



Welcome

“Into the Water with Jesus”
January 11, 2026



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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Ted Hesse, Worship Music Director
tedh@stjohnsdecatur.com

Georgia Newman, Office Manager
georgian@stjohnsdecatur.com

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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

Jim Wilkerson

Stephanie Wilkerson

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Our Vision: Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, Branching to Others

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & GREETING

Please take time to complete the appropriate side of the attendance cards. Once completed, pass the cards toward the center aisle. They will be collected during the offering.

OPENING HYMN

The People That in Darkness Sat

LSB #412

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 43:4; Psalm 117

L: I will go to the altar of God,

C: **to God my exceeding joy.**

L: Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!

C: **For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Jesus Christ is God's chosen one, who came and who comes again today to call everyone to salvation from sin and death and who makes all who are baptized in His name to be the chosen sons and daughters of God. So now let His children come to Him to receive God's assurance and promise of forgiveness.

(Time of silent confession)

We confess together...

C: Almighty God, our dear Father in heaven, in Holy Baptism You have marked us with the sign of the holy cross upon our foreheads and upon our hearts to mark us as Your redeemed people. O Lord, forgive us for our sins and our failures. Open our eyes to Your light of freedom that we might walk in Your ways. Strengthen us to live us Your chosen people. This we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

L: Upon this your confession, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit, has forgiven you all your sins. God strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Old Testament

Isaiah 42:1-9

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. ⁵Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶"I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. ⁹Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth

I tell you of them.” (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

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

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he

consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Aaron

SERMON HYMN

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

LSB #590

SERMON

"Into the Water with Jesus"

Matthew 3:13-17

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

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

LSB #411

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026

11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

Great Things

This Is Our God

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

Evidence

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 6:1-11

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Aaron

SERMON

"Into the Water with Jesus"

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Sing Wherever I Go

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader	Scott Tavarczyk
Lay Minister	8:30 – John Hubert 11:00 – Larry Westbrook
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	8:30 – Gary Schwartzle/Rick Laskowski 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Acolytes	8:30 – 11:00 – Zoey Collins
Computer	8:30 – Avery Smith 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera	11:00 – Pat Robinson
Sound	Brandon Patzwitz
Vocals	Pam Saurmann, Lindsay Tipsword, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar	Nathaniel Stoll
Base Guitar	Wendy Salefski
Drums	Nathaniel Stoll
Piano	Ted Hesse

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, Austin Highcock, Braden Highcock, Destiny Little, Noah Lung, Nathan Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Goodson, Tyler Salefski, Jacob Thornell

CONGREGATION NEWS

Soup to Go: LWML is raising funds to help us host the CID Convention in April. We would love your help! We will be selling homemade "soup to go" in quart containers, Chicken Noodle or Potato, including 4 biscuits, for \$15. Preorders will be taken between services today or you can text/email Brenda Salogga at dnbsal@comcast.net or 217-429-9183 through Wednesday, January 14th. We intend to make enough to have extra available if you are unable to pre-order. Pick-up is next Sunday, January 18th.

Voter's Meeting is next Sunday, January 18th at 9:45 a.m. (during the education hour).

New Sermon & Bible Study Series: We live in a world that is always on, always busy, and rarely quiet. But God invites His people into something different. Beginning on January 25th, we will spend four weeks exploring the gift of Sabbath rest. What it is, why we need it, and how Christ meets us in our weariness. Join us as we rediscover rest that is rooted not in escape, but in trust, grace, and God's good design!

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 10 at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Wednesday Adult Bible Study will not meet on December 24th & 31st.

Offering Envelopes are available in the back of the sanctuary. If you did not receive envelopes, please contact the church office.

What are you doing for dinner on January 28th? Let us take dinner off our plate! Wednesday, January 28th at 5:30 p.m. Pizza, salad, games, fellowship, fun, and free! #lifetogether

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! The Shop is open 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Monday – Wednesday & 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 everyone, shoes, purses, kitchen items, décor of any kind, vintage items, seasonal decorations, 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: Matthew 3:15 – “But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’” God sent His Son into the world to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. Here, Jesus plunges Himself into our sins and soaks them up in His Baptism, so that in our Baptism we might be cleansed and renewed. The whole of Jesus’ life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us. All our offerings back to our Lord are in thanksgiving for this one great, true offering.

Last Week’s Giving

Weekly Needed	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$10,146.00
Online Giving (General Fund).....	
Total Giving.....	\$10,146.00

Last Week’s Attendance

8:30 a.m.	126
11:00 a.m.	49
Total.....	175
Wednesday Adult Bible Study	21

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

5:30 P.M. TOPS
7:00 P.M. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

10:00 A.M. LWML CID Meeting (FH)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Voter's Meeting (FH)
9:45 A.M. Confirmation Class
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service