



*Welcome*

**The Bridegroom is Coming.**

**November 12, 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 worshipping 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 worshipping 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.)*

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### **Contact Us**

**2727 North Union Boulevard, Decatur, IL 62526**

**Phone: (217) 875-3656; website: [www.stjohnsdecatur.com](http://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](mailto:pastoradam@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Rev. Aaron Bird**, Assoc. Pastor  
[pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Malinda Standerfer**, Dir. of Christian Ed  
[dcemalinda@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:dcemalinda@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Ted Hesse**, Worship Music Director  
[tedh@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:tedh@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Georgia Newman**, Office Manager  
[georgian@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:georgian@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Carol Reynolds**, Financial Secretary  
[carolr@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:carolr@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Jeff Miller**, Custodian

### **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*

# TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 12, 2023

*Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, Branching to Others*

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## WELCOME/GREETING OF ONE ANOTHER

## OPENING SONG

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

*LSB 515*

## INVOCATION

## 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.**

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. Merciful Lord, as we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient as we wait.

**C: We become distracted by the things of this world that do not last, and have given our attention and even devotion to things not beneficial to our faith. Father, forgive us.**

L: As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with others.

**C: We have sinned against others and You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Father, forgive us.**

L: As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with You.

**C: We come to think the day will never come when You make all things new, and have let our earthly circumstances cause faith to waiver, despair to increase, and doubts to arise. Father, forgive us.**

*Silence for reflection upon our sins...*

L: In His parable today, Jesus reminds His people to “watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” In our watch and in our waiting, the Lord remains faithful to His promises of provision, and assurance of grace and forgiveness. 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** *Amos 5:18-24*

<sup>18</sup> What sorrow awaits you who say, “If only the day of the Lord were here!” You have no idea what you are wishing for. That day will bring darkness, not light. <sup>19</sup> In that day you will be like a man who runs from a lion—only to meet a bear. Escaping from the bear, he leans his hand against a wall in his house—and he’s bitten by a snake. <sup>20</sup> Yes, the day of the Lord will be dark and hopeless, without a ray of joy or hope. <sup>21</sup> “I hate all your show and pretense—the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup> I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings. I won’t even notice all your choice peace offerings. <sup>23</sup> Away with your noisy hymns of praise! I will not listen to the music of your harps. <sup>24</sup> Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice, an endless river of righteous living.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

<sup>13</sup> And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. <sup>15</sup> We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. <sup>17</sup> Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> So encourage each other with these words. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

### HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 25:1-13*

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>“Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, <sup>4</sup> but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. <sup>5</sup> When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. <sup>6</sup> “At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’ <sup>7</sup> “All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. <sup>8</sup> Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> “But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> “But while they were gone to buy oil, the

bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. <sup>11</sup> Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, 'Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!' <sup>12</sup> "But he called back, 'Believe me, I don't know you!' <sup>13</sup> "So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*DCE Malinda Standerfer*

## **SERMON HYMN**

*Take My Life and Let It Be*

*LSB 783*

## **SERMON**

*The Bridegroom is Coming.*

*Matthew 25:1-13*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

## **OFFERING**

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at  
[www.stjohnsdecatour.com/giving](http://www.stjohnsdecatour.com/giving)*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*The Leader will conclude every prayer with: "Come, Lord Jesus"*

***People respond with: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."***

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*Jerusalem, My Happy Home*

*LSB 673*

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

November 12, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.

**OPENING SONGS**

*Great Things*

*This Is Our God*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**BAPTISM**

*Kyrin Ray Leigh*

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Matthew 25:1-13*

**SERMON**

*The Bridegroom is Coming.*

*Matthew 25:1-13*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

*My Lighthouse*

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader .....	Jean Munson
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Steve Craycroft 11:00 – Mike Baggett
Organist .....	Ted Hesse
Ushers .....	8:30 – Gary Schwartzle/Rick Laskowski 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Dan Zimmerman
Computer .....	8:30 – Anne Jesgarz 11:00 – Julia Cushing
Live Stream .....	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera .....	11:00 – Matt Cushing
Sound .....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals .....	Becky Dosien, Kristin Hesse, 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

**Living Nativity** is only one week away! (November 18-19) The stars are up in the sanctuary to volunteer as a character in one of the scenes. Pam Saurmann will be in the back of the church collecting the stars. There are many more volunteer opportunities available as well. Please fill out the volunteer forms in the bulletin and return to the office. Together we can bring the story of our Savior's birth and life to the community!! If you have any questions, please call Cathi Tavarczyk 217-433-0447.

**Living Nativity Postcards & Flyers** are on the back table. Please take some postcards to hand out to friends, family, co-workers, etc. Flyers are available to post at work, nursing homes, restaurants, etc. Please help spread the word about the story of our Savior's birth and life to the community!

**Yard Clean-Up:** The next leaf clean-up is this Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m., and work until done. The more help, the less time this will take. Please bring your leaf vacuum. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Schwartzle.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive:** The Outreach Team is sponsoring a Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Northeast Community Fund. There will be a table to receive donations of canned and nonperishable food items plus a box for monetary gifts on Sunday, November 19th & 26th.

**Ladies' Friendship Circle** will meet at 1:00 on Tuesday, November 21 to learn about SAIL (Soyland Access to Independent Living). Our speaker will tell us about the organization, what they do to support residents in our community, and to support us in relating to people with various handicaps without embarrassment. We also will sign Christmas cards for homebound and former members. If you want to help make Christmas treats for homebound members of St. John's, come at 12:30! We delivered about 22 pumpkins in October and will be making the same number of visits in December, so your help is needed!

**Thanksgiving Eve Service** will be Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Please come and join us.

**Connect Night** is Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Join us for fellowship as we create ornaments from hymnals. Use your favorite carol to spark your creativity! All ages are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

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

**Stewardship Seeds:** *Philippians 1:5* – “I thank my God ... because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” God doesn’t need anything we have. Yet He invites us to give so that we can indeed become “partners in the Gospel.” This is a gift of His grace: inviting us to do significant work in the kingdom of God.

**NECF** is having people come in and “shop” for their Thanksgiving dinner instead of delivering pre-filled boxes. They will need 3 volunteers for every shift for their distribution. Volunteers will help keep the shelves stocked as well as assisting the shoppers. You can sign up to volunteer on their website [www.northeastcommunityfund.org/volunteer](http://www.northeastcommunityfund.org/volunteer). Distributions will begin on Monday Nov. 6th through Tuesday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. You can sign up for 2 hour blocks.

**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, home décor, etc., with no chips or broken pieces. Holiday items for any holiday and toys with all parts. All items should be put in bags or boxes of a manageable size with clothing separate from household items. A good question to ask yourself before donating: “Is the item something that I would buy?” If the answer is “yes”, then the resale shop would love to have your donation. Volunteers are needed. Stop by or call the shop for details. The LSA Resale Shop is located at 421 E. Cerro Gordo in Decatur. phone number is 217-423-0122.

**Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed.....\$12,403.85  
General Fund..... \$8,738.00

**Last Week's Attendance**

8:30 a.m.....140  
11:00 a.m. ....57  
Total .....197

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

8:30 A.M.....Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. ....Education Hour (FH)  
11:00 A.M. ....Contemporary Service  
4:00 P.M.....Confirmation Class (FH)  
6:00 P.M.....Sr. High Youth Groups (FH)

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

6:30 P.M.....Lay Ministry Meeting  
6:30 P.M.....Boy Scouts

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

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

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

8:30 A.M. ....Leaf Pick-Up  
10:00 A.M.. ....Adult Bible Study (FH)  
6:00 P.M.....Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 P.M. ....Bell Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

All-Day .....Set-Up for Living Nativity

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

4:30-5:30 P.M.....Walk-through Living Nativity  
6:00-8:00 P.M. ....Drive-through Living Nativity

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8:30 A.M.....Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. ....Education Hour  
11:00 A.M. ....Contemporary Service  
4:30-5:30 P.M.....Walk-through Living Nativity  
6:00-8:00 P.M. ....Drive-through Living Nativity