



News and Notes

for
Sunday & Wednesday
Dec. 13 & 16, 2020



SUNDAY (12/13)	Youth Christmas Program	9:00am
	Live streaming & Radio	9:00 am
	Bible Study	10:00 am
	Youth Christmas Program	11:00 am
	Confirmation Class	6:00 pm
MONDAY		
TUESDAY		
	Women's Bible Study	
	Newsletter deadline	
WEDNESDAY		
	ADVENT SERVICE	6:30 pm
THURSDAY		
	CROSSWAYS	10:00 am
	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY	5:00 pm
Friday		
SATURDAY		
SUNDAY (12/20)	Worship w/ communion	9:00am
	Live streaming & Radio	9:00 am
	Bible Study	10:00am
	Praise service w/ communion	11:00 am
	Confirmation Class	6:00 pm

Holy Communion.

For us at St. John's the Lord's Supper is a very sacred and Holy Meal. If you would like to join us at this Sacramental Supper, please read the [laminated invitation](#) in the seat pocket.

Tithes and Offerings

If you are a guest visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to contribute to the offering plate when it is passed. Tithes and offerings are part of being a member of a church. This congregation would like to honor you as our guest today.

Notes for the Lord's Supper

For those with sensitivities to alcohol, non-alcohol wine is offered in the light colored cups in the center of the communion tray. Also, if you need a gluten-free wafer, please contact an usher, the pastor, or an elder before the service so this can be available.

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:30 – 12:00

Sunday Morning Bible Studies

Total Forgiveness is continuing. It will meet in Schleicher Hall. Led by Thad Kusick, Elder.

Other Bible Studies will resume in January.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study has started again. We meet at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday afternoons. We are doing a verse by verse study of the Gospel of Luke. Join us in this free discussion.

GRAY MATTERS

Gray Matters Bible study led by Pastor James has started up. We meet on **Wednesday** at 7:30 pm at St. John's following the Wednesday service. All are welcome. We will have room for social distancing. **Will Not meet until January.**

Crossways Bible study is being held at 10:00 am **Thursday** mornings and there is room to socially distance. Books are provided. Contact the church office if interested.

Men's Bible Study meets every **Thursday** 5:00 pm. Topics: Dec 3 - Life Is in the Blood, Dec 10 & 17 - The Star of Bethlehem video and discussion..

Worship Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday

10:00-11:00 Adult Bible study

11:00 a.m. Sunday (Praise Service)

Midweek

6:30 p.m. Wednesday Advent service

1 Corinthians 16:14 **Let all that you do be done in love.** Do everything in love. Keep your eyes open, hold tight to your convictions, give it all you've got, be resolute, and love without stopping. Let love and kindness be the motivation behind all that you do.

2021 offering envelopes are available for pickup along the east wall of the sanctuary.

The live radio broadcast on KAUS 1480 AM of this Sunday's worship service is given by Richard and Kaaren Wuertz in memory of their parents Lorenz and Velma Wuertz and Glen and Bernie Hovland. We are thankful for these gifts of love to keep God's Word on the radio.

Live Streaming sponsors for December are Pat & Arnie Mulso

To sponsor a radio broadcast, contact Ellen Petersen at 433-6626 or 440-8070. The cost is \$150.00.

Sponsor the Internet broadcast. If you would like to sponsor a month of St. John's church services over the Internet (\$109 a month) Contact Dave Watkins at 507-458-5018.

Take It to the Lord in Prayer. Do you have a prayer concern or thanksgiving? Commend it to the Lord through your own prayers, but also through the loving service of our Prayer Chain. If you have an item you would like included on the Prayer Chain, please contact Miriam Luehmann at 437-7619 or email Miriam.Luehmann@icloud.com

Scrip Orders – Thinking about ordering Scrip cards to help the congregation? Order blanks are on the Scrip table. Check out the new list of businesses available. Orders, with payment, must be in by **Sunday, December 13**. The cards should be here the following Sunday. Place your order and check on the Scrip table or bring it to the office. **We will still have the usual cards available after service.**

From the Elders: Worship attendance is slowly increasing. A concern among some members is possible COVID transmission by people not wearing masks when arriving and leaving worship. Elders are strongly recommending masks be worn when attending worship to protect others from possible transmission. Remember, you protect others, not yourself, when wearing masks.

Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available on the ushers' tables in the back of the sanctuary.

We are offering is a system you can call to listen to is an abbreviated version of the worship service. The number you dial is: 518-906-1379. You will then automatically hear an abbreviated service from the previous Sunday.

LWML would like to remind the members of St. John's that we have a selection of cards for every occasion. The cards are in the card case in Schleicher Hall. Please come and check them out. The price is on the back of the box, just put your money in the little envelope and slip it in the slot. LWML Thanks You

Audio-Visual tech	Youth
Organist-Sunday	
Organist-Wednesday	

Pastor James Office Hours	
Monday	9-11:30 a.m.
Wednesday	9-11:30 a.m.
Thursday	9-11:30 a.m.

