



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Champaign, Illinois

December 1, 2021

3:30pm & 7:15pm

**Symbols of Salvation: Foretelling Christ's Birth
Advent Midweek Service 1**

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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. Sunday bulletins with announcements are available on the narthex table.

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.

SERVING TODAY - Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Jeff Caithamer. **Organist:** Alicia Haggin. **Elders:** 3:30 – Dan & Matt; 7:15 – Bob & Mark.

Advent Dinner – Soups and Chili will be served by the 7th & 8th grade students and families in the fellowship hall following the 3:30pm worship service. Please join us for food and fellowship.

Family Advent Night – All St. John Families are invited to begin their Christmas preparations by joining us for Family Advent Night on Friday, December 3rd, from 5:30-7:30pm. We will have a pizza dinner, crafts for kids, devotions, singing of Christmas carols and cookie decorating. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall.

See's Candy Fundraiser – Order Deadline – Friday is the last day to order See's Candies. Select from a wide variety of chocolates and other sweet treats. Order online anytime and your order will ship directly to you. Contact the school office with any questions. <https://bit.ly/StJohnSees>

E.A.T. Night – Flyers for this month's E.A.T. Night are on the table in the narthex. On Monday, December 13 from 4-8pm, St. John Lutheran School will get 10% back from all Pronto Pack and Gift Card sales at Biaggi's. Simply say you are with St. John's when you pick up your food or buy your gift card. Pick up is curbside only. Gift cards can be purchased inside the restaurant. All are welcome to bring their meals back to the Fellowship Hall to dine together from 4pm-7pm. Drinks and desserts will be provided by St. John PTF.

December/January Deadlines – Please send in all bulletin information for the months of December and January as well as newsletter information for January into the church office as soon as possible. Deadlines will be moved up to ensure everything is completed on time.

Voter's Meeting – Dec. 12, there will be a Budget Voter's Meeting in Fellowship

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 3:1-14

¹Now 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. ²And 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. ³And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴When 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." ⁵Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶And 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. ⁷Then 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.'"

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 12:18-24

¹⁸For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Holy Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.