

Welcome

You Shall Call His Name Jesus

December 24, 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 is an honor to have you worshiping with us this morning and we pray that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness!

At St. John's we are pleased to offer two styles of worship services 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 worshiping with us; we would love to have you join us again!

(If you need 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 & Unity Christian School



St. John's Staff

Rev. Adam Ray, Lead Pastor

pastoradam@stjohnsdecatur.com

Rev. Aaron Bird, Assoc. Pastor

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Unity Christian School Faculty & Staff – Members of St. John's Lutheran Church

Ciara Collins

Anne Jesgarz

Angela Martinek

Jeff Salefski

Brenda Salogga

Melissa Saurmann

Stephanie Wilkerson

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Our Vision: Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, Branching to Others

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! It truly is an honor to have you worshiping with us this morning and it is our prayer that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness! Thank you for worshiping with us; we would love to have you join us again!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME/GREETING OF ONE ANOTHER

Please take time to complete the appropriate side of the attendance registration cards. Once completed, pass the cards toward the center aisle. They will be collected during the offering.

OPENING SONG

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB 350

Invocation

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: The people walking in darkness have seen a great Light!

C: **Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. The Light no darkness can overcome.**

L: Today we light the fourth candle of our Advent wreath in recognition of the love that Jesus' Light brings to us and the world. We sing...

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

C: **Light one candle for Hope
Christ brings Hope to every heart**

**One bright candle for Hope
He comes, He comes**

**Light one candle for Peace
Christ brings Peace to every heart**

**One bright candle for Peace
He comes, He comes**

**Light one candle for Joy
Every nation will find salvation**

**One bright candle for Joy
in Beth'lem's baby boy**

**Light one candle for Love
Christ brings Love to every heart**

**One bright candle for Love
He comes, He comes**

CONFESSION AND 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

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹ Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³ And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you." ⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, ⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"" ⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'" (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the

command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26–38

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

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

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God."³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten

LSB 384

SERMON

You Shall Call His Name Jesus

Luke 1:26-38

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Sending Song

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (Vv. 1-5)

LSB 358

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Adam Ray & Aaron Bird
Communion Helper	Jeff Salefski/Jason Frisby
Lay Minister	Frank Whitehead
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	Brady Fawcett
Computer	Brandon Patzwitz
Live Stream	Matt Cushing
Camera	Matt Cushing
Sound.....	John Salogga

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: 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

Christmas Services: Please join us this afternoon for Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 2:30 & 4:30 p.m.; and Christmas Day service with Communion at 9:30 a.m.

Meal Train: A meal train has been set up for Frank & Janet Whitehead. They have requested meals for Sunday's and Tuesday's. They have no dietary restrictions. You can call the office to sign up or use the link below. Any questions, please contact Beth Tatum.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AA8AD29A0FE3-46818534-meal>

Youth Ski Trip Retreat: The youth are going on a Ski Trip Retreat on (Jan. 12-14). Some youth would like to go but cannot due to funding. If you would like to help by donating toward this, please contact Malinda.

Offering Envelopes are available in your mailbox. If you did not receive envelopes, please contact the church office.

Living Nativity Costumes: Thank you for laundering the living nativity costumes. Please return the costumes to the church.

Choir Robes: If you would like an old choir robe, please contact Del Gross.

Stewardship Seeds: *Philippians 4:6* – “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Paul puts two things in opposition to each other: anxiety and prayer. So, trade your worries for prayers! You have a Father who loves you and desires to hear your prayers and bless you.

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed	\$12,403.85
General Fund	\$8,062.00
Online Offering.....	\$1,057.98
Total Giving	\$9119.98

Last Week's Attendance

9:30 a.m.	221
Wednesday Adult Bible Study	16
Wednesday Advent Service	87

Poinsettias In Memory of

Steve & Debbie Craycroft

In Memory of Lloyd & Patsy Schumacher

Jenette Heideman

*In Memory of Arthur & Ella Heidemann,
Dewayne Heidemann
John & Helena Backhus,
Herman & Minnie Heidemann*

Janis Karasch

*In Memory of Adam & Augusta Yobski
Fred & Margaret Karasch
Bill Karasch*

*Fred & Barb Monska
Fred Monska, Jr.
Annette Collins*

In Memory of Robert Monska

*Mary Jo, Philip,
Maggie & Phil*

In Memory of Dr. James Riley

Saurmann Family

In Memory of Frederick R. Saurmann III

Gary & Vicki Schwartzle

In Memory of Loved Ones

Dale & Karen Tolly

*In Memory of Dale & Karen's Parents
Dale's son, John*

Dave Vanskike

In Memory of Parents & Grandparents

*Judy Voelker,
Julie & Tony Cox*

*In Memory of Leonard, Margaret, Michael &
John Tanzyus; Brian Puckett;
Jerry, Phil, Hilda & Ed Voelker*

Denny & Marsha Ward

In Memory of Chad Ward

*Larry & LuAnne
Westbrook*

In Memory of James Swartz, Phyllis Boland,

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:30 A.M.Morning Service
2:30 P.M. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
4:30 P.M. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30 A.M.Christmas Day Service with Communion

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

No church activities scheduled.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

No church activities scheduled.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

5:30 P.M. TOPS
7:00 P.M. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

Church Office Closed at 12:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

12:00-6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Fellowship & Refreshments
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service