

DECEMBER 28, 2025

THE WEEKLY WORD

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



MEDITATION

Galatians 4:4-7

Joseph, the dreamer, was sold into slavery by his older brothers. What his siblings meant for evil, God used for good. God's protective hand was with Joseph during times of hardship and uncertainty, eventually elevating him to a position of authority, second only to Pharaoh. God ultimately used Joseph to save an entire nation from famine. Freedom quickly slips away, and slavery takes its place when fear enters the hearts of those who rule. God's chosen people were enslaved for over 400 years until the time of Moses. By Divine design and perfect timing, God leads His people out of the bondage of slavery into the Promised Land.

I find it interesting that after Jesus was born, in the time of Herod the King, God used a dream to warn a new father, Joseph, to flee from the Promised Land. Jesus breaks the cycle of sin. Instead of escaping Egypt into the Promised Land, He leaves the land promised and goes into exile in Egypt in order to save the world.

Freedom and slavery so often hang in a delicate balance, destined to repeat themselves until Jesus steps in to break the destructive pattern. We are no longer slaves to sin because Jesus frees us from the grip of sin, death, and the devil by His death and resurrection. Only Jesus willingly retraces the steps of a broken humanity and righteously fulfills that which we can not. We are no longer slaves because Jesus sets us free.

PRAYER

Holy Lord, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. We glorify You today because of Your saving grace. If left to ourselves, we would be destined to repeat our history of death and destruction, being enslaved by our sins. But You are our Emmanuel! You are with us. You became one of us. You save us from our sins. Thank You Jesus! Amen.

Pastor Snow

THIS WEEK

Monday - December 29

Men's Bible Study 6:30am

Mary Martha Guild
Yearbook Meeting 2:15pm

Monday Night Meal 5:15pm
AA 7:00pm

Wednesday - December 31

New Year's Eve
Worship with Communion 5:00pm

Sunday - January 4

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

Meet the Pastor 9:00am

Education Hour 9:30am



THE WEEKLY WORD

300 E. 4TH ST. CHASKA, MN 55318
952-448-2433
WWW.STJOHNSCHASKA.ORG

Construction Update



Some of the oak trim for the Sanctuary arrived this week. Most of it is prefinished. The panels going into the side aisle wainscoting is not. It will be stained in place to match the existing adjacent panels.



Sheetrock is being installed on the soffits in the Fellowship Hall, as all of the above-ceiling work in those areas is complete.



Over Christmas break, the sink is being installed in the Nursery/Preschool Room. This sink will have a lift to remove the waste, because the floor could not have been cut, due to existing electrical conduits in the floor.

No Sunday School or Education Hour on December 28

A friendly reminder that there will be no Sunday School or Education Hour Bible studies on 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, scan the QR code to the left.

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 to register for
Walk Thru the Bible!**

Lutheran Hour Broadcast now on KGLB Radio

On January 4th, the Lutheran Hour broadcast is moving from KDUZ 1260 AM. Hear the Good News of the Gospel on the Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 7:00 am on KGLB 1310 AM and 96.1 FM Radio.

You will hear the following topic on Sunday, January 4th:

Jan 4, 2026 "Knowing and Being Known in a New Year" with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God invites us to speak with Him in prayer and hear from Him in the Bible, to know Him and to love as we are loved. John 17:3

New Year's Eve Worship

Join us as we gather in God's Word and begin the New Year together:

Wednesday, December 31st at 5:00pm

Worship with Communion

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 New Year's Hours:**

New Year's Eve - 8:00am-Noon | New Year's 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

12/28		1/2
Elizabeth Barry		Elijah Bates
Richelle Dart		Jacob Davenport
Sean Henderson	12/30	Logan Herrmann
Henry Johnson	Mitchell Pevestorf	Laura Kulish
Carol Quanrud	12/31	Debi Mahoney
12/29	Riley Olson	Ryan Reinke
Ajay Immanuel	Bob Pagelkopf	1/3
12/30	Tammy Panning	Landon Messer
Christine Matthis	1/1	Chris Wolter
	Christopher Johnson	
	Angeline Rannow	



EXPECTANT MOMS

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

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

12/29 David and Wendy Dare
12/29 Matt and Dana Lane
12/29 Bob and Jenni Swenson
12/31 Jeff and Jen Angell
12/31 Travis and Molly Woltmann

FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

Matthew Swanson
Jon Thom
Joel Landskroener
Sandy Sprengeler
Holly Walters
Marilyn Lenzen
Jolene Berg

ONGOING PRAYERS

Carol Affeldt	Sunnie Deis	Carol Jones	Austin Rannow
John Barney	Anita Doss	Len Kallsen	Val Schlefsky
Jack Boman	Sid & Merna Fjelstad	Gretchen Laubach	Cliff Waller
Jimann Campbell	Dennis Gaarder	Melinda Meuwissen	Ruth Ziegler
Julie Carver	Bernie Gnan	Gina Niesche	Merlin Bentz - brother of Linda Knox
Marguerite Craighead	Eugene Henke	Steve Pond	Ruth Harms - sister-in-law of Marilyn Lenzen