



Welcome

"CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE: SUBMISSION"
MARCH 23, 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
pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com

Ted Hesse, Worship Music Director
tedh@stjohnsdecatur.com

Georgia Newman, Office Manager
georgian@stjohnsdecatur.com
Carol Reynolds, Financial Secretary
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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 23, 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

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

LSB 427

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

Philippians 2:1-8

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 8:34-37

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

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

³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul? (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Adam Ray

SERMON HYMN

"I Leave All Things to God's Direction"

LSB 719

SERMON

"Celebration of Discipline: Submission"

Philippians 2:1-8 & Mark 8:34-37

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' 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: "...let us pray to the Lord."

People respond with: "Lord, have mercy."

LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Take My Life and Let It Be (Vv. 1,2,5,6)

LSB 784

POSTLUDE

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 23, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

House of The Lord

I Speak Jesus

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

Blessed Assurance

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 2:1-8

Mark 8:34-37

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Adam Ray

SERMON

"Celebration of Discipline: Submission"

Philippians 2:1-8 & Mark 8:34-37

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Holy Forever

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leaders.....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	AJ Clapp
Lay Minister	8:30 – Larry Westbrook 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Organist	Ted Hesse
Ushers	8:30 – David Vanskike 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Computer	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream	11:00 – Pat Robinson
Camera	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Sound	8:30 – Doug Hicks 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals.....	Becky Dosien, Kristin Hesse, 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, Braden Highcock, Destiny Little, Noah Lung, Nathan Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Goodson, Tyler Salefski

CONGREGATION NEWS

Taste of New Orleans and Dessert Auction – is TODAY, 3p-6p. \$10 for 6 small bowl tastings. \$2 for each additional bowl of tasting. Bring cash to tip your favorite dish. A Chef de cuisine will be crowned based on the most tips! We have many desserts for the live auction, so come prepared to bid on your favorite dessert.

Lent Series: Join us this Lenten season as we explore and engage 6 spiritual disciplines from the book *Celebration of Discipline*. Our topics will include: Fasting; Study; Submission; Solitude; Guidance; and Worship. The series kicks off on Sunday, March 9th!

Lenten Wednesday Meal will begin at 5:00 p.m. The meals will be provided by the Youth, and all donations will go toward their NYG trip. Meal for 3/26 will be Pulled Pork & Chicken.

Holy Week Schedule

April 13 | Palm Sunday | 8:30 – Traditional & 11:00– Contemporary Service
9:45 a.m. Palm Sunday Breakfast for everyone.

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

LWML will have the first trivia night meeting Sunday, March 23rd at noon. The meeting will be held at Panera. Anyone that has interest or new ideas for trivia night is welcome to come help plan.

Having trouble getting your steps in? Looking for fellowship with other women? Want to enjoy some sunshine? Join us Saturday, March 29th at the Forsyth Tennis Courts (off Forsyth Parkway) at 11 am for the first ever Lutheran Women Walk Club. All ages (yes that means kids too) and abilities

are encouraged to come. We will go as long or as short as needed. Contact Alli Thomas with questions and concerns (217)358-1169.

We need Bell Ringers, if you are interested, please contact Ted Hesse or the church office.

Church Pews will be cleaned on Thurs., March 27th at 8:30 a.m. If you can help, bring your bucket and gloves. We will supply the cleaning materials.

Good Samaritan Inn: St. John's will host the noon meal at Good Samaritan Inn on Sunday, March 30th. Volunteers are appreciated and please arrive around 10:45 a.m. We are also in need of **cookie donations** for the dessert. If you are interested in volunteering or donating cookies, please call the church office. Please have the cookies in the church kitchen by the end of the early service on March 30th.

SAVE THE DATE: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is May 16, 2025. More details to come.

Bus Trips: There are three trips planned for the summer season at the Little Theatre. The dates are June 25th (Ring of Fire, Johnny Cash), July 25th (Sound of Music), and August 14th (Forever Plaid). If you are interested, please contact Jerry Pelz (217-433-2961) or the church office. The cost is \$42.00 per ticket, which covers ticket, game, and ticket for the bus driver.

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.

Do you have used furniture you no longer need? Unity Christian School is collecting quality used furniture items over the month of March and hosting a furniture resale weekend on April 11th and 12th. We can pick up or you can drop your furniture off at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Email

furniture@unitydecatour.org with a photo and estimated measurements of your item and we'll get back to you regarding scheduling a pick up or drop off time. More details to come on the resale weekend, which will be held at St. Paul's. All proceed will directly benefit Unity's Scholarship Fund.

Unity Lutheran School Week: "We had the best week at Unity celebrating Lutheran Schools Week! With fun dress-up days, a mobile zoo, comfort dogs, games, & a school assembly, we feel so grateful to be able to provide top-quality Christian education to our students. We also feel grateful for a spring break week to rest & recover! If you would like to still donate to our New Projector Fund, please go to unitydecatour.org. Thank you for your continued partnership as we prepare Leaders for Life who impact the world for Jesus."

SAVE THE DATE: Join us for a celebration of Unity Christian School at our Country Boots & Christian Roots Dinner Auction on **May 2, 2025**. A fun night for everyone! Enjoy an evening of hors d'oeuvres, dinner, drinks, dessert, music, and silent & live auctions featuring exclusive items & experiences. More information, including tickets & childcare, will be available soon at unitydecatour.org/auction.

STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: Luke 11:21–22 – “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.” Jesus is stronger than Satan and He disarms him for us. But Jesus has disarmed Satan in a most unusual way: He has disarmed him by allowing Satan to cast all his weapons into Jesus. Satan has nothing left to attack us with — he spent it all on Jesus. And now Jesus is our Stronger Man. He guards and keeps us and ours, and we have none to fear.

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed	\$12,403.85
General Fund	\$8,212.00
Online Giving.....	\$2,802.32
Total Giving	\$11,014.32

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	118
11:00 a.m.....	40
Total.....	158
Wednesday Lent Service	72

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour (FH)
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
3-6:00 P.M. Taste of New Orleans (FH & Rock)

MONDAY, MARCH 24

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study (FH)
5:00 P.M. Meal (Pulled Pork & Chicken)
6:00 P.M. Lent Service
7:00 P.M. Bells Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

8:30 A.M. Cleaning Pews (Sanctuary)
5:30 P.M. TOPS (FH)
6:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 P.M. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. 1st Communion Class

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

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