On Tuesday Pastor James is working at home but can be reached by phone: 320-336-8149

Scrip Every Sunday we have a manned table at the West entrance. *(FYI: the organ is on the west side of the sanctuary!)* You can purchase a variety of gift cards. St. John's receives 3-10% of the sale price. This money goes to projects like congregational t-shirts, choir chairs, picnic expenses, in-door nativity set, books and shelves for the library. Feel free to purchase any of the following Scrip cards after the service (**or purchase them from the office secretary during the week:**

Perkins: \$25, Kwik Trip: \$25, \$50, \$100
Culvers: \$10, Hy-Vee: \$50, \$100

Shoe Away Hunger If you have gently used shoes you no longer need, consider placing them in the box near the office. One pair of shoes can supply a family with seven days of essential groceries. Damaged shoes can no longer be accepted.

PRINTED COPIES OF THE SERMON CAN BE FOUND ON THE USHERS' TABLES.

Deadline for weekly insert is Tuesday evening.



Pastor James Groleau
St. John's Lutheran Church
1200 13th Avenue NW
Austin, MN 55912
Office: (507) 433-2642
Pastor (320) 336-8149
Shepherd@JamesPlace.net
StJohnsAustinLCMS.org
FaceBook.com/StJohnsAustin
KAUS 1480 AM Sun. 9:00am



Sign up sheets for Christmas Eve are on the tables at the east side of the Sanctuary.

Upcoming Worship Opportunities

We will have two sermon series for Advent and Christmas. As we close the *God's Greater Story* sermon series on Romans we also come to the beginning of a new Church Year. The Sundays in Advent will follow a series on the "Jesse Tree." An ancient tradition in the Christian Church used as a countdown to Christmas Day. We will have some material you can use at home with your family that will coincide with this series.

The Wednesday services will call us to *Behold the Child* as we explore who Jesus is, why He came, and what He came to offer. Namely "peace on earth and good will among those with whom he is pleased." (Luke 2:14)

December 23 an Advent service will be held at 6:30 for those who wish to attend.

Christmas Eve has always been a service with a full attendance. This year to accommodate the potentially larger crowd we will schedule 4 services on Christmas Eve. We will ask you to sign up for a service, to ensure we do not get too many in the sanctuary. Services are limited to 30 people. They will be as follows:

3:30pm "Sermon: Jesus: The First Fruits of Jesse's Tree" This will be a candlelight service. It will be dark enough in the sanctuary for the candles but light enough for those who would like to avoid driving home in the dark. (Sunset of Christmas Eve this year is at 4:30pm.)

6:30pm "Sermon: Behold the Child Jesus: Son of Mary" This service will finalize the "*Behold the Child*" series. This service will also close with candlelight.

9:00pm "Sermon: Jesus: The First Fruits of Jesse's Tree" This will be a candlelight service and a Praise service.

11:00pm "Sermon: Why Did Jesus Come" This will be a modified Compline service, for those of you familiar with the Hours of the Church. This will be a candlelight service concluding at about midnight welcoming the New Born King.

On Christmas Day we will have a service at 10:00am with a message titled, "*Infinite Gifts in Finite Wrappings.*" This will be a service similar to those of past years celebrating the wonder found in Jesus the Holy Christ of God.

Go and Be Reconciled Bible Study

The Bible study from Ambassadors of Reconciliation has been rescheduled.

The new dates are January 10, 2021 Part 1, January 12 Part 2 and January 14 Part 3.

This is free to all members. You will receive a letter with instructions on how to sign up on line. If you have a problem signing up call the church office.

THANK YOU!!

We want to thank all of you who generously donated toward giving all of our shut-ins a poinsettia plant to enjoy during this Advent and Christmas season. We received enough for every shut-in.

Throughout the seasons of Advent and Christmas Concordia University St. Paul invites you to "Go Tell It on the Mountain", a virtual Christmas concert premiering at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 4. The concert can be viewed anytime from the premiere through January 15. Feel free to share the following link with family and friends:

<https://www.csp.edu/event/christmasconcert2020/>

[We would like to thank everyone for supporting the Radio Broadcast.](#) The broadcast is an important outreach to our community in normal circumstances! Now that we are faced with this health crisis in our country it is even more important to continue supporting St. Johns Radio Broadcast. There is not away for us to know how many people this broadcast reaches but we are thankful to be able to continue this ministry because of your continued support. If you would like to make a donation to St. John's Radio Broadcast you can mail your donation to St. John's or to my home, Ellen Petersen 2805 5th AVE SW, Austin, MN 55912. The weekly fee is \$150.00 you can donate the total amount or any part of the amount. There are many openings in 2021.

Ellen Petersen 507-433-6626