



*Welcome*

## **Growing in Faith**

January 15, 2023



**ST. JOHN'S**  
Lutheran Church  
Grounded • Growing • Branching

## **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.

# GROWING IN FAITH

JANUARY 15, 2023

8:30 A.M.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## WELCOME/GREETING

## OPENING HYMN

*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

*LSB 685*

## INVOCATION

## OPENING SENTENCES

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

L: Despite our efforts, we recognize that we continue to fall short in our attempts to live as Jesus calls us to live. There is not one of us that is perfect, not one. We daily find ourselves in need of God's grace and mercy. Let us then come before our merciful God, asking Him for pardon and forgiveness for the sake of His Son Jesus.

### *Silent Confession*

L: Merciful Father,

**C: We confess that we have failed to live according to the calling You have given to us. We have failed to love You and love others. We confess the ways we're not growing into Christ. We deserve nothing but to be cut off from You. Yet we ask that, of Your infinite mercy, You would strengthen and restore us. Grant us forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ. Help us to grow in faith and delight in Your ways as we seek to follow Your Son. Amen.**

L: Our God is able to do far more than we could ever ask or even

imagine. He has established you and rooted you in the identity of His only Son Jesus by His death and resurrection. By this and upon your confession, I announce to you this day that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen. We are grounded in Christ, growing in faith, and branching to others.**

**KYRIE** (*responses sung*)

## **SALUTATION**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

*Old Testament*

*Psalm 1 (ESV)*

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; <sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. <sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; <sup>6</sup> for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

L: This is the Word of our Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

*Epistle*

*Ephesians 4:11-16 (ESV)*

<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature

manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,<sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

#### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 7:24-29 (ESV)*

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

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

<sup>24</sup>“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.<sup>25</sup> Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock.<sup>26</sup> But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand.<sup>27</sup> When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,<sup>29</sup> for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

#### **SERMON**

*"Growing in Faith"*

*Ephesians 4:11-16 & Matthew 7:24-29*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **NICENE CREED**

## **OFFERING**

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

## **WORDS OF OUR LORD**

## **PAX DOMINI**

## **AGNUS DEI** (*sung*)

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

*Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior*

*LSB 619*

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*LSB 700*

*Renew Me, O Eternal Light*

*LSB 704*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BENEDICTION**

**L:** The seed of faith has been planted and has taken root.

**C:** **We are grounded in Christ.**

**L:** As we gather in word and worship, we water that seed.

**C:** **We are growing in faith.**

**L:** Faith produces fruit as we love and serve our neighbor.

**C:** **We are branching to others.**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

*Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing*

*LSB 691*

**Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed .....	\$12,403.85
General Fund .....	\$8,921.00

**Last Week's Attendance**

8:30 a.m.....	114
11:00 a.m. ....	83
Total .....	197
Wednesday Adult Bible Study .....	22

**GROWING IN FAITH**

**JANUARY 15, 2023**

**11:00 A.M.**

**OPENING SONGS**

*House of the Lord*

*Hymn of Heaven*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

God You're So Good

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Ephesians 4:11-16 (ESV)*

*Matthew 7:24-29 (ESV)*

**SERMON**

*"Growing in Faith"*

*Ephesians 4:11-16 & Matthew 7:24-29*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

*Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG**

*Who You Say I Am*

## Sunday Servants

Preacher .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader.....	AJ Clapp
Communion Helper .....	Troy Harrison
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Larry Westbrook 11:00 – Paul Stanizone
Organist .....	Sharon Cripe
Ushers .....	8:30 – Brady Fawcett 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Tom Schollenbruch
Computer .....	8:30 – Mike Patzwitz 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream .....	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera.....	11:00 – Jessie Denning

## Praise Team

Vocals.....	Melissa Saurmann, Pam Saurmann, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar .....	Wendy Salefski
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:** This Sunday will be on Growing Faith. Next Sunday will be on Branching to Others.

**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 15th and 22nd at 9:45 a.m. 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.

**Ladies Friendship Circle:** Calling all women... Are you a Cheese-Chicken Noodle-Chili-Potato-Vegetable kind of person? All of these soups will be served at our next Friendship Circle meeting at 1:00 on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Following lunch, we will have a brief business meeting then play bingo. Bring your appetite and a friend! If you want to help create winter treats for our St. John's homebound members, come at 12:30.

**Little Theatre Trip:** We have scheduled another outing to the Little Theatre on Wednesday, March 8th 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 23rd so tickets may be ordered for the best seats reserved.

**West Entry Doors** are being monitored from 8:00 until 8:35 a.m. on Sunday mornings. (The door between the Rock Room and the Education Wing.) Unless you are dropped off at the sanctuary door, the west entrance is the shortest distance to enter the building.

**LWML:** Mite boxes will be collected the first Sunday of each month. LWML welcomes women and girls of all ages to their meetings. We will meet January 29th around noon, after late service, for a light meal, please bring free will donation, and learn how to partner with Thrivent, through

Thrivent Action Teams and Choice Dollars, to bless and serve others. Please text Brenda Salogga at 217-429-9183 so we can ensure enough food. Childcare will be provided for those under 4 if needed, and an activity focused on seeing people's needs and taking care of them for 4 and up (older children may decide to do the activity or hear about how to partner with Thrivent). Please include ages of children when you RSVP so we can plan accordingly. LWML National Convention is June 22-25, 2023 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**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.

**Stewardship Seeds: *Ephesians 5:27* – "...so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."** Our Lord has cleansed us with His blood – in His sight we are now pure and holy. He has given Himself, laying down His life for us. Now we are His spotless and beautiful bride. By His sacrifice, we are moved to sacrifice. By His cleansing, we find a desire to ourselves be clean and live blamelessly as He is blameless.

**Young Adult Bible Study** - (Geared towards ages 24-35) We will be meeting Mondays at 6:30pm starting October 24th 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!

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service

9:45 A.M. .... Education Hour

11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

6:30 P.M. .... Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

1:00 P.M. .... Staff Meeting

1:00 P.M. .... Ladies Friendship Circle (FH)

6:30 P.M. .... LSA Rep Support Team (Conf. Rm.)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

10:00 A.M. .... Adult Bible Study (FH)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

All Day .... Fellowship Hall Reserved

6:30 P.M. .... Safety & Security Meeting (FH)

5:30 P.M. .... TOPS

7:00 P.M. .... Worship Practice

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

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 P.M. .... Jr. High Youth Group (FH)