



>Welcome

"CONFIRMATION & REFORMATION SUNDAY"

OCTOBER 27, 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.)

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.

CONFIRMATION & REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 27, 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

Father Welcomes

LSB 605

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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

New Testament

Revelation 14:6-7

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water." (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of

works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Holy Gospel

John 8:31-36

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

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

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

SERMON

"What is Freedom?"

John 8:31-36

Pastor Aaron Bird

OFFERING

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at
www.stjohnsdecatur.com/giving.*

CHOIR SPECIAL

Cornerstone

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Jonathan Willaim Bart
Hayden Love Kaufman Calhoun
Allison Joy Cushing
Micah Thomas Langston

Jackson Drew Miller
Jackson Shane Tatum
Carli Renee Wilkerson

(After all have been confirmed, the Pastor turns to the congregation and says...)

L: Disciple-members of St. Johns, we have the calling as fellow Christians to pray for, nurture, love, forgive and to hold accountable to the Word of God all brothers and sisters in Christ. It is our calling to do all that we can through encouragement, correction and prayer to seek the growth in faith, truth and love of Jesus and His Word for all who are of the body of Christ. And so, will you, the disciple-members of St. Johns, by the grace and working of the Spirit seek to live in holy fellowship with your newly confirmed brothers and sisters in Christ?

C: We, the disciple-members of St. John's Lutheran Church, welcome you as brothers and sisters in Christ. Together we will serve this community in the love of Jesus and proclaim his truth \ and grace. We pray that God would strengthen your faith by the power of His Spirit and that you would continually grow in your love of God's Word. May God equip us and unite us as one body, that we would be grounded in Christ, growing in faith, and branching out to others. Amen

**RECOGNITION OF PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS,
GOD-PARENTS, AND UNITY CHRISTIAN TEACHERS.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The Leader will conclude every prayer with: "Lord, in Your Mercy,"

People respond with: "Hear our prayer."

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

AGNUS DEI (sung)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Thine the Aman, Thine the Praise

LSB 680

Thy Strong Word

LSB 578

Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

LSB 655

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

LSB 657

POSTLUDE

CONFIRMATION & REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 27, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

Praise

Trust In God

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

John 8:31-36

SERMON

"What is Freedom?"

John 8:31-36

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

Lord, I Need You

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

I Will Look Up

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Jean Munson
Communion Helper	Alan Bishop/Kevin Tavarczyk
Lay Minister	8:30 – Larry Westbrook 11:00 – Mike Baggett
Organist	Ted Hesse
Ushers	8:30 – Dave Vanskike 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Computer	8:30 – Mike Patzwitz 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream	11:00 – Matt Cushing
Camera	11:00 – Matt Cushing
Sound	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Brandon Patzwitz
Vocals.....	Becky Dosien, Lindsay Tipsword, 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, Jacob Thornell

CONGREGATION NEWS

Reception: There will be a reception with light refreshments in the lounge/foyer after the 8:30 service. Please come and congratulate our Confirmands.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Join us in appreciating our pastors by mailing cards and well wishes to Pastor Adam and Pastor Aaron.

Daylight Saving Time Ends next Sunday. Turn your clocks back one hour.

Lifetime Plan for Giving: How do you want to transfer the gifts the Lord has given you to those who will follow after you? Do you have a plan in place? Would you like to revisit that plan? Join us for a "Lifetime Plan for Giving" seminar during the Bible Class hour at 9:45 a.m. on November 10, 2024. Rev. Charles Olander and Scott Radden from the LCMS Foundation will provide a short presentation and provide information and materials to help you develop a "Lifetime Plan for Giving" and will discuss how wills, beneficiary designations, living trusts and gift annuities might be used to better provide for yourself, your family and your church. Individual follow-up meetings may be scheduled to continue the conversation at no cost to you.

Bus Trip: St. John's will be taking a group to the Little Theatre on Wednesday, December 18th from 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. The cost is higher because we have previously received a discount for booking three or more shows during the summer season.

The Altar Guild committee is looking for volunteers to help set up for communion. If you are interested, please contact LuAnne Westbrook 217-433-2677 or Jill Davis 217-433-4529.

Ride to Church needed: We have a member needing a ride to the 8:30

a.m. service. They live off of Mound and Woodford St. Please contact the church office if you are available to do this.

LSA ReSale Shop: Christmas is coming! We take Christmas items year-round, but now is a great time to donate the items you don't plan on using this year. Donation days are Monday & Tuesday 9:00am – 1:00pm and Thursday 2:00 –6:00pm. The shop is located at 421 E. Cerro Gordo. Follow the LSA ReSale Shop Facebook page for the most up to date information.

STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: Romans 3:20 – “For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” The Law of God is good – it's just that we sinners cannot save ourselves by the Law. Salvation is a free gift of God because that is the only way we could ever be saved. The Law shows us God's holiness and thus our own sin. And now in Christ we can look at the Law and see it in a new light as well: as a guide for how to live a godly life in thanksgiving to God for His gracious forgiveness in Christ.

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed	\$12,403.85
General Fund	\$6,384.20
Online Giving.....	
Total Giving	\$6,384.20

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	126
11:00 a.m.....	71
Total.....	197

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study (FH)
6:00 P.M. Choir Practice

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 – FALL BACK! TURN CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR

..... Fellowship Hall Reserved

SUNDAY, November 3

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