



Welcome

“Striving or Abiding?”
January 18, 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.)

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.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 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

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (Vv. 1-4)

LSB #395

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.

KYRIE (*responses sung*)

THIS IS THE FEAST (*sung*)

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." ³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter). (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON

"Striving or Abiding?"

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Pastor Aaron Bird

NICENE 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

PREFACE *(responses sung)*

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS *(sung)*

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

AGNUS DEI *(sung)*

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Christ the Word of God Incarnate

LSB #540

Great is Thy Faithfulness

LSB #809

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

LSB #633

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go

LSB #920

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026

11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

Forever

Good Grace

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

Gratitude

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

SERMON

"Striving or Abiding?"

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

O Come To The Altar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

You Are Good

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Frank Whitehead
Communion Helper	Kevin Tavarczyk & Jeff Salefski
Lay Minister	8:30 – Randy Gentry 11:00 – David Salogga
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	8:30 – Brady Fawcett 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Acolytes	8:30 – 11:00 – Jude Langston
Computer	8:30 – Ted Hesse 11:00 – Ellie Hesse
Live Stream	8:30 – Eric Brown
Camera	8:30 – Eric Brown
Sound	Doug Hicks
Vocals	Pam Saurmann, Melissa Saurmann, Lindsay Tipsword
Acoustic Guitar	Nathaniel Stoll
Base Guitar	Mike Dahn
Drums	Fred Saurmann
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 next Sunday, January 18th at 9:45 a.m. (during the education hour).

Soup to Go: Pick up your soup today in the Rock Room. Extra has been made if you were unable to pre-order. Chicken Noodle or Potato Soup including 4 biscuits for \$15.00. Thank you for helping LWML raise funds to help us host the CID Convention in April.

Ladies Friendship Circle: Soup's on! The officers of Ladies Friendship Circle will be serving a variety of yummy soups to any and all interested women **at 12:00 on** Tuesday, January 20th. (Note the earlier start time.) Following the luncheon, we will enjoy a delicious dessert then play some exciting bingo games with sweet prizes. If the weather is questionable, check the church's Facebook page or call an officer to make sure the luncheon will still happen,

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. The series will include: Week 1 - Sabbath as Gift, Week 2 - Sabbath as Resistance, Week 3 - Sabbath as Celebration, and Week 4 - Sabbath as Fulfillment. 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!

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

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

Thank you to everyone who helped with setting up and taking down the Christmas decorations this year. You are all appreciated.

- Altar Guild Committee

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

New Life Pregnancy Center News – CHANGE FOR LIFE – Baby Bottle Campaign begins this week. Take home one or two baby bottles and return them on March 15, filled with your pocket change. Bottles are available on the back table of the Sanctuary. Your donation will support programs and materials used to minister to the lives of those who come to New Life Pregnancy Center for help.

LSA ReSale Shop finished the 4th quarter with December sales of \$41,989, and that includes a Saturday closed for snow. We are so pleased with how the ReSale Shop's sales continue to support UC. We are grateful for all of you who continue to donate so we have great items for sale. On March 13, we will restock for the spring change over. Please mark your calendar and decide if you can help us. More details to come.

STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: Ephesians 5:27 – “So that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” Our Lord has cleansed us with His blood – in His sight we are now pure and holy. He has given Himself, laying down His life for us. Now we are His spotless and beautiful bride. By His sacrifice, we are moved to sacrifice. By His cleansing, we find a desire to ourselves be clean and live blamelessly as He is blameless.

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$5,366.00
Online Giving (General Fund).....	\$2,153.25
Total Giving.....	\$7,519.25

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	118
11:00 a.m.	51
Total.....	169
Wednesday Adult Bible Study	27

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Voter's Meeting
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

12:00 P.M. Ladies Friendship Circle (FH)
1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

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