

Welcome

"REIGN OF GRACE"

JANUARY 12, 2025



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

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025

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

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

LSB 590

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us stand before Him in humble and contrite confession. We confess together...

C: O Lord, we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and left undone, and we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. We have not loved the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

L: O God, we justly deserve present and eternal punishment, but for the sake of Jesus Christ, we boldly pray:

C: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

L: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: May He who began a good work in you 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

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. ⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. ⁶I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament

Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-22

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

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

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things

that Herod had done,²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened,²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Aaron Bird

SERMON HYMN

The Gifts Christ Freely Gives (Vv. 1-4)

LSB 602

SERMON

"Reign of Grace"

Romans 6:1-11

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

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

How Firm a Foundation

LSB 728

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 12, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

Battle Belongs
Goodness of God

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

I Will Look Up

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 6:1-11

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Aaron Bird

SERMON

"Reign of Grace"
Romans 6:1-11
Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Holy Forever

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader	Jill Davis
Lay Minister	8:30 – Drew Miller 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	8:30 – Gary Schwartzle/Rick Laskowski 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Computer	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Allison Cushing
Live Stream	11:00 – Pat Robinson
Camera	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
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

CONGREGATION NEWS

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

Properties Ministry Team will have their monthly meeting this Monday, January 13th at 6:30 p.m.

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.

LWML: All ladies of St. John's are invited to an LWML 2025 planning meeting Sunday, January 12th at 12:15 in the Rock. Feel free to bring a lunch if you'd like. Please respond to Brenda Salogga at dnsal@comcast.net or 217-429-9183 if you are able to attend.

Ladies Friendship Circle will have its annual soup luncheon in the fellowship hall at 1:00 on Tuesday, January 21. Several different kinds of soup will be served, so come hungry and sample as many varieties as you want! After we eat, we will play bingo. Yes, there will be prizes! Bring a friend for an afternoon of food and fun! Come at 12:30 if you want to help make favors for St. John's homebound members.

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: Matthew 3:15 – “But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’” Fulfilling all righteousness is not a task we are up to. The reason God sent His Son into the world is to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. The whole of Jesus’ life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us. With our righteousness fulfilled in Jesus and given to us in Baptism, our hearts now overflow with thanksgiving and praise.

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	\$
Online Giving.....	\$2,046.13
Total Giving	\$2,046.13

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	66
11:00 a.m.....	Cancelled
Total.....	66

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
12:15 P.M. LWML Annual Meeting
12:30 P.M. Confirmation Class

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

6:30 P.M. Properties Meeting
7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts (FH)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

10:00 A.M. DMH Grief Support Group (Lounge)
1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting
6:30 P.M. Lay Ministry Meeting (FH)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
12:30 P.M. Confirmation Class (FH)