

DECEMBER 21, 2025

# THE WEEKLY WORD

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



## MEDITATION

Matthew 1:18-25

Many of us have nativity sets in our homes. These sets come in all shapes and sizes. Some are nearly life sized and sit outside prominent churches in our community. Others are so small that they can fit into the palm of your hand. Some are made of fine porcelain costing hundreds of dollars being hand made in Europe, while others are heavy plastic and meant for children. But no matter how elaborate or humble the nativity set may be, chances are there are at least three people in the picture. There is Jesus of course, lying in a manger. Closest to him is usually Mary, she is often kneeling or crouched down as if to see how her newborn baby is doing. And then there is Joseph. He is usually depicted either opposite Mary, on the other side of the manger, or sometimes standing behind her as if to keep watch, alluding to his role as protector of his family, especially Jesus.

Joseph plays a massive role in the early life of Jesus which is sometimes overlooked amongst the many other remarkable things we read about in the various accounts of Christmas. But as we look closer at Joseph, we see a man whose life and actions still speak to us today. Even many generations later, Joseph serves as an example of faith, strength, and compassion during incredibly trying times and is a person whose life, and most importantly faith, deserves to be both remembered and imitated.

As we look at the nativity sets around us over the next many days, we take special note this week of Joseph and how God used him to lead and safeguard his young family from danger all the while serving God during this most critical time in history.

## PRAYER

Almighty God, we give you thanks for faith filled men and women who you have used throughout all generations to lead, guide, and protect those who are young and point them to You and Your love to them through Jesus. Give strength to those who are privileged to be an influence to the next generation, filling them with spiritual maturity and faith. And make the next generation open to the leading of faith filled people and hungry for life with you through Jesus. Amen.

**Pastor Barry**

## THIS WEEK

**Monday - December 22**

Men's Bible Study 6:30am

Blood Drive 10:00am - 4:00pm

Monday Night Meal 5:15pm

AA 7:00pm

**Wednesday - December 24**

Christmas Eve Worship 2:00/4:00pm

Christmas Candlelight Service 10:00pm

**Thursday - December 25**

Christmas Day Worship 9:30am

**Friday - December 26**

AA 6:30pm

**Sunday - December 28**

Worship 8:00/9:30/10:45am

NO EDUCATION HOUR



THE WEEKLY WORD

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## Construction Update



The wood flooring contractor has finished extending the maple flooring to the base of the Chancel. They have now begun removing the portions of the existing floor that were damaged by water leaks over the years.



The ceramic wall tile in the Fellowship Hall Toilets has been set. In this photo the temporary joint spacers are still in place.



A dry system valve has been added to our existing fire riser in the basement storage room under the Sacristy. This valve keeps water out of the pipes in the attic and other cold areas, until a sprinkler head calls for water.

## Sharing the Good News of Our Savior

This past Sunday, December 14, our elementary Sunday School students shared the story of Jesus and His birth with the St. John's congregation at the 11:00am service.

As they proclaimed the many names by which Jesus is known, the name that stands at the center for us is Savior.

We give heartfelt thanks to the students, teachers, and all who worked so hard to make this special service possible.





## No Sunday School or Education Hour on December 21 & 28

A friendly reminder that there will be no Sunday School or Education Hour Bible studies on December 21 or December 28. Classes will resume at their normally scheduled times on January 4th.

## Year-End Giving Reminder

All donations must be received or postmarked by December 31st in order to be a part of your 2025 giving. Tax statements will be mailed in mid-January. Please contact Gordon or Kaye in the church office if you have any questions. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

## Meet the Pastors | Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

Interested in learning more about St. John's or what it means to become a member? Join our pastors on **Sunday, January 4, from 9:00–9:30am in the music room** for a casual time of conversation and questions. This is a great opportunity to connect, learn more about our church, and hear what membership looks like at St. John's. **To register or learn more, email Pastor Barry at [pastor.barry@stjohns-chaska.org](mailto:pastor.barry@stjohns-chaska.org)**

## Walk Thru the Bible | Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

Experience the story of redemption like never before as this unforgettable event brings the New Testament to life. Join us on **Saturday, January 24, from 9:00am to noon** at St. John's Lutheran Church. Doors open at 8:00am for a continental breakfast and coffee. **Cost is \$25** (\$20 for Mayer Lutheran students), payable at the door by cash or check.

Questions? Call 952-448-2433 or email [pastor.barry@stjohns-chaska.org](mailto:pastor.barry@stjohns-chaska.org)

**Scan the QR code to register.**



## Christmas at St. John's

### Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24

Worship with Communion at 2:00pm (livestreamed), 4:00pm, & 10:00pm (candlelight service)

### Christmas Day - Thursday, December 25

Worship with Communion at 9:30am

### New Year's Eve - Wednesday, December 31

Worship with Communion at 5:00pm

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 8:00/9:30/10:45am in the Gymnasium  
(Livestream at the 8:00am Service)

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

**\*Special Christmas Hours:**

Christmas Eve - 8:00am-Noon | Christmas Day - CLOSED

## Want to receive the Weekly Word and church communications by email?

Contact [churchoffice@stjohns-chaska.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohns-chaska.org) or call the church office.



## PRAYER LIST

Please continue to share your prayer requests by filling out the back of a Connect Card located on the information desks in the upper gathering and main level common areas or by going to [www.stjohns-chaska.org](http://www.stjohns-chaska.org) and clicking on "How can we pray for you?" You can also contact the church office: email: [churchoffice@stjohns-chaska.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohns-chaska.org) or by phone 952-448-2433

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/21

Lexi Kirchoff  
Jill McGlothlin  
Kari Peterson  
Donald Rasmussen

12/22

Ryder Doucet  
Julie Wolter

12/23

Donnave Bartsch  
Jodi Christiansen  
Anna Tucker

12/24

Landon Larson  
Ryan Smith  
Addison Sutherland

12/26

Anita Doss  
Winston King-Ellison  
Chad Reisner

12/27

Linee Molderhauer

## EXPECTANT MOMS



Brenda Simpson  
Izzy King  
Nicole Stockey  
Kourtney Vipond  
Katelyn Olson  
Amy Peterson

## CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

12/27 Mark and Crystal Beussman

12/27 Tony and Beth Kucera

## IN SYMPATHY

Helen Anderson and family, upon the passing of  
her husband, Gary.

## FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

Matthew Swanson  
Jon Thom  
Joel Landskroener  
Sandy Sprengeler

Holly Walters  
Marilyn Lenzen  
Jolene Berg  
Gary Anderson

## ONGOING PRAYERS

Carol Affeldt  
John Barney  
Jimann Campbell  
Julie Carver  
Marguerite Craighead  
Sunnie Deis

Anita Doss  
Sid & Merna Fjelstad  
Dennis Gaarder  
Bernie Gnan  
Eugene Henke  
Carol Jones

Len Kallsen  
Gretchen Laubach  
Melinda Meuwissen  
Gina Niesche  
Steve Pond  
Austin Rannow

Val Schlefsky  
Cliff Waller  
Ruth Ziegler  
Merlin Bentz - brother of Linda Knox  
Ruth Harms - sister-in-law of Marilyn Lenzen