



St. John Lutheran Church and School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeff Caithamer

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School Principal – Jonathan Kamin

Divine Service II with Holy Communion	Page
<i>*stand as you are able</i>	
Prelude – (8:00) <i>Savior of the Nations, Come</i> Handbells & percussion (10:45) <i>Rejoice in the Lord Always</i> Day School Choir	
Hymn <i>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</i>	398
*Invocation, Confession, Absolution	167
*Introit	dated insert
*Kyrie	168
*Hymn of Praise (<i>This is the feast...</i>)	171
*Salutation & Collect	172
First Reading	
Gradual	dated insert
(8:00) <i>Emmanuel, Savior of the Nations</i>	Handbells
Epistle Reading	
*Alleluia and Verse	173
*Gospel Reading	
Hymn <i>Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding</i>	345
Sermon " <i>The Burning Question</i> " Matthew 11:2-15	
*Apostles' Creed	175
*Prayers	175
Gathering of Tithes and Offering	
(8:00) <i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	Handbells & piano
(10:45) <i>An Advent Prelude</i>	Callahan
*Offertory	176
*Service of the Sacrament	177
Communion Hymns – 349, 849, 334	
*Post Communion Canticle (<i>Thank the Lord</i>)	181
*Collect and Benediction	183
Postlude – <i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	Leavitt

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 & Choir Director:** Keith Williams. **Elders:** 8:00 – Dan, Bryce, John., Andy; 10:45 – Phil, Harold, Jeremy, Mike. **Ushers:** 8:00 – Nicholas & Everett; 10:45 – Eli & Peter. **Instrumentalists:** Randy, clarinet; Sylvia, percussion.

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 Jan. We also remember the following people in our prayers: *for upcoming surgery:* Sherry; *hospitalized:* Mimi; *for healing and recovery:* David- grandfather of Sara and Ryan, Linda, Bentley- great grandson of Bob & Joan, Herb, Karla, Charlene, Judy, Alex, Brian, Larry, Teresa, Barbara, John, Hendricks, Maria, Merv, Rebecca, Roy, Todd, Brett; *for successful treatments:* Dan, Nancy, Barb, Luke, Earl, Linda, Joan, Jeanette, Nancy; *for our college students:* Billy, Joshua, Ben; *for those in the military:* Nick, Andy, Brandon, Zachary, David; *for our homebound:* Geneice, Betty.

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

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

OUR WEEK AHEAD

Today	<i>3rd Sunday in Advent</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion; 1:00 Voter's Meeting
Monday	All Day E.A.T. Night at El Rancho Grande
Tuesday	<i>Newsletter Deadline</i> ; 6:30 School Christmas Program
Wednesday	8:10 Chapel; 10:00 Adult Bible Class; 3:30 Advent Service; 5:45 Midweek School; 7:15 Advent Service
Friday	<i>Day School Early Dismissal</i>
Sunday	<i>4th Sunday in Advent</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:45 Sunday School Christmas Program; 10:45 Holy Communion; 12:00 Handbells & Choirs; <i>Christmas Caroling</i>

Office Email – The church office email address is churchoffice - at - stjohncms.church.

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 13th. Deadlines will be moved up to ensure everything is completed on time.

The LWML is collecting Hats, Gloves or Mittens, Winter scarves and shampoo and body wash for Empty Tomb for their Holiday Baskets. These items can be purchased at Dollar Tree and placed in the basket in the Coat Room through today. LWML is asking the congregation for assistance in providing these items. Several ladies will be taking the items to Empty Tomb to help fill baskets the week of the 12th of December. Empty Tomb fills about 80 family baskets each Christmas. Contact Jan B.

December E.A.T. Night –Join us at El Rancho Grande in Savoy (behind Aldi) tomorrow, ALL DAY. Be sure to bring in a flyer or show an electronic copy to ensure 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 hats, mittens, scarves, etc... Donations can be placed on the tree by the school office. The last day to bring in items will be tomorrow. This year donations will go to a local charity.

The ladies of St. John are invited to a potluck luncheon on Tuesday the 13th of December. Please bring a dish to share. Tableware, drinks and dessert will be provided. We will be in the overflow. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the fellowship Hall. This will help us prepare. Thank you. If you have any questions, please call Cindy J. Look forward to seeing you, and to get to know one another better.

EDUCATION HOUR TODAY

Adult Bible Class – led by Pastor Caithamer in the fellowship hall

Sunday School – All classes will start out in the Sanctuary for opening, and then go to their respective classrooms.

3/4yrs Room 4C

K-1st Room 5B

2nd-3rd Room 2C

4th-5th

6th-8th

High School

Room 3C

Conference Room

Youth Room

Advent Meal – The 6th and 7th grade families will be hosting the dinners after the 3:30 Advent service this week. They will serve a variety of soups for both dinners. If you would like to donate an item for the meal, a sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the church office. All proceeds will go towards their class trip taken during the 2023-2024 school year.

St. John School Christmas Program, Tuesday, December 13th, 6:30pm – Our students (Little Lamb-8th grade) will present Lessons & Carols in a service that celebrates the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of our Lord and Savior. Please join us in the school gym for this joyous event.

Sunday School Christmas Program -The Christmas Program will be presented by the Preschool - 8th grade children on Sunday, December 18th during the Sunday School hour. They will practice during Sunday School on December 4th and 11th. They will also be practicing the songs during the openings leading up to the program. We look forward to their message.

Young Adults – There has been interest expressed in having a young adults group at church as a way to enjoy fellowship with others of similar age. If this comes into fruition, it would begin at the first of the year. Anyone between the ages of 18-35 who would be interested please contact Sara.

Witness and Outreach – Matthew 11:2-15: John the Baptizer was put in prison for confronting the political leaders of his day with divine truth. While in prison, he was put to death by King Herod for his straightforward witness to the coming of the Lord, the true and righteous Judge. John, like our Lord's disciples, was happy to suffer for the name of Jesus. John's example encourages us also to be bold witnesses for Jesus as the One who came to bring light and salvation to a darkened world. You may be the only Scripture some people hear. Give them the light of the Gospel in your words and actions and shed some light with the truth of Jesus.

Budget Voter's Meeting TODAY at 1:00pm.

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.

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 332 *Savior of the Nations, Come* (v 6-8)

Psalm 111

Bible Readings for the Week:

The Nativity of Our Lord – Luke 2:1-7

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

The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem – Luke 1:15-20