

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.)

Contact Us

2727 North Union Boulevard, Decatur, IL 62526

Phone: (217) 875-3656; website: www.stjohnsdecatur.com

Church office hours: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday

Members of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod & Lutheran School Association



St. John's Staff

Rev. Adam Ray, Lead Pastor.....pastoradam@stjohnsdecatur.com

Rev. Aaron Bird, Assoc. Pastor.....pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com

Malinda Standerfer, Dir. of Christian Ed.....dcemalinda@stjohnsdecatur.com

Ted Hesse, Worship Team Leader & Choir Director.....tedh@stjohnsdecatur.com

Jessie Denning, Audio/Visual Coordinator

Georgia Newman, Office Manager.....georgian@stjohnsdecatur.com

Carol Reynolds, Financial Secretary.....carolr@stjohnsdecatur.com

Jeff Miller, Custodian

LSA Faculty & Staff – Members of St. John's Lutheran Church

Ciara Collins

Anne Jesgarz

Angela Martinek

Jeff Salefski

Brenda Salogga

Melissa Saurmann

Stephanie Wilkerson

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

"A NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER"

DECEMBER 18, 2022

Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! Welcome to the Christmas Children's Program at St. John's! The Children have worked hard and are excited to share the "Good News" with you all today! We pray this bring you joy and encouragement this Christmas Season!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 9:6

PROCESSIONAL

"O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL"

WE INVITE THE CONGREGATION TO SING

WELCOME/GREETING

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OPENING PRAYER

"A Time Like No Other- God Creates the World"

Narrator Poem 1

Group Poem 1

Group Poem 2

"A Day Like No Other- Sin Enters the World"

Narrator Poem 2

Group Poem 3

Narrator Poem 3

Scripture Reading: Galatians 4:4-5

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"- We invite the Congregation to Sing

"A Night Like No Other- Jesus is Born!"

Narrator Poem 4

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

"Away in a Manger"- Children Only

“News Like No Other- Angels tell Shepherds the Good News”

Narrator Poem 5

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 8-12

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:13-16

“Shepherds Watched”- *Children Only*

“A Gift Like No Other- Jesus is the Savior of the World”

Narrator Poem 6

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

OFFERING

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

We invite the Congregation to join following Verse 1

“A Message Like No Other- God Helps Us Share His Love”

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:17-20

Final Poem

Closing Prayer

Closing Hymn

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

We invite the Congregation to Join after the First Refrain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

Please join us for a time of breakfast and fellowship following the service.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

SPEAKERS

JUDE LANGSTON, NOELLE CALHOUN, HAYDEN CALHOUN, HUDSON MILLER, LILLY CALHOUN

SCRIPTURE READERS

*AVERY SMITH, JACKSON MILLER, MICAH LANGSTON, NATHAN ALBRECHT, ALLISON CUSHING,
AMELIA SAURMANN*

POEM READERS

*SOPHIE BAGGETT, PIPER LANGSTON, ELI LANGSTON, AUBRI SMITH, KAYLEE RAY, LEIGHTON
TAVARCZKY, CALLIE TAVARCZKY, AUDRA SAURMANN, COLE SIEFMANN, KARLI SIEFMANN*

INSTRUMENTALISTS

*SAMUEL ALBRECHT, ALLISON CUSHING, ELLIE HESSE, ZACH HESSE,
CARSON MILLER, JACKSON MILLER*

STUDENT DIRECTOR

SERENITY CALHOUN

In Need of Prayer: If you would like to be added to the prayer list or the prayer chain, please contact the church office. Please call the prayer chain with an update of your prayer request.

In the Military: Kaleb Blakeman, Laura Byers, Bryon Chaney, Kimberly Chaney, Kristel Chaney, Travis Chaney, Dan Cheney, Tristin Comer, Randy Edwards, Austin Highcock, Braden Highcock, Destiny Little, Noah Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Salefski, Tyler Salefski, Gavin Stanzione, Jacob Thornell

Congregation News

Christmas Birthday Brunch! Following the Christmas Children's program there will be a Christmas brunch for all to enjoy! We hope you will be a part of this great time of fellowship with one another!

Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: 2:30 & 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25, 2022: One Service at 9:30 a.m.

Poinsettias: If you wish to purchase a Poinsettia in someone's memory or honor, please use a Poinsettia offering envelopes located on the back table. Deadline to purchase the Poinsettias is today.

