



>Welcome

*"Never Grow Weary in Doing Good."*

November 16, 2025



**ST. JOHN'S**  
Lutheran Church

## **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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### **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.

# Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 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**

*The Day is Surely Drawing Near (Vv. 1-5)*

LSB 508

## **INVOCATION**

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

**L:** For I know that my Redeemer lives.

**C:** **Let the redeemed of the LORD say so.**

**L:** You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed;

**C:** **You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy house.**

**L:** This is the day that the LORD has made;

**C:** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**L:** The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

And so, let us confess our sins to God, our Father. Almighty God...

**C: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and we have had thoughts, said words, and done things that are evil in Your sight. O God, we need Your rescue; we need Your righteousness; we need a Redeemer. Mercifully draw near to us, O Lord. For the sake of Jesus Christ, rescue us from our troubles, cover our sin with true righteousness, and redeem our lives. Amen.**

L: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake forgives You all Your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh 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.**

**KYRIE** (*responses sung*)

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS – GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST** (*sung*)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

*Old Testament*

*Malachi 4:1-6*

The Lord of Heaven's Armies says, "The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed—roots, branches, and all.<sup>2</sup> "But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.<sup>3</sup> On the day when I act, you will tread upon the wicked as if they were dust under your feet," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.<sup>4</sup> "Remember to obey the Law of Moses, my servant—all the decrees and regulations that I gave him on Mount Sinai for all Israel.<sup>5</sup> "Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives.<sup>6</sup> His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse." (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Epistle*

*2 Thessalonians 3:6-13*

<sup>6</sup> And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you. <sup>8</sup> We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup> We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow. <sup>10</sup> Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: "Those unwilling to work will not get to eat." <sup>11</sup> Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. <sup>12</sup> We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup> As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 21:5-28*

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

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

<sup>5</sup> Some of his disciples began talking about the majestic stonework of the Temple and the memorial decorations on the walls. But Jesus said, <sup>6</sup> "The time is coming when all these things will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!" <sup>7</sup> "Teacher," they asked, "when will all this happen? What sign will show us that these things are about to take place?" <sup>8</sup> He replied, "Don't let anyone mislead you, for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and saying, 'The time has come!' But don't believe them. <sup>9</sup> And when you hear of wars and insurrections, don't panic. Yes, these things must take place first, but the end won't follow

immediately.”<sup>10</sup> Then he added, “Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.<sup>11</sup> There will be great earthquakes, and there will be famines and plagues in many lands, and there will be terrifying things and great miraculous signs from heaven.<sup>12</sup> “But before all this occurs, there will be a time of great persecution. You will be dragged into synagogues and prisons, and you will stand trial before kings and governors because you are my followers.<sup>13</sup> But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me.<sup>14</sup> So don’t worry in advance about how to answer the charges against you,<sup>15</sup> for I will give you the right words and such wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to reply or refute you!<sup>16</sup> Even those closest to you—your parents, brothers, relatives, and friends—will betray you. They will even kill some of you.<sup>17</sup> And everyone will hate you because you are my followers.<sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish!<sup>19</sup> By standing firm, you will win your souls.<sup>20</sup> “And when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you will know that the time of its destruction has arrived.<sup>21</sup> Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. Those in Jerusalem must get out, and those out in the country should not return to the city.<sup>22</sup> For those will be days of God’s vengeance, and the prophetic words of the Scriptures will be fulfilled.<sup>23</sup> How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. For there will be disaster in the land and great anger against this people.<sup>24</sup> They will be killed by the sword or sent away as captives to all the nations of the world. And Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the period of the Gentiles comes to an end.<sup>25</sup> “And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides.<sup>26</sup> People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken.<sup>27</sup> Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory.<sup>28</sup> So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!” (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

**SERMON**

*“Never Grow Weary in Doing Good.”*

**NICENE 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: "O Lord, be near us,"  
**People respond with: "and hear us, O Lord."***

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**PREFACE** (*responses sung*)

