



*Welcome*

## **“This Little Light of Mine”**

February 5, 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.

# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 5, 2023 | 8:30 A.M.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## WELCOME/GREETING

## OPENING HYMN

*The People that in Darkness Sat (Vv. 1-4)*

LSB 412

## INVOCATION

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

L: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

L: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

L: 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.**

L: Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." 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.**

**KYRIE** (*responses sung*)

**THIS IS THE FEAST** (*sung*)

**SALUTATION**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

*Old Testament*

*Isaiah 58:3-9 (ESV)*

<sup>3</sup> 'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup> Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. <sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord? <sup>6</sup> "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? <sup>8</sup> Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'

L: This is the Word of our Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup> And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup> and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. <sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <sup>7</sup> But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— <sup>10</sup> these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

L: This is the Word of our Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 5:13-20 (ESV)*

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

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

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. <sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp

and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.<sup>18</sup> For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.<sup>19</sup> Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.<sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

## **SERMON**

*“This Little Light of Mine”*

*Matthew 5:13–20*

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

## **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**

**PREFACE** (*responses sung*)

## **PROPER PREFACE**

**SANCTUS** (*Divine Service, Setting One*) (*sung*)

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**PAX DOMINI**

**AGNUS DEI** (*sung*)

**DISTRIBUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

<i>Thy Strong Word</i>	LSB 578
<i>O Word of God Incarnate</i>	LSB 523
<i>Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service</i>	LSB 848

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG**

<i>In the Cross of Christ I Glory</i>	LSB 427
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**Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed .....	\$12,403.85
General Fund .....	\$5,880.00
Online Giving .....	\$1,416.90
Total .....	\$7,296.90

**Last Week's Attendance**

8:30 a.m. ....	127
11:00 a.m. ....	68
Total .....	195

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

FEBRUARY 5, 2023 | 11:00 A.M.

**OPENING SONGS**

*There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do  
Good Grace*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

*Living Hope*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Matthew 5:13-20 (ESV)*

**SERMON**

*"This Little Light of Mine"  
Matthew 5:13-20  
Pastor Aaron Bird*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

*He Is*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG**

*The Cross of Christ*



## Sunday Servants

Preacher .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader .....	Troy Harrison
Communion Helper .....	Jeff Salefski
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Troy Harrison 11:00 – Mark Langston
Organist .....	Sharon Cripe
Ushers .....	8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Dan Murphy/Serenity Calhoun
Acolytes.....	8:30 – Mallory Harrison/Avery Smith 11:00 – Chase Collins/Jackson Tatum
Computer .....	8:30 – Ted Hesse 11:00 – Jessie Denning
Live Stream .....	8:30 – Lucas May
Camera .....	8:30 – Eric Brown
Sound.....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – John Salogga
Vocals.....	Kelli Langston, Lindsay Tipword, Ted Hesse
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, Jacob Thornell

## Congregation News

There is a door offering for **Caring & Sharing** today.

**Super Bowl Subs:** Support the Youth for the Summer Mission Trip, by pre-ordering your Super Bowl Subs. Please fill out an order form on the back table, and return to Church Office or Malinda by Friday, **February 10<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in donating Deli Meat or Cheese, please contact Malinda.

**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 Sun., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 as a way to demonstrate our Christian compassion for others.

**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.

**LWML:** LWML National Convention is June 22-25, 2023 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**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.

**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 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!

**Stewardship Seeds: Matthew 20:9 – “And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.”** Behold the generosity of God! He gives out of His grace, not what we deserve to receive. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God – and surely one of the foundations of God's being is His generosity.

**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.

**LSA ReSale Shop:** Thank you to everyone who helped make 2022 a great year at the LSA ReSale Shop. Our 4th quarter saw sales of over \$108,000.00 with total sales for the year 2022 of \$365,121.00. Please continue to bring your donations; remember if you would buy it, we would love to have it. Volunteers are always needed. Come for an hour or two or whatever fits your schedule. For more information on the LSA ReSale Shop, please call 217-423-0122. The Shop is located at 421 E. Cerro Gordo.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Baptism Service  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service  
4-5:30 P.M. .... Confirmation Class  
5:30-6 P.M. .... Shared Dinner  
6:00-8:00 P.M. .... Jr. High Youth Groups

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

1:00 P.M. .... Staff Meeting  
5:00 P.M. .... Fellowship Hall Reserved

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

10:00 A.M. .... Adult Bible Study (FH)  
6:30 P.M. .... Confirmation Legacy (FH)

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

5:30 P.M. .... TOPS  
6:00 P.M. .... Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 P.M. .... Worship Practice

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

All Day .... Youth Preparing Sub Sandwiches (FH & Kitchen)

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Education Hour (FH)  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service