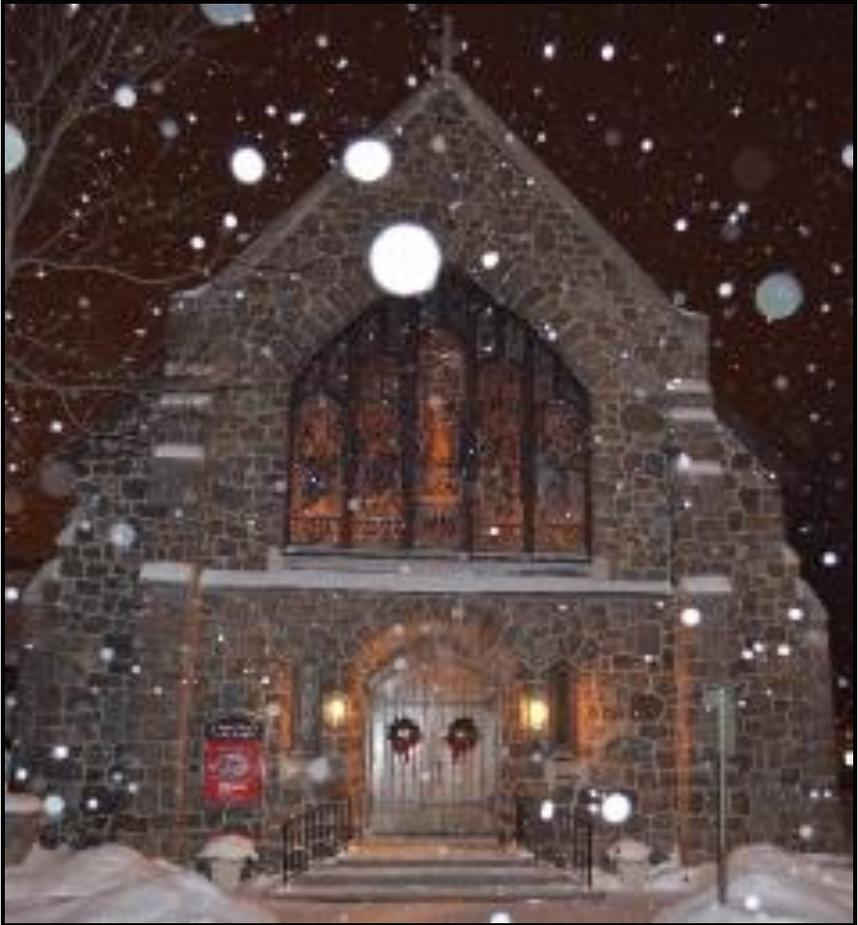




St. John's Episcopal Church



December 16, 2018
The Third Sunday of Advent
8am & 10am Eucharist
Coffee Hour to follow



Today's Service Leaders

8am

Reader & Prayers – Roger & Evie Sommi

Chalice – Yvonne Schuster

Ushers – Ray Carlson

10am

Reader – Patti Schaal

Prayers – Cyndi Royer

Chalice – Leon Veldhuizen

Crucifer – Beckett Wieman

Acolyte – Suzanne Gallant

Ushers – Will & Ginny Fowle

Counting – Patti Schaal & Travis Jensen

Organ – Cathy Veldhuizen

Coffee Hour – Shelley Miller

Close Building – Shelley Miller

December Altar Guild – Shelley Miller

*The heather on the altar is in anticipation of advent
and in memory of Art Dellenbach*

Service Leaders for December 23

8am

Reader – Kate Kipp

Prayers – Gina Crispell, Chalice – Drew Crispell

Ushers – Lee Hanks

10am

Reader – Pamela Glennon

Prayers – Will Fowle

Chalice – Jim Hawkins

Crucifer – Cathy Veldhuizen

Acolyte – Suzanne Gallant

Ushers – Steve & Shelley Miller

Counting – Pamela Glennon & *Needed*

Organ – Pat Metter

Coffee Hour – *Needed*

Close Building – *Needed*

A Gathering of God's People

All standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People And Blessed be His kingdom, now and forever.

(At the 8am Eucharist "Glory to God" is said. At the 10am Eucharist the hymn is sung.)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Hymn

Watchman, tell us

Hymnal 640

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us;
and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful

grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

All sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9

The First Song of Isaiah

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *

and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence

Please stand as you are able.

O come, O come, verse 1 & 2

Hymnal 56

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God

is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon - The Rev'd Canon Ezgi S. Perkins

Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

Come Emmanuel and be with us. Be with those who are in exile in body, mind or spirit. Be with those who are alone or lost. Be with those who *cannot find you*.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come O Wisdom from on high, and inspire us with knowledge and understanding. Reveal the path that reconciles us to you and each other, that we might live in love and justice.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come O Lord of might, and be with all your children. Bless the work of your families throughout the world, and let each represent and proclaim you faithfully. Let the vision of peace dwell among us and lead us.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come, O Branch of Jesse's Tree, and bless our families. Free us from whatever keeps us apart, and give us grateful hearts for the generations who have lived in faith, and shared their faith with us and others.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come, O Key of David, and open our eyes to the promise of life. In midst of suffering and sickness of any kind, let that promise give us hope and strength that you want healing and wholeness for all your children.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

We pray this day for those on our intercession list...

