

Welcomed

**"A LESSON ON GREATNESS"**

**SEPTEMBER 22, 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  
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**Carol Reynolds**, Financial Secretary  
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**Jeff Miller**, Custodian

### **Unity Christian School Faculty & Staff – Members of St. John's Lutheran Church**

Ciara Collins

Angela Martinek

Jeff Salefski

Brenda Salogga

Melissa Saurmann

Lindsay Tipsword

Stephanie Wilkerson

# EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

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

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### WELCOME & GREETING

### OPENING SONG

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

LSB 702

### INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 54:1-2*

L: O God, save me, by Your name,

**C: and vindicate me by Your might.**

L: O God, hear my prayer;

**C: give ear to the words of my mouth.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Let us confess our sins to our heavenly Father.

**C: Almighty God, I confess all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. I have relied on my own strength to endure during temptation and persecution rather than Your faithful protection. I am sorry for these my faults and ask Your forgiveness and pardon that I may return Your faithfulness with ongoing reliance of faith.**

L: In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. God grant deliverance from every trouble and set your

feet to walk in His ways now and always.

**C: Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let us pray.

Our heavenly Father, who has ordered all things in heaven and earth, grant us, Your servants, such faith that nothing will separate us from our trust in Your gracious deliverance; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Old Testament*

*Jeremiah 11:18-20*

<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord told me about the plots my enemies were making against me. <sup>19</sup> I was like a lamb being led to the slaughter. I had no idea that they were planning to kill me! "Let's destroy this man and all his words," they said. "Let's cut him down, so his name will be forgotten forever." <sup>20</sup> O Lord of Heaven's Armies, you make righteous judgments, and you examine the deepest thoughts and secrets. Let me see your vengeance against them, for I have committed my cause to you. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

*James 3:13-4:10*

<sup>13</sup> If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. <sup>15</sup> For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly,

unspiritual, and demonic.<sup>16</sup> For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.<sup>18</sup> And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.<sup>1</sup> What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you?<sup>2</sup> You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.<sup>3</sup> And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.<sup>4</sup> You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.<sup>5</sup> Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him.<sup>6</sup> And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."<sup>7</sup> So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.<sup>8</sup> Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.<sup>9</sup> Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy.<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **Holy Gospel**

*Mark 9:30-37*

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

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

<sup>30</sup> Leaving that region, they traveled through Galilee. Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was there, <sup>31</sup> for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead." <sup>32</sup> They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant. <sup>33</sup> After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else." <sup>36</sup> Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me." (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Pastor Aaron*

## **SERMON HYMN**

*Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*

*LSB 851*

## **SERMON**

*"A Lesson on Greatness"*

*Mark 9:30-37*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was**

**crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

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

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*The Leader will conclude every prayer with: "Lord in your mercy..."*

***People respond with: "Hear our prayer."***

**L:** Let us pray for ourselves and the church around the world. Heavenly Father, guide and protect us and Christ's whole church to proclaim the Gospel. May Your Word continue to go forth through Your chosen people, that all would come to know the good news of Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**L:** O God, we pray for people in power through politics, those in businesses growing and distributing the resources of this world, armed forces protecting and defending us, and others who provide opportunities to use the talents You have given to us. Work faith in their hearts, O God, so that they may meet the needs of all people in peace, and we may follow their lead in serving You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**L:** We pray for those who make and adjudicate the laws of our country and others. Turn the hearts of those who seek to harm us or our nation and work against peace around the world, O God. Let us see Your justice reign. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Gracious God, we pray for those near and dear to us, [*including . . .*], that You would heal, restore, and comfort them according to all Your good plans for them. Grant doors of opportunity for health care professionals, first responders, and us, that we may work together with them for the good of those for whom we pray. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Give grace so that we may be grateful for Your blessings new every morning and we may be generous in sharing from Your abundant gifts to those in need. May You continue to mold us and shape us to be faithful stewards of all that You have entrusted to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Finally, let us pray for all who oppose our gracious God. Open the hearts of our enemies, O God, and all who oppose Your reign of love, so that they may know Your grace and mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord who taught us to pray together...

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## **BLESSING**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

*LSB 707*

## **POSTLUDE**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

***September 22, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.***

**OPENING SONGS**

*The King Is Here*  
*King of My Heart*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

*Holy Is The Lord*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Mark 9:30-37*

**SERMON**

*"A Lesson on Greatness"*

*Mark 9:30-37*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

*Blessed Be Your Name*

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader .....	Scott Tavarczyk
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Steve Craycroft 11:00 – Drew Miller
Organist .....	Sharon Cripe
Ushers .....	8:30 – David Vanskike 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Computer .....	8:30 – Mike Patzwitz 11:00 – Allison Cushing
Live Stream .....	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera .....	11:00 – Pat Robinson
Sound .....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Brandon Patzwitz
Vocals.....	Becky Dosien, Kristin Hesse, Amanda Ray
Acoustic Guitar .....	Wendy Salefski
Drums .....	Julia Cushing
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 scheduled for Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m.

