



Welcome

"I Wouldn't Do It That Way"

January 29, 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.)

Contact Us

2727 North Union Boulevard, Decatur, IL 62526

Phone: (217) 875-3656; website: 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

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Ciara Collins

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Brenda Salogga

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Stephanie Wilkerson

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 29, 2023 | 8:30 A.M.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME/GREETING

OPENING HYMN

Son, of God, Eternal Savior

LSB 842

INVOCATION

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

L: 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.

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Old Testament

Micah 6:1-8 (ESV)

¹Hear what the Lord says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.” ⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (ESV)

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God

through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12 (ESV)

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

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

¹Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹"Blessed are the

peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DCE Malinda Standerfer

SERMON HYMN

Lift High the Cross

LSB 837

SERMON

"I Wouldn't Do It That Way"

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at
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

SENDING SONG

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name (Vv. 1-3, 7)

LSB 549

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

OPENING SONGS

Battle Belongs
Strong God

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

Cornerstone

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (ESV)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DCE Malinda Standerfer

SERMON

"I Wouldn't Do It That Way"

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Your Love Never Fails

Sunday Servants

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Troy Harrison
Lay Minister	8:30 – Steve Craycroft 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Organist	Carol Pelz
Ushers	8:30 – David Vanskike 11:00 – Tim Wisler/Dan Zimmerman
Acolytes.....	8:30 – Jackson Miller/Avery Smith 11:00 – Carli Wilkerson/Jon Bart
Computer	8:30 – Debbie Craycroft 11:00 – Katie Salogga
Live Stream	8:30 – Julia Cushing
Camera.....	11:00 – Jessie Denning
Live Stream.....	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Sound.....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Doug Hicks

Praise Team

Vocals.....	Becky Dosien, Kristin Hesse, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar.....	Malinda Standerfer
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, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Salefski, Tyler Salefski, Jacob Thornell

Congregation News

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

Special Baptism Service: We want to do whatever we can to help every member of our family have the opportunity to be baptized! That's why we are having a special Baptism Service on **Sunday, February 5th, at 9:45am.** If you or someone you know has not yet been baptized, please contact one of our Pastors or the church office. We'd love to have you join us!

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: LWML welcomes women and girls of all ages to their meetings. We will meet today 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.

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 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 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	\$5,644.00
Online Giving	\$600.44
Total	\$6,244.44

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.....	119
11:00 a.m.	90
Total	209
Adult Sunday School.....	37
Wednesday Adult Bible Study	Canceled

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Voter's Meeting (FH)
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
1:00 P.M. Sr. High Youth leave for "A Night of Hope"

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

6:30 P.M. Christian Ed Meeting
6:30 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

4:30 – 6PM Fellowship Hall Reserved
5:30 P.M. TOPS
6:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 P.M. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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