Mitten Christmas Tree: The Christmas Tree is in the foyer and needs your help with decorations. Donate gloves, mittens, and hats; and hang them on the tree. Donations will go to Northeast Community Fund.

NECF Christmas Baskets: If you would like to provide a Christmas dinner for a low income family, the Christmas Basket forms are on the back table. Please return the forms and money in the collection plate or to the Church office by Monday, Dec. 19.

Ladies Friendship Circle will meet for Christmas fun and fellowship at 1:00 on December 20th. Bring a snack to share, then be prepared to eat, visit, and play a game or two. In lieu of a gift exchange we are collecting small items that Baby Talk families might like for their preschool age children, 0-3 years. Think of things like

bottles, pacifiers, bibs, diapers, wipes, underwear, small toys, books, or caps and mittens. While these will be gifts from us, they are not intended to be gifts for the children, so please don't wrap. If you've never attended a Friendship Circle meeting, this is a great opportunity to get to know the group!

Offering Envelopes are available in your mailbox. If you did not receive envelopes, please contact the church office.

Adult Sunday School Hour: Starting January 8 through January 22 we will be leading a in depth study on our vision.

Unity 23: In a world that often feels divided, we're ready for Unity. As we near 2023, we're joining with our five association churches to raise funds for our shared ministry. We all have the same mission: to spread the love of Jesus to the Decatur community. Would you consider a special (tax-deductible) gift this year-end to help Jesus be known in Decatur? 50% of your gift will support the LSA; 50% will support St. John's = 100% will make a real impact on our community. Donation envelopes are available on the back table, in the church office, or online St. John's webpage.

To wrap up Unity 23 and celebrate moving into the New Year, we're going to have a Unity 23 night for our home basketball games on January 6th. We'd love to have all of our congregations come together to cheer on the Lions that night. JV is at 6pm and Varsity is at 7:30pm.

Volunteer at Northeast Community Fund: Join us in serving our community at the Northeast Community Fund! The NECF works to assist needy families in our Decatur and Macon County community with the resources available in a caring and Christ-like manner. Consider signing up as a regular individual volunteer through their website. Go to www.northeastcommunityfund.org and fill out a volunteer form by clicking, "Volunteer" at the top of the web page. In the form, include the times you would be able to volunteer in the comment box and the NECF will contact you.

Young Adult Bible Study - (Geared towards ages 24-35) We are meeting Mondays at 6:30pm at the home of Anne Jesgarz. Come join us for evenings of Bible study and board games. You can email Anne at JesgarzAnne@gmail.com for the address. We can't wait to see you there!

LWML: Mite boxes will be collected the first Sunday of each month. LWML National Convention is June 22-25, 2023 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Do you shop on Amazon? If you do, you can invest in our youth group while making your favorite online purchases! You can sign up for Amazon Smile and designate St. John's as your favorite charity and Amazon will donate .5% of eligible purchase prices to our youth group! <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-0686255>

Stewardship Seeds: *Philippians 4:4* – ***“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.”*** Life was no easier for the Philippians than it is for us. They had the same sorrows, sicknesses, and disappointments as we have. And yet St. Paul tells them to rejoice in the Lord. We have an abiding joy, a peace which passes all understanding, because we know our Lord Jesus and His love for us. This gives us confidence in the face of every hardship; it gives us strength to lead lives in imitation of Jesus’ own generous love.

Thank you for the cards and greetings from my church family. - *Caroline Ruffini*

Last Week’s Giving

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Needed..... | \$12,403.85 |
| General Fund | \$19,043.00 |
| Online Giving | \$2,507.49 |
| Total..... | \$21,550.49 |

Last Week’s Attendance

| | |
|---|-----|
| 8:30 a.m. | 129 |
| 11:00 a.m. | 72 |
| Total | 201 |
| Sunday Adult Bible Study | 37 |
| Wednesday Advent Service (12/14/2022) | 59 |

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, December 18

9:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program
10:30 a.m. Birthday Brunch
4-5:30 p.m. Confirmation
5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Shared Meal
6:00-8:00 p.m. Jr. High Youth

Monday, December 19

6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)

Tuesday, December 20

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
1:00 p.m. Friendship Circle (FH)
6:30 p.m. Lay Ministry

Wednesday, December 21

(No church activities scheduled.)

Thursday, December 22

5:00 p.m. TOPS (Rock)
6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Worship Practice

Friday, December 23

Church Office Closed at Noon

Saturday, December 24

2:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25 – Merry Christmas

9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service with Communion

Monday, December 26 - Church Office Closed