

>Welcome

"The Work of His Hands"

December 3, 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.)

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 or Pastor Aaron 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.

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 2023**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG

The Advent of Our King

LSB 331

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 first candle of our Advent wreath in recognition of the hope that Jesus' Light brings to us and the world. We sing...

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

**C: Light one candle for Hope
One bright candle for Hope
Christ brings Hope to every heart
He comes, He comes
Light one candle for Hope
One bright candle for Hope
Christ brings Hope to every heart
He comes, He comes**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 33:20–22*

L: Our soul waits for the LORD;

C: He is our help and our shield.

L: For our heart is glad in Him,

C: because we trust in His holy name.

L: Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,

C: even as we hope in You.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Confident in His steadfast love, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of waiting on You and clinging to Your promises, we impatiently go our own way. Instead of loving our neighbors as ourselves, we put our wants first and serve our interests instead of Yours, O God. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

L: “You are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:7–8). Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, taking away our guilt and giving us His righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, our Savior and King, I 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

Isaiah 64:1–9

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains

quaked at your presence. ⁴ From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸ But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA and VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 11:1-10

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

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

¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵ And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹ And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON

"The Work of His Hands"

Isaiah 64:1-9

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: "We wait in hope for the Lord!"

People respond with: "He is our help and our shield."

LORD'S PRAYER

PREFACE (*responses sung*)

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS (*sung*)

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

AGNUS DEI (*sung*)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB 350

Your Table I Approach

LSB 628

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

LSB 637

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

L: The seed of faith has been planted and has taken root.

C: **We are grounded in Christ.**

L: As we gather in word and worship, we water that seed.

C: **We are growing in faith.**

L: Faith produces fruit as we love and serve our neighbor.

C: **We are branching to others.**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER ADVENT

December 3, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

Sing We The Song of Emmanuel

Sing To The King

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

SERMON

"The Work of His Hands"

Isaiah 64:1-9

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

Light of The World

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Living Hope

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader	Cathi Tavarczyk
Communion.....	8:30 – Kevin Tavarczyk 11:00 – David Salogga
Lay Minister	8:30 – Larry Westbrook 11:00 – Mike Baggett
Organist	Ted Hesse
Ushers	8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Serenity Calhoun
Computer	8:30 – Mike Patzwitz 11:00 – Ellie Hesse
Live Stream	8:30 – Matt Cushing
Camera	8:30 – Matt Cushing
Sound	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – John Salogga
Vocals.....	Pam Saurmann, Melissa Saurmann, 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, Noah Lung, Nathan Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Goodson, Tyler Salefski, Jacob Thornell

CONGREGATION NEWS

“The Clothing of the King” - Advent Services will begin on Wednesday, December 6th through December 20th at 6:00 p.m. (Notice the time change.) Advent Dinner will be served starting at 5:00 p.m. This Wednesday will be Chicken & Noodles served by Ladies Friendship Circle.

Adult Sunday School Hour: Pastor Aaron is leading a Bible Study series during Sunday morning Adult Education, focusing on the Holy Gospel. Come join us in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. as we learn more about our faith together.

Christmas Services: Dec. 17th at 9:30 (one service), Lessons & Carols service with Christmas Brunch following; Christmas Eve service at 9:30 a.m. (one service); Christmas Eve Candlelight services: 2:30 & 4:30 p.m.; Christmas Day service with Communion at 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Brunch will follow the Lessons & Carols service on Sunday, Dec. 17th. We hope you will be a part of this time of fellowship with one another!

Friendship Circle will hold its annual Christmas party at 1:00 on Tuesday, December 19th, in the fellowship hall. Please bring your appetite plus a snack, appetizer, or dessert to share. Ladies, even if you have never attended a meeting, come celebrate Christmas with us on the 19th!

Bus Trip to Little Theatre in Sullivan to see “A Christmas Carole” on Wednesday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$36.00. Please contact Jerry Pelz at 217-433-2961.

Northeast Community Fund Service Night will be Saturday, December 16th. We will be filling Christmas Baskets. This is a great time of fun and fellowship. We will announce the times.

Poinsettias: If you wish to purchase a Poinsettia in someone’s memory or honor, please use a Poinsettia offering envelopes located on the back table. Suggested donation of \$20.00. Deadline to purchase the Poinsettias is Sunday, December 17.

Annual Mitten Christmas Tree is in the foyer and needs your help with decorations. Donate gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats; and hang them on the tree. This is a long-standing partnership between St. John's and Northeast Community Fund.

Cookies & Gift Cards Needed: The youth groups will be making "Finals Care Packages" for our college students. They would like donations of baked cookies, and \$5.00 gift cards from McDonalds, Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, Subway, Jimmy John's, etc. See Malinda if you have any questions.

Order St. John's Shirts for your whole family using the order form on the table in the back of the church. Soft t-shirts are available in adult and youth sizes. Moisture-wicking short-sleeved polos and long-sleeved quarter-zip come in both men's and women's cuts. All orders are due to the church office by December 17th. Shirts will arrive in January.

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

Unity Christian School has a part time janitorial position open. It will mostly be evenings. Please contact Ed Keane with any questions at 217-853-5923.

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed	\$12,403.85
General Fund	\$7,055.00
Online Giving.....	\$1,168.97
Total Giving	\$8,223.97

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	108
11:00 a.m.	42
Total.....	150
Thanksgiving Eve.....	57
Wednesday Adult Bible Study	11

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:30 A.M.	Traditional Service
9:45 A.M.	Education Hour (FH)
11:00 A.M.	Contemporary Service
1:30 P.M.	Voter's Meeting (FH)
4:00 P.M.	Confirmation Class (FH)
6:00 P.M.	Jr. High Youth (FH)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

6:00 P.M.	Discipleship Meeting
6:30 P.M.	Properties Meeting
6:30 P.M.	Boy Scouts (FH)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

1:00 P.M.	Staff Meeting
5:30 P.M.	Outreach Meeting
5:30 P.M.	Fellowship Hall Reserved

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

10:00 A.M.	Adult Bible Study (FH)
5:00 P.M.	Advent Meal (Chicken & Noodles)
6:00 P.M.	Advent Service
7:00 P.M.	Bell Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

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