



Welcome

“MORE THAN WORDS”

FEBRUARY 2, 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 Adam 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 2, 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

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

LSB 901

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 84:4; 12*

L: Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise!

C: O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in You!

Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.

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

C: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, and judge of all people, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have turned away from You and from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You desire. We repent of our sins and humbly beg Your mercy through Jesus Christ to forgive us. Move us by Your Spirit to serve You faithfully in the days to come. Amen.

L: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon You and has

sent His only Son, who suffered for us to forgive us all our 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.

L: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

KYRIE (*responses sung*)

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Old Testament

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” ⁷But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord.” ⁹Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.” (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all. If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only

be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. ³If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. ⁴Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. ⁸Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! ⁹Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! ¹⁰But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. ¹²Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. ¹³Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:31-44

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

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

³¹Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and taught there in the synagogue every Sabbath day. ³²There, too, the people were amazed at his teaching, for he spoke with authority. ³³Once when he was in the synagogue, a man possessed by a demon—an evil spirit—cried out,

shouting, ³⁴ “Go away! Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” ³⁵ But Jesus reprimanded him. “Be quiet! Come out of the man,” he ordered. At that, the demon threw the man to the floor as the crowd watched; then it came out of him without hurting him further. ³⁶ Amazed, the people exclaimed, “What authority and power this man’s words possess! Even evil spirits obey him, and they flee at his command!” ³⁷ The news about Jesus spread through every village in the entire region. ³⁸ After leaving the synagogue that day, Jesus went to Simon’s home, where he found Simon’s mother-in-law very sick with a high fever. “Please heal her,” everyone begged. ³⁹ Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them. ⁴⁰ As the sun went down that evening, people throughout the village brought sick family members to Jesus. No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed every one. ⁴¹ Many were possessed by demons; and the demons came out at his command, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But because they knew he was the Messiah, he rebuked them and refused to let them speak. ⁴² Early the next morning Jesus went out to an isolated place. The crowds searched everywhere for him, and when they finally found him, they begged him not to leave them. ⁴³ But he replied, “I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent.” ⁴⁴ So he continued to travel around, preaching in synagogues throughout Judea. (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON

“More than Words”

Luke 4:31-44

Pastor Adam Ray

NICENE CREED

OFFERING

Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at

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

O Worship the King *LSB 804*

Your Table I Approach *LSB 628*

I Lay My Sins on Jesus *LSB 606*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Sent Forth by God's Blessing *LSB 643*

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 2, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

House of The Lord

Good Grace

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

God You're So Good

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:31-44

SERMON

"More than Words"

Luke 4:31-44

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

Gratitude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

This Is Our God

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader	Jeff Salefski
Communion Helper	Jason Frisby/Brian Cripe
Lay Minister	8:30 – Troy Harrison 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Tom Schollenbruch
Computer	8:30 – Ted Hesse 11:00 – Zach Hesse
Live Stream	8:30 – Matt Cushing
Camera	11:00 – Matt Cushing
Sound	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Brandon Patzwitz
Vocals.....	Amanda Ray, Janice Wright, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar	Nathaniel Stoll
Piano.....	Ted Hesse

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

Super Bowl Subs: Support the Youth for the 2025 National Youth Gathering, by pre-ordering your Super Bowl Subs. Please fill out an order form in your bulletin or on the back table, and return it to Church Office by Thursday, **February 6th**.

Ladies Friendship Circle soup luncheon has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 18. Several different kinds of soups will be served, and you will be able to sample as many as you want. After lunch we will play bingo, so come at 1:00 to eat then stay to play and win prizes! Friends always are welcome. Anyone who is interested in making favors for homebound members of St. John's should come at 12:30.

Updated Church Directories are available on the back table and in the church office. Please take one per household.

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.

Unity High School Office Manager Position: If you or you know of someone who would be interested, please reach out to Brian Booth (bbooth@unitydecatour.com) with resume and letter of interest

Unity Part-Time Janitor Position: Please contact Mr. Ed Keane, Facilities Manager at 217-853-5923 for more information

Trinity Lutheran Church Secretary/Office Manager Position. If you would like more information on this position and an application, please contact the St. John's church office.

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. Please get in touch with Brian Booth at bbooth@unitydecatour.org to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE: You are cordially invited to join us for a celebration of Unity Christian School at our Country Boots & Christian Roots Dinner Auction on May 2, 2025. Get out your cowboy boots & hat, or maybe a flannel shirt & jeans, & let's celebrate our school together. This fun night is for parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors, teachers, coaches, pastors, alumni, everyone is welcome! Enjoy an evening of hors d'oeuvres, dinner, drinks, dessert & music, as well as silent & live auctions featuring exclusive items & experiences. More information, including ticket sales & childcare, will be available soon at unitydecatour.org/auction.

STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: Luke 2:24 – “[They went] to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.’” Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God gives us the pattern of proportional giving. If you look at Leviticus 12, you'll see that the sacrifice for purification was either a lamb or a pair of birds if the family had no means to buy a lamb. God calls us to give in proportion to how He has blessed us – and of course Jesus sets the pattern by giving not only a portion, but His all.

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed	\$12,403.85
General Fund	\$7,262.00
Online Giving	\$2,360.10
Total Giving	\$9,622.10

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	142
11:00 a.m.....	62
Total.....	204
Wednesday Adult Bible Study	14

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting
5:30 P.M. Outreach Team Meeting (FH)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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