



Welcome

"ALL GLORY TO GOD"

JANUARY 5, 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.)

The Lord's Supper

Though we are eager for all to participate fully in the Lord's Supper, we do not want to compromise any portion of God's Word among us. Because Scripture states that the Lord's Supper can be taken to one's spiritual harm if not properly understood, we ask all visitors to refer to the following statement of belief regarding the Lord's Supper before communing:

I am truly sorry for the sin in my life. I am struggling to die to my sin and to live in faith in Jesus. I am looking to Jesus to empower me to stop my sinning and to live a new life in Him. I believe when I receive the bread, I am receiving the true body of Christ, and when I receive the wine, I am receiving the true blood of Jesus. I believe that when I receive His true body and blood my sins are forgiven, I am given power over sin, death and the devil, and the gift of eternal life. My faith is completely in the words of Jesus.

The Lord's Supper offers the two-fold gift of forgiveness and peace with God on the one hand, and unity and oneness among those who commune together on the other hand (Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17). Those who receive the body and the blood of the Lord do so in terms of their relationship with God as well as with their fellow-communicants. Therefore, all baptized believers who understand and agree with the above Lutheran teaching of the Lord's Supper are welcome to attend. As always, we encourage you to speak with Pastor Ray or Pastor Aaron with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Disabled – The pastor and lay minister will gladly commune anyone unable to come to the communion rail. Let the pastor or an usher know before the service begins.

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 5, 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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LSB 686

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES *Ephesians 1:3, 6–7*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: God the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. Therefore let us seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near. We confess together...

C: Blessed Lord, apart from You there is no god. Apart from You there is no hope or forgiveness. We confess our sin amid the fears and anxieties of daily life. We have gone our own way, and have become lost in our sin and faithlessness. Therefore, we return to You here, remembering Your promise, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you." Deliver us from all anxiety, forgive our sins, speak Your comforting Word of hope, and lead us in the way of Your righteousness and peace. This we ask in Jesus' Name, Amen.

L: The Lord is your strength and your stronghold, your refuge in the day of trouble. 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

1 King 3:4-15

⁴ And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴ And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I

will lengthen your days.”¹⁵ And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. ¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. ¹² God’s purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. ¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴ The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:40-52

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

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

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON

*"All Glory to God"
Ephesians 1:3-14
Pastor Adam Ray*

NICENE 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

PREFACE (*responses sung*)

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS (*sung*)

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

AGNUS DEI (*sung*)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

It Came upon the Midnight Clear *LSB 366*

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come *LSB 358*

God Loves Me Dearly *LSB 392*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Go Tell It On The Mountain *LSB 388*

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 5, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

*There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do
Peace Has Come*

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

SERMON

*"All Glory to God"
Ephesians 1:3-14
Pastor Adam Ray*

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

Gratitude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Holy Forever

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Steve Funk
Communion Helper	David Salogga & Kevin Tavarczyk
Lay Minister	8:30 – Larry Westbrook 11:00 – Michael Baggett
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Dan Murphey
Computer	8:30 – Ted Hesse 11:00 – Ellie Hesse
Live Stream	8:30 – Matt Cushing
Camera	8:30 – Matt Cushing
Sound	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Steve Wright
Vocals.....	Amanda Ray, Janice Wright, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar	Nathaniel Stoll
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

Poinsettia's: If you purchased a poinsettia, please take one with you. They are in the hallway by the office.

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.

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.

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

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: Genesis 46:1 – “So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.” Every sacrifice in the Old Testament pointed forward to the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus upon the cross. That is the one sacrifice for sin. But the New Testament tells us to offer sacrifices as well: sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving, and even to present our very bodies and selves as “living sacrifices” to the Lord.

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	\$18,734.00
Online Giving.....	\$6,821.63
Total Giving	\$25,555.63

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	92
11:00 a.m.....	44
Total.....	136

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting
5:30 P.M. Outreach Meeting (FH)
6:00 P.M. Discipleship Meeting (Lounge)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study (FH)
6:30 P.M. Youth Hangout

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

No church activities scheduled.

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 Meeting (Rock)
12:30 P.M. Confirmation Class (FH)