



*Welcome*

## **“Matters of the Heart”**

February 12, 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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### **Contact Us**

**2727 North Union Boulevard, Decatur, IL 62526**

**Phone: (217) 875-3656; website: [www.stjohnsdecatur.com](http://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](mailto:pastoradam@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Rev. Aaron Bird**, Assoc. Pastor  
[pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Malinda Standerfer**, Dir. of Christian Ed  
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#### **LSA Faculty & Staff – Members of St. John's Lutheran Church**

**Ciara Collins**

**Anne Jesgarz**

**Angela Martinek**

**Jeff Salefski**

**Brenda Salogga**

**Melissa Saurmann**

**Stephanie Wilkerson**

# SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 12, 2023 | 8:30 A.M.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### WELCOME/GREETING

### OPENING HYMN

*Renew Me, O Eternal Light*

LSB 704

### INVOCATION

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

L: As God's baptized people, let us repent anew that we may arise to new life. O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Amen.**

L: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### SALUTATION

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

*Old Testament*

*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

<sup>15</sup> "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them." (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Epistle*

*1 Corinthians 3:1-9*

<sup>1</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, <sup>3</sup> for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? <sup>4</sup> When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting

just like people of the world? <sup>5</sup> After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. <sup>6</sup> I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. <sup>7</sup> It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. <sup>8</sup> The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. <sup>9</sup> For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 5:21-37*

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

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

<sup>21</sup> "You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' <sup>22</sup> But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell. <sup>23</sup> "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. <sup>25</sup> "When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup> And if that happens, you surely won't be free again until you have paid the last penny. <sup>27</sup> "You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup> But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has

already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>31</sup> “You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup> But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery. <sup>33</sup> “You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.’ <sup>34</sup> But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne. <sup>35</sup> And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one. (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

## **SERMON HYMN**

*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

*LSB 394*

## **SERMON**

*“Matters of the Heart”*

*Matthew 5:21-37*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **APOSTLES’ 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**

**RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG**

*I Know My Faith Is Founded*

*LSB 587*

**Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed .....	\$12,403.85
General Fund .....	\$13,397.60
Caring and Sharing .....	\$296.00
Total .....	\$13,693.60

**Last Week's Attendance**

8:30 a.m.....	156
11:00 a.m. ....	67
Total .....	223
Baptism Service.....	103
Wednesday Bible Study .....	22

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

FEBRUARY 12, 2023 | 11:00 A.M.

**OPENING SONGS**

*Unstoppable God*

*Glory Is Yours*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

*Amazing Grace*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Matthew 5:21-37 (ESV)*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

**SERMON**

*"Matters of the Heart"*

*Matthew 5:21-37*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG**



## Sunday Servants

Preacher .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader .....	Boy Scout, Micah Langston
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Drew Miller 11:00 – Paul Stanizone
Organist .....	Sharon Cripe
Ushers .....	8:30 – Boy Scouts 11:00 – Debbie Strong/Pam Saurmann
Acolytes.....	8:30 – Jackson Miller/Micah Langston 11:00 – Hayden Calhoun/ChaseCollins
Computer .....	8:30 – Mike Patzwitz 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream .....	11:00 – Matt Cushing
Camera.....	11:00 – Matt Cushing
Sound.....	8:30 – Jessie Denning 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals.....	Melissa Saurmann, Pam Saurmann, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar.....	Wendy Salefski
Piano.....	Angela Cushing

**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, Jacob Thornell

## Congregation News

**Thank you!** Last week many of us were blessed to witness God's miraculous gift of salvation at work through Holy Baptism as 10 people were baptized into God's family at our special Baptism Service. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our baptismal candidates and celebrating with them this gift of new life in Jesus Christ. The seed of faith has been planted and taken root. We are Grounded in Christ!

**Adult Sunday School Hour:** Pastor Aaron is leading a Bible Study series during Sunday morning Adult Education hour, focusing on the basics of Christian theology. The series will be based on the book, "Called to Believe" by Dr. Steven P. Mueller. Come join us in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. as we learn more about our faith together.

**Super Bowl Subs:** Your Super Bowl Subs are ready for pick-up by the entrance. There will be a few extra subs available for purchase. Thank you for your purchase and all proceeds will go towards the youth summer mission trip.

**Altar Guild Committee** is being formed. We are looking for volunteers to serve in this capacity. A short meeting in the lounge is scheduled for **today, after each service** to discuss the responsibilities and answer any questions you may have. More information is available in the February E-Messenger or by contacting the church office.

**Need a ride?** If anyone would like a ride to the Wednesday (Lent) evening services, please contact the church office.

**It's another opportunity to craft for a cause with the Ladies' Friendship Circle!** On Tuesday, February 21st, we will tie lightweight fleece blankets to donate to dialysis patients at the center on McKinley. No experience is necessary! All women are invited to come at 1:00 for a short meeting, which will include preliminary chicken noodle dinner plans. Stay to socialize, enjoy refreshments, and tie some knots.

**New Life Pregnancy Center News – CHANGE FOR LIFE** – Thank you for taking a bottle to fill with your pocket change. The bottles can be returned anytime up to March 5<sup>th</sup> to the church office.

**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.

**Stewardship Seeds: Luke 8:11 – “The seed is the word of God.”** It all starts with the Word. “In the beginning ... the Word was with God” (John 1:1). “He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5). “The word of our God will stand forever” (Is. 40:8). We never outgrow our need to hear the Word of God. We never achieve such greatness that we don’t need the blessings of God’s Word. Rather, the Christian life is one of always striving to conform our lives to God’s Word by living out the truth of our Baptism: that we are God’s children by the power of his Word.

**LSA Town Hall Meetings:** Mon., Feb 13 at 7pm in the gym, Tues., Feb. 14 at 7:30am in the gym, and Wed., Feb. 15 at 3:15pm in the Multipurpose Room. We hope you will join us as we discuss the future of LSA and share updates for next school year. Each meeting will last about an hour with time for Q&A. If you can't make any of the three meetings and would like more information, I'd be happy to send you the presentation or meet with you individually. Amidst the changes, we're excited for the future God has in store for this school. We believe God will allow us to reach many, many more young people, and expand our mission of preparing leaders for life who impact the world for Jesus. We pray you'll come alongside us on the journey!

**Job opening at LSA.** It will be for a janitorial position working 3pm–9pm with occasional weekend events. Minimum hours are 15–20 hours/week. Position may start as early 2–13–23. Please fill out an application or call Ed Keane at 217–853–5923.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

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

9:45 A.M. .... Baptism Service

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

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

6:30 P.M. .... Lay Ministry Meeting

6:30 P.M. .... Boy Scouts (FH)

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

10:00 A.M. .... Pastor's Circuit Meeting (FH)

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

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

6:30 P.M. .... Safety & Security Meeting

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

6:00 P.M. .... Choir Rehearsal

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

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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

9:45 A.M. .... Education Hour (FH)

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