

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD (Obs.)

January 7, 2024
8:00 & 10:45am



St. John Lutheran Church and School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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School Principal: Cheryl Black

| Divine Service I with Holy Communion | Page |
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| <i>*stand as you are able</i> | |
| Prelude – “ <i>Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern</i> ” | Buxtehude |
| * Processional Hymn <i>Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning</i> | 400 |
| *Invocation, Confession, Absolution | 151 |
| *Introit | dated insert |
| *Kyrie | 152 |
| *Hymn of Praise <i>This Is the Feast...</i> | 155 |
| *Salutation & Collect | 156 |
| First Reading | |
| Gradual | dated insert |
| Epistle Reading | |
| *Alleluia and Verse | 156 |
| *Gospel Processional | |
| Hymn <i>O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright</i> | 395 |
| (st.3-women, st.4-men) | |
| Sermon “ <i>The Boy Who Would Be King</i> ” Matthew 2:1-12 | |
| *Nicene Creed | 158 |
| *Prayer of the Church | 159 |
| Gathering of Tithes and Offering | |
| (8:00) “ <i>Morgenlanz der Ewigkeit</i> ” | |
| (10:45) “ <i>O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright</i> ” | Mixed Choir |
| *Offertory | 159 |
| *Service of the Sacrament | 160 |
| Communion Hymns – 411, 872, (810), 533 | |
| *Post Communion Canticle (<i>Nunc Dimittis</i>) | 164 |
| *Post-Communion Collect | 166 |
| *Benediction | 166 |
| * Recessional Hymn <i>As with Gladness Men of Old</i> | 397 |
| Postlude – “ <i>Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern</i> ” | Manz |

Communion Hymns in Parentheses will be sung if time allows.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN! We ask members and guests to fill out an attendance card located by the hymnals; indicate your attendance at Holy Communion. Cards may be placed in the offering plate. Note that there are two glasses in the center of each tray with diluted wine.

SERVING TODAY – Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Jeff Caithamer. **Organist & Music Director:** Keith Williams. **Elders:** 8:00 – Mike, Dan, Dan, Nick; 10:45 – Chris, Mike, Harold, Chuck Martin. **Ushers:** 8:00 – Everett & Lucas; 10:45 – Jordan & Kai. **Instrumentalists:** Eli, Everett, Kyle & Kelsey, Sara, Randy.

ABOUT THE LORD’S SUPPER: Our congregation is a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a family of congregations who pledge themselves to teach and to believe the same doctrines. We invite those persons who are members in good standing of a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or of a church in fellowship with the LCMS to receive the sacrament. We want to express our sincere welcome to guests and to assure them that it is in their spiritual interest that we practice closed communion. Guests desiring to learn more about our beliefs are asked to make an appointment to speak with our pastor.

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY – We remember the following people in our prayers: *for peace and comfort:* Jay & Joy Lou and family at the death of Joy Lou’s mother Leona Rieches; *upcoming surgery:* Susan; *for healing and recovery:* Gary, Judy, Jim, Kaylianna, Robin, Karla, Charlene, Brian, Teresa, Barbara, John, Hendricks, Maria, Merv, Rebecca, Roy, Todd, Brett; *for successful treatments:* Kevin, Dan, Nancy, Barb, Luke, Earl, Linda, Joan, Jeanette, Nancy; *for our college students:* Jack, Lexie; *for those in the military:* Nick D, Nick, Andy, Brandon Zachary, David; *for our homebound:* Geneice, Linda.

For requests for the prayer chain or to be added to the chain:

<http://stjohnmedia.org/church/PrayerList.html>

OUR WEEK AHEAD

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| Today | <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord (Obs.); 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion; 7:15 Holy Communion</i> |
| Monday | 4:00 E.A.T. Night @ Panera |
| Tuesday | 6:00 Elders |
| Wednesday | 8:10 Chapel; 10:00 Adult Bible Class; 5:45 Midweek School; 6:00 Handbells; 7:15 Holy Communion |
| Thursday | 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Sammy's; 6:00 Mixed & Men's Choirs |
| Friday | <i>No School</i> |
| Sunday | <i>The Baptism of Our Lord (Obs.); 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion</i> |

E.A.T. @ Panera – The January E.A.T. night will be at Panera on Kirby Ave. on Monday, January 8, 4-8pm. Bring in the flyer or show it on your smart phone to make sure that 20% of the proceeds will be donated to St. John Lutheran School. Flyers are available on the narthex table and on the school website. Flyers will also be sent home with school students. Panera Gift Cards (\$25) are available in the school office through Ram Rebate. See you there.

