

*Welcome*

***"Household Relationships"***  
***January 14, 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.)*

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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@stjohnsdecaur.com](mailto:tedh@stjohnsdecaur.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

**#LIFETOGETHER**  
**WEEK 2 – HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIPS**  
**JANUARY 14, 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**

*Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens*

*LSB 589*

**INVOCATION**

**OPENING SENTENCES**     *Psalm 139:1–10; 1 Samuel 3:9*

**L:**    O Lord, You have searched me and known me!

**C:**    **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar.**

**L:**    You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

**C:**    **Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.**

**L:**    You hem me in, behind and before, and lay Your hand upon me.

**C:**    **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.**

L: Speak, Lord,

**C: for Your servant hears.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

L: As the psalmist declares, the Lord searches us, knows us, is ever-present with us, and leads us. He listens to us as we speak to Him. We come before Him in confession.

*Silence for meditation.*

L: “The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.”  
And so let us confess together...

**C: We confess, heavenly Father, that we often choose not to call on You in times of need, nor in times of thanksgiving. We fail to be near You in our opportunities to pray, praise, and give thanks. In our days of trouble, we often rely on ourselves and not You. We seek deliverance through our own devices and peace through the temporary offerings of this world. Father, forgive us for our sins of thought, word, and deed that separate us from You. Amen.**

L: As we speak and call out to the Lord in prayer and confession, He calls to us, His people, through His Word of truth, mercy, and grace; for He has “saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.” As a called and ordained servant of the Word and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of 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**

*New Testament Reading*

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 22:34-40*

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

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

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

**SERMON HYMN**

*Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way*

*LSB 857*

**SERMON**

*"Household Relationships"*  
*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: "Lord, in Your mercy,"  
**People respond with: "hear our prayer."***

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG**

*Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus*

*LSB 685*

**#LIFETOGETHER**  
**WEEK 2 – HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIPS**  
**JANUARY 14, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.**

**OPENING SONGS**

*House of the Lord*  
*There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Ephesians 2:1-10*  
*Matthew 22:34-40*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

**SERMON**

*"Household Relationships"*  
*Pastor Adam Ray*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

*This Is Our God*

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader .....	Karl Albrecht
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Troy Harrison 11:00 – Troy Harrison
Organist .....	Carol Pelz
Ushers .....	8:30 – Gary Schwartzle/Rick Laskowski 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Computer .....	8:30 – Ted Hesse 11:00 – Allison Cushing
Live Stream .....	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera .....	11:00 – Eric Brown
Sound .....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 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

**Thank you:** Frank and Janet Whitehead want to thank all the brothers and sisters at St. John's for all the delicious meals, cards, and prayers that they received the last few weeks. Janet's recovery is coming along slowly.

**What are you doing for dinner on January 17<sup>th</sup>?** Let us take dinner off our plate! Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., pizza, salad, ice cream bar. Food, fun, and free! #lifetogether

**All Ladies are invited to attend the LWML meeting** on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> after the 11:00 service. We will have lunch and discuss what we would like to do in 2024. We are considering running three groups based on schedule availability, which would roughly fall into women still in school, women to meet in the evening, and women to meet during the day. More information will be discussed at the meeting. Bring a free will donation for lunch. If you are able to come at the last minute, come! We really want you there.

**SOUP'S ON!** The Ladies Friendship Circle officers will prepare a variety of soups for our annual soup luncheon at 1:00 on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Bring your appetite and enjoy lunch with friends, followed by bingo. Old, new, and prospective members are welcome! Anyone who wants to help prepare favors for homebound members of St. John's should come at 12:30.

**Voter's Meeting** is Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m.

**Shirts are here:** If you ordered a shirt, they are available in the foyer before and after each service.

**Super Bowl Subs:** Support the Youth for the Summer Mission Trip, by pre-ordering your Super Bowl Subs. Please fill out an order form on the back table, and return to Church Office or Malinda by Friday, **February 9<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in donating Deli Meat or Cheese, please contact Malinda.

**Bus Trip:** St. John's is planning to go to "My Way" at the Little Theatre on Wed., March 6<sup>th</sup> for the 2pm show. We will leave the church at 12:40pm. The

show is a collection of Frank Sinatra songs. The cost is \$36.00. Please contact Jerry Pelz at 217-433-2961 or the church office to purchase a ticket.

**Poinsettias:** We have a few poinsettias available. Please take one home, if you would like one. Thank you.

**Help Wanted:** Imboden Creek Gardens is seeking van drivers. Please see Doug Precht for more information.

**STEWARDSHIP SEEDS:** *John 2:5 – “His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’”* What must Mary have thought when Jesus replied, “What does this have to do with me?” (John 2:4). But she knew that whatever her Son said to do would be a blessing, so she knew what advice to give to the servants: Do whatever He tells you! That’s still good advice for us in every aspect of our lives, including in our generosity toward the Lord’s work in the church.

**Last Week’s Giving**

Weekly Needed .....	\$12,403.85
General Fund .....	\$8,789.00
Total Giving .....	\$8,789.00

**Last Week’s Attendance**

Traditional Service .....	126
Contemporary Service.....	67
Total.....	193

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

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

### MONDAY, JANUARY 15

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

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

1:00 P.M. .... Staff Meeting  
1:00 P.M. .... Friendship Circle (FH)

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

10:00 A.M. .... Adult Bible Study (FH)  
5:30 P.M. .... #LifeTogether Meal (FH)

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

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

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

No church activities scheduled.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

No church activities scheduled.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

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