THE WEEKLY WORD



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 lesus.

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

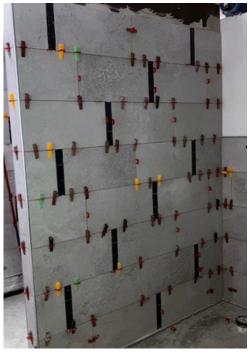
Friday - December 26 AA 6:30pm

Sunday - December 28 Worship 8:00/9:30/10:45am NO EDUCATION HOUR

Construction Update



The wood flooring contractor has extending the maple finished 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.



ceramic wall tile in Fellowship Hall Toilets has the 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 4th

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@stiohns-chaska.org**

Walk Thru the Bible | Saturday, January 24th

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 **Scan the QR code to register.**



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 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 and clicking on "How can we pray for you?" You can also contact the church office: email: 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



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