



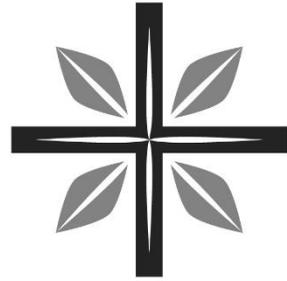
St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



Children's Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2018

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Welcome to our visitors!

- We enjoy sharing the Good News of Christmas with our family and friends. On this night, it is our prayer that the message compels you to praise God along with us for his precious Son. He entered our world with a singular purpose: to rescue us from slavery to sin. As the King from heaven came down to earth, he broke death's grip on our eternity. By faith in him, we are free from the fear of the grave. We can be certain of our future. Our confidence lies not in our own good works, but in his manger stall. He alone, as God made man, opens the door to heaven for us. We pray that you will return to worship with us again.
- Large print service folders are available from an usher.
- The pastors, staff, principal, faculty, and their families wish to thank the members of St. John's for all the Christmas cards and gifts received during this festive season. Your expressions of love and gratitude for our ministry are genuinely appreciated. God bless you for your care and concern. We wish you a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.



“The Perfect Plan”
Children’s Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2018

Preservice Music

The First Noel

Tiffany Chen, piano

Away in a Manger

Annika Laufer, piano

O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel

Camden Theesfeld, guitar

Silent Night

Tony Chen, piano

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

William Eft & Peter Ma, percussion

Go, Tell It On The Mountain

Clara Kammholz, piano

Joy to the World

Micah Buske, piano

Away in a Manger

Eva Kuehn, Emma Lindert & Madalyn Morin, clarinet

Rhiannon Gantner, alto saxophone

O Holy Night

John Handeland, piano

O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel

William Eft, piano

Preservice Music

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Olivia Close, Ally Rhyner & Lexi Siegmund, guitar

Silent Night

Jacob Alejandro, piano

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Amos Ebeling, baritone; Silas Ebeling & John Handeland, French horn; Riley Rindfleisch, tuba

Angels We Have Heard on High

Lexi Siegmund, piano

The First Noel

Morgan Festerling & Rhiannon Gantner, violin

Junior Handbells

Hark! The Glad Sound

arranged by Susan Geschke

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arranged by Julie Turner

Joy to the World

arranged by Valerie Stephenson

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Narrations by John Handeland, Josh Knueppel, Erin Welcenbach,
Jacob Alejandro, Silas Ebeling & Noel Greene

And what are your plans for Christmas?

Not sure yet, but Mom and Dad always have things planned out long before Christmas. It's been crazy around our house trying to get everything done in time. I know we'll see my grandma and grandpa sometime soon. We always do this time of year. What about you?

I don't know. I know my parents had to plan just to make it here for this service. Dad had to ask off of work. He has to plan his work schedule a zillion days in advance. Our plans are to open presents after the service tonight, then tomorrow afternoon we will go to the family Christmas party. Those are always fun. This year, I think we're planning on staying overnight. That'll be great!

Plans. What would Christmas be like if we didn't make any plans? No plans for shopping, no plans for baking treats, and no plans for meals. That would also mean no plans for family get-togethers, and, worse yet, no plans for church services. We all know plans are necessary to keep our lives running smoothly, especially at Christmas.

Sometimes plans are even more important than setting aside time to bake Christmas cookies. For instance, some of our young people are already planning on what they would like to do when they get older, or some may be planning a wedding. Many of us know the difficulty in planning our family's finances or planning on where to live. Some of us may even be planning our retirements. These are all important plans we need to deal with in life. While baking cookies may be somewhat minor and insignificant, other plans can be life changing and very necessary.

Our worship tonight is about a plan, an important plan, a plan that affects everyone. This plan wasn't made by people. God owns this plan, and it is so important that eternal life and death hang in the balance. Tonight we are excited to tell about *The Perfect Plan!*

Processional Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Christian Worship 55

**C: Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of the God the Father.
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

(continued on the next page)

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

ANTIPHONAL RESPONSES

M: Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin,

C: **in this way death came to all people, because all have sinned.**

Romans 5:12

K5-8th: *But God had the perfect plan.*

M: All have sinned

C: **and have fallen short of God's glory.**

Romans 3:23

K5-8th: *But God had the perfect plan.*

M: All our righteous acts are like filthy rags;

C: **like the wind, our sins sweep us away.**

Isaiah 64:6

K5-8th: *But God had the perfect plan.*

M: Surely I was sinful at birth,

C: **sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

Psalms 51:5

K5-8th: *But God had the perfect plan.*

M: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance:

