



Welcome

“WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?”

DECEMBER 29, 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

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

Angela Martinek

Jeff Salefski

Brenda Salogga

Melissa Saurmann

Lindsay Tipsword

Stephanie Wilkerson

First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 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

OPENING SONG

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

L: By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

C: **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

L: For I will be merciful, . . . and I will remember their sins no more.

C: **He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: God our Creator said to Adam and to us all to remember that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return." But now He calls all to repentance of sin and faith in His Son, who is the remembrance of God's mercy and who came to destroy sin and death and restore us to life. Before the newborn Redeemer of the world, let us repent and receive His forgiveness.

C: O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, remember not our sins of thought, word, and deed, the sins of our youth or of our old age. Because we often forget Your mercy toward us, we ask for Your forgiveness. Remember Your gracious will that whoever calls on Your name will be saved. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us always to remember Your mercy and Your steadfast love that we may live as Your own children, now and forever. Amen.

L: Thus says the Lord, "I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins." Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all 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

Old Testament

Exodus 13: 1-3, 11-15

¹The Lord said to Moses, ²"Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine." ³Then Moses said to the people, ¹¹"When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when

Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament

Colossians 3:12-17

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

²²And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon,

and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." ³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON HYMN

Let All Together Praise Our God (v. 1-4)

LSB 389

SERMON

"What are you wearing?"

Colossians 3:12-17

Pastor Aaron Bird

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

What Child is This

LSB 370

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 29, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

*O Come All Ye Faithful/Sing To The King
Trust in God*

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

God You're So Good

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:12-17

SERMON

"What are you wearing?"

Colossians 3:12-17

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Unspeakable Joy

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Troy Harrison
Lay Minister	8:30 – Steve Craycroft 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Computer	8:30 – Mike Patzwitz 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream	8:30 – Eric Brown
Camera	8:30 – Eric Brown
Sound	8:30 – Doug Hicks 11:00 – Steve Wright
Vocals.....	Melissa Saurmann & Amanda Ray
Acoustic Guitar	Mike Dahn & Fred Saurmann
Drums	Chloe Dahn

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

CONGREGATION NEWS

Christmas Decorations: The Christmas decorations will be taken down on Saturday, January 4th at 8:30 a.m. All help will be appreciated.

Poinsettia's: If you purchased a poinsettia, please take one with you.

Offering Envelopes are available on a back table in the Sanctuary. If you did not receive envelopes, please contact the church office.

Seeking Names: St. John's is seeking to call a Director of Faith Formation! As we begin this process, we are gathering names of potential candidates for the position. How can you help? 1) Review the job description (located on the back table) 2) Spread the word - share this news with family, friends, and any LCMS contacts! 3) Let us know of any possible candidates! Contact Rachel Tavarczyk (rtavarczyk@gmail.com) or Pastor Adam.

What are you doing for dinner on January 15th? Let us take dinner off our plate! Wednesday, January 15th at 5:30 p.m. Food, fun, and free! #lifetogether

Unity Auction Team - Unity's largest fundraiser of the year will take place May 2, 2025, and we need your help! Unity is looking for people with event planning/fundraising experience, or just a passion for the school and willingness to help to join our 2025 Auction Team. You can contribute in a way that works with your schedule and unique gifts. Please get in touch with Brian Booth at bbooth@unitydecatour.org to learn more.

STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: Luke 2:38 - "And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem." Notice here how giving thanks to God leads to good works (speaking about Jesus, in this case). Thankfulness toward God for all He has done for us is the foundation of a Christian life lived in godliness. For if we know all that the Lord has done for us, how can we not strive to honor Him with what we think, say and do?

Camp CILCA Women's Retreat will be on March 28-29. The retreat theme is ***Lean and Learn***. Our speaker is **Rehema Kavugha**. Rehema is the Director of Synod Relations at the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Two retreat options are available: 1) Overnight for \$100 and share a room with two other ladies in Camp CILCA's Christian Growth Center. 2) Select the day-only option for \$75. Registration opens December 27. Register online at www.cilca.org/womens-retreat. If you have questions or need help registering, contact Lauren at program@cilca.org.

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed	\$12,403.85
General Fund	\$7,004.00
Online Giving.....	
Total Giving.....	\$7,004.00

Last Week's Attendance

9:30 a.m.	167
Christmas Eve - 2:30	189
Christmas Eve - 4:30	194
Christmas Day.....	48

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON

No church activities scheduled.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

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