

St. Johns Lutheran Church

All who Heard Him were
Amazed!



Jesus increased in wisdom

AS WE GATHER

Have you tired of those Christmas gifts yet, or are you still enjoying them? God gave Solomon the gift of wisdom. God's wisdom was a gift Solomon displayed vividly at times, but at other times, it seemed he had regifted it. In Jesus, we see the gift of God's wisdom on full display when He is found in the temple, at age 12, asking questions and providing answers beyond His years. God continues to reveal His wisdom to us through the Bible. What is your plan for connecting with God and His wisdom this year?

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME GUESTS

We're glad you are here! Make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. Please take time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering. Please consider liking us on Facebook (St. Johns Lutheran Church – St. Louis City) and checking out our website (<https://stjohnslutheranstlouis.org/>).

PREPARATION

HYMN

Once in Royal David's City *LSB 376*

**Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is the Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.**

**Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!**

INVOCATION

**In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

O Giver of all good gifts, we come to You today acknowledging our foolishness and shortsightedness. As we live in this world, we succumb to the thinking of this world, which does not always align with Your thoughts. Amid the strains and stresses of life, we forget about Your unfailing love for us and for all in our world. For the sake of Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, forgive our sins and renew us by Your love.

Our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, loves us dearly and blesses us with every spiritual blessing. We have redemption through Jesus' blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, Jesus! Amen.

WORD

INTROIT

LSB 186

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

KYRIE

LSB 186

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS...Glory to God in the Highest LSB 187

Glory be to God on high:

and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have
mercy upon us.**

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, You are the fountain and source of all wisdom. You made Solomon a wise king. Your Son demonstrated this wisdom in the temple. Grant us Your wisdom so that we may share it in our communities and throughout the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MEMORIZED WORD

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

OLD TESTAMENT READING *1 Kings 3:4–15*

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.”

⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” ¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

**For 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 *Ephesians 1:3–14*

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Luke 2:40*

Alleluia.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

And the favor of God was upon Him.

Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:40–52*

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY Within the Father's House *LSB 410*

**Within the Father's house
The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly
The Lord of life has come.**

**The doctors of the Law
Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at His gracious words
Of wisdom undefiled.**

**Yet not to them is giv'n
The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil which hides
Incarnate God below.**

**The secret of the Lord
Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await
The full epiphany.**

**Lord, visit Thou our souls
And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself
With loving awe to trace**

Stand

**Till we behold Thy face
And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Coequal Three in One.**

SERMON

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

OFFERING

OFFERTORY LSB 192

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray:

Lord, we pray for this New Year that is here, that You continue to bless us, Your people chosen before the foundation of the world, so that we may be a blessing to others. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Fill us with the wisdom of Your Word. Lead and guide our visioning, goal setting, and planning so that we have a positive impact in our world both now and for eternity.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for all who lead—in government, in the public and private sectors, and in Your Church—that they lead with Your wisdom so that the decisions they make are in line with Your will for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for all who are hurting, grieving, and struggling in their heart, soul, strength, and mind, [*especially . . .*] that they experience Your dear, sweet love for them as You lead, guide, and provide for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for those who are beginning this year with goals to read the Bible and learn more about You, that You connect them with Your people so that, as with Philip and the Ethiopian, there is someone to help them understand the mystery of Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your dear love; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN Of the Father's Love Begotten *LSB 384*

**Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.**

**Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.**

**This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**

**O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing,
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.**

Stand

**Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.**

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Pastor Michael Tanney
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	William Gebhart and Roger Schmidt
Children's Message	Pastor Michael Tanney
Acolytes	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Greeter	Roger Schmidt
Worship Screen	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Bible Class	Pastor Michael Tanney

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Announcements

Saved to Share Called to Care

Our Response to God's Love Last Week

Attendance Sunday: 40

Communion: 33

Offering: \$1,551.00

WORD OF LIFE FUNDRAISER WOL will be having a fundraiser at Noodles & Co (64 Hampton Village Plaza) on January 18th, All Day. You can order online or on the Noodles APP and enter code GIVING30 at checkout. You can also bring the flyer to the cashier when ordering. Flyers are available to pick up.

CONCORDIA SEMINARY AFTER CHAPEL CONCERT SERIES The After Chapel Concerts are mini concerts featuring musicians from within and beyond the Seminary community. Concerts are held in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus directly following morning chapel services from 9:55 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Concerts are typically held in the chapel balcony. These concerts also will be streamed at csl.edu/live. Check out their website for a full schedule and details! The next concert is on Tuesday, January 11th featuring a Student Muscian.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY for young adults between the ages of 18-30. The Bible Study will run from 5:30pm-7:30pm, and will include a pizza dinner (provided by St. Johns). Our next date being January 8th. If interested, please RSVP to stjohnslechl@gmail.com or call 314-773-0126 and let us know what your preferred pizza topping is.

MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE The choirs and instrumentalists of Hope Ev. Lutheran invite you to join us as we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6th at 7:00pm. Special music for the Christmas and Epiphany season will be shared throughout the Divine Service. Hope Ev. Lutheran is located at 5218 Neosho St. in St. Louis, MO.

FREE WILL OFFERING Today we will be taking a free will offering for the Missouri District to help with their disaster relief efforts for congregations effected by the storms on December 10th.

TRIVIA NIGHT FOR TROOP 181 will be held on Saturday, February 12th. Doors open at 6pm and the trivia will start at 6:30pm. The address is Lemay VFW Post #4223, 215 Military Rd., St. Louis, MO 63125. The cost is \$15/person tables of 8. For reservations, you can contact Lynette (314-973-6541 or kazbanklan@att.net), Eunice (314-306-0763), or Ruth (314-306-5887). Cash, credit, and checks (made out to "Boy Scout Troop 181") are accepted.

Prayers

Special Prayer Petitions –For those infected by the corona virus for quick healing and recovery; **Maureen Rehmer** as she continues to recover at home; **Dennis Solomon** for healing from bed sores; **Dennis Schwab** as he was just diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus and brain; **Irene Hurst** who just had a stroke; **Field-workers** and **Vicars**; **Nepali & African Congregation** blessings; **EAGLE schools & Compass** for safety during Christmas break.

Shut Ins – Bobbie Kepford, Dennis Solomon, Jerry Schmaltz, Carol Carr, Steve Bain, Maureen Rehmer, Eileen Wehrheim, Don Osiek

Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week

January 2-January 9

Sunday	9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Study/Nepalese Worship 12:30pm African Worship
Monday	8am-2pm Office Open 3pm-6pm Compass 7pm Elders
Tuesday	8am-2pm Office Open 3pm-6pm Compass 7pm Seminary Students
Wednesday	8am-2pm Office Open 3pm-6pm Compass 3:45pm Compass Chapel 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm ESL
Thursday	8am-2pm Office Open 2pm Ridgewood Bible Study 5:30pm Pizza & Prayer
Friday	8am-1pm Office Open 8am Bible Study 2pm-6pm Compass
Saturday	8:30am-10:30am Food Pantry 1pm Vicar Meeting 5:30pm-7:30pm Young Adult Bible Study
Next Sunday	9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study/ Nepalese Worship 12:30pm African Worship