



St. John Lutheran Church and School
 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
 Reverend Jeff Caithamer

Interim School Principal: Faith Block

Divine Service II with Holy Communion	Page
<i>*stand as you are able</i>	
Prelude – (8:00) <i>“On Jordan’s Bank”</i>	
(10:45) <i>“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”</i> & one verse of <i>“Silent Night”</i>	
4 th -8 th Grade School Choir	
Hymn <i>Comfort, Comfort Ye My People</i>	347
*Invocation, Confession, Absolution	167
*Introit (<i>sung responsively by whole verse</i>)	dated insert
*Kyrie	168
*Salutation & Collect	172
First Reading	
(8:00) Gradual	dated insert
(10:45) <i>“Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”</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>“Advent: What Jesus Came to Do”</i>	Mark 1:1-8
*Apostles’ Creed	175
*Prayers	175
Gathering of Tithes and Offering	
(10:45) <i>Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”</i>	Men’s Choir
*Offertory	176
*Service of the Sacrament	177
(10:45) <i>“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”</i>	Men’s Choir
Communion Hymns – 348, 354, 343	
*Post Communion Canticle (<i>Thank the Lord</i>)	181
*Collect and Benediction	183

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.

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:** Mark Dirksen. **Elders:** 8:00 – John, Kendall, Stephen & Kurt; 10:45 – John, Dan, Larry & Jeremy. **Day School Choir Director:** Sal Percoco. **Greeters:** 8:00 – Andy & Cindy.

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY – The altar flowers are given today by Gladys and family in loving memory of husband/father John, and son/brother Greg. We remember the following people in our prayers: *for peace and comfort:* the Family of Darlene who passed away December 5th; the Family of Barbara following her death; the Family of Marie following her death; *following surgery:* Keith; *for healing and recovery:* Bob, Bruce, Lorelai, Marlene, Rachel - niece of Judy, Gary, Leona, Lois, Eunice, Jack, Bobby -brother of Cindy, Marta, Nicholas -grandson of Tony & Jill, Ellie, Lucille, Bruce, Joyce -sister of Joan, Stephen -son of Ken, Dale -brother in law of Ellie, Cathy -sister of Millie, Merv, John, Todd -grandson of Harold, Tom; *for successful treatments:* Dave, Jason -grandson of Lois; Joan, Jeannette, Connie -sister in law of Linda, Nancy, Maxine, Ken; *for those in the military:* Mitchell, Heath, Taylor, Ashley, Andy, Christopher, Brandon, Suzzanna, Ben, Allyson, Tom; *for our homebound:* Leona, Walt, Phyllis & Frank.

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

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

Introit – With the start of the new church year, we introduce a new (old) way of singing our Introit. The Pastor and congregation will sing in alternation. The Pastor will sing the first verse, the congregation will sing the second verse, etc. All will sing the *Gloria Patri* together at the end.

Christmas Service Schedule – This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Services for December 24th will be 9:00am with no Sunday School or Bible Class, and then there will be two Christmas Eve Services beginning at 5:00pm and 10:00pm. Christmas Day we will have a 10:00am service with Holy Communion.

EDUCATION HOUR TODAY

Adult Bible Class – Pastor Caithamer, fellowship hall

Sunday School Opening will be in the Sanctuary for 1st Grade - 8th Grade. 3 and 4 year olds and Kindergarten meet in room 4C. We begin at 9:30. Come and join us!

1 st & 2 nd	Room 4A	7 th & 8 th	Room 2B
3 rd & 4 th	Room 1C	High School	Youth Room
5 th & 6 th	Room 4B		

Christmas/New Year Hours – The Church Office will be closed December 23rd through January 1st. The School Office will be closed December 22nd through January 8th.

Portals of Prayer – Due to the ongoing suspension of our budget line item for Portals of Prayer, we are seeking volunteers who would be willing to sponsor all or part of our subscription for 2018. Portals of Prayer cost \$258.00 per quarter. Please contact the church office with any questions or interests.

Sunday School Christmas Program – All youth from pre-school through high school are encouraged to participate. We will need readers, soloists, and actors of all ages. With any questions, please contact Mrs. Beadle.

Fire Alarm/Security System – The Trustees and the Finance Board, upon direction of the Voters, have begun to determine the best option to pay for the needed projects. Finance Board is asking that the members of St. John prayerfully consider giving beyond their normal offering amounts to go towards this project. Finance Board would ideally like to have 50% of the cost come from this additional giving.

Greeters Needed – Please consider being a greeter. The sign-up sheet is located in the overflow area. It is included on the sign-up for Ushers. This is an important outreach for our visitors as well as our members. We want all to feel welcome. Thank you from the Evangelism Board.

Reading Buddies – The school could use additional Reading Buddies either as a regular reader or a substitute. A Reading Buddy comes once a month for 30 min and reads with a student in K, 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade. If you would like to volunteer or know of someone who may like to do this contact the School office, Susan Mihm or Pam Rudick.

St. John Spiritwear Webstore is Now Open – Visit www.selectspiritwear.com and find St. John listed in the column on the left side. There are shirts, sweatshirts, and other items. We also have an Athletics store with warm ups, 1/4 zip shirts, and polo shirts. This webstore will only be open from December 1st-15th. You place your order and pay on the website. Orders will then get delivered to the school office and be able to be picked up after Christmas break.

PTF Holiday Service Project – PTF will be collecting hats, mittens, gloves & scarves to give to Empty Tomb to distribute to those in need in our community. Please leave your donations on the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall

OUR WEEK AHEAD

Today	<i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion; 3:00 Christmas Caroling
Tuesday	1:00 Reading Buddies; 6:00 Finance Board
Wednesday	8:05 Chapel; 10:00 Adult Bible Class; 3:30 Advent Service; 4:30 Advent Dinner; 5:45 Midweek School; 7:15 Advent Service
Thursday	7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast; 10:00 Evangelism; 12:30 Mary Martha Luncheon
Friday	<i>Newsletter Deadline</i>
Sunday	<i>3rd Sunday in Advent</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:45 Sunday School Christmas Program; 10:45 Holy Communion (Mixed Choir)

Christmas Caroling Today – Meet in fellowship hall at 3pm and will divide into carpool groups. Please let Vanessa know whether you can come or not.

Youth Christmas Caroling – Join us for our Christmas party as we join the choirs for Christmas caroling as we shine Jesus light to our homebound and nursing care members Today at 3pm followed by pizza, fellowship and Christmas trivia at Jupiter's. Optional gift exchange of wrapped \$5 gift.

Advent Dinners – Sign-up sheets for donations of food items are posted on the youth board. Sloppy Joes will be served on Dec. 13th and Soups/Chili on Dec. 20th. Please consider helping by signing up to donate food. Thank you.

Mary Martha would like to invite the congregation to attend our annual Christmas luncheon to be held at 12:30pm on Thursday, December 14th in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share if you are able.

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 17th during the Sunday School and Bible Class hour, starting at 9:45am in the Sanctuary.

E.A.T. @ Chipotle – The December E.A.T. night will be at Chipotle on Anthony Drive and Prospect Ave. on Monday, December 18th, 4-8pm. Chipotle is giving back 50% of our purchases. Please keep in mind that the parking lot and the restaurant are not very large. Dine in and take out purchases are included in the fundraiser, but online orders are not. Bring in the flier, show it on your smart phone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to St. John Lutheran School. Fliers are available on the narthex table. A limited number of \$25.00 gift cards are available in the school office (Ram Rebate amount 8%). See you there.

This Week at St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb Preschool – Dec. 11-17: Monday – Ram Rebate Orders Due, 3p; Tuesday – Reading Buddies, 1p, Yearbook Committee Meeting, 3:30p, BBB JV @ St. John's, Buckley, 6p; Wednesday – Chapel, 8:10a - bring offering for Marta's Mission, Advent Services, 3:30p & 7:15p, 4th-8th Grade Choir Sing @ 3:30; Thursday – BBB JV & V @ Thomasboro, 6p; Friday – Littler Lambs Playgroup. 8:10a, Ram Rebate Pick up, BBB Varsity HOME vs. St. Thomas, Philo, 6p, Webstore Closes – all orders must be placed by midnight!

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* (st. 3)

Psalm 97

Bible Readings for the Week:

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

The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem – Luke 2:1-20