



>Welcome

"Green Pastures"

April 30, 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

Rev. Adam Ray, Lead Pastor
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LSA Faculty & Staff – members of St. John's Lutheran church

Ciara Collins

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Angela Martinek

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Melissa Saurmann

Stephanie Wilkerson

FOURTH OF SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 30, 2023 | 8:30 A.M.

Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, Branching to Others

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

LSB 490

- 1 Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.
- 2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.
- 3 Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.
- 4 Jesus lives! I know full well

Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

5 Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: The Lord is our Good Shepherd;

C: He leads us and restores our souls.

L: He walks beside us through the darkness

C: and never abandons us, even in death.

L: He goes before us and prepares a table for us,

C: and we will dwell in His house forever.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND JESUS' FORGIVENESS

L: Though our Lord goes before us, beside us, and behind us, we still find a way to run away from His good pasture. We devote ourselves to all sorts of destruction. Still, our Good Shepherd seeks us out and brings us back to safety. He invites us to confess our sins before His heavenly Father.

Silence for reflection.

L: Heavenly Father,

C: we have strayed from You. We have wounded You with our sin. We have wounded others with our sin. We have wounded ourselves with our sin. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to Your good pasture, on account of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

L: Though we have strayed, Jesus always keeps searching for us. Though we have been lost in our priorities, Jesus is always and ever devoted to us. We see this most clearly as almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise 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. We are forgiven. Our souls are restored in Christ.

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Good Shepherd who has brought together sheep from every tribe, nation, and language to be one flock ever following You. Strengthen us to devote ourselves to Your Word and Sacraments, to prayer and fellowship, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their

homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:1-18

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

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

¹“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all

his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

SERMON HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Vv. 1-4)

LSB 709

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | The King of love my shepherd is, | Whose goodness faileth never; |
| | I nothing lack if I am His | And He is mine forever. |
| 2 | Where streams of living water flow, | My ransomed soul He leadeth |
| | And, where the verdant pastures grow, | With food celestial feedeth. |

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

SERMON

"Green Pastures"

John 10:1-18

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The Leader will conclude every prayer with: "Lord, in Your mercy"

People respond with: "hear our prayer"

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs

Father in Heaven, we have filled our lives with so much busyness and chaos. Help us to remove those things from our lives which are not beneficial, so that we may lead lives that are devoted to You and the things helpful to loving and serving our neighbors. Lord in

your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for all pastors, missionaries, musicians, educators, and all who serve within Your Church. Embolden them to teach Your Word that restores the souls of Your people and leads them to follow Christ, their Good Shepherd. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief and despair. Even within their suffering, direct them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life with You, where You will prepare a table before us, and we shall dwell in Your house forever. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that You would open doors in our lives for Your Word, that we might proclaim the Goodness of your promises of death to life to those who have yet to come to know you or have wandered, that you might gather them up to be the sheep of Your pasture singing Your praises alongside of us. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord of all mercies, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy upon them, and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray together...

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

LSB 770

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | What a friend we have in Jesus,
What a privilege to carry
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
All because we do not carry | All our sins and griefs to bear!
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what needless pain we bear—
Ev'rything to God in prayer! |
| 2 | Have we trials and temptations?
We should never be discouraged—
Can we find a friend so faithful
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness— | Is there trouble anywhere?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Who will all our sorrows share?
Take it to the Lord in prayer. |
| 3 | Are we weak and heavy laden,
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; | Cumbered with a load of care?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Thou wilt find a solace there. |

POSTLUDE

FOURTH OF SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 30, 2023 | 11:00 A.M.

OPENING SONGS

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

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:1-18

SERMON

"Green Pastures"

John 10:1-18

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

God So Loved

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Steve Funk
Lay Minister	8:30 – Steve Craycroft 11:00 – Paul Stanizone
Organist	Carol Pelz
Ushers	8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Serenity Calhoun/Dan Zimmerman
Computer	8:30 – Mike Patzwitz 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	Ted Hesse, Melissa Saurmann, Pam Saurmann
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 Goodson, Tyler Salefski, Jacob Thornell

CONGREGATION NEWS

LWML Meeting this Sunday, in Fellowship Hall after 11:00 service (noonish)? We will be hearing from Evangelism about their current book study and the future direction of our congregation. We will also be discussing what St. John's LWML can offer the congregation to make it a more inclusive ministry to reach and encourage younger women. Lunch will be provided. Free will donation for LWML will be collected. In order to ensure we have enough, please RSVP by text to Brenda Salogga at 217-429-9183 or email: dnbsal@comcast.net.

Chicken Noodle Dinner will be Sunday, May 7 at 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Adults – \$10.00 and Children 12 and under – \$4.00. Menu: Chicken & Noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, roll, dessert, and drink. Tickets will be available starting this Sunday and in the church office. A limited amount of Gluten Free Chicken Noodle Dinners will be available, please request ahead of time. Dinner is provided by the Ladies Friendship Circle. If you can make a dessert, please sign-up on the back table.

Hanging Baskets Youth Fundraiser: The youth are selling 25 inch Hanging Flower Baskets in time for Mother's Day. Cost is \$32.00. Pick-up an order form on the back table of the sanctuary or in the church office. Deadline is Sun., May 7th. Proceeds benefit St. John's Youth. Flowers will be delivered Wed., May 10th. Talk to Malinda if you have any questions.

LWML Collection Box will be at the back of sanctuary on the first Sunday of each month. LWML has collected \$221.80 in 2023 as of March 26th.

Homemade Noodles: Ladies Friendship Circle still has homemade noodles for sale. The cost is \$4 per pound. Get yours before they're gone! See Linda Harrison today or stop by the church office during the week.

LWML Convention: Registration packets for the LWML convention are on the table at the back of the church. The National Convention is in

Milwaukee, WI, June 22–25.

The Old Blue Hymnals are on the back table in the sanctuary. They will be there for two weeks. Feel free to take one.

Bus Trip: We have tickets for Million Dollar Quartet on Wed., July 26th; and Church Basement Ladies 2 – A Second Helping on Sun., August 27th at the Little Theatre in Sullivan. Shows are 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending one or both of these productions, please contact Jerry Pelz at 217-433-2961 or the church office. Cost for each show will be \$40. More information will be provided closer to the date of the show.

Stewardship Seeds: 1 Peter 2:11 – “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.” Surely one of the “passions of the flesh” we all struggle with is greed. We constantly desire to have more things to bring us comfort and peace of mind. But that shows us the real problem with greed: it wages war against our soul. It urges us to place our trust in the things of this world and not in God. But St. Peter reminds us that in this world, we are sojourners and exiles – we really belong to the kingdom of God. We have been purchased by the blood of Christ and belong to Him.

LSA is seeking a part-time Math Teacher to provide daily math instruction to grades 7–9, including Pre-Algebra and Algebra. 25–30 hours per week. Interested candidates should contact Brian with resume at bbooth@lsadecatur.net.

LSA ReSale Shop: The LSA ReSale Shop accepts the following clean items: new & used clothing with no rips or holes; useable kitchen items including small, working appliances, pots & pans, dishes, glassware, serving pieces, etc. (no chips or broken pieces); home décor with no chips or broken pieces; holiday items for any holiday; toys with ALL parts. All donation items should be put in bags or boxes of a manageable size

with clothing separate from household items. Donations are accepted on Monday & Tuesday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM and Thursday 2:00 – 6:00 PM. The LSA ReSale Shop is located at 421 E. Cerro Gordo. Call 217-423-0122 for more information.

Grab a St. John’s Magnet on your way out and take one for a friend.

Last Week’s Giving

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$6,315.00
Online Giving.....	\$1,137.21
Total.....	\$7,452.21

Last Week’s Attendance

8:30 a.m.....	139
11:00 a.m.	52
Total.....	191
Wednesday Adult Bible Study.....	14

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

8:30 A.M.....Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
12:00 P.M.....LWML Meeting (FH)

MONDAY, MAY 1

6:30 P.M..... Properties Ministry Meeting (FH)
6:30 P.M..... Boy Scouts (FH)

TUESDAY, MAY 2

1:00 P.M..... Staff Meeting
5:30 P.M.....Fellowship Hall Reserved
6:30 P.M..... Assimilation Ministry Meeting (FH)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

10:00 A.M.Adult Bible Study
4:15 P.M..... Nominating Committee Meeting (Conf. Room)
6:30 P.M..... Paw Print Ministries (FH)

THURSDAY, MAY 4

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

FRIDAY, MAY 5

All Day..... Friendship Circle Chicken Noodle Prep (FH & Kitchen)

SATURDAY, MAY 6

All Day..... Friendship Circle Chicken Noodle Prep (FH & Kitchen)

SUNDAY, MAY 7

8:30 A.M.....Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.Friendship Circle Chicken Noodle Dinner (FH)