

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

New Member Sunday



St. John Lutheran Church and School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeff Caithamer

School Principal: Tim Gabbert

December 8, 2019

8:00am & 10:45am

Divine Service II with Holy Communion

**stand as you are able*

Prelude- <i>“O Savior, Rend the Heavens On High”</i>	J. Brahms	
Hymn <i>Let Our Gladness Have No End</i>		381
*Invocation, Confession, Absolution		167
*Introit		dated insert
*Kyrie		168
*Salutation & Collect		172
First Reading		
(8:00) Gradual		dated insert
(10:45) <i>“Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People”</i>	Men’s Choir	
Epistle Reading		
*Alleluia and Verse		173
*Gospel Reading		
(8:00) Children’s Devotion		
Hymn <i>On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry</i>		344
Sermon <i>“Prepare the Way”</i>		
*Apostles’ Creed		175
(8:00) Rite of Confirmation		272
*Prayers		175
Gathering of Tithes and Offering		
(10:45) <i>“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”</i>	Men’s Choir	
*Offertory		176
*Service of the Sacrament		177
Communion Hymns – 349, 359, 348, 343		
*Post Communion Canticle (<i>Thank the Lord</i>)		181
*Collect and Benediction		183
Postlude- <i>“O Savior, Rend the Heavens On High”</i>	J Brahms	

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: Rev. Jeff Caithamer. **Organist:** Mark Dirksen. **Elders:** 8:00 - Rex, Dave, Kendall & Todd; 10:45 - Mark, John, Joe & Bob. **Acolytes:** 8:00 – Judah; 10:45 – Mariah. **Ushers:** 8:00 - Makenzie & Nicholas; 10:45 - David & Jordan.

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY – The altar flowers are given today by Jim & Jennifer in celebration of their 7th wedding anniversary today. We also remember the following people in our prayers: *for peace and comfort:* the family of Floyd at his death December 2nd, Tony & Jennifer and family at the death of Tony’s mother; *following surgery:* Dave, Chuck -son of Ellie; *for healing and recovery:* Lorene, Kim and Jim, John, Stan -father of Lynn, Jacob -great grandson of Bob & Joan, Maria, Brett -cousin of the Kindts’, Merv, Jessica -granddaughter of Bob & Joan, Joan -mother of Bill, Judy -mother of Rochelle, Rebecca -daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy -father of Anne, Ellie, Dan -brother of Bonnie, Todd; *for successful treatments:* Earl, Roger -father of Stephanie, Jayne, Linda, Roxy, Philip -son of Starley, Joan, Jeanette, Nancy, Shawn -sister of Maxine; *for our college students:* Isabelle, Erin, Ben; *for those in the military:* Roberto, t Adam, Joshua, Nick, Taylor, Andy, Brandon, Suzzanna, Ben, Allyson, Zachary; *for our homebound:* Esther, Leona, Opal, Geneice

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

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

New Member Sunday - Today at the 8:00 service we will have the Rite of Confirmation for our adult confirmands. Following we will have an acknowledgement of our new members who have joined through Transfer of Membership and Affirmation of Faith. After the service there will be a reception in the fellowship hall.

Adult Confirmation - Selam, Habte, Mesmer, Emma

Transfer of Membership - Angela, B.J. with children Keegan & Carmen

Affirmation of Faith – Terry, Rev. Michael Ruhlig, Patty

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.

Budget Voter’s Meeting Today at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

EDUCATION HOUR TODAY

Adult Bible Class – Fellowship Hall – Pastor Caithamer
Sunday School Opening will be in the Sanctuary for K-8th grade at 9:30. Preschool (3/4yrs) will have their opening in Room 4C. Come and join us!

3/4yrs	Room 4C	3 rd -5 th	Room 1C
Kindergarten	Room 4A	6 th -8 th	Room 4B
1 st & 2 nd	Room 2C	High School	Youth Room

Security – For the safety and security of the congregation, the Elders will begin to lock the front and back main entrances to the church after the sermon during the 10:45am service.

Service of Hope and Comfort – The holiday season has come again. Carols of joy are filling the air around us. Decorations are everywhere to be seen. But, what if the excitement of the season brings you sadness instead of joy? You know what Christmas is all about: the birth of Jesus into this world to be our savior from sin. Yet, the death of a dear loved one, the loss of a steady job, or the dissolution of your marriage have dampened your holiday spirit. If that is so, or other struggles have burdened you, then join us for a service of hope and comfort this afternoon at 3pm. We will hear again the good news that Jesus Christ is with us, even and especially in the midst of the struggles we face.

Poinsettia Forms – Would you like to help make our church beautiful and festive for the Christmas services? Consider donating a red poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone. The cost is \$10 each and order forms can be found on the narthex table. Orders are due by December 16th.

