

Welcome

"Searching"
January 4, 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 Christmas

January 4, 2026

9:30 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

Go Tell It On The Mountain

LSB #388

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.

KYRIE (*responses sung*)

HYMN OF PRAISE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (Vv. 1, 14-15)

LSB #358

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Old Testament

1 Kings 3:4-15

And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself

long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴ And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” ¹⁵ And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him. ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

(ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:40-52

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

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

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON

"Searching"
Luke 2:40-52
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

Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

LSB #680

Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

LSB #623

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB #383

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

L: The seed of faith has been planted and has taken root.

C: "We are grounded in Christ."

L: As we gather in word and worship, we water that seed.

C: "We are growing in faith."

L: Faith produces fruit as we love and serve our neighbor.

C: "We are branching to others."

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Of The Father's Love Begotten"

LSB #384

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$24,552.00
Online Giving (General Fund).....	\$1,105.05
Total Giving.....	\$25,657.05

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	101
11:00 a.m.	43
Total.....	144
Christmas Eve 2:30 Service	203
Christmas Eve 4:30 Service	186
Christmas Day Service.....	33
Christmas Services Total.....	422

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026

11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

Praise

Light Of The World

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

Emmanuel

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:40-52

SERMON

"Searching"

Luke 2:40-52

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

Come You Unfaithful

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Goodness of God

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Cathi Tavararczyk
Communion Helper	Brian Cripe & Alan Bishop
Lay Minister	8:30 – Troy Harrison 11:00 – Steve Craycroft
Organist	Ted Hesse
Ushers	8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Acolytes	8:30 – Roman Fiala 11:00 – Allison Bart
Computer	8:30 – Denise Gentry 11:00 – Pat Robinson
Live Stream	8:30 – Eric Brown
Camera	8:30 – Eric Brown
Sound	Doug Hicks
Vocals	Kelli Langston, Amanda Ray, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar	Wendy Salefski, Micah Langston
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

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 Adult Bible Study on Biblical Archaeology. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

Christmas Decorations: Thank you to everyone who helped with decorating the church. We will be taking the decorations down on Saturday, January 10 at 9:00 a.m. Again, we will appreciate all your help.

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: 1 Peter 4:17 – “For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” The Gospel had freed us from all fear. God the Father loves us to the ends of love, and He has sent His Son to die for us and call us into His kingdom through the rebirth of water and Spirit. Saint Peter views this not as an excuse to sin but as encouragement for godly living. The judgment of the Lord is a real event, and it applies to the household of God. As members of His household, we desire to serve Him.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

8:30 A.M. Taking down Christmas Decorations

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

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