing, suf - fers trib - u - la - tion, longs for God's jus - tice,



cry in ad - o - ra - tion, "Praise for the light. A - men!"
hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!
glob - al trans - for - ma - tion, prays for the light. A - men!

GOSPEL

LUKE 2:22-40

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

WHEN the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your

people Israel.”³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

Sing verse 3.

We sit.

SERMON

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Of the Father's love

PASTOR MARTHA

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

We kneel or sit for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each intercession ends with these words:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We sit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us
and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Candle Carol
BULLARD (contemporary)



We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

KING'S LYNN



Give praise to God All mighty, and worship God the Son,



and sing to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One,

till all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - crie to God a - lone.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:*
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
 You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
 You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
 but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
 to fulfill for us your holy will
 and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Fa - ther who art in hea - ven, Ha - llow'd be thy Name;

Thy king-dom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.

Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres-pass-es as

we for-give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead us

not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For thine is the
 king-dom, the po - wer and the glo - ry, for e - ver and e - ver.
 A - men. For e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin, and promising eternal life, are welcome to the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available if requested.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

Lighten our Darkness

L'ESTRANGE (CONTEMPORARY)



We stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, now let - test thou thy ser - vant de - part in peace;

ac - cord - ing to thy word; For mine eyes have

seen thy sal - va - tion: which thou hast pre - pared be - fore the

face of all peo - ple; A light to light - en the

Gen-tiles: and the glo-ry of thy peo-ple Is - - ra - el.

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the

Ho - ly Ghost: As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and

ev - - - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, **☩** Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *Let all together praise*

HYMN 287

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PLEASE BE SEATED FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

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WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight, Pastor
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greylng
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	
Communion Assistants	Eric Lane
Acolytes	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Eva Jakubek, Cheryl Milukas
Counters	Noel Bartels, David Hendrickson
Coffee Hour	Church Council
Little Free Pantry	Eric Lane

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 3

Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 4

12:00 noon - Midweek Eucharist - Chapel

4:30 pm - Confirmation Class - Sweden Room

6:00 pm - Bells - Reformation Room

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal Choir Room



UPCOMING

EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 1 5:00 pm Evensong for Presentation of the Lord
- 8 Super Bowl of Caring Chili Cook-Off after 10:30 worship
Bring your best chili to be judged by the congregation! Donations will benefit ELCA World Hunger
- 15 Transfiguration Sunday, burying the Alleluia by the Children
- 17 Shrove Tuesday Youth Pancake dinner
- 18 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday service in Chapel
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday at SJLC
- 22 First Sunday in Lent
- 25 11:30 am First Weekly Lenten Lunch and Bible Study
12:00 pm First Weekly Lenten Eucharist in the Nave
12:30 pm First Weekly Lenten Organ Meditation

-AROUND THE PARISH-

Worship assistants, readers, communion assistants, acolytes, coffee hour hosts

If you would like to find a way to contribute your time to St. John's in one of these roles, please speak to Pr Martha or Nathan. **There's room for you to help**, and training is provided.

If you're **interested in joining St. John's**, reaching out to the church office is a great first step. The church office can provide information on membership, upcoming events, and the various ministries and programs you can get involved with. Whether you're looking to deepen your faith, find a spiritual community, or volunteer, the church office is there to support and

guide you. Don't hesitate to contact them with questions or to schedule a visit to learn more about what St. John's offers.

Join us for our **First Holy Communion classes** for children in grades 1-5. Classes will begin in February, offering thorough and engaging preparation for this important sacrament. The First Communion is scheduled for Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 PM. This marks a significant milestone in your child's spiritual journey, and we are excited to be part of it. For more information or to enroll your child, please contact our office. We look forward to guiding your child through this sacred experience.

Baptisms will take place at the Easter Vigil this year on April 4 at 7 PM. This sacrament marks a new beginning and a spiritual rebirth. Those interested in being baptized, or parents wishing to have their child baptized, are encouraged to reach out to Pr. Martha for more information and to make necessary arrangements.

Large Print Bulletins Available!

Large print bulletins are now available for anyone who needs them. If you or someone else needs a copy, please visit the narthex and ask an usher for help. Thank you for helping us ensure everyone can fully participate in our service!

We are updating our **church photo directory**! To ensure it accurately reflects our vibrant community, we kindly ask you to contact the parish office with your updated photo, phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses. This update will help us stay connected and support each other better. Please reach out at your earliest convenience to share your information.

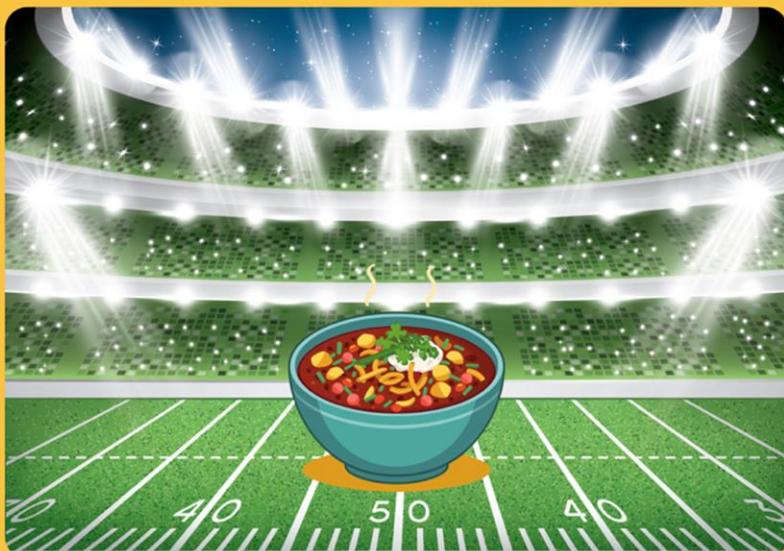
PRAYER LIST



Pastor Emeritus Dennis Albrecht, Beryl, Diane, Ron, and Valerie, Dom and family and friends of Pr Nick, Sue Sachs and family on the loss of her mother, Joe, unspoken, Gary, Br. Ian, Pr Harv Weitzel

If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please email the parish office.
Contact Pr Martha for pastoral needs.

SUPER BOWL OF CARING



Chili Cook-off
Sunday, February 8 at 11:30
Benefiting ELCA World Hunger



INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church, Stamford, CT, is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee Lenape, Schaghticoke, Mohican, and Wappinger peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial and wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.