

Welcome

"Celebration of Discipline: Meditation"
February 18, 2024



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 IN LENT
MEDITATION
FEBRUARY 18, 2024
8:30 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

Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing

LSB 584

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

L: It was in this triune name of God that we were baptized—

C: **the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

L: As we begin our Lenten journey, we remember our Baptism.

C: **We remember that we have been washed and forgiven.**

L: We remember we were made members of God's family.

C: **We remember that we were united with Jesus.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Though we are baptized and united with Jesus, we often act as if we

were separated from Jesus. There are times when we fall prey to Satan and his temptations. There are times when we fail to meditate upon God and His Word. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to Him in repentance, asking for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

L: Heavenly Father,

C: we have ignored Your help in resisting Satan and His temptations. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have neglected Your Word and resisted Your Spirit. Have mercy on us, O God. For the sake of Jesus, forgive our sins, and lead us in righteousness. Amen.

L: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to endure temptation, suffering, and death for us and our salvation. 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. We are baptized into Christ.

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Psalms 1

¹ Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. ² But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. ³ They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. ⁴ But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind. ⁵ They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly. ⁶ For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:60-69

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

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

⁶⁰ Many of his disciples said, "This is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it?" ⁶¹ Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, "Does this offend you?" ⁶² Then what will you think if you see the Son of Man ascend to heaven again? ⁶³ The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But some of you do not believe me." (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn't believe, and he knew who would betray him.) ⁶⁵ Then he said, "That is why I said that people can't come to me unless the Father gives them to me." ⁶⁶ At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. ⁶⁹ We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God." (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON

Celebration of Discipline: Meditation

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: "Lord, in Your mercy,"

People respond with: "hear our prayer."

LORD'S PRAYER

PREFACE (*responses sung*)

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS (*sung*)

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

AGNUS DEI (*sung*)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

LSB 618

Your Table I Approach

LSB 628

When Peace, like a River

LSB 763

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens

LSB 589

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
MEDITATION
FEBRUARY 18, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.

OPENING SONGS

All The Earth

There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

SERMON

Celebration of Discipline: Meditation

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION SONG

Lord I Need You

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Who You Say I Am

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader	Jean Munson
Communion Helper	Alan Bishop & Jerry Pelz
Lay Minister	8:30 – Drew Miller 11:00 – Mike Baggett
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	8:30 – Brady Fawcett 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Debbie Strong
Computer	8:30 – Mike Patzwitz 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz
Camera	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz
Sound	8:30 – Doug Hicks 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals	Melissa Saurmann, Pam Saurmann, 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: 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

Outline for Sunday Lent Services: Celebration of Discipline Series:

Inward

Feb 18 – Meditation

Feb 25 – Prayer

Outward

Mar 3 – Simplicity

Mar 10 – Service

Corporate

Mar 17 – Confession

Mar 24 – Celebration

Lent Services will begin on Wednesday, February 21st at 6:00 p.m. Lenten meal will begin at 5:00 p.m. We will explore some spiritual disciplines through our sermon series, Celebration of Discipline. The Youth Group will be preparing the meal of soups and salads.

Wednesday Adult Bible Study will be back in session during the five weeks of Lent. Dan Harrison will be instructing on, The Thoughts of A Christian's Prayer Life. The subject will be a two session study on "*Martin Luther's A Simple Way to Pray.*"

All women, the Friendship Circle meeting this month will be a huge treat! Pastor Aaron and Teddy will be our guests and will describe Teddy's duties as a comfort dog, and the training process. Anyone can attend, so bring a friend. We will meet at 1:00 on Tuesday, February 20th.

Chili Cookoff & Dessert Silent Auction is Sunday, February 25th at 3:00 p.m. Sign-up sheets to bring your famous chili or dessert are on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. Questions??? Contact Malinda or the church office.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the youth by purchasing Super Bowl Subs. Thanks to donations and a Thrivent Action Team we made over \$900 in profit towards the Summer SD Trip.

Orders for St. John's Shirts are available. Order forms are available 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 March 10th.

New Life Pregnancy Center News – CHANGE FOR LIFE – Baby Bottle Campaign begins this week. Take home one or two baby bottles, and return them on March 3rd filled with your pocket change. Bottles are available on the back table of the Sanctuary. Your donation will support programs and materials used to minister to those who come to New Life Pregnancy Center for help.

STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: Matthew 4:4 – “But he answered, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” What good are all the things of this world (food, drink, house, home, wealth, etc.) if we lose the things of God? What's more important? How should our priorities be arranged?

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR! Northeast Community Fund's annual “Love Thy Neighbor” campaign will be on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. From 6 a.m.–6 p.m. We will be accepting donations of food and items in our facility located at 839 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. If you would like to volunteer or donate, please go to www.northeastcommunityfund.org/blog to Love Thy Neighbor 2024 to sign-up.

LSA ReSale Shop: The resale shop needs clean used clothing, especially children's. The shop takes donations of any and all holiday items no matter the season. Donations should be clean and in good condition; something that you would buy. Please put your donations in bags or boxes of a manageable size with clothing separate from household items. Volunteers are always needed. You can come when it's best for you. Contact the shop at 217-423-0122 for details. The LSA ReSale Shop is located at 421 E. Cerro Gordo in Decatur.

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed	\$12,403.85
General Fund	\$14,512.00
Online Giving.....	\$2,135.40
Total Giving	\$16,647.74

Last Week's Attendance

Traditional Service	125
Contemporary Service.....	77
Total.....	202
Ash Wednesday Service	110

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
4-5:30 P.M. Confirmation Class (FH)
5:30 P.M. Shared Dinner
6:00 P.M. Jr. High Youth Groups

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

6:30 P.M. Lay Ministry Meeting (Rock)
6:30 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting
1:00 P.M. Friendship Circle (FH)
6:30 P.M. Parish Planning Meeting (FH)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study (FH)
5:00 P.M. Lenten Meal Served (Soups & Salads) (FH)
6:00 P.M. Lent Service
6:45 P.M. Bells Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
3:00 P.M. Chili Cook-Off & Dessert Auction