

>Welcome

“Who is This?”
November 30, 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.)

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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Ted Hesse, Worship Music Director
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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

Kelly Smith

Lindsay Tipsword

Stephanie Wilkerson

First Sunday in Advent

November 30, 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

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

C: So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Silence for self-examination.

L: Holy and gracious God,

C: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know - the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed - but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace, and strengthen me by Your Spirit that I may follow Your Will. 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.

L: He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: Each week in Advent, we light a candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

L: The first Advent candle is known as the prophecy candle or the candle of hope. The Lord has kept His Word through the mouths of prophets who, for generations, pointed people to the promised Savior to come. Guided by the light of hope, we respond with the psalmist: Our soul waits for the Lord;

C: Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You.

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Old Testament

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the

word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

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

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

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you,

you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵"Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee." (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come (Vv. 1-4)

LSB 332

SERMON

"Who is This?"

Matthew 21:1-11

Pastor Adam Ray

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: "Lord in your mercy..."

People respond with: "Hear our prayer."

LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

LSB 355

POSTLUDE

First Sunday in Advent

November 30, 2025

11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

Forever

Gratitude

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

Give Thanks

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:1-11

SERMON

"Who is This?"

Matthew 21:1-11

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Doxology

SUNDAY SERVANTS

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Preacher | Pastor Adam Ray |
| Worship Leader | Pastor Aaron Bird |
| Reader | Steve Funk |
| Lay Minister | 8:30 – Randy Gentry 11:00 – Larry Westbrook |
| Organist | Sharon Cripe |
| Ushers | 8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman |
| Computer | 8:30 – Denise Gentry 11:00 – Pat Robinson |
| Acolytes..... | 8:30 – 11:00 – Rory Lawson |
| Live Stream | 8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz |
| Camera | 8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz |
| Sound | 8:30 & 11:00 – Doug Hicks |
| Vocals | Lindsay Tipsword, Melissa Saurmann, Ava Saurmann |
| Acoustic Guitar | Mike Dahn |
| 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

A HUGE Thank You to all the volunteers that helped with the Living Nativity. Each and every one of you are greatly appreciated. Thank you to Graceland Fairlawn for graciously supplying our pampas grass and straw for our scenes, and Coffee Connection for helping us advertise on their coffee sleeves. We had over 1,400 people come through. A special thank you to Scott & Cathi Tavarczyk for organizing this wonderful event.

Sunday Adult Bible Study will begin a new study during Advent on Sunday November 30 focusing on the Messianic Prophecies we see in Isaiah which we will also be exploring during our Midweek Advent series.

Is there any evidence for what we read in the Bible? Come learn how more evidence is being discovered all the time at our upcoming Wednesday Adult Bible Study on Biblical Archaeology starting Wednesday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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. This Wednesday the meal will be soup and salad served by the Youth.

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.

Bus Trip: Come celebrate the holidays with a trip to the Little Theatre on Wed., December 17. We will be traveling to Sullivan for the 2:00 p.m. performance of the Million Dollar Quartet Christmas. Tickets are \$44.00 each and may be reserved by contacting the church office or Jerry Pelz at 217-433-2961.

LSA ReSale Shop: Did you know that we not only take donations on Thursday 2:00–6:00 PM, but we are OPEN for shoppers till 6:00 also! Stop by and see what treasures you might find! The Shop is open 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Monday – Wednesday and Friday – Saturday with Thursday hours 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM. Other donation times are Monday & Tuesday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. The Shop offers clothes for all members of the family, shoes, purses, all types of kitchen items, décor of any kind, vintage items, along with seasonal decorations, etc., etc. Stop by the Shop at 421 E. Cerro Gordo or call 217-423-0122. Follow the Shop on Facebook for the most up-to-date information!

STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: Romans 15:5 – “May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus.” All of our good works are indeed granted to us from our heavenly Father. We live in complete dependence upon His grace and mercy. What do we have that we have not received as a gift from His hand? And knowing that, how can we not be thankful?

Mount Calvary's 53rd Annual Heavenly Holidays Bazaar will be 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, December 6, and will feature our cookie walk with cookies sold by the pound in addition to other baked goods and vendors. Our vendors will include many of our favorites from past years and a few new ones, so check us out for your holiday shopping! All profits will go to fund our ladies' guild mission projects. Mt. Calvary is located at 2055 S. Franklin Street Road, Decatur.

Last Week's Giving

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Needed..... | \$12,403.85 |
| General Fund..... | \$17,529.50 |
| Online Giving (General Fund) | \$584.58 |
| Total Giving | \$18,114.08 |

Last Week's Attendance

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | 114 |
| 11:00 a.m..... | 59 |
| Total | 173 |

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting
5:30 P.M. Outreach Meeting
6:00 P.M. Discipleship Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study (FH)
5:00 P.M. Advent Meal Begins
6:00 P.M. Advent Services
7:00 P.M. Bells Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:30 A.M. Decorating the Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour (FH)
9:45 A.M. Confirmation
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
12:30 P.M. Church Luncheon & Pastor Adam's Sabbatical Report