

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

New Member Sunday

December 3, 2023

8:00am & 10:45am



St. John Lutheran Church and School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeff Caithamer

revcaithamer - at gmail.com

School Principal: Cheryl Black

Divine Service I with Holy Communion	Page
<i>*stand as you are able</i>	
Prelude – “ <i>Emmanuel, Savior of the Nations</i> ”	Alleluia Ringers
Hymn <i>O Lord, How Shall I Meet You</i>	334
*Invocation, Confession, Absolution	151
*Introit	dated insert
*Kyrie	152
*Salutation & Collect	156
First Reading	
(8:00) Gradual	dated insert
(10:45) “ <i>The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns</i> ”	Men’s Choir
Epistle Reading	
*Alleluia and Verse	156
*Gospel Reading	
Hymn <i>Savior of the Nations, Come</i> (sts. 3-women, 5-men)	332
Sermon “ <i>The Palm Sunday Connection</i> ” Mark 11:1-10	
*Nicene Creed	158
Confirmation & Recognition of New Members	272
*Prayer of the Church	159
Gathering of Tithes and Offering	
(8:00) “ <i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i> ”	Alleluia Ringers
(10:45) “ <i>Comfort, Comfort Ye My People</i> ”	Men’s Choir
*Offertory	159
*Service of the Sacrament	160
Communion Hymns – 355, 350, (696), 336	
*Post Communion Canticle (<i>Thank the Lord</i>)	164
*Post-Communion Collect	166
*Benediction	166
Postlude – “ <i>Helmsley</i> ”	Eggert

Communion Hymn 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 – Kurt, Dan, Mike, Nick; 10:45 – Mike, Matt, Harold, Chuck. **Ushers:** 8:00 – Bill & AJ; 10:45 – Eli & Jordan. **Instrumentalists:** Kyle & Kelsey-trumpets.

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 – The altar flowers are given today by John & Bonnie in celebration of their 47th wedding anniversary on December 4th. We also remember the following people in our prayers: *for peace and comfort:* Anne, John, James and family at the death of husband and step-father Rod, the family and friends of Patty at her death; *for strength, hope, and peace:* Wanda- mother of Nancy; *for healing and recovery:* Joan, Judy, Jim, Kaylianna, Robin, Karla, Charlene, Brian, Teresa, Barbara, John, Hendricks, Maria, Merv, Rebecca, Roy, Todd, Brett; *for successful treatments:* Kevin, Susan, Dan, Nancy, Barb, Luke, Earl, Linda, Jeanette, Nancy; *for our college students:* Noah, Olivia; *for those in the military:* Nick D, Nick F, Andy, Brandon, Zachary, David; *for our homebound:* Geneice, Lola.

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

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

Budget Voter’s Meeting, Sunday, December 10th at 1:00pm.

OUR WEEK AHEAD

Today	<i>1st Sunday in Advent</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion
Monday	6:00 Bylaws Committee
Tuesday	10:00 Adult Bible Class; 5:15 Fellowship Board; 6:00 School Board
Wednesday	8:10 Chapel; 3:30 Advent Service; 5:45 Midweek; 7:15 Advent Service
Thursday	6:00 Mixed Choir; 6:30 Men's Choir
Friday	6:00 Youth Group Christmas Party
Sunday	<i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion

LWML Cookie Walk will be held in between Services today in the Fellowship Hall. The Christmas cookies donated by members of St. John will be sold to assist LWML with their mission projects.

Bylaws Committee Meeting will be held tomorrow, Monday, December 4th. We plan to review draft changes at this meeting. Thank you.

Advent Dinners – Advent dinners will again be served after all the 3:30pm services. The first meal, to be served this Wednesday, December 6th, will be chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, hot dogs, and cookies hosted by the Fellowship Board. Come and enjoy these delicious dinners along with some great fellowship. We hope to see you there.

Handbells will not be meeting this week.

Youth Group – On Friday, Dec. 8th, we will have our Christmas Party from 6-9pm at the church. Even if you have never come to youth group, join us. Bring a friend. All kids 6th-12th grade are welcome.

Altar Guild will be having a meeting on Sunday, December 10th, at 9:15am in the overflow for yearly scheduling and updated training.

December E.A.T. Night – Join us at El Rancho Grande in Savoy (behind Aldi) Monday, Dec. 11th, All Day. Be sure to bring in a flyer or show an electronic copy to ensure that St. John receives 20% of the proceeds. (Gift card and alcohol sales are excluded.) Flyers are available on the narthex table and on the school website.

Hat and Mitten Tree – Once again, the school will be collecting new hats, mittens, scarves, etc. (Any sizes) Donations can be placed on the tree by the school office or the tree in the Fellowship Hall. The last day to bring in items will be Friday, Dec. 15th. All items will be donated to a local charity.

The Young Adults Group will be having a Christmas party on December 14th at the Leaf Residence. There will be food, devotion, and a gift exchange. All who are between the ages of 18-40 are welcome. Start time and gift exchange details will be coming soon. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Sara.

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.

3/4yrs Room 4C

4th-5th

Band Room

K-1st Art Room

6th-8th

Conference Room

2nd-3rd Room 4B

High School

Youth Room

New Member Sunday – Today we will have Confirmation and Acknowledgement of our new members who have joined through Transfer of Membership and Affirmation of Faith.

Confirmation – Donica, Mariah, John

Transfer of Membership – John & Nancy, Sandy, Kim, Jonathon

Affirmation of Faith – Barbara

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.

School Christmas Program– The St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb Preschool Christmas program is planned for Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30pm in the gymnasium. Students will share the joyful story of Christmas through word, song, and imagery of the *Silent Night, Holy Night* hymn. Please join us for this special time of worship and celebration.

Sunday School Christmas Program – The Christmas Program will be presented by the Preschool - 8th grade children on Sunday, December 17th during the Sunday School hour. They will practice during Sunday School on December 3rd and 10th. They will also be practicing the songs during the openings leading up to the program. We look forward to their message.

St. John Student Collection Section – Students will be showcasing their "collections" throughout the school year in the display case in the gym lobby. Check out "My Wolves" from Madelynn (4th grade). It's "wild".

PE Teacher for St. John Lutheran School – St. John Lutheran School is seeking a qualified teacher with a strong Christian commitment to teach and guide students (kindergarten - grade 5) through the position of Physical Education Teacher on a part-time basis. The PE Teacher will create a Christ-centered classroom environment that fosters, promotes, and develops an understanding of the relationship between a healthy body and exercise. The PE Teacher will motivate each student to cultivate physical fitness, developing strength, skill, agility, poise, and coordination in individual, dual and team physical activities/sports, in accordance with each student's ability. Please send all interest and inquiries to Mrs. Cheryl Black, Principal, at cblack - at - stjohlns.com.

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 Lord's Prayer

The Fifth Petition – And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Bible Passage: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Hymn 347 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* (sts. 1 & 2)

Psalm 97

Bible Readings for the Week:

The Birth of Christ Is Announced to Shepherds – Luke 2:8–14

The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem – Luke 2:15–20