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come O Dayspring from on high. In this season of short days and long nights, cheer us with the anticipation of your birth, and the light that comes with resurrection. Let the darkness that overwhelms us with our sins be turned to light in the power of your forgiveness.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come, Desire of nations, and bind in one the hearts of all mankind. Let our divisions cease. Guide the leaders of the nations, our state, and our communities.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Silence

Celebrant and People

God our Creator: During this transitional period in our congregation, open our hearts to Your Holy Spirit, and help us to discern Your call. Guide each of us to realize our importance in the process. Help us to identify and use our individual spiritual gifts to develop the purpose and mission You have entrusted to us in your love and mercy. Sustain us as a vibrant, welcoming, and patient community that is ready to invite a new priest to share our journey. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Please kneel as able.

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Birthday and Anniversary Prayers

Prayers may be found on the bookmarks in the pews.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

The King shall come, verses 1, 2 & 4

Hymnal 73

Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us

from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
AMEN.

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

This is God's table and it is God's meal we all share in as God's children. Please feel free to join us for Communion. If you need a gluten free host, let the priest know at the altar rail.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn

Love divine

Hymnal 657

Dismissal

*Celebrant
People*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

A Note on Today's Readings

In our readings and in the Collect for today, the major themes of biblical, prophetic religion come together, deepening the preparation of God's faithful people for the approaching Christmas festival. We pray that God will "stir up his power and come among us" and we are given the paradoxical message of fearful judgment and joyful anticipation.

This message is given first in Zephaniah's announcement of "the Day of the Lord" when God will come to draw all people into a saving and life-giving community. "The Lord, your God, is in your midst." "Sing aloud... Rejoice... Exult."

For Paul and the church in Philippi, the Lord has indeed come in Jesus' death and resurrection. "Rejoice," Paul says, and be partakers in the peace of God, which is our true guardian and protector.

But first, we hear the harsh words from John the Baptist, warning that we must be prepared for that coming if it is indeed to be a time of rejoicing. Repentance is the key to that preparation. However, repentance must be more than a feeling, and it must be deeper than outward rituals such as water baptism, or tracing one's descent from Abraham. That repentance must bear fruit in social righteousness—in self-giving and concrete actions of love and mercy toward others.

The Lord is in the midst of us, and so we sing out joyful Alleluias as he comes to us in his Word, and again as he comes to us in the breaking of the bread.

IN NEED OF PRAYER....IN NEED OF CARE?

Please let us know when you are in need of prayer and care.

Vickie Richmond Hawkins, Sr. Warden

Email: warden@stjohnsbausau.org

The Church Office: 715.845.6947

WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL?

When you become seriously ill, are dealing with a newly diagnosed disease or condition, or are hospitalized for treatment, surgery or rehabilitation. When you are experiencing a spiritual, physical, emotional or financial crisis. When you become concerned for the person who usually shares the pew with you because he or she has not been in church.

When you experience one of life's many transitions: a birth, a death, a job loss/change, a move, an empty nest, retirement, etc. When you need prayer and care but don't want to "bother" anyone with your troubles – please contact us anyway; you will not be "bothering" us!

Intercession List

Parish Members:

Betty Smith, Don Weinkauff, Alice (sister of Don), John Sukup, Pat Evenson, Barb Knutson, Peter and Betty Nielsen, Tatiana Ewenko, Jeff Buchholz, Evelyn Sommi, Carl & Sally Herting, Tom Gallant, Jim Lapointe, Josh Nowinsky, Ron Alexander

Our seminarian: Erik Evenson

Others to Pray For:

Taffy, Joyce, Keegan, Marina, Jack, Michele, David, Krista, Griff, Ruth, Richard, Terrie, Beth, Diane, Sally, Cullen, Allie, Carolyn & Elmer

Bishop Godfrey and the Anglican Diocese of Masvingo, Zimbabwe (our companion diocese)

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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www.stjohnswausau.org

The Church Office: 715.845.6947



CHURCH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS:

Choir Director: Julie Burgess

Organists: Cathy Veldhuizen, Patricia Metter, Julie Burgess

Education: Jason Chan (Sunday School), Cyndi Strampe,
Ruth Schuette

Sexton: Kim Schoenberger

Office & Website: Theresa Ambord

Altar Guild: Ruth Schuette

ECW – Shelley Miller

Buildings & Grounds: Steve Miller

OUR VESTRY MEMBERS:

Sr Warden: Vickie Richmond Hawkins

Jr Warden: Steve Miller

Clerk of Vestry: Dixie Terrell Wilhite

Vestry: Julie Bliss (2020), Brad Bollmann (2020), Tom Gallant (2020),
Travis Jensen (2019), Tyler McCormack (2019), Patti Schaal (2019),
Pamela Glennon (2018), Georgia Moen (2018), Dixie Terrell Wilhite (2018),

Treasurer: Beverly Royer (since 2013)