Tuesday/Wednesday Bible Class will resume meeting starting this Wednesday, January 10th at 10:00am.

LWML will be holding their annual Soup Supper on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm. You are invited to join us for a devotion, short business meeting, plus food, fun, and fellowship. Mark your calendars now and do plan to attend. For further information, please contact Donna or Linda. Looking forward to seeing you at this event.

Lifelight is back. Join us as we study the Gospel of Mark, a 9-week Bible study that take us into Lent. You can join us Wednesday evenings at 5:45pm or Thursday mornings at 10:00am. Classes start January 17th and 18th. To sign up, look for our table in the overflow or contact Matt , Donna or Bill .

The Bylaws Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, January 22nd at 6:00pm.

Open House – St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb Preschool will be hosting a Community Open House on Tuesday, January 30th from 5:00 - 7:00pm. Prospective school families will have an opportunity to meet our teachers, visit the classrooms, and ask questions. If you know a family interested in the school for 2024-2025, please encourage them to attend this event. School tours may be scheduled by contacting the main office at 217-359-1714.

EDUCATION HOUR TODAY

Adult Bible Class – led by Pastor Caithamer in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday School – Kindergarten-High School will start out in the Sanctuary for opening, and then go to their respective classrooms. Preschool will have opening in their own classroom.

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| 3/4yrs | Room 4C | 4 th -5 th | Band Room |
| K-1 st | Art Room | 6 th -8 th | Conference Room |
| 2 nd -3 rd | Room 4B | High School | Youth Room |

2024 Contribution Envelopes are available on the table in the hallway near the fellowship hall, please stop by and pick yours up. If you do not see your envelopes or would like envelopes and do not have them, please contact the church office.

2024 Altar Flower Chart – The Altar Flower Chart is available in the overflow. Please print your name and leave a phone number for the Altar Guild ladies to contact you. Upcoming available dates include: January 14th, February 4th, 18th, and 25th. Thank you.

National Lutheran School Week – Mark your calendars for NLSW, scheduled for January 21-28. More information about the exciting celebration will be coming soon.

Pasta Dinner and Dessert Auction – The 7th & 8th grade classes are hosting a Pasta Dinner and Dessert Auction on Friday, January 26th from 5:30 - 7:00pm in the gymnasium, to raise funds for their class trip in April 2024. Join us for a great evening of food and fellowship while supporting our students. Tickets may be purchased in the school office or at the door.

Desserts for Pasta Dinner – Interested in donating a dessert for the auction to be held during the Pasta Dinner? Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

St. John Lutheran School Talent Show – Our Parent Teacher Fellowship is organizing a talent show planned for Friday, January 26. The event will follow the Pasta Dinner and begin at approximately 7:00 PM. Mark your calendars, and we hope to see you there.

Stewardship Corner – Isaiah 60:6 – "They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD." Faith in God moves the heart toward thanksgiving, which moves us toward making offerings to the Lord in His house. It's simply what Christians do: Our thanksgiving to our Lord for all His benefits to us simply must overflow into sacrificial giving to the Lord. What Isaiah prophesied, the Wise Men did, and we still do today: we give with a thankful heart.

LEARN BY HEART
THE FAMILY ALTAR

The families of St. John are encouraged to learn these words from the Small Catechism by heart this week:

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:16

Bible Passage: And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Hymn 367 *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (sts. 3-5)

Psalm 62:5-12

Bible Readings for the Week:

Noah and the Flood – Genesis 6:5, 13, 17-19, 7:11-12, 16-17;

21-23; 9:1

The Red Sea – Exodus 13:17-14:31

Israel Crosses the Jordan – Joshua 1:1-2, 10-11; 3:1-17