

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
**First Sunday
After
Christmas**

10:00 a.m.

December 30, A.D. 2018



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- *Missouri Synod* ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

(413)568-1417

Rev. David Riley, Pastor

125 Glenwood Drive

Westfield, MA 01085

Cell phone # 870-814-4828

Website: www.stjohnswestfield.org E-mail: info@stjohnswestfield.org

Music Ministry Site: www.stjohnsmusic.org

Radio Broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN 560 AM

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

Simeon and Anna rejoiced when Mary and Joseph brought week-old Jesus to the temple. He was physical proof that God was keeping His promises made centuries ago. Firstborn males had to be consecrated to God because He had spared them at the time of the exodus. In our Psalm today, God promises redemption for His people, and in Christ we are His chosen people, holy and dearly loved, as Paul writes in the Epistle. Today is the Sunday after Christmas, and we focus on how we exhibit love, forgiveness, and peace, thanking God for His promises kept.

† ANNOUNCEMENTS

† BAPTISMAL HYMN NO. **592**: *"Dearest Jesus We Are Here"* (Sts. 1 & 2)

THE RITE of HOLY BAPTISM

(Page 268-271)

Charlize Patrick Ferriter

Born January 22, 2018

Parents: Patrick and Romanna Ferriter

Sponsors: Joanna Berube and James Hagan Jr.

† BAPTISMAL HYMN NO. **592**: *"Dearest Jesus We Are Here"* (Sts. 3-4)

Confession and Absolution

(Page 184)

Service of the Word

(Page 186)

KYRIE

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

† SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C (sung): And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

✠ OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

The Lord said to Moses, "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."

Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place.

"When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C (sung): Thanks be to God.

✠ GRADUAL *(Sung by All)*

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.
Sing to the Lord a | new song,*
for he has done | marvelous things!

✠ EPISTLE: Colossians 3:12-17

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand and Sing the Alleluia p. 190)

† HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

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

C (sung): Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C (sung): Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

(Be Seated)

† HYMN of the DAY NO. **370**: *"What Child Is This"*

† SERMON: *"What Child Is This?"* Luke 2:22-40

† RESPONSORY HYMN NO. **384**: *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

(Please Stand)

† OFFERTORY (Page 192)

(Be Seated)

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

(Please Stand)

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Holy and beloved, let us use the encouragement of the Epistle to guide our prayers to God for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various needs. Put on compassion:

C: Protect and guide all who serve in the healing professions, O Lord. Give them compassion so that they see their patients as Your dearly loved children.

P: Put on kindness:

C: Guide and strengthen all who teach and care for vulnerable teens and senior citizens. Give them wisdom to serve in kindness and love.

P: Put on humility:

C: Remind those who fill positions of authority here and around the world to rule with humility as they serve You and the people around them in making, administering, and adjudicating the laws of the land.

P: Put on meekness:

C: Protect and guide those who serve in law enforcement at home and armed forces deployed so that they make appropriate decisions at all times.

P: Put on patience:

C: Open doors of opportunity for the spread of the Gospel here and around the world. Give patience to clergy and lay leaders alike as they proclaim the news of Your Son's birth. Make them aware of Your gracious presence to bless their efforts.

P: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Heavenly Father, we remember before You those who are not at peace because of illness, conflict, loss, and sadness. In Your great love,

C: restore health, resolve conflict, console, and bring renewal of joy as fits Your gracious plans for them.

P: Into Your hands, loving Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament (p. 194)

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 Assistant 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **372**: "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is"

**At the end of the Distribution we stand and continue with
Nunc Dimittis on p. 199**

† CLOSING HYMN NO. **367**: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

† SILENT PRAYER

† POSTLUDE

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Lay Assistants – William Schneeloch & Rich
Conroy

Lay Reader – Linda Slozak

Acolyte – Daniel Provost

Music Director – Jeff Windoloski

Altar Care – Jane McClure

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my sister and her husband, Margaret and John Balch, from Sally Sienkiewicz and her family. Also, on the Baptismal Font, in honor of the Baptism of Charlize Ferriter from Gramma Jo (JoAnn Ferriter).

OUR NEXT CONCERT: "LESSONS & CAROLS" FEATURING
SCHOLA NOVA

Saturday The 5th Of January 2019 At 7:00PM

Join us for the second concert in this season with a choral concert by local choral ensemble Schola Nova! Schola Nova begins its 36th concert season with the tradition of the Lessons and Carols, begun in the 19th Century at King's College, Cambridge, and now performed by choirs all over the world. The concert employs nine texts read by members of St. John's complemented by music from Benjamin Britten's well-known "A Ceremony of Carols," as well as carols sung with the audience.



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 2019 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.

Scripture Calendars are still available for \$8.00 each and **Pocket Planners** are available for \$5.00 each. If you would like to purchase one please see Jane McClure.