Christmas Door Hangers - The Evangelism Board is inviting you to take a Christmas door hanger (or more) to share with a friend or neighbor. It includes our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship times along with our regular worship service times. They are on the table in the hallway.

Christmas Caroling - Please join us as we shine Jesus' light to our homebound/nursing home members and friends. We will meet at St. John at 3 pm and visit and sing until about 5 when we will go to Jupiters for a pizza party and games. Would love to see you all there. Sign up sheet is on the board outside of the church office.

Hat and Mitten Tree - Bring in new or gently used hats, mittens, scarves, etc... in all sizes and hang on the tree by the school office or in the Fellowship Hall. All items will be donated to a charitable organization.

St. John Trivia Night - Come out and join us for our first-ever trivia night where you can have fun while raising money for our school. The evening's trivia theme will be *“Through the Decades”*. Participants will get to compete in nine rounds of trivia as well as other events like a Gift-Card Bidding Frenzy, Heads-or-Tails game, and a Dessert Auction. Individual and Corporate sponsorship opportunities are available. Levels begin at Ram-Shout Out for \$25 and go to Premier Sponsor for \$2500. For details, contact the school office. Registration and Sponsorship Forms are now available by the school office and on the narthex table. Please email with any questions or contact the school office. Make your reservations now. *A Trivia Night Committee member will be in the Fellowship between services to take reservations and to answer questions.

St. John Webstore - St. John apparel makes a great Christmas gift. There are many new designs and styles –personalization and text options are available on many items. Orders are processed as they are received and are ready in 10-15 days. The school office will contact you when items are ready for pickup. Visit <https://stjohnstore.martinonesource.com/> to select your items.

OUR WEEK AHEAD

Today	2 nd Sunday in Advent; New Member Sunday; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Reception for New Members, Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion; 1:00 Voter's Meeting; 3:00 Service of Hope & Comfort
Monday	9:15 MOPS; 6:00 Finance Board; E.A.T. @ Texas Roadhouse (4pm-10pm)
Tuesday	1:00 Reading Buddies
Wednesday	8:10 Chapel, 10:00 Adult Bible Class; 3:30 Advent Service; 4:15 Advent Dinner; 5:45 Midweek School; 6:00 Handbells; 7:15 Advent Service
Thursday	7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast; 12:30 Mary Martha Christmas Luncheon; 6:00 Men's Choir; 6:45 Mixed Choir
Friday	Newsletter Deadline
Sunday	3 rd Sunday in Advent; 8:00 Holy Communion (AR); 9:45 Sunday School Christmas Program; 10:45 Holy Communion (MC)

E.A.T. @ Texas Roadhouse - The December E.A.T. night will be at Texas Roadhouse tomorrow from 4-10pm. Texas Roadhouse is giving back at least 10% of our purchases. Flyers are available on the narthex table. Don't forget to get your Texas Roadhouse Gift Card from Ram Rebate.

Reading Buddies will meet Tuesday, December 10th, at 1:00pm.

Mary Martha will be having a Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 12th at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend. Please bring a dish to share. We look forward to seeing you.

Advent Dinners - The St. John Youth are hosting the Advent Dinners. Signup sheets are posted for donations for each dinner. Please support us by donating an item and bringing to the church kitchen by 2pm the day of the dinner. Join us for a delicious meal and fellowship. Dinner on December 11 will be tacos. Next week is sloppy joes.

St. John Youth - If you are in 6th -12th grade, sign up to help serve and clean up for the Advent Dinner. Parents are needed to help as well. There is a Volunteer Sign-up sheet on the youth bulletin board by the church office. Please consider taking a shift or two, one week or every week. The work is easy, fun and rewarding.

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 15th, starting at 9:45am in the Sanctuary. We hope you are able to join us.

Day School Christmas Program - The school Christmas Service will be on Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30pm. Our school choirs and middle school band will perform Christmas music, and the pastor will lead us in a service that celebrates the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of our Lord and Savior. The Little Lamb Preschool classes have been working on a Christmas program and are excited to share it with family and friends. Their program will be Thursday, December 19th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

This Week at SJ and LL –Dec. 9-15: Monday - E.A.T. Night - Texas Roadhouse, 4-10p; Tuesday - Reading Buddies, Co-Ed BB @. St. Thomas, Philo, 6p; Wednesday - Chapel - Offering for Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, Advent Services, 3:30p & 7:15p

Ram Rebate Gifts Cards - Instead of running all over town, buying a gift card at this store and that restaurant, buy gift cards from Ram Rebate and earn a rebate for the church or school account of your choice. Many cards are available in stock in the school office and will be offered in the Fellowship Hall today between services. Thousands more can be ordered and will arrive in time for Christmas.

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 332 *Savior of the Nations Come* (sts. 3-5)

Psalm 24

Bible Readings for the Week:

The Visitation – Luke 1:39-56

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist – Luke 1:57-80

The Nativity of Our Lord – Luke 2:1-7

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