

# THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 12, 2021

8:00am & 10:45am



## St. John Lutheran Church and School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeff Caithamer

revcaithamer - at - stjoh-lcms.org

School Principal – Jonathan Kamin

<b>Divine Service II with Holy Communion</b>	<b>Page</b>
<i>*stand as you are able</i>	
Prelude – “ <i>Freu Dich Sehr</i> ”	Burkhardt
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**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:** Keith Williams. **Elders:** 8:00 – Dave, Rex, Andy, Jeff; 10:45 – Mark, Bob, John, Mike. **Ushers:** 8:00 – Charlie & Jack; 10:45 – Jordan & Peter.

**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** – We remember the following people in our prayers: *following surgery:* Judy; *for healing and recovery:* Jim, Roger- father of Stephanie, Jim, Rick, Lois, Brian, Larry, Teresa, Barbara, Maelynn, Karla, Whitney, Barbara, John, Tom, Hendricks, Maria, Merv, Judy, Rebecca, Roy, Dan, Todd, Brett; *for successful treatments:* Barb, Luke, Earl, Linda, Joan, Jeanette, Nancy; *for our college students:* Selam, John, Brian; *for those in the military:* Adam, Nick, Andy, Brandon, Zachary, David; *for our homebound:* Gilbert, Linda.

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

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

Voter’s Meeting Today – There will be a Budget Voter’s Meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00pm.
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## **OUR WEEK AHEAD**

<b>Today</b>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion; 1:00 Voter's Budget Meeting
<b>Monday</b>	E.A.T. Night - Biaggi's Curbside Pick-up
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30 School Christmas Program
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:10 Chapel; 10:00 Adult Bible Class; 3:30 Advent Service, 5:45 Midweek, 7:15 Advent Service
<b>Friday</b>	<i>Day School Early Dismissal (Christmas Break Dec. 18- Jan. 3)</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Sunday School Christmas Program; 10:45 Holy Communion

**E.A.T. Night Tomorrow** – Flyers for this month's E.A.T. Night are on the table in the narthex. Tomorrow evening from 4-8pm, St. John Lutheran School will get 10% back from all Pronto Pack and Gift Card sales at Biaggi's. Simply say you are with St. John's when you pick up your food or buy your gift card. Pick up is curbside only. Gift cards can be purchased inside the restaurant. All are welcome to bring their meals back to the Fellowship Hall to dine together from 4pm-7pm. Drinks and desserts will be provided by St. John PTF.

**St. John Boys Basketball This Week** – It is a busy week for our Rams with two home games: Monday vs. St. John-Mattoon and Thursday vs. Next Generation. Tip-off is at 6pm. Go Rams

**St. John School & Little Lamb Christmas Program** – The Christmas program will be on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, in the gym. Our school choirs and middle school band will perform Christmas music, and the students will lead us in a celebration of the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of our Lord and Savior. Due to this being a school event masks are expected to be worn.

**Advent Dinners** – Dinner is served after the 3:30 service. Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>'s meal is Soups. There will be no meal on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The St. John 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade families will be helping with the dinners as a fundraiser for their class trip. There is no cost for dinner but donations are welcome. A sign-up sheet for this week's meal is posted on the Youth bulletin board by the school office. Proceeds will be shared with the St. John Youth group and the St. John 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip.

**Sunday School Christmas Program** – The Christmas Program will be presented by the Preschool - 8<sup>th</sup> grade children on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour. They will practice during Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. They will also be practicing the songs during the openings leading up to the program. We look forward to their message.

**The Church Office** email is now churchoffice- at - stjoh-lcms.org. Thank You.

## **EDUCATION HOUR TODAY**

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

**Sunday School** – Kindergarten through High School will meet in the Sanctuary for opening before class. 3/4yrs will meet in their classroom for opening.

3/4yrs Room 4C

4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

Room 1C

K-1<sup>st</sup> Room 4A

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

Conference Room

2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Room 2C

High School

Youth Room

**Christmas Caroling** – Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting promptly at 5:30pm at St John so we can caravan to homes of some of our elderly members and carol outside their windows. We will return to the church approx. around 7pm for hot chocolate, cookies, snacks and games if you'd like to stay and hang out. Please bring a snack or Christmas treat to share as you are able if you can stay. Please sign up (sheet on bulletin board outside of church office).

**Hat and Mitten Tree** – Tomorrow is the last day to bring in hats, mittens, scarves, etc... This year donations will go to Lutheran Child and Family Services. Donations can be placed on the tree by the school office.

**Poinsettia Forms** – Tomorrow is the last day to turn in your poinsettia forms. Forms can be found in your bulletin or on the narthex table. Thank you.

**Trivia Night Tickets** – Tickets for Trivia Night are available this morning in the fellowship hall between services or pick up a registration form from the table in the narthex. Trivia Night 2022 will be February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the St. John gym. The evening's trivia theme will be "All Things TV". Participants will get to compete in nine rounds of trivia with fun categories that delve into various aspects of TV pop culture from the last 60 years. Tickets are \$15/person or \$120/table of 8. It will be a fun night – plan to join us.

**Sacred Music for the Advent Season** – “Savior of the Nations Come,” “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending,” “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry,” “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding,” “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” You can