

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Worship Leaders – William Schneeloch & Tom McClure
Lay Reader – William Schneeloch
Acolyte – Daniel Provost
Music Director – Jeff Windoloski
Altar Care – Jane McClure

2018 ALTAR CARE: A sign-up sheet is located in the foyer for those who are willing to volunteer to clean our church altar. If you are unable to do a full month, two weeks would be fine. All are encouraged to help with the task. Training will be provided if needed.

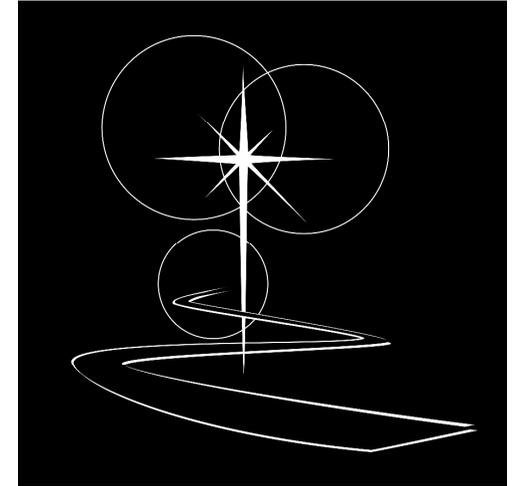
LUTHERAN WITNESS: Subscriptions for the Lutheran Witness, a publication of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are \$11.00 per year. To renew or enter a new subscription, please use the SUBSCRIPTION envelope in your box of 2018 offering envelopes. These envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or given to Jane McClure.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS are needed each Sunday. Please sign up on the sheet located in the foyer to host a coffee hour after church. This activity is wonderful way to share in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please see Linda Slozak or Erika Slozak if you have any questions.

2018 ALTAR FLOWERS: The flower book pages for the New Year are now in the book. The cost for each bouquet is \$21.00. We can do up to three bouquets per Sunday. If anyone would like to have flowers for a particular Sunday, please sign up in the flower book located in the church foyer or see Jane McClure (562- 0492). Please make checks payable to St. John's Altar Guild.

RADIO MINISTRY: There are many Sundays coming up that are available for sponsorship. Please help in the continuing outreach mission project of our Radio Broadcast of Sunday morning Worship. Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN (560 AM). The cost for the program is now \$125 per week. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast (or a part of a broadcast) in memory of or in honor of anyone please call the church or sign up on the sheet outside the office door.

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
EPIPHANY
Of
Our Lord
10:00 a.m.
January 7,
A.D. 2018



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
(413)568-1417

Website: <http://stjohnswestfield.org> e-mail: info@stjohnswestfield.org

Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM

Rev. David Riley, Pastor
125 Glenwood Drive
Westfield, MA 01085
Cell phone # 870-814-4828

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us. If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church. A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

The Order of Holy Communion

TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

AS WE GATHER

Christmas lights may be coming down, but the Light of the world still shines for all to see. We receive this Light during our Epiphany worship today. The promise that nations will come to the light of the Lord is fulfilled when the Wise Men come from the East. They follow the star and are led to the Light. Jesus is the light that shines the brightness of heaven into the darkness of their hearts. He does the same for you today as you receive His Word and gather at His Table. Dispelling the darkness of sin, Christ Jesus will fill you with the light of His presence and invite you, as He did the Wise Men, to bow before Him in honor and praise. Rejoice and be glad—your Light has come!

✠ PRELUDE: Improvisation on "We Three King's"

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ OPENING HYMN NO. **367**: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Confession and Absolution

p. 151

Service of the Word

p. 152

Introit (*Sung by the choir*)

Kyrie

Gloria in Excelsis

✠ SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the nations. Lead us, who follow Your Son by faith, to rejoice in the brightness of Your eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

P: For those who lay down their lives for their fellow men and women, including first responders, members of law enforcement, doctors and nurses, and those who wear the uniform of our country, that they take shelter in the arms of our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, let Your light shine upon those who sacrifice their lives.

P: For those who are sick and hospitalized, shut-in and homebound, and for all who are sick in heart, mind, and body, that their lives be touched by our Father's healing mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, let Your light shine upon all those who suffer.

P: For these and all other prayers and intercessions we have, that the petitions of our hearts may be known to the One who knows and loves us all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, let Your light lead us to You. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

✠ OFFERTORY (Page 159)

Service of the Sacrament (p. 160)

At the time of DISTRIBUTION, all those wishing to receive Holy Communion will come forward as the ushers direct. The bread/Body of the Lord will be served in your hand. If you wish to receive the Lord's blood from an individual glass rather than from the common cup, indicate so when Pastor comes to you and he will hand you a glass from which you then drink and place back in the tray carried by the acolyte. If you are not a member of this congregation or a sister congregation within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, it is suggested that you speak to the Pastor before partaking of Holy Communion.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS No. **636**: "Soul, Adorn, Yourself with Gladness"

No. **632**: "O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee"

**At the end of the Distribution we stand and continue with
Nunc Dimittis on p. 165**

✠ CLOSING HYMN NO. **397**: "As with Gladness Men of Old"

✠ SILENT PRAYER

✠ POSTLUDE: "March of the Three Kings"

VENISON DINNER – January 27 at 5:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy a delicious game feast dinner with many courses being served. The cost per ticket is \$15.00. Only 100 tickets are available. Purchase your tickets after this morning's worship from Gary Wolfe or Mark Baldyga.

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C (sung): Praise to You, O Christ.

(Be Seated)

✠ HYMN of the DAY NO. **400**: *"Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"*

✠ SERMON: *"Be Wise! Follow the Star!"* Matthew 2:1-12

✠ NICENE CREED (page 158)

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the peace of the whole world, that wars cease and that people of every nation find lasting, perfect peace in Jesus, the Prince of Peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, let Your light shine upon all nations.

P: For those who profess faith in Jesus Christ, here at [*name of congregation*] and in every corner of creation, that the journey of the Wise Men inspires us to follow the light of the Gospel and spread the Word of salvation throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, let Your light shine upon Your Church.

P: For those who lead and guide us in our congregations, schools, universities, and seminaries, that they be strengthened in their service to the Church in honor and praise to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, let Your light shine upon Your servants.

P: For those who bring their tithes and offerings to this altar that, like the gold, frankincense, and myrrh of the Wise Men, these gifts be pleasing in God's sight and provide many blessings to His Church, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, let Your light shine upon all who give.

✠ OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 60:1–6 (*Nations shall come to the light of the Lord.*)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual (Sung by the choir)

✠ EPISTLE: Ephesians 3:1–12 (*Hidden for ages, the mystery of the Gospel is now revealed.*)

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

We Stand and sing the Alleluia (Page 156)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

(The Wise Men follow the star and come to worship Jesus.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C (sung): Glory to You, O Lord.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

