

**St. John Lutheran Church  
Palmer, Kansas 66962**

**Rev. David Gruoner, Vacancy Pastor**      **Mrs. Sheila Stuenkel, Organist**  
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**Member – Linn Lutheran School Association**

**Mr. David Beikmann – Principal & Teacher; Email: [linnluth@bluevalley.net](mailto:linnluth@bluevalley.net);**  
**Mrs. Laura Stunkel, Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl & Mrs. Shawna Spiehs – Teachers**

**December 25, 2019      The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)**

*Welcome to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are a guest or visitor with us today, we welcome you and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Gruoner, and we hope to see you again soon.*

*Remember that the Worship Service begins when you enter. As the Music for Meditation begins, you are invited to join in quiet, preparation time for worship. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.*

**Liturgy – Divine Service Setting Three (Page 184)**

**Opening Hymn:** 379 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**Sermon Hymn:** 370 "What Child Is This"

**Communion Hymn:** 368 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

**Communion Hymn:** 374 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

**Communion Hymn:** 361 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**Closing Hymn:** 360 "All My Heart Again Rejoices"

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please e-mail prayer requests to Pastor Holtorf at [gholtorf@bluevalley.net](mailto:gholtorf@bluevalley.net).  
Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.

**Family of Cooper Hubbard      Dennis Woerman      Chad Stunkel**  
**Robbie Oelschlager – chronic pain      Kelly & Quinn Rhoades**

**Acolytes today** - Ethan Bott

**Acolytes Sunday, Dec. 29th** - Zac Hiltgen

**Ushers today** - \*Brady Kolle, Evan Bott, Tyler Ohlde, & Cody Ohlde

**Ushers Sunday, Dec. 29th** - \*Eli Ohlde, Aaron Stuenkel, Alec Tiemeyer, &  
Andrew Tiemeyer

Please email any announcements for the bulletin to Theresa at  
**[theresa\\_meier@yahoo.com](mailto:theresa_meier@yahoo.com)** by noon on Friday.

**Upcoming Events**

<b>December 25</b>	9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m. NO Midweek
<b>December 29</b>	8:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School
<b>December 31</b>	7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Divine Service with Holy Communion and Installation of Officers
<b>January 1</b>	5:30 p.m. NO Midweek 7:00 p.m. NO Mixed Choir Practice
<b>January 2</b>	7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting
<b>January 5</b>	8:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School

**Announcements**

- \* The collection this morning is for the Joint Seminary Fund.
- \* To the members of St. John: I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. Thank you for all the well-wishes and gifts you have given me during this Christmas season. - Pastor Holtorf
- \* There will be no more Adult Bible class until Pastor Hayes has been installed.
- \* LWML Prayer Partners for 2020 have been assigned and are in your church boxes.
- \* The St. John Men's Club Soup Supper will be January 19th, 2020. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for NON-Men's Club members for desserts or soup. Please, sign up by January 5th, 2020; any donations are appreciated!
- \* The "Fill-the-Pantry" drive for Pastor Hayes' family will be held from Sunday, January 5th through Sunday, January 12th. Donation items can be dropped off on the tables on the south side in the fellowship hall.
- \* Zion Men's Club's Annual Pancake Supper is Sunday, January 12th, from 5-8 p.m. in the church basement (handicapped accessible). Proceeds from a free-will offering go to district, zone, and local LLL projects. Menu includes: delicious plain and blueberry pancakes; assorted syrups, including diabetic; sausages, eggs, milk, coffee, and water.
- \* Pastor Hayes' contact information for sending a welcome note is:
  - \* Email: [pastor.hayes@outlook.com](mailto:pastor.hayes@outlook.com)
  - \* Home mailing address:  
660 Ten Gallon Drive  
Berthoud, CO 80513
- \* Coming soon in 2020:
  - \* Sunday, January 12th at 10:30 a.m. - Quarterly Voters Meeting
  - \* Sunday, January 12th at 11:45 a.m. - New Member Potluck
  - \* Sunday, January 19th:
    - \* 1:00 p.m. Linn Lutheran Association Meeting
    - \* 3:00 p.m. Installation Service for Pastor Hayes
    - \* Soup Supper following Installation Service

**Old Testament Reading:**  
**Isaiah 52:7–10**

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”  
The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The 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.

**Epistle Reading:**  
**Hebrews 1:1-12**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,  
“I will be to him a father,  
and he shall be to me a son”?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,  
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.  
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment,  
like a robe you will roll them up,  
like a garment they will be changed.  
But you are the same,  
and your years will have no end.”

**Gospel Reading:**  
**John 1:1–18**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His Table those who trust His words, repent all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily, according to Holy Scripture, do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod, are asked to refrain from communing with us until such a time as they are properly instructed.

A short, more detailed explanation of our Confessional practice is available from our Ushers or Elders. If you would like to learn more about the Sacrament of the Altar and our confessional position, I would be happy to visit with you.

*-Rev. David Gruoner, Vacancy Pastor, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church*

In preparation for Holy Communion, you may use the following statements as part of your self-examination

- ☐ I admit that I am a sinner (1 John 1:8-10)
- ☐ I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, from Satan and death (Acts 4:10-12, John 14:6)
- ☐ I desire to live as God wants me to. (John 14:15, 1 John 2:6)
- ☐ I am sure of my eternal salvation because Jesus died for me and rose again (John 3:16, Romans 8:14 & 1 John 5:11-12)
- ☐ I believe the Risen Christ is really present in Holy Communion and that with the bread and wine I receive His Body and Blood (Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 4:22-24, 1 Cor. 10:16, 22:23ff, Luke 22:17-20)
- ☐ I forgive those who have wronged me



### Introit

For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,  
and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\*  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

**Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!\***  
**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation | for him.**  
**The Lord has made known his sal- | vation;\***  
**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.**  
**He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house**  
**of | Israel.\***

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.**  
**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, | all the earth;\***  
**break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!**  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,  
and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\*  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

### Collect for the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## The Season of Christmas

*Begins December 25*

**Christmas** means *Christ Mass*, that is, the liturgy celebrated on the day when Christ came among us as one of us. The church celebrates the mystery of salvation revealed in Christ's birth, rather than the birthday itself. We celebrate the mystery of God become man in Christ, who is both our King and our Savior.

The Christmas season also places special emphasis on the name of the Lord our God because Jesus would have received His name eight days after His birth when He was circumcised.

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him that Mary was with child through the Holy Spirit, the angel also told Joseph what to name the child: Jesus, which means *the LORD saves* (Matthew 1:20-21). Eight days after Jesus' birth, when He was circumcised, Joseph and Mary name Jesus as the angel had instructed.

*Calendar:* The Twelve Days of Christmas always fall on December 25th - January 5th.

*Customs:* The color white symbolizes the joy and the theme of light that plays so large a part in the Biblical texts associated with the season. Christmas carols also express the joy and wonder of Christ's birth. On Christmas Day, add the figures of Jesus, the angel, and the shepherds to the creche or nativity scene at church or at home. Add the Magi on Epiphany (January 6th). The Christmas tree should stand throughout the 12 days of Christmas and be removed on Epiphany. Read the Christmas story from Luke 2 with your family.

- from *The Lord Will Answer: A Daily Prayer Catechism* by CPH.

*... and the Word became flesh  
and dwelt among us.*



*December 25th, 2019  
The Nativity of Our Lord  
(Christmas Day)*

*St. John Ev. Lutheran Church*

*304 National Road*

*Palmer, Kansas 66962*

*Rev. Gene Holtorf, Guest Pastor*