**Children's Sunday School** There are classes for K-4th and a class for 5th-8th each Sunday from 9:45-10:45am.

**Fall Festival is fast approaching** on Sunday October 6th from 4-6 p.m. Come play some games, decorate a pumpkin and engage in some good ole' Fall Festival fun! This event will be great for families of all ages and will be an easy opportunity to invite friends or neighbors that you are seeking to build relationships within our community. Contact Pastor Aaron with any questions.

**Fall Festival Insert:** There are several food items needed for the Fall Festival. Please complete the insert and return it to the church office. If you have any questions, please see Wilma Golembeck.

**Nice shirt!** Show your St. John's love by wearing one of our new shirt designs. You can order a short or long-sleeved t-shirt by filling out the order form in the back of the sanctuary. Give it to Georgia in the church office by October 6.

**Transfer the Blessing:** Do you have a Lifetime Plan for Giving? Would you like to have one? Or do you have one you'd like to revisit and reconsider? Join us on Wednesday, September 25th at 10am for a presentation from Rev. Charles Olander and Scott Radden of the LCMS Foundation as they provide information and materials to help you develop a "Lifetime Plan for Giving." Topics will include how wills, beneficiary designations, charitable trusts and gift annuities might be used to help you better provide for yourself, your family and your church. This presentation comes at no cost to you. We hope to see you there!

**Blood Drive:** St John's is sponsoring a blood drive from 12:00 to 5:00 PM on October 10, 2024. Donors will receive instructions about claiming a gift card from one of the following: Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, Target, Home Depot, Lowe's, or Subway. Sign up after the 8:30 or before the 11 am

services on 9/22, 9/29 or 10/6 Other sign-up options include ImpactLife at 800-747- 5401 or online at [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org). Please bring a photo ID October 10. ImpactLife is the sole supplier of blood to DMH and St. Mary's. The need is real. Please consider a donation.

**Thank you** to Dave Munson, Jeremy Collins, Larry Marquardt, David Vanskike, and Gary Schwartzle for their help in moving the Scout shed.

**Thank you** to the ladies for their hard work on deep cleaning the kitchen.

**Thank you** to Don and Judy Johnson for all their hard work on the landscaping around the St. John's brick sign.

**Dishes:** There are several unclaimed dishes on top of the coat rack by the fellowship hall. Please check to see if these dishes belong to you.

**LSA ReSale Shop:** A BIG thank you to all the volunteers who helped with our fall/winter restock at the LSA ReSale Shop. This huge task was made much easier with the many people helping. Please stop by the ReSale Shop and see the "new" fall/winter merchandise. There is a great selection of Halloween and Christmas items too. The shop, located at 421 E. Cerro Gordo is open Monday-Saturday 9am -3pm with extended hours on Thursday 9am-6pm. Follow us on the LSA ReSale Shop Facebook page for the most up-to-date information!

The **LWML CID Fall Retreat at Camp Cilca** is October 4th -5th. Registration packets are at the back of sanctuary; due September 23rd.

**NECF Farm to Fund Event:** Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Purchase your tickets now at [northeastcommunityfund.org](http://northeastcommunityfund.org)

**WSOY Community Food Drive** is Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Take a grocery sack from the back of the sanctuary, fill it up with non-perishable food items, and take to Kroger's on Route 36. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the foyer.

**Luke 14:5 – “And he said to them, ‘Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?’”** The time is always ripe to do right. God is always calling us to faithfulness and love, which is the fulfillment of the Law. The Pharisees wanted an easier law, something less than love, which was easier to keep. Why? Because they thought they had to in order to be saved. But since we know that Jesus saves by His sacrifice, we are free to see the real Law of love and to strive to fulfill it not out of fear, but out of thanksgiving.

**Last Week’s Giving**

Weekly Needed .....	\$12,403.85
General Fund .....	\$18,317.00
Online Giving .....	\$1,105.40
Total Giving .....	\$19,422.40

**Last Week’s Attendance**

8:30 a.m. ....	134
11:00 a.m. ....	66
Total .....	200
Wednesday Adult Bible Study .....	11

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Education Hour (FH)  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service  
12:30 P.M. .... Confirmation Class (FH)  
1:30 P.M. .... 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

7:00 P.M. .... Boy Scouts (FH)

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

10:00 A.M. .... DMH Grief Support Group (Lounge)  
1:00 P.M. .... Staff Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

10:00 A.M. .... Adult Bible Study (FH)  
5–9:00 P.M. .... PAW Print Training (FH)  
6:30 P.M. .... Youth Group Hangout (Cushing House)

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

5:30 P.M. .... TOPS (Rock)  
7:00 P.M. .... Worship Practice

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

No church activities scheduled.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

6:00 P.M. .... NECF Farm to Fund

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Voter's Meeting (FH)  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service  
12:30 P.M. .... Confirmation Class (FH)