

Welcome

PALM SUNDAY

"CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE: WORSHIP"

APRIL 13, 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
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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

Palm Sunday

April 13, 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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

LSB 442

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

C: **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna to the Son of David.**

L: On this day when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as King and Savior, we join with the inhabitants of Jerusalem, with loud shouts of hosanna and praise. The King is coming and we celebrate. But we also inwardly examine ourselves. As we come before the throne of our King, we pray that God would search our hearts and minds that we may receive His Word, share in His Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with Him and with one another.

We take a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

L: Lord Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray:

C: Lord, You reign over all things and yet humbled Yourself for our salvation. We confess that our rebellion against You in thought, word, and deed is the reason why You entered into this world. It is why You passed through the gates of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and why You laid down Your life upon Calvary's cross on Good Friday—to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God. With hearts that are humble and lives that are grateful, help us to receive Your grace and bow before You in worship. Amen.

L: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, shows His mercy to us in the sending of His only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords. The One who entered into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday was handed over to death upon the cross so that we may be reconciled to the Father and granted His remission, full and free. In Him is forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Old Testament

Psalm 100

¹Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! ²Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ³Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! ⁵For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 19:28-40

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

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

²⁸ And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" ³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ And they said, "The Lord has need of it." ³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Adam Ray

SERMON HYMN

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

LSB 902

SERMON

"Celebration of Discipline: Worship"

Psalms 100 & Luke 19:28-40

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at
www.stjohnsdecaturn.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

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

LSB 791

POSTLUDE

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

Hosanna

All The Earth

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

Jesus Paid It All

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 100

Luke 19:28-40

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Adam Ray

SERMON

"Celebration of Discipline: Worship"

Psalms 100 & Luke 19-28-40

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Holy Forever

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leaders.....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Jean Munson
Lay Minister	8:30 – Steve Craycroft 11:00 – Mike Baggett
Organist	Ted Hesse
Ushers	8:30 – Gary Schwartzle/Rick Laskowski 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Computer	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Ellie Hesse
Live Stream	11:00 – Eric Brown
Camera	11:00 – Eric Brown
Sound	8:30 – Doug Hicks 11:00 – Doug Hicks
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, Braden Highcock, Destiny Little, Noah Lung, Nathan Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Goodson, Tyler Salefski

CONGREGATION NEWS

Palm Sunday Breakfast is today at 9:45 a.m. Come and enjoy fellowship, delicious pancakes, bacon, and other breakfast items.

Easter Lily: Envelopes are available if you wish to purchase a lily for the altar. Please indicate whom you would like in Memory or Honor of. The cost is \$20.00 and deadline is Sunday, April 13th.

Take Home Coffee Cakes: The youth will be making Coffee Cakes for you to take home on Easter weekend. You have a choice of blueberry, gluten free blueberry, and brown sugar cinnamon. Order forms are on the back table and online. **Deadline is Thursday, April 17.** Don't miss out on these delicious coffee cakes.

Holy Week Schedule

April 17 | Maundy Thursday Service | 6:00 p.m. w/Communion

April 18 | Good Friday Service | 6:00 p.m.

April 20 | Easter Service | 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service w/Communion

9:45 a.m. Coffee & Donuts in the Lounge

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service, w/Communion

Ladies, it is time to move! April Friendship Circle program involves chair yoga led by Rhonda and her video. All actions are done while sitting on or standing beside a chair. If you are worried about the movement, come encourage the rest of the group! Join us at 1:00 in the fellowship hall on **Tuesday, April 22.** (Note the date change.)

St. John's is sponsoring a blood drive on April 29th from 1:30 to 5:00 PM. Donors will receive instructions about claiming a gift card from a restaurant or store. Sign up after the 8:30 or before the 11am services on 4/13, 4/20 or 4/27. Other sign-up options include ImpactLife at 800-747-5401 or online at www.bloodcenter.org. Please bring a photo ID on April 29. ImpactLife is the sole supplier of blood to DMH and St. Mary's. The need is real. Please consider a donation.

Hanging Baskets Youth Fundraiser: The youth are selling Hanging 12" Flower Baskets in time for Mother's Day. Cost is \$35.00 and includes 2-3 plant combo. Order forms are available on the back table of the sanctuary or in the church office. Deadline is Monday, May 5th. Proceeds benefit St. John's Youth. Flowers will be delivered Wednesday, May 7th.

Consider a Gift to the Sabbatical Leave Fund to support Pastor Adam's time of rest & renewal, cover related ministry expenses, and prepare for future ministry sabbaticals. Gift envelopes are on the back table in the sanctuary, as well as a Ministry Sabbatical Guide which provides more information. See a Lay Minister with any questions.

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.

You're Invited! You are cordially invited to join us for a special celebration of Unity Christian School at our Country Boots & Christian Roots Dinner Auction on Friday, May 2nd at 5:30pm in the Unity Gymnasium. Get out your cowboy boots & hat, or maybe a flannel shirt & jeans, & let's celebrate our school together. Please head to our website at unitydecatur.org/auction to get your tickets, sign up for child care, and learn more about the event.

STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: Mark 16:6 – “And he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here.’” The Good News is not just that Jesus is risen, but that He is risen to bless us – there is no need to be alarmed. He still calls us His friends and brothers and means to bring us through death to resurrection as well. The Lord is risen, He is risen indeed!

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed	\$12,403.85
General Fund	\$10,045.00
Online Giving	
Total Giving.....	\$10,045.00

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	135
11:00 a.m.	64
Total.....	199
Wednesday Lent Service	70

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

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

MONDAY, APRIL 14

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting
1:00 P.M. Ladies Friendship Circle (FH)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

6:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 P.M. Bells Rehearsal
8:00 P.M. Worship Practice

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

5:30 P.M. TOPS (FH)
6:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

6:00 P.M. Good Friday Service

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Coffee & Donuts in the Lounge
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service