



St. John Lutheran Church and School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeff Caithamer

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School Principal: Cheryl Black

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<i>*stand as you are able</i>	
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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 – Dan, Jeremy, Nick, Dan; 10:45 – Chris, Kurt, Mike, Chuck. **Ushers:** 8:00 – Lucas & Everett; 10:45 – Eli & Nic. **Instrumentalists:** Lou Ann-oboe; Judy-recorder.

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 Jim & Jennifer in celebration of their 11th wedding anniversary on December 8th. We also remember the following people in our prayers: *for strength, hope, and peace:* Wanda- mother of Nancy; *hospitalized:* Keith; *for healing and recovery:* Merv, Dan, Joan, Judy, Jim, Kaylianna, Robin, Karla, Charlene, Brian, Teresa, Barbara, John, Hendricks, Maria, Rebecca, Roy, Todd, Brett; *for successful treatments:* Kevin, Susan, Dan, Nancy, Barb, Luke, Earl, Linda, Jeanette, Nancy; *for our college students:* Nadia, Kai; *for those in the military:* Nick D, Nick F, Andy, Brandon, Zachary, David; *for our homebound:* Linda, Betty

For requests for the prayer chain or to be added to the chain, please email prayers@stjohnls.com or call the church office at 359-1123.

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

OUR WEEK AHEAD

Today *2nd Sunday in Advent*; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion; 1:00 Budget Voters Meeting
Monday All Day E.A.T. Night at El Rancho Grande
Tuesday 6:30 Day School Christmas Program; *Newsletter Deadline*
Wednesday 8:10 Chapel; 10:00 Adult Bible Class; 3:30 Advent Service; 5:45 Midweek; 6:00 Handbells; 7:15 Advent Service
Thursday 6:00 Young Adults Group Christmas Party @ Leaf Residence
Sunday *3rd Sunday in Advent*; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Sunday School Christmas Program; 10:45 Holy Communion; 12:00 Instrumentalist Rehearsal; 3:30 Christmas Caroling

Altar Guild will be having a meeting today 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) tomorrow, 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.

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.

Advent Dinners – Advent dinners will again be served after all the 3:30pm services. The meal, to be served this Wednesday, December 13th, will be soups, chili, hot dogs, and cookies hosted by the School Board. The meal on the 20th will be lasagna. Come and enjoy these delicious dinners along with some great fellowship. We hope to see you there.

The Young Adults Group will be having a Christmas party on December 14th at the Leaf Residence starting at 6:00pm. There will be food, devotion, and a gift exchange. All who are between the ages of 18-40 are welcome. Please bring a gift totaling no more than \$15. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Sara.

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.

EDUCATION HOUR TODAY

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

Sunday School – Kindergarten-High School will meet in the Sanctuary for Christmas Program practice. Preschool will start in their classrooms, and then join the older students for practice later.

3/4yrs Room 4C

K-1st Art Room

2nd-3rd Room 4B

4th-5th

6th-8th

High School

Band Room

Conference Room

Youth Room

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 today. We look forward to their message.

Instrumentalist Rehearsal – Next Sunday, 12.17 after the 10:45 service, there's a rehearsal for all instrumentalists who will be playing for the 3:00 & 5:00 service on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Caroling – Please join us at 3:30pm on December 17th in the Fellowship Hall. We will then carpool together to sing Christmas Carols to some of our elderly members.

Tuesday/Wednesday Bible Class will not be meeting on December 26th or January 2nd.

LWML thanks all who came out this past Saturday and Sunday to support our LWML Cookie Walk. Thank you to all who baked, donated, and purchased cookies, called members, set-up, decorated and took down and spread the news of the Cookie Walk to assist LWML to spread God's love through LWML missions.

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 by December 12th. Deadlines have been moved up to ensure everything is completed on time.

Christmas Service Schedule – December 24th - *Fourth Sunday in Advent*: 9:00am; *Christmas Eve Services*: 3:00 & 5:00pm Family Service and 10:00pm Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service. *Christmas Day Service*: 10:00am Holy Communion Service. There will be no evening service on Wednesday, December 27th. December 31st – *1st Sunday after Christmas*: 8:00 & 10:45am Holy Communion. *New Year's Eve Service* will be at 7:15pm.

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 black - at - stjohnls.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 Sixth Petition – And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Bible Passage: Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

Hymn 347 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* (sts. 3-4)

Psalm 111

Bible Readings for the Week:

Circumcision, Purification of Mary, and Presentation – Luke 2:21-24

Simeon and Anna Receive the Christ Child – Luke 2:25-40

The Epiphany of Our Lord to the Magi – Matthew 2:1-12