

>Welcome

"I, I Myself Will Be Their Shepherd"

November 26, 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.)*

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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

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**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*

**LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR**  
**NOVEMBER 26, 2023**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**OPENING SONG**

*Come Thou Almighty King*

*LSB 905*

**INVOCATION**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

L: Let us confess our unworthiness and ask His grace and mercy.

Through Ezekiel, God said that He would “search for My sheep and will seek them out.”

**C: We confess that we have wandered away as erring sheep, preferring the pleasures of this world rather than the rich pastures You have provided. Forgive us, O Lord.**

L: Paul writes that “God has put all things in subjection under [Christ’s] feet.”

**C: We confess that we have not always been loyal subjects of our Lord, but have made decisions based on our own thoughts and desires. Forgive us, O Lord.**

L: Jesus foretold that He will judge people about how they treated others—the hungry, strangers, and prisoners.

**C: We confess that we have not always sought to share Your love and meet the needs of the people around us. We cannot change without Your grace, mercy, and strength. Forgive us, O Lord.**

L: Rejoice! The One who comes to judge is the same Jesus who is the one who gave His body and shed His blood for you on the cross. He is the first to rise from death, and by His grace we shall follow Him to His eternal kingdom. 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. Thanks be to God.**

## **SALUTATION**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

## **LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

*Old Testament*

*Ezekiel 34:11-24*

<sup>11</sup>“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. <sup>17</sup>“As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. <sup>18</sup>Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? <sup>19</sup>And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet? <sup>20</sup>“Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will

judge between sheep and sheep.<sup>23</sup> And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.<sup>24</sup> And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*New Testament*

*1 Corinthians 15:20-28*

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.<sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.<sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.<sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.<sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.<sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.<sup>27</sup> For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him.<sup>28</sup> When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**COMMON ALLELUIA and VERSE**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 25:31-46*

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

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

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.<sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.<sup>33</sup> And he will place the sheep on his right, but the

goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **SERMON HYMN**

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

*LSB 709*

## **SERMON**

*"I, I Myself Will Be Their Shepherd"*

*Ezekiel 34:11-24*

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

## **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

*(Responsive)*

L: Let us pray for people here and around the world who are in need, fearful, shunned by society, unjustly accused, or dealing with issues of health.

As You have promised, Lord our God, seek out, we pray, those who, find themselves in need of basic necessities, who face today without homes, with few possessions, and an uncertain future.

**C: For the sake of our Good Shepherd, lead them to the food, shelter, and security they desperately need.**

L: With the Gospel in the hearts and on the lips of Christ's Church, heavenly Father, enable our brothers and sisters to answer the spiritual thirst of people here and around the world.

**C: Grant them faith that they may join us in singing praise to You, the rock of our salvation.**

L: Many of the people we see each day are lonely strangers, gracious Lord; but their hopes and fears are known to You.

**C: Increase our faith, Lord Jesus, that we may reach out to them with the news of Your resurrection and the Kingdom You so graciously offer to all. Guide the Church wherever people gather around Your Word for nourishment and strength.**

L: Shower Your blessings, O Holy Spirit, on all whose vocations work for the common good—those who till the soil and tend flocks; those who prepare and distribute food, clothing, and shelter; those who maintain peace at home and abroad; those who are first to respond in emergencies; and those who treat illnesses of all sorts.

**C: Guide them, Lord of all, to use the gifts You have given them, so that**

**praise may resound to You, the Lord, our Maker.**

L: Where people are forgotten, unjustly imprisoned, or oppressed in any way, O God, surround them with caring people intent on meeting their physical and spiritual needs.

**C: Use us to serve You and love them according to Your gracious plans for us all.**

L: These and all other prayers that we hold silently in our hearts, we lift unto You, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord who has taught us to pray together...

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

*LSB 790*

**Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed .....	\$12,403.85
General Fund .....	\$8,896.00
Online Giving .....	\$1,061.98
Total Giving .....	\$9,957.98

**Last Week's Attendance**

8:30 a.m. ....	141
11:00 a.m. ....	70
Total .....	211



**LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR**

NOVEMBER 26, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.

**OPENING SONGS**

*Come Thou Fount*

*Thank You Jesus For The Blood*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Ezekiel 34:11:24*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Pastor Adam Ray*

**SERMON**

*"I, I Myself Will Be Their Shepherd"*

*Ezekiel 34:11-24*

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

*The King Is Here*

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader .....	Mike Patzwitz
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Troy Harrison 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Organist .....	Sharon Cripe
Ushers .....	8:30 – David Vanskike 11:00 – Serenity Calhoun/Debbie Strong
Computer .....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream .....	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera .....	11:00 – Eric Brown
Sound .....	8:30 – Doug Hicks 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals .....	Pam Saurmann, Lindsay Tipsword
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

**Living Nativity:** Thank you to everyone who participated in the Living Nativity. We had approximately 460 walk through and 1,000 drive through and \$1,791.00 in donations.

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

**Connect Night** is Wednesday, Nov. 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.

**Decorating the Church:** We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 8:30 a.m. Would appreciate any help.

**“The Clothing of the King” - Advent Services** will begin on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> through December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Notice the time change.) Advent Dinner will be served starting at 5:00 p.m.

**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.

**Bus Trip** to Little Theatre in Sullivan to see “A Christmas Carole” on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$36.00. Contact Jerry Pelz at 217-433-2961 if you would like to attend.

**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.

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church’s Heavenly Holidays Bazaar** is 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sat., Dec. 2, with a cookie walk, baked goods, Christmas room, and crafters.

The church is located at 2055 S. Franklin Street, Decatur. It is sponsored by the Ladies' Guild and proceeds will go to support mission projects.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

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

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

6:30 P.M. .... Boy Scouts

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

1:00 P.M. .... Staff Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

10:00 A.M. .... Adult Bible Study (FH)  
6:00 P.M. .... Connect Night (FH)  
7:00 P.M. .... Bell Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

No church activities scheduled.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

8:30 A.M. .... Decorating Church for Christmas

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

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