



>Welcome

"The Way"

May 7, 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.)

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 OF SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 7, 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

Christ Is Our Cornerstone

LSB 912

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

CONFESSION OF SIN AND JESUS' FORGIVENESS

L: Though Christ is our cornerstone and has changed our identity to be His chosen people, we often build upon things other than Jesus. Such building crumbles to the ground, for unless we build on Christ, we labor in vain. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence to ask for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

L: Heavenly Father,

C: though we are Your chosen people, we have acted in accordance with the world rather than Your Word. We have proclaimed hatred and violence rather than Your excellencies. Forgive us, renew us, and restore as Your chosen people, on account of Jesus. Amen.

L: Though Jesus Christ was rejected and killed, God raised Him from the dead, 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 in Christ.

KYRIE (*responses sung*)

THIS IS THE FEAST (*sung*)

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD Acts 6:1-9; 7:2, 51-60

But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. ²So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program.

³And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. ⁴Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word."

⁵Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith). ⁶These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. ⁷So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too. ⁸Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people. ⁹But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves,

as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia. ²This was Stephen's reply: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham in Mesopotamia before he settled in Haran. ⁵¹"You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That's what your ancestors did, and so do you! ⁵²Name one prophet your ancestors didn't persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One—the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. ⁵³You deliberately

disobeyed God's law, even though you received it from the hands of angels." ⁵⁴ The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. ⁵⁶ And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!" ⁵⁷ Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him ⁵⁸ and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. ⁴ You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. ⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. ⁶ As the Scriptures say, "I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." ⁷ Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone." ⁸ And, "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. ⁹ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you

out of the darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰“Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God’s mercy.” (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

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

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

¹“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ²There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵“No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!” ⁸Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? ¹⁰Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. ¹¹Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do. ¹²“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. ¹³You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it! (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

SERMON

"The Way"

John 14:1-14

Pastor Adam Ray

NICENE 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: "Christ is our cornerstone."

People respond with: "on Him alone we build"

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

AGNUS DEI (*sung*)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

LSB 633

The Church's One Foundation

LSB 644

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

LSB 575

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

LSB 411

POSTLUDE

FIFTH OF SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 7, 2023 | 11:00 A.M.

OPENING SONGS

Battle Belongs
Goodness of God

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

God You're So Good

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:1-14

SERMON

"The Way"

John 14:1-14

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

He Is

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Lay Me Down

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader	Troy Harrison
Communion Helper	Jeff Salefski
Lay Minister	8:30 – Troy Harrison 11:00 – Mark Langston
Organist	Ted Hesse
Ushers	8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Tom Schollenbruch
Computer	8:30 – Anne Jesgarz 11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Live Stream	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz
Camera	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz
Sound	8:30 – Jessie Denning 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals	Kelli Langston, Janice Wright, Ted Hesse
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

Door Offering for Caring and Sharing will be designated toward Doug Sroka's medical bills.

Chicken Noodle Dinner is today 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 are available at the door. Dinner is provided by the Ladies Friendship Circle.

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.

Grief Counseling: DMH is offering Grief Counseling here at St. John's on Tuesday, May 9th at 10:00 a.m.

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.

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, etc. Call the church office or Malinda for more information.

Ladies Friendship Circle: Does a free field trip sound good? The 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. Bring a friend and join us. Anyone who wishes to make a summer surprise for homebound members should arrive at 12:30.

Blood Drive Success: The April 27th St. Johns Blood Drive resulted in 20 sign ups 6 of which were first time donors! 18 units and 1 double red unit of blood was collected with ImpactLife. As many as 21 lives could be

saved from the efforts and generosity of St. Johns Blood Drive. We thank those that signed up.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.....	\$5,203.00
Online Giving	\$
Total	\$5,203.00

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.....	140
11:00 a.m.	60
Total	200
Wednesday Adult Bible Study.....	18

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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.Chicken Noodle Dinner
4–5:30 P.M.Confirmation Class (FH)
5:30–6 P.M. Dinner
6–8 P.M..... Jr. High Youth Group (FH)

MONDAY, MAY 8

6:30 P.M.....Boy Scouts (FH)

TUESDAY, MAY 9

10:00 A.M.....DMH Grief Counseling (FH)
1:00 P.M.....Staff Meeting
6:30 P.M..... Lay Ministry

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study

THURSDAY, MAY 11

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

FRIDAY, MAY 12

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, MAY 14

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