**PROPER PREFACE**

**SANCTUS** (*sung*)

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**PAX DOMINI**

**AGNUS DEI** (*sung*)

**DISTRIBUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

*Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior*

*LSB 619*

*Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens*

*LSB 589*

*The Clouds of Judgment Gather*

*LSB 513*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG**

*O God, My Faithful God (Vv. 1,2,5,6)*

*LSB 696*

**POSTLUDE**

# **Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

***November 16, 2025***

***11:00 a.m.***

## **OPENING SONGS**

*Sing Wherever I Go*

*Good Grace*

## **WELCOME & GREETING**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

## **OFFERING**

*Lord I Need You*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

*2 Thessalonians 3:6-13*

## **SERMON**

*"Never Grow Weary in Doing Good."*

*2 Thessalonians 3:6-13*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

## **PRAYERS**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **COMMUNION**

*Gratitude*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

## **SENDING SONG**

*For All You've Done*

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader .....	Jill Davis
Communion Helper .....	David Salogga & Brian Cripe
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – John Hubert 11:00 – Larry Westbrook
Organist .....	Ted Hesse
Ushers .....	8:30 – Brady Fawcett 11:00 – Tom Schollenbruch
Computer .....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Pat Robinson
Acolytes.....	8:30 – 11:00 – Jude Langston
Live Stream .....	8:30 – Eric Brown
Camera .....	8:30 – Eric Brown
Sound .....	8:30 – Doug Hicks 8:30 – Doug Hicks
Vocals .....	Kelli Langston, Melissa Saurmann, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar.....	Micah Langston & Wendy Salefski
Drums.....	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, Logan Cline, Tristin Comer, Randy Edwards, Caleb Goodson, Braden Highcock, Destiny Little, Noah Lung, Nathan Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Goodson, Tyler Salefski

## CONGREGATION NEWS

**Voter's Meeting** is today at 1:30 p.m.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive** for Northeast Community Fund We will be having our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for Northeast Community Fund. There is a table to receive donations of canned and nonperishable food items plus a box for monetary gifts on Sunday, November 9, 16 & 23. If any questions, please contact Vicki Schwartzle. **Note from Jerry:** In my over 50 years of serving at NECF, I have never seen the food lines as long as they have been the last two weeks. The absence of SNAP (food stamps) has caused a crisis in our community. In one day, NECF served 283 families with food. If it is within your means, please be extra generous with your gifts to the current food drive and end of the year giving to NECF.

**Yard Clean-Up:** Leaf clean-up tomorrow, Monday, November 17 at 8:30 a.m., and work until done. The more help, the less time this will take. Please bring your leaf vacuum. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Schwartzle.

**LIVING NATIVITY is one week away!** We still need 41 Characters and 26 Support Staff. Sign-up for characters and support roles on Facebook, the church webpage, or by calling the church office. We really do need the whole church family to share Jesus life story and ministry. Please mark your calendars for November 22 and 23. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Cathi Tavarczyk 217-433-0447.

**LIVING NATIVITY POSTCARDS & FLYERS** are on the back table. Please take some postcards to hand out to friends, family, co-workers, etc. Flyers are available to post at work, nursing homes, restaurants, etc. Please help spread the word about the story of our Savior's birth and life to the community!

**LIVING NATIVITY:** Please complete the enclosed insert for food donations and return to the church office.

**Firewood** is needed for the Living Nativity. If you have some extra we can use, please contact Cathi Tavarczyk at 217-433-0447 or the church office.

**Ladies Friendship Circle:** You've heard of New Life Pregnancy Center, right? Maybe you've even collected coins in a baby bottle or contributed socks and diapers. But, do you know what actually happens at the center and all the different ways they support young women? Ladies Friendship Circle will find out on Tuesday, November 18. We will have a quick meeting at 1:00, then the speaker will begin at 1:30. Everyone is welcome! (Men, you too are invited to come at 1:30 for the presentation.)

**Thanksgiving Eve Service** with Communion will be on Wednesday, November 26 at 6:00 p.m.

**Advent Services** will be on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 10, 17 at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served starting at 5:00 p.m.

**Decorating the Church:** We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 6th starting at 8:30 a.m. Would appreciate any help.

**YOU are invited to lunch!** On Sunday, December 7th, the congregation is invited to a soup, submarine sandwich, and dessert luncheon at 12:30 in the fellowship hall. Following lunch, Pastor Adam will share details and pictures about his recent sabbatical. Please register to attend at the voters' meeting this afternoon, or by the front door before and after services the next two Sundays. There is no charge, just a free will offering.

**Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$5,964.00
Online Giving (General Fund) .....	\$3,313.46
Total Giving .....	\$9,277.46

**Last Week's Attendance**

8:30 a.m. ....	124
11:00 a.m.....	49
Total .....	173

**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

**SUNDAY, November 16**

8:30 A.M..... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M..... Education Hour (FH)  
11:00 A.M..... Contemporary Service  
12:15 P.M. .... Confirmation  
1:30 P.M..... Voter's Meeting (FH)

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

8:30 A.M..... Leaf Clean-Up  
7:00 P.M..... Boy Scouts

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

1:00 P.M..... Staff Meeting  
1:00 P.M..... Ladies Friendship Circle

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

10:00 A.M. .... Adult Bible Study (FH)  
7:00 P.M..... Bell Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

5:30 P.M. .... TOPS (FH)  
6:00 P.M. .... Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 P.M..... Worship Practice

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

All Day ..... Set-Up for Living Natvity

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

4:30-8:00 P.M..... Living Nativity

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

8:30 A.M..... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M..... Education Hour (FH)  
11:00 A.M..... Contemporary Service  
4:30-8:00 P.M..... Living Nativity