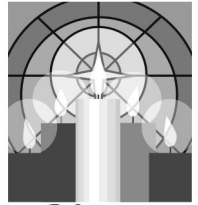


St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill

December 25, 2021 Please tune to 87.9 FM



*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.**

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh
among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth. **Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is
mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not
put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle
our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born
among us. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of
Mary, Christ the Lord. ☩ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN

The First Noel (v 1-3)

ELW #300

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, **you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the
world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your
Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

It Came upon the Midnight Clear (v 1-3)

ELW #282

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” ⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-12

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”?

Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." ⁸But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." ¹⁰And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; ¹²like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go

***GOSPEL**

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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.

The Word of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor George Rahn

HYMN OF THE DAY

Away in a Manger

ELW #277

***THE 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition of the prayers ends with the following response:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

***PEACE**

OFFERING HYMN	<i>Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (twice)</i>	ELW #184
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*OFFERTORY	<i>Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	ELW #885
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***OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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:

***SANCTUS**

p 153

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

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.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW #279

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

Now may these precious gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen you and keep you in God's grace this day. **Amen**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW #290

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

Tomorrow, December 26th First Sunday of Christmas
7:45AM Worship Service
-No Sunday School-
Last day to contribute for 2021





POINSETTIAS 2021



Given by...

Donna Bentke (3)

Chad, Amanda, Audrey & Callie Dismukes,
William, Mollie, Alex & Cullen Grote (2)

Marjorie Hohlt

Mary Hill

Ben & Carolyn Kessel

The Klatte & An Family (2)

Danney & Connie Rohde

Butch Seeker Family (2)

David & Glenda Stegent

Evelyn Thielemann

John & LaVerna Wegner

Janet Wehring

Fred & Debra Westerfeld (2)

Dorothy Wiesepape

Mark & Diana Williams (2)

Given by...

Butch Seeker Family

Randy & Sandy Janner

Mark & Diana Williams

Fred & Debra Westerfeld

In Loving Memory of...

Herman Bentke, Jr.; Ernest Kolwes; Herbert &
Elsie Haevischer; Herman & Emma Bentke
Alexander E. Grote; Fred & Esther Dahmann

Wilber Hohlt

Kevin Hill

Loved Ones

Naomi Zopfi; Arnold & Elizabeth Anderson;

Herbert & Esther Mae Klatte

Clinton & Genell Rohde; Milton & Elvera Janner

LaNell Seeker

Walter Thielemann

Walter Thielemann

Raymond & Anita Jeske

Robert & Lena Finke; Jerry Finke

Burney & Sis Riechers; Fred & Lydia Westerfeld

My Family

Floyd Gaskamp; Robert Keith

In Honor of...

Our St. John Church Family

Our Children & Grandchildren

Delores Gaskamp

Kaden, Katie, Morgan, Addy, Thomas and Charlotte

DONATIONS TO BRENHAM PREGNANCY CENTER

Given by...

Elsie Herrmann

Ben & Carolyn Kessel

Joseph & Sandy Ordner

Al & Audrey Steinbach

Morris & Elvera Tisdell

Given By...

Morris & Elvera Tisdell

In Loving Memory of...

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Parents & Grandparents

Loved Ones

Henry E. & Lora Quebe; Harry L. & Deanna Stark

In Honor of...

Our Great Grandchildren-Zephen, Reznor
& Ezlyn Jones

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Our Church Family:

Mavis Smith	Janice Cordova	Sydney Wagner	Florence Bentke
Ella Ruemke	Gilbert Spinn	Helen Gaskamp	Cynthia Wilson
Verna Mae Sefcik	Clarence Moehlmann	Linda King	Jerry Randermann
Mary Ann Luce	Connie Seward	Justin Reuter	Dorothy Wiesepape
Marjorie Hohlt	Mary Longhofer	Tom Bentke	Charles "Dutch" Schulze
A.G. "Doc" & Allene Holtkamp		Peggy & Milton Bosse	
John & Carol Haarmeyer		Emery & Helen Schulze	

Announcements from St. John

Annual Reports: Please have annual reports in the church office on **Jan. 3, 2022**

End of the Year Giving: As the calendar year draws to a close, please consider a special gift to support the mission of St. John Lutheran Church. Your gifts help us to reach more people with the Gospel, and to share the faith with the next generation.

Financial gifts need to be received at the church by **December 26th** to be reported on your giving statement from the church for 2021.



2022 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex!

**The 2022 Flower Chart has been posted in the Annex.
Please sign up for your altar flowers for next year!**



REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Email: prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com

Church Office Phone: 979-836-8666

Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm

Website: www.stjohnnprairiehill.org

Church Council President Jon Westerfeld (979) 277-2471