C: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**

1 Timothy 1:15

K5-8th: *God has the perfect plan.*

M: God our Savior wants all people to be saved

C: **and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

1 Timothy 2:3, 4

K5-8th: *God has the perfect plan.*

All: **“I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to give you hope and a future.” God has the perfect plan!**

Jeremiah 29:11

Be seated

Response to the Word

Junior Choir

An Invitation for Advent

by Ruth Elaine Schram

Come to us, Emmanuel. Come to us, Lord Jesus.
Come to us, Emmanuel. Come and set us free.
We lift our longing hearts to you. Come and bring us peace.
Come to us, Emmanuel. O come, Lord Jesus, come.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Come to us, Emmanuel. Come to us, Lord Jesus.
Come to us, Emmanuel. Come and bring us your light.
From darkness we have called to you, praying in the night.
Come to us, Emmanuel. O come, Lord Jesus, come.

PART ONE: THE PURPOSE OF GOD’S PLAN

Narrations by Madysen Lueck, Riley Rindfleisch,
Annika Laufer, William Eft & Tiffany Chen
Recitations by Kindergarten – 8th grades

God created a perfect world. The light was perfect, the weather was perfect, and so were the plants and animals. Everything God made was good. There was nothing that wasn’t perfect. There was no sin, no pain, no hatred, and no death. Everything was perfect.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Genesis 1:31

God also made a man and a woman. They were perfect too, just like the rest of God's creation. God gave his special people three gifts. He gave them his perfect image. He gave them a soul that would never die, and he gave them a will to show God their faithfulness or faithlessness. Sadly, before long Adam and Eve followed the temptation of Satan and turned their backs on their loving Creator God when they ate from the forbidden tree.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.
Genesis 3:6

The perfect creation was perfect no more. It was ruined. God's heart was broken when he remembered the warning he had given to Adam and Eve:

You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.
Genesis 2:17

God's perfect gift was pure no more. Once lovely, now destroyed by man. God banished them and closed the door. But first he gave to them a plan...the perfect plan.

God knew life for his people would now be difficult. Pain, sadness, loneliness, and, worst of all, death would become part of everyone's life. People could never get back that perfect image unless they would live perfect lives. If not, they would die forever. But God planned a way out. He would send his own Son to live the perfect life for the people, and he would bear the punishment for the people's sin. It was a perfect plan.

"I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD.
Jeremiah 29:11

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

Response to the Word

5th – 8th Grades

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

by John A. Behnke

Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, your love outpouring.

Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are: our healer be; loose our tongues to tell your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken, heal the world, by sin now broken.

Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

PART TWO: THE DETAILS OF GOD'S PLAN

Narrations by Micah Buske, Tony Chen, Elsa Gregory & Nora Gregory

Recitations by Kindergarten – 8th grades

God gave his perfect plan to Adam and Eve. He told them that he would send someone special, an only Son, who would destroy the curse of sin and death. But it would not be pleasant. There would be a battle, and God's Son would be horribly bruised, but Satan would be destroyed.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. *Genesis 3:15*

For the next 4000 years, not a day went by that God didn't focus on his plan. Year after year, century after century, God's plan took shape.

God sent a flood but kept his plan alive with Noah.

God moved Abraham to a new land.

God promised a Savior to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

God kept his promise alive in the family of Judah that moved down to Egypt.

God rescued his people from Egypt and brought them back to the land where Jesus would be born.

God hinted that his Son would be born in Bethlehem, King David's hometown.

God allowed his people to be taken to Babylon, but again he rescued them and brought them home.

God promised that the Savior would be born of a virgin.

God said his Son would be called Emmanuel because he would be God living with us.

Even during the 400 years between the Testaments, God was making certain that every detail would be in place for unveiling his perfect plan.

God's perfect plan took years and years; the clock ticked on till all was right,
And when the time had fully come, God sent his Son on Christmas night.

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Galatians 4:4, 5

Hymn

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Christian Worship 28

**C: Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept his word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.**

**Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord –
Him of two-fold race behold – truly came, as long foretold.**

**Crush for me the serpent's head that, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to you in faith, safely kept through life and death,**

**And, when you shall come again as a glorious king to reign,
I with joy may see your face, freely ransomed by your grace.**

PART THREE: THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PLAN

Narrations by Peter Ma, Olivia Close, Kaylie McEvoy,

Eden Rader, Ally Rhyner & Chloe Campbell

Recitations by Kindergarten – 8th grades

Nine months before God's plan was presented, God sent his angel to a virgin named Mary to tell her that she would be the special mother of the Savior.

