

Welcome

“Authority Over All”
January 28, 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.)

Contact Us

2727 North Union Boulevard, Decatur, IL 62526

Phone: (217) 875-3656; website: 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

Rev. Aaron Bird, Assoc. Pastor
pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com

Malinda Standerfer, Dir. of Christian Ed
dcemalinda@stjohnsdecatur.com

Ted Hesse, Worship Music Director
tedh@stjohnsdecatur.com

Georgia Newman, Office Manager
georgian@stjohnsdecatur.com

Carol Reynolds, Financial Secretary
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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 28, 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

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

L: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection.

L: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned

against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

L: Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’¹⁷ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.’¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to

speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’ (ESV)

L; This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

¹ Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that “we all have knowledge” about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. ² Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn’t really know very much. ³ But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes. ⁴ So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God. ⁵ There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth, and some people actually worship many gods and many lords. ⁶ But for us, There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live. ⁷ However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. ⁸ It’s true that we can’t win God’s approval by what we eat. We don’t lose anything if we don’t eat it, and we don’t gain anything if we do. ⁹ But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble. ¹⁰ For if others see you—with your “superior knowledge”—eating in the temple of an idol, won’t they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol? ¹¹ So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed. ¹² And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ. ¹³ So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don’t want to cause another believer to stumble. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

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

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

²¹ Jesus and his companions went to the town of Capernaum. When the Sabbath day came, he went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law. ²³ Suddenly, a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴ “Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” ²⁵ But Jesus reprimanded him. “Be quiet! Come out of the man,” he ordered. ²⁶ At that, the evil spirit screamed, threw the man into a convulsion, and then came out of him. ²⁷ Amazement gripped the audience, and they began to discuss what had happened. “What sort of new teaching is this?” they asked excitedly. “It has such authority! Even evil spirits obey his orders!” ²⁸ The news about Jesus spread quickly throughout the entire region of Galilee. (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Aaron Bird

SERMON HYMN

Son of God, Eternal Savior

LSB 842

SERMON

“Authority Over All”

Mark 1:21-28

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES’ 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

The Lord, My God, Be Praised

LSB 794

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 28, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.

OPENING SONGS

Battle Belongs
Amazing Grace

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:21-28

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Aaron Bird

SERMON

"Authority Over All"

Mark 1:21-28

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Way Maker

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader	AJ Clapp
Lay Minister	8:30 – Larry Westbrook 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Organist	Ted Hesse
Ushers	8:30 – David Vanskike 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Computer	8:30 – Anne Jesgarz 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera	11:00 – Eric Brown
Sound	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals	Becky Dosien, Kristin Hesse, 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: 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

Voter's Meeting is today at 9:45 a.m. (during the Education Hour).

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 9th***. If you are interested in donating Deli Meat or Cheese, please contact Malinda.

Ash Wednesday Service is Wednesday, February 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Bus Trip: St. John's is planning to go to "My Way" at the Little Theatre on Wed., March 6th 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.

Your Yearly Offering Giving Statements are in the mailboxes by the sanctuary

Shirts are here: If you ordered a shirt, they are available in the church office.

Mite Boxes: Remember mite boxes are collected the first Sunday of every month at the back of the sanctuary. There are 31 grants being supported in 2023 and 2025. One of the mission grants being supported is: Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakhstan – Lutheran Hour Ministries \$100,000

Thank you to everyone for your kindness, prayers, and cards during my recent illness. The cancer is in remission and the infection is gone in the abdomen. Thanks be to God.
- David Vanskike

New Life Pregnancy Center News – CHANGE FOR LIIFE – 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: *1 Corinthians 9:25 – “Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”* Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit, for the desires of the flesh are at war with the desires of the Spirit. We have received new life in Christ by His grace. Now He calls us to follow Him deliberately, with self-control and with intention.

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 if you were one of our customers. 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. You can work an hour, a few hours, once a week, twice a week or whatever works 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	\$8,980.00
Online	\$1,424.14
Total Giving	\$10,404.14

Last Week’s Attendance

Traditional Service	116
Contemporary Service.....	46
Total.....	162
Wednesday Adult Bible Study	10

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Voter's Meeting (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. Youth Groups

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

6:30 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

12:00 P.M. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study (FH)
7:00 P.M. Mission Trip Parent Meeting (FH)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Voter's Meeting (FH)
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
5:00 P.M. Sr. High Youth Groups