

Gathering of the People

A warm welcome to all guests and members. We pray this time of worship will be one in which you experience God's love and peace.

THE PRELUDE

THE CHURCH BELL CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Words of Welcome

Passing of the Peace

*Hymn: ***Open Now the Gates of Beauty Hymnal Supplement #23, Page #11***

*Call To Worship:

L: We look back with gratitude at the paths we have traveled and the years of God's grace in this place.

P: Many, O Lord, are Your wonderful works; Your steadfast love endures forever.

L: We honor those who planted and watered before us and we celebrate who we are today.

P: For generations, God's Word has been proclaimed and God's name has been praised.

L: We open our hearts to the community around us and welcome the new opportunities ahead.

P: Let us enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise!

L: Let us worship God...the God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow!

All: Praise be to God in our midst now and forever! Amen!

*Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, we come into Your presence today with hearts full of praise and thanksgiving. Thank You for Your steadfast love and faithfulness that has sustained this church through every season. We celebrate the milestone of this anniversary and we give all the glory back to You, God. Thank You for every life touched, every prayer answered, and the community You have built in this place. As we gather today, knit us together in unity and love. Refresh our spirits and ignite a fresh fire in our hearts to serve You. Bless our time of worship, our fellowship, and our leadership. Guide our steps into the future and may this church remain a bright beacon of hope and light in this community for generations to come. In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: ***O God Our Help in Ages Past #67***

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:16

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2:9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:18

Children's Choir ***"Ich Lobe Meinen Gott"***

Children's Message

Choir Anthem ***"As A Little Child"***

Church Recognition Rev. Kelly Gallagher, MN UCC Associate Conference Minister

"A Beloved Church's History" Brenda Liker

Moments of Remembrance

*Hymn: ***Tis So Sweet to Walk With Jesus Hymnal Supplement #179, Page #59***

Offertory

*Doxology **#46**

*Offertory Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn: ***Now Thank We All Our God #715***

*Benediction:

Heavenly God, we come to the end of this wonderful anniversary celebration. Thank You for Your faithfulness through every year, every season, and every challenge that has brought us to this milestone. Thank You for the lives changed and the love shared within these walls. Seal Your holy words deep in our hearts and let the seeds of faith planted here grow and produce fruit for Your glory. As we leave this place, go with us holy Lord. Bind us together in unity and love as one church family. Equip us with everything good to do Your will in the days ahead and let our light shine brightly in our community. We devote ourselves anew to Your service, trusting You to guide our steps into the future. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. Amen.

(*=Please stand as you are able.)

Postlude

Our Shared Ministry

St. John's:

Organist

Craig Keller

Flutist

Jennifer Bailey

Flutist

Katelyn Hess

Greeters

Zach and Kelly Hertle

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, Oct. 11

SJ 170th Anniversary Celebration (Joint service-10:00-SJ) Lunch to follow

Mon., Oct. 12 Annual Flu Vaccine at Nerstrand Elementary School 4-5:30

Bring Health card

Funeral Services for Irene Shaske at NUMC 10:30 am, visitation 1 hour prior

Wed., Oct. 14

WW 1pm-5pm-N

Nerstrand UMC Administrative Board Meeting, at 5pm

Fri., Oct. 16

Pastor Day off

Oct. 16-21 Pastor Gary and Brenda vacation (joint service Oct. 18th at 10:00-NUMC)

Sat., Oct. 17

Wed. Wear 9am -noon

The Carving Group-SJ 10-12

Sunday, October 18th Combined Worship Service at the Nerstrand United Methodist Church, at 10am. Our guest Lay Speaker will be Sandy Emry from the Owatonna UMC.

Gol Harvest Luncheon 10:30am-1:00pm

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 31st Trick or Treat at NUMC from 5:30 to 7pm.

Sunday, Nov. 1 Holden All Saints Dinner 12-2 and 4:30-6:30

December 5th-Christmas dinner and concert

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Sunday Oct. 11, 2026
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
St. John's UCC 170th Anniversary

Combined Worship
St. John's UCC 10:00am

God is still speaking!
Nerstrand United Methodist/ St. John's United Church of Christ
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