



>Welcome

**"THE CROWN"**

**NOVEMBER 24, 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  
[pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Ted Hesse**, Worship Music Director  
[tedh@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:tedh@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Georgia Newman**, Office Manager  
[georgian@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:georgian@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Carol Reynolds**, Financial Secretary  
[carolr@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto: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*

# LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

## CHRIST THE KING

NOVEMBER 24, 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

*O Worship the King (Vv. 1-2, 5-6)*

LSB 804

### INVOCATION

### OPENING SENTENCES

L: The Lord reigns; He is robed in majesty;

**C: the Lord is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.**

L: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

**C: let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Jesus said, "Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." Today we kneel humbly before Him, our king, confessing the truth that we have sinned against our creator's clear commands. Let us make our heartfelt petition for mercy, forgiveness, and salvation.

**C: Most merciful Lord, whose majesty has been shown to all nations by Your triumph over all sin and death on Your glorious cross, from Your exalted throne at the right hand of the Father You live and reign over all creation. Receive our humble plea for mercy, life, and forgiveness of our sin, and grant to us Your enlivening grace by speaking Your liberating word of truth.**

L: "Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." Upon this, your

confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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** *Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14*

*Old Testament*

<sup>9</sup>“As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. <sup>10</sup> A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. <sup>13</sup>“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup> And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **NEW TESTAMENT**

*Revelation 1:4-8*

<sup>4</sup>Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him

be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.<sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 18:33–37*

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

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

<sup>33</sup> So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” <sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **SERMON HYMN**

*The Advent of our King*

*LSB 331*

## **SERMON**

*"The Crown"*  
*John 18:33-37*  
*Pastor Aaron Bird*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

## **OFFERING**

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

## **BLESSING**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

*LSB 790*

## **POSTLUDE**

**LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR**

**CHRIST THE KING**

**NOVEMBER 24, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.**

**OPENING SONGS**

*There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do*

*What A Beautiful Name*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

*Draw Me Close*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*John 18:33-37*

**CHILDRENS MESSAGE**

*Pastor Adam Ray*

**SERMON**

*"The Crown"*

*John 18:33-37*

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

*Lay Me Down*

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader .....	Frank Whitehead
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Drew Miller 11:00 – Steve Craycroft
Organist .....	Carol Pelz
Ushers .....	8:30 – David Vanskike 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Computer .....	8:30 – Ted Hesse 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream .....	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera .....	11:00 – Pat Robinson
Sound .....	8:30 – Jessie Denning 11:00 – Jessie Denning
Vocals.....	Becky Dosien, Kristin Hesse, 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

**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/all LCMS contacts! 3) Let us know of any possible candidates! Contact Rachel Tavarczyk ([rtavarczky@gmail.com](mailto:rtavarczky@gmail.com)) or Pastor Adam.

**Yard Clean-Up:** Leaf clean-up will be on *Tues., Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>* at 8:30 a.m., and work until done. **The more help, the less time this will take.** Please bring your leaf vacuum. If any questions, please contact Gary Schwartzle.

**Thanksgiving Eve Service** with Communion will be on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Decorating the Church:** We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 7th starting at 8:30 a.m. Would appreciate any help.

**Poinsettias:** If you wish to purchase a Poinsettia in someone's memory or honor, please use a Poinsettia offering envelopes located on the back table. Suggested donation of \$20.00. Deadline to purchase the Poinsettias is Sunday, December 15.

**Christmas Brunch** will follow the Lessons & Carols service on Sunday, Dec. 22nd. More information will follow. We hope you will be a part of this time of fellowship with one another!

**Bus Trip:** St. John's will be taking a group to the Little Theatre on Wed.; Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> for the 2:00 p.m. performance of "Elf the Christmas Story". To sign up, please contact Jerry Pelz at 217-433-2961 or the church office. Cost is \$42.00 per person.

**Would you like to help?** Looking for volunteers for funeral dinners. How can you help? Set-up, Serve, Cleanup, and/or make a dish? Can you help for 2 to 6 hours? Can you help with one or two dinners a year? If you can

answer “yes” or have any questions, please contact Beth Tatum at 217-972-2299.

**Thank you** for all the cards, well wishes, prayers, and kindness during my time of illness. I am now healing from successful back surgery.

Praise our Lord Jesus

- *Dan Harrison*

**NECF Food Drive:** St. John’s is sponsoring a food drive for the Northeast Community Fund. There is a need for the following items: Breakfast items, mac & cheese, peanut butter, and canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.) However, they will accept any donations of nonperishable food items. There will be a table to receive the donated items plus a box for monetary gifts on Sunday, November 24th & December 1<sup>st</sup> in the back of the sanctuary. If any questions, please contact Vicki Schwartzle.

**Thank you to all of you who served at Northeast Community Fund.** If you would like to help in the pantry during the Thanksgiving Shopping, go to NECF Facebook page.

**Attention CAT Employees** - The Caterpillar Foundation is offering a limited time 2:1 matching program for gifts from employees and retirees from December 2-6. As an educational organization, Unity Christian School is an eligible recipient for these matching gifts. That means your \$1,000 gift could turn into \$3,000 for Unity. To learn more, including details about the year-round 1:1 matching program, visit:

<https://www.caterpillar.com/en/company/caterpillar-foundation/matching-gifts.html>

or reach out to Brian Booth at [bbooth@unitydecatour.org](mailto:bbooth@unitydecatour.org)).

**STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: I Thessalonians 5:8 – “But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.”** Our salvation is secure in Christ: He has done it all to save us. Therefore, our hope is secure and our faith in Him is certain. And what goes with faith and hope? Love. Our good works of love flow forth from the certainty of our faith. Our giving back to the Lord’s work comes from what He has first given us.

**Last Week’s Giving**

Weekly Needed .....	\$12,403.85
General Fund .....	\$7,655.00
Online Giving .....	
Total Giving .....	\$14,775.00

**Last Week’s Attendance**

8:30 a.m. ....	134
11:00 a.m.....	60
Total.....	194

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

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)

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

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

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

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

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

6:00 P.M. .... Thanksgiving Eve Service

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

HAPPY THANKSGIVING – Church Office Closed

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Church Office Closed

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

No church activities listed.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

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