



Welcome

## **Branching to Others**

January 22, 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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**Jeff Miller**, Custodian  
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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**

# BRANCHING TO OTHERS

JANUARY 22, 2023 | 8:30 A.M.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### WELCOME/GREETING

### OPENING HYMN

*O Holy Spirit, Enter In*

*LSB 913*

### INVOCATION

### OPENING SENTENCES

L: Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches."

**C: If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.**

L: This is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

**C: By this we know love, that He laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.**

L: If anyone has the world's goods and sees one in need, yet closes his heart against them, how does God's love abide in him?

**C: Let us not love in word or speech but with actions and in truth.**

L: God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

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

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

L: Though we are called to lead lives of love, branching out to those that God has placed around us, we often find ourselves ignoring the concerns of others. In missing the mark of God's calling to love as He has loved us, we are in need of His grace. Let us then come before our merciful God, asking Him to forgive us for the sake of His

Son, Jesus.

### *Silent Confession*

L: Merciful Father,

**C: We confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have failed to love one another. We have failed to care for those in need. We have become consumed with our own lives and failed to branch out in love as you have to us. 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 and help us to abide in Your love and branch to others. 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.**

### **SALUTATION**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

*Old Testament*

*Isaiah 58:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>“Shout with the voice of a trumpet blast. Shout aloud! Don’t be timid. Tell my people Israel of their sins! <sup>2</sup> Yet they act so pious! They come to the Temple every day and seem delighted to learn all about me. They act like a righteous nation that would never abandon the laws of its God. They ask me to take action on their behalf, pretending they want to be near me. <sup>3</sup>‘We have fasted before you!’ they say. ‘Why aren’t you impressed? We have been very hard on ourselves, and you don’t even notice it!’ “I will tell you why!” I respond. “It’s

because you are fasting to please yourselves. Even while you fast, you keep oppressing your workers. <sup>4</sup>What good is fasting when you keep on fighting and quarreling? This kind of fasting will never get you anywhere with me. <sup>5</sup>You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? <sup>6</sup>“No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. <sup>7</sup>Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help. <sup>8</sup>“Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind. <sup>9</sup>Then when you call, the Lord will answer. ‘Yes, I am here,’ he will quickly reply. “Remove the heavy yoke of oppression. Stop pointing your finger and spreading vicious rumors! <sup>10</sup>Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon. <sup>11</sup>The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Epistle*

*Galatians 6:1-10 (ESV)*

<sup>1</sup>Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. <sup>4</sup>But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. <sup>5</sup>For each will have to bear his own load. <sup>6</sup>Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. <sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. <sup>8</sup>For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap

corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 25:31-40 (ESV)*

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

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

<sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*DCE Malinda Standerfer*

## **SERMON HYMN**

*Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way*

LSB 857

## **SERMON**

*"Branching to Others"*

*Galatians 6:1-10*

*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**

## **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**

*Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go*

LSB 920

# **BRANCHING TO OTHERS**

JANUARY 22, 2023 | 11:00 A.M.

## **OPENING SONGS**

*All The Earth*

*10,000 Reasons*

## **WELCOME & GREETING**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

## **OFFERING**

How Great Is Our God

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

*Galatians 6:1-10 (ESV)*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*DCE Malinda Standerfer*

## **SERMON**

*"Branching to Others"*

*Galatians 6:2-20*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

## **PRAYERS**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **SENDING SONG**

*Lay Me Down*



## Sunday Servants

Preacher .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader.....	Jill Davis
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Kevin Smith 11:00 – Mark Langston
Organist .....	Ted Hesse
Ushers .....	8:30 – David Vanskike 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Dan Zimmerman
Computer .....	8:30 – Anne Jesgarz 11:00 – Katie Salogga
Live Stream .....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz
Camera.....	8:30 – Eric Brown

## Praise Team

Vocals.....	Lindsay Tipsword, Janice Wright, 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

**Voter's Meeting** is scheduled for next Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served.

**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.

**New Life Pregnancy Center News – CHANGE FOR LIFE –** Baby Bottle Campaign begins this week. Take home one or two baby bottles and return them on March 5, filled with your pocket change. Bottles are available on the back table of the Sanctuary. Your donation will support programs and materials used to minister to the lives of those who come to New Life Pregnancy Center for help.

**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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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

**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 8:8 – “But the centurion replied, ‘Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.’”** The Word of the Lord is powerful and effective. What God says, goes. “Let there be light” (Gen. 1:3). And there was light. His Word is still effective and creative for us: “This is my body, which is given for you” (Luke 22:19). “Your sins are forgiven” (Matt. 9:2, Luke 5:20, etc.). This is why it is no burden for us to live according to the Word of God: we know that His Word is always aimed at our blessing.

**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.

**Last Week’s Giving**

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$13,433.00
Online Giving .....	\$1,508.63
Total.....	\$14,941.63

**Last Week’s Attendance**

8:30 a.m.....	147
11:00 a.m. ....	68
Total.....	215
Wednesday Adult Bible Study .....	20

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### 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)

### MONDAY, JANUARY 23

6:30 P.M. .... Christian Ed Meeting  
6:30 P.M. .... Evangelism Bible Study (Conf. Rm.)  
6:30 P.M. .... Boy Scouts

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

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

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

10:00 A.M. .... Adult Bible Study (FH)  
5-8 PM .... Paw Print Ministry (FH)

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

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

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

12-5:00 P.M. .... Fellowship Hall Reserved

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Voter's Meeting (FH)  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service