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. Luke 1:31, 32

Just days before God unveiled his plan, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that all the people were to go to their hometowns to register. That meant Mary and Joseph had to make the 70 mile trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem, just as God had planned.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. *Luke 2:1-5*

Even the crowded inn, the manger bed, and the swaddling clothes were part of the plan.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. *Luke 2:6, 7*

Response to the Word

Junior Choir and Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

How Quietly

by Joel Raney

How quietly, how quietly the wondrous gift was given for me.
How sweet and gentle, how meek and mild; this precious gift, this Holy Child.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Angels sing to God, our King of peace to all on earth.
Morning stars break through the darkness proclaiming the holy birth.
How quietly, how quietly the wondrous gift was given for me.
How sweet and gentle, how meek and mild; this precious gift, this Holy Child.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes,
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

The shepherds who watched their sheep that night were in God's plan too.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. *Luke 2:8*

Above those Bethlehem fields came the announcement of God's perfect plan. In the dark of night on that seemingly insignificant hillside, the heavens opened with a bright light and a loud sound. God's angels could hold their silence no more as they announced God's plan to the shepherds below.

Four thousand years pointed to this moment, to these people, and to this place.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:9-14

Response to the Word

3rd & 4th Grades

Angels We Have Heard on High

arranged by Trevor Manor

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains:
"Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
"Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
"Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, with us sing our Savior's birth.
"Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

And just as God had planned, the shepherds left their flocks, went to see the baby, and became the first missionaries sharing God's perfect plan with everyone they met.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:15-20

God's perfect plan had come to pass: it was the baby poor and small.
So tender, meek, and mild was he, yet this one child would save us all.

God's perfect plan involved a cross, a death, a life, a victory,
For this small babe would shed his blood and give his life for you and me.

Response to the Word

Kindergarten – 8th Grades and Congregation

Silent Night

arranged by Mark Patterson

K5-8th: Stille nacht! Heilige nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht,
Nur das traute hoch heilige paar,
Holder Knabe, im lockigen haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer ruh.

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

(continued on the next page)

**C: Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Offering

The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work in our community and around the world, and our offerings are a joyful response of our faith. To submit your offering electronically, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/giving. If you are a visitor today, you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.



Offertory

O Holy Night
Kindergarten bells

Please stand

Prayer of the Church

The minister says the Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Be seated

PART FOUR: OUR PART IN GOD'S PLAN

Narrations by Evan Starkey, Lexi Siegmund & Clara Kammholz

Recitations by Kindergarten – 8th grades

Did you know that God's plan still isn't quite finished? We now play a major part in that plan. As God's children, we know the peace and joy that comes from the perfect plan. Now our Savior asks us to share his plan with everyone.

Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Matthew 28:19

We might ask, "Will God's plan have an end?" Thousands of years ago, God told Adam and Eve that he had a plan that his children could once again share his perfect image, just as they did in Eden. Across desert sands, into remote palaces, upon stone altars, and over miles of unpaved highways, God moved his plan along, because he knew there would one day be an end of the journey. God's perfect plan will end the same way for each of us, and what a glorious end that will be!

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

John 14:2, 3

What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived – the things God has prepared for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

God's perfect plan will end one day, with perfect peace in heaven above.
So we can plan to live our days wrapped in the Savior's precious love.

Response to the Word

Kindergarten – 8th Grades

Joy Has Dawned Upon the World

by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love: Jesus, born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold: a King is born today. Incense: God is with us.
Myrrh: his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us!

Son of Adam, Son of heav'n, given as a ransom,
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a friend! What a glorious mystery:
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history!
Joy to the world! Sing joy!

M: May the God of love – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – bless and keep you tonight and forever.

C: Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World
Christian Worship 62

**C: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Serving at Worship

Minister	Pastor Eric Schroeder
Musicians	Mandy Treder, organ Terry Buske, piano
Kindergarten – 8th Grade Choir Director	Mandy Treder
Junior Choir Director	Mandy Treder
Junior Handbell Choir Director	Julie Handeland

Acknowledgements

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St. John's Holiday Worship Schedule

Monday, December 24	Service of Lessons & Carols 7:00 PM
Tuesday, December 25	Christmas Day Festival Worship 10:00 AM
Saturday, December 29	Worship 5:30 PM
Sunday, December 30	Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Monday, December 31	New Year's Eve Worship 6:45 PM
Tuesday, January 1, 2019	New Year's Day Worship 10:00 AM

Regular Worship Schedule

Saturdays at 5:30 PM – Worship in English

Saturdays at 7:00 PM – Worship in Mandarin Chinese

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 AM – Worship in English

Sundays at 9:15 AM – Sunday School & Bible Classes (beginning January 6, 2019)

The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 am

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 pm

Pastors

*Pastor Joel Leyrer
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*Pastor Eric Schroeder
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