



>Welcome

"Real. Present. God."

November 9, 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
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

Kelly Smith

Lindsay Tipsword

Stephanie Wilkerson

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

November 9, 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

God of Grace and God of Glory

LSB 850

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

Old Testament

Exodus 3:1-15

¹ Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and

bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." ¹³ Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17

¹Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ¹³But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then,

brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. ¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Holy Gospel

Luke 20:27-40

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

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

²⁷ There came to him some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, ²⁸ and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. ³⁰ And the second ³¹ and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. ³² Afterward the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife." ³⁴ And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, ³⁶ for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. ³⁷ But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him." ³⁹ Then some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, you have spoken well." ⁴⁰ For they no longer dared to ask him any question. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Adam Ray

SERMON HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

LSB 700

SERMON

"Real. Present. God."

Exodus 3:1-15

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: "Lord, in Your mercy,"

People respond with: "hear our prayer."

LORD'S PRAYER

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Christ the Eternal Lord (Vv. 1-4)

LSB 829

POSTLUDE

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

November 9, 2025

11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

All The Earth

This Is Our God

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:1-15

Luke 20:27-40

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Adam Ray

SERMON

"Real. Present. God."

Exodus 3:1-15

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Who You Say I Am

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	AJ Clapp
Lay Minister	8:30 – Larry Westbrook 11:00 – Troy Harrison
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	8:30 – Gary Schwartzle/Rick Laskowski 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Computer	8:30 – Ted Hesse 11:00 – Ellie Hesse
Acolytes.....	8:30 – 11:00 – Zoey Collins
Live Stream	11:00 – Pat Robinson
Camera	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Sound	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Brandon Patzwitz
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, 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 will be on Sunday, November 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Food Drive: We will be having our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for Northeast Community Fund. This year the need is greater than before. There will be 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.

Yard Clean-Up: Leaf clean-up will be 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: Thank you to all who have signed up. We still need 57 Characters and 28 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 16. 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.

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.

Wednesday Adult Bible Study is back! Join us Wednesday mornings at 10:00am as we study the history and origins of the Bible. Who wrote it? Why are certain books included and others not? How does our Bible compare to ancient manuscripts? Join us to find out!

LSA ReSale Shop: Christmas is at the ReSale Shop! We take Christmas items year-round but now is a great time to donate the items you don't plan on using this year. Donation days are Monday & Tuesday 9:00am – 1:00pm and Thursday 2:00 – 6:00pm. The shop is located at 421 E. Cerro Gordo. Follow the LSA ReSale Shop Facebook page for the most up to date information.

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$10,595.00
Online Giving (General Fund)
Total Giving	\$10,595.00

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	131
11:00 a.m.....	58
Total	189
Wednesday Bible Study	22

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, November 9

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9:00 A.M. Hospitality Meeting
10:00 A.M. DMH Grief Support (Lounge)
1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting
6:30 P.M. Lay Ministry Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study (FH)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

All Day Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved

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 (FH)
1:30 P.M. Voter's Meeting (FH)