



St. John's Lutheran Church
April 15, 2018

Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church

Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! It truly is an honor to have you worshipping with us this morning and it is our prayer that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness! If you are visiting with us today, please take one of the visitor gift bags from the visitors' center.

At St. John's we are pleased to offer a variety of service formats on Sunday morning. In our 8:30 a.m. traditional service we offer familiar hymns and rich, traditional worship forms in a meaningful and inspirational setting. Our 11:00 a.m. contemporary service includes the same message as our 8:30 a.m. service but in an informal style, enhanced with contemporary music. We encourage you to try both worship styles! Thank you for worshipping with us; we would love to have you join us again!

(If you need any assistance or need a hearing aid device, please see one of the ushers.)

The Lord's Supper

Though we are eager for all to participate fully in the Lord's Supper, we do not want to compromise any portion of God's Word among us. Because Scripture states that the Lord's Supper can be taken to one's spiritual harm if not properly understood, we ask all visitors to refer to the following statement of belief regarding the Lord's Supper before communing:

I am truly sorry for the sin in my life. I am struggling to die to my sin and to live in faith in Jesus. I am looking to Jesus to empower me to stop my sinning and to live a new life in Him. I believe when I receive the bread, I am receiving the true body of Christ, and when I receive the wine, I am receiving the true blood of Jesus. I believe that when I receive His true body and blood my sins are forgiven, I am given power over sin, death and the devil, and the gift of eternal life. My faith is completely in the words of Jesus.

The Lord's Supper offers the two-fold gift of forgiveness and peace with God on the one hand, and unity and oneness among those who commune together on the other hand (Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 10:16–17). Those who receive the body and the blood of the Lord do so in terms of their relationship with God as well as with their fellow-communicants. Therefore, all baptized believers who understand and agree with the above Lutheran teaching of the Lord's Supper are welcome to attend. As always, we encourage you to speak with Pastor Ray with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

The Wafer – To receive the wafer from the lay minister, we suggest you hold out your hands, one on top of the other, so the wafer can be placed in your hand for you to put into your mouth.

Common Cup – To assist with the distribution of the wine via the common cup/chalice, we suggest you guide the tipping of the cup by placing your hand(s) on the bottom as you are being served.

Individual Cup – For those who prefer the individual cup, one is offered. Wait until the server is in front of you before drinking the cup. As you return to your seat, put the cup in the receptacle provided on the table against the brick wall.

Disabled – The pastor and lay minister will gladly commune in the front pews anyone unable to come to the communion rail. Let the pastor or an usher know before the service begins.

Third Sunday of Easter

April 15, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Our Vision: Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, Branching Out to Others

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! It truly is an honor to have you worshiping with us this morning and it is our prayer that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness! Thank you for worshiping with us; we would love to have you join us again!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME/GREETING OF ONE ANOTHER

Please take time to complete the appropriate side of the attendance registration cards. Once completed, pass the cards toward the center aisle. They will be collected during the offering.

OPENING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

LSB 475

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

KYRIE *(responses sung)*

THIS IS THE FEAST *(sung)*

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Acts 3:12-21

¹² Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? ¹³ For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release him. ¹⁴ You rejected this holy, righteous one and instead demanded the release of a murderer. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact! ¹⁶ "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes.

¹⁷ “Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance. ¹⁸ But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that he must suffer these things. ¹⁹ Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. ²⁰ Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. ²¹ For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

1 John 3:1-7

¹ See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know him. ² Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. ³ And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who sins is breaking God’s law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. ⁵ And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him. ⁶ Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is. ⁷ Dear children, don’t let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:36-49

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

³⁶ And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ³⁷ But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost! ³⁸ “Why are you frightened?” he asked. “Why are your hearts filled with doubt? ³⁹ Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it’s really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don’t have bodies, as you see that I do.” ⁴⁰ As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he ate it as they watched. ⁴⁴ Then he said, “When

I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.⁴⁶ And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day.⁴⁷ It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’⁴⁸ You are witnesses of all these things.⁴⁹ “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.” (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Children of God
1 John 3:1-7
Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES’ CREED

GIVING TO JESUS THANKFULLY FROM THE HEART (*Offerings & Tithes*)

OFFERTORY HYMN

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The Leader will conclude every prayer with: “Lord, in Your mercy”

People respond with: “hear our prayer”

LORD’S PRAYER

PREFACE (*responses sung*)

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS (*sung*)

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

AGNUS DEI

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

At the Lamb’s High Feast We sing

Your Table I Approach

Beautiful Savior

LSB 633

LSB 628

LSB 537

BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

Spread the Reign of God the Lord

LSB 830

Last Week's Giving

General Fund	\$9,971.35
Caring and Sharing	\$295.00
Amount Needed To Meet Budget	\$16,172.00
Adult Sunday School Offering	\$71.00
Children Sunday School Offering	\$8.00

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	178
11:00 a.m.	111
Total	289
Children Sunday School	34
Adult Sunday School	50

Our Mission

*We are restored to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus.
As a family of Christians, we are dedicated to the love and forgiveness of Christ
as we reach out, preach and teach the truth of God's Word to each other,
our Community and the world.*

Third Sunday of Easter

April 15, 2018

11:00 a.m.

Our Vision: Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, Branching Out to Others

Please take time to complete the appropriate side of the attendance registration card. Once completed, pass the cards toward the center aisle.

