



>Welcome

"The Miracle of Life"

May 14, 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

Anne Jesgarz

Angela Martinek

Jeff Salefski

Brenda Salogga

Melissa Saurmann

Stephanie Wilkerson

SIXTH OF SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 14, 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

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Jesus said, "Because I live, you also will live."

C: In Him we live and move and have our being.

L: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

C: We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF SIN AND JESUS' FORGIVENESS

L: Trusting in our Lord who is risen from the dead, we come to Him to grant us life. Though we have been made new in our Baptisms, we daily fall short of the new life that Christ has called us to live. And so it is fitting that we would gather together to confess our sins that God might grant us forgiveness for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ.

Indeed it is true, 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

NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 17:16-31

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some

said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean."²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,²⁸ for "'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.'" ²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

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

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

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come

to you.¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

DCE Malinda Standerfer

SERMON HYMN

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

LSB 685

SERMON

“The Miracle of Life”

1 Peter 3:13–22

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES’ CREED

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”

LORD’S PRAYER

RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Father Welcomes

LSB 605

POSTLUDE

SIXTH OF SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 14, 2023 | 11:00 A.M.

OPENING SONGS

House of The Lord
Great Things

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

I Speak Jesus

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DCE Malinda Standerfer

SERMON

"The Miracle of Life"

1 Peter 3:13-22

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Unstoppable God

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Jean Munson
Lay Minister	8:30 – Kevin Smith 11:00 – Mark Langston
Organist	Jacob Bell
Ushers	8:30 – Gary Schwartzle/Rick Laskowski 11:00 – Debbie Strong/Pam Saurmann
Computer	8:30 – Ted Hesse 11:00 – Julia Cushing
Live Stream	11:00 – Matt Cushing
Camera	11:00 – Matt Cushing
Sound	8:30 – Jessie Denning 11:00 – John Salogga
Vocals	Kristin Hesse, Lindsay Tipsword, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar	Malinda Standerfer
Drums.....	Pastor Adam Ray
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 Goodson, Tyler Salefski, Jacob Thornell

CONGREGATION NEWS

Culver's Benefit Night: Support the youth attending the Summer Mission Trip. Eat at Culver's on Water Street on Monday, May 15th between 4-8pm. The youth will get a portion of the sales.

Ladies Friendship Circle: Does a free field trip sound good? Ladies Friendship Circle will board the church bus at 1:00 on Tuesday, May 16 for a tour of the Governor Oglesby Mansion. Following the tour, we will return to St. John's for a brief meeting and refreshments. Anyone who wishes to make a summer surprise for homebound members should arrive at 12:30.

Voter's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 21 at 9:45 a.m. (during the education hour) in the fellowship hall.

Rent a Youth! Support youth going on the summer servant event by having them complete projects for you! Painting, yardwork, cleanup, dog walking, babysitting, car wash, errands, etc. Call the church office or Malinda for more information.

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

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.

Stewardship Seeds: James 1:22 – "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." The Word of God is not merely to be heard, but to be received and believed. Our faith is implanted and strengthened by the Word of God. As Luther said, "Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good

works incessantly.” James’ epistle encourages us to examine our lives and come to repentance when we are not living out our faith in sincerity.

LSA Events: 5/18 – 7:00 pm – 8th Grade Graduation at St. Paul’s
5/21 – 3:00 – HS Graduation at St. Paul’s
5/17 – Hickory Point Merit Scholar of the Year Banquet

The LSA Scholars are: Ava Brown, Ciara Collins,
Jensen Hawkins, & Isabella Stark

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 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 Mon. & Tues., 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM and Thurs. 2:00 – 6:00 PM. The LSA ReSale Shop is located at 421 E. Cerro Gordo. Call 217-423-0122 for more information.

Last Week’s Giving

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$13,605.00
Online Giving	\$1,837.91
Total	\$15,442.91
Caring & Sharing	\$1,831.00

Last Week’s Attendance

8:30 a.m.....	116
11:00 a.m.	81
Total	197

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, MAY 14

- 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. Chicken Noodle Dinner

MONDAY, MAY 15

- 6:00 P.M. Boy Scouts Eagle Ceremony (Sanctuary & FH)

TUESDAY, MAY 16

- 1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 P.M. Friendship Circle (FH)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

- 10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study

THURSDAY, MAY 18

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

FRIDAY, MAY 19

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

- 10am – 4pm. Fellowship Hall Reserved

SUNDAY, MAY 21

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

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