

*Wishing You*  
A V E R Y H A P P Y  
**NEW YEAR**

MAY GOD BLESS YOU & YOUR FAMILY

JANUARY 1, 2023  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## *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.)*

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### *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.

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

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**JANUARY 1, 2023**  
**8:30 A.M.**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME/GREETING**

**OPENING HYMN**

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

*LSB 733*

**INVOCATION**

**OPENING SENTENCES** (*Galatians 3:24-25; 4:4-5*)

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION** (*John 8:34; Galatians 3:23; 5:1*)

**L:** As we begin a new year in God's grace, we acknowledge and repent of our sinfulness and failure to keep His Law. "Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin." And so let us confess together...

**C:** **Lord, we confess to You our sins, those of which we know, and those of which we are unaware. We have not always viewed Your Law as a gift, but instead at times as a burden to obey. Though we desire to be free, we find ourselves enslaved and unable to help ourselves. Forgive us, Lord. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your Law and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**L:** "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

**C: Amen.**

**KYRIE** (*responses sung*)

## SALUTATION

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

### LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

#### *Old Testament*

*Numbers 6:22-27*

<sup>22</sup> The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>23</sup> “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, <sup>24</sup> The Lord bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. <sup>27</sup> “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.” (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

#### *Epistle Reading*

*Galatians 3:23-29*

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

### HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 2:13-23*

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

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

<sup>13</sup> Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the

Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”<sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.<sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”<sup>19</sup> But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,<sup>20</sup> saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.”<sup>21</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.<sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.<sup>23</sup> And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

## SERMON

*What Will Change?  
Galatians 3:23-29  
Pastor Adam Ray*

## NICENE CREED

## OFFERING

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at  
[www.stjohnsdecatur.com/giving](http://www.stjohnsdecatur.com/giving).*

## PRAYER 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** (*sung*)

**DISTRIBUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

*Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love*

*LSB 900*

*Once in Royal David's City*

*LSB 376*

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

*LSB 384*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG**

*Go Tell It On The Mountain*

*LSB 388*

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**JANUARY 1, 2023**  
**11:00 A.M.**

**OPENING PRAISE SONGS**  
*O Come All Ye Faithful*  
*God So Loved*

**WELCOME/GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**  
*Hymn of Joy*

**SCRIPTURE READING**  
*Galatians 3:23-29*

**SERMON**  
*What Will Change?*  
*Galatians 3:23-29*  
*Pastor Adam Ray*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**  
*King of Kings*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SENDING SONG**  
*Joy to The World*

**BLESSING**

## *Sunday Servants*

Preacher .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader .....	Mike Patzwitz
Communion Helper .....	David Salogga
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Kevin Smith 11:00 – Paul Stanizone
Organist.....	Sharon Cripe
Ushers .....	8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Tim Wisler
Computer .....	8:30 – Ted Hesse 11:00 – Katie Salogga
Live Stream.....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz
Camera.....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz
Sound .....	8:30 – Doug Hicks 11:00 – John Salogga

## *Thank You for Your Service!*

### *Praise Team*

Vocals .....	Ted Hesse, Lindsay Tipsword, Janice Wright
Acoustic Guitar.....	Malinda Standerfer
Piano .....	Ted Hesse

### *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.*

**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, Caleb Goodson, Austin Highcock, Braden Highcock, Destiny Little, Noah Lung, Nathan Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Salefski, Tyler Salefski, Gavin Stanzione, Jacob Thornell

## Congregation News

**New Sermon Series** on Grounded-Growing-Branching starting next Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> through January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Adult Sunday School Hour:** As St. John's launches this new year with a sermon series focusing on our vision of being *Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, and Branching to Others*, please join us in the Fellowship Hall January 8th, 15th, and 22nd at 9:45am for some food, fellowship, and in depth discussion unpacking these themes and how we hope them to shape the future of our ministry at St. John's.

**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 Friday, 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.

**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. 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.

**Poinsettia:** If you have purchased a poinsettia, you may take one home after the Sunday services. Thank you.

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

**Little Theatre Trip:** The pre Christmas outing to the Little Theatre was such a big hit, we are looking at a return trip on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> for a 2pm performance. The show is "Sh-Boom" a 60's doo-wop musical. If you would be interested, please inform the church office or Jerry Pelz. The tickets are \$40.00 if there are twenty people interested. If there are fewer than twenty people, the cost would be more. Please respond by January 23<sup>rd</sup> so tickets may be ordered and best seats reserved.

**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](http://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](mailto: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.

**Thank you:** Dear Ladies Friendship Circle, We want to express our thanks for your kind ministry to patients of Cancer Care and, by extension, their caregivers. My husband has complained, since he got his port, of the seat belt causing pain. We tried padding it with towels, etc. We are so thankful to have seen your gift of "port pillows". It has done the trick! God bless you all! *-Patient of Cancer Care Center*

**Stewardship Seeds:** *Luke 2:21 – "And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb."* There it is: the shortest Gospel lesson of the whole Church Year. It is for the festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus. What more do you need to know than the name of Jesus — "the Lord saves." That's who Jesus is: the Lord who saves us sinners. That simple Gospel message is the foundation of our faith and the strength to live out our faith.

**Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund .....	\$19,906.35
Online Offering.....	\$1,845.45
Total.....	\$21,751.80

**Last Week's Attendance**

Christmas Day 9:30 a.m. ....	62
Christmas Eve 2:30 p.m. ....	207
Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m. ....	205
Wednesday Adult Bible Study .....	10

# SERMON NOTES

# THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

## Sunday, January 1, 2023

8:30 a.m.....Traditional Service  
9:45 a.m..... Adult Sunday School  
11:00 a.m..... Contemporary Service

## Monday, January 2 – Church Office Closed

No church activities scheduled.

## Tuesday, January 3

1:00 p.m. .... Staff Meeting  
5:00 p.m. .... Fellowship Hall Reserved  
6:30 p.m. .... Parish Planning Meeting (FH)

## Wednesday, January 4

10:00 a.m.....Adult Bible Study (FH)

## Thursday, January 5

5:00 p.m. .... TOPS  
7:00 p.m. .... Worship Practice

## Friday, January 6

No church activities scheduled.

## Saturday, January 7

No church activities scheduled.

## Sunday, January 8

8:30 a.m.....Traditional Service  
9:45 a.m..... Education Hour  
11:00 a.m..... Contemporary Service  
4-5:30 p.m. .... Confirmation Class (FH)  
5:30 -6 p.m. .... Shared Dinner  
6-8:00 p.m. .... Jr. High Youth Groups