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OPENING PRAISE SONGS

Sing to the King

Jesus Messiah/Holy is the Lord/I will Rise

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

GIVING TO JESUS THANKFULLY FROM THE HEART

In Christ Alone

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 3:1-7

MESSAGE

Children of God

1 John 3:1-7

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

Remembrance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG

The Cross of Christ

BLESSING

CHURCH CHATTER

In Need of Prayer: If you would like to be added to the prayer list, please contact the church office. If you would like your request on our prayer chain, please call Marilyn Roemelin at 217-428-8081. **Please call the prayer chain with an update of your prayer request.**

In the Military: Craig Antonio, Laura Byers, Bryon Chaney, Kimberly Chaney, Kristel Chaney, Dan Cheney, Tristin Comer, Randy Edwards, Austin Highcock, Destiny Little, Aaron Lung, Andrew Nailer, Caleb Pinney, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Salefski, Tyler Salefski

Congregation News

Door Offering today is for LSA Assessment.

Adult Choir's next rehearsal is Wednesday, April 11 at 6:45 and is open to all who want to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Ladies Friendship Circle: Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 17 at 1:00 pm. Dennis Toohill of Eagle Ridge will be our guest speaker. Please join us.

Chicken Noodle Dinner: Our spring noodle dinner will be held on Sunday, April 22 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. All proceeds will go toward our LSA Assessment. Cost is Adults - \$8.50 and Children 3-12 - \$3.50.

NECF Prayer Circle will be Sunday, April 15 at 2:00 p.m. at the new site, 800 block N. MLK Jr. Dr. Come join in and help bless this site so that it may be a blessing to others in this community. There will also be trees planted in memory of Dominic Caputo. He was a dedicated volunteer who lost his life in a motorcycle accident on April 24, 2017. Please come and be a part of this event.

Men's Church Softball League season begins April 30. Games will be on Monday nights at Rotary Park. Cost is \$25.00 (make checks out to Decatur Park District). Please see Matthew Edwards, Andrew Buhr, or John Salogga to sign up. Any questions, please call 217-299-8410.

Volunteer Month: April is National Volunteer Month! We want to thank all of those who serve in our church, congregation, and community. Volunteers truly

make a difference: together, volunteers daily and vigorously make known the love of Christ in word and deed. Your willingness to serve Christ and serve others with the talents and time that God has given you is a vital component to how the Lutheran church and our congregation further its mission. Thank you for being a blessing!

NECF Donations: On May 6 and 13, the Social Ministry is sponsoring a collection of family hygiene products to donate to the Northeast Community Fund. Donations can be such items as soap or body wash, shampoo, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shaving supplies, baby wipes, toilet paper, diapers, band aids, and sun block.

Pastor Adam and Amanda Ray are hoping to adopt again! They adopted their daughter, Kaylee, 2 years ago; and she is now ready to become a big sister! Adam and Amanda are asking for your help in sharing their story if you know someone who is pregnant and may be considering adoption. To learn more you can visit their Adoption Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/AdamandAmandaareHopingtoAdopt/

Please share this information with friends and family to help Adam and Amanda continue building their family through the gift of Adoption. Thank you!

Youth Corner

Senior High Youth Groups on Sunday evening at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. See you there!

Lock-in on May 4-5 for all 8th – 12th Graders at St. John's Lutheran Church. Bowling, Star War's day, Cinco De Mayo, and many other fun things. Meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 7:00 a.m.

LSA News

Come out to **Buffalo Wild Wings** in Forsyth on **April 23rd** from 5:00-10:00 PM to support LSA HS Girls Soccer. Make sure to present a ticket, located on the LSA table in the foyer, to ensure that LSA receives 15% of your bill. You can participate when you dine in or carry out!

April 28th PTL will be hosting a **FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON!** This is a **FREE** fellowship event! Join us from 2-4pm at LSA for a Movie, Board games, and Rock Painting! All ages welcome! Light refreshments will be available as well!! More info coming soon!

Do you know a child who is eligible to begin Kindergarten next year? Contact Susan Keane at skeane@lsadecatur.net for a tour. Students that are new to LSA in 2018-2019 school year receive 50% off of tuition for their first year!

Re-enrollment for current students is going on NOW! Please note that starting March 1, the fee is \$100.

Immediate Opening - Part-time Cafeteria Worker, 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM daily
Duties involve food preparation, serving, and clean up. Contact Tricia Summers at tsummers@lsadecatur.net if you are interested.

Please see the LSA Newsletter on the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall for all sporting events in April.

Pro-Life Corner: “When people question the value of a life lived with disability, I share God’s Word concerning the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12:22 (NIV): ‘On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.’ Note it does not say those that are weaker, but those that ‘seem to be weaker are indispensable’!” *Mona Fuerstenau, director of Lutheran Ministry Partnerships, Bethesda Lutheran Communities*



THE LORD'S WORK

Sunday, April 15

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
9:45 a.m. Education Hour
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
2:00 p.m. NECF Prayer Circle
6-8:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Groups

Monday, April 16

6:30 a.m. YMCA Before/After School Program
9-11:00 a.m. YMCA Preschool
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, April 17

6:30 a.m. YMCA Before/After School Program
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
1:00 p.m. Friendship Circle
3-5:00 p.m. YMCA Preschool
6:30 p.m. Parish Planning Meeting

Wednesday, April 18

6:30 a.m. YMCA Before/After School Program
9-11:00 a.m. YMCA Preschool
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:45 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 19

6:30 a.m. YMCA Before/After School Program
3-5:00 p.m. YMCA Preschool
5:30 p.m. TOPS
6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice

Friday, April 20

6:30 a.m. YMCA Before/After School Program
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts (FH)

Saturday, April 21

8:00 a.m. - ?? Preparing for Chicken Noodle Dinner (FH & Kitchen)

Sunday, April 22

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
9:45 a.m. Christian Education Hour
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Chicken Noodle Dinner (FH & Kitchen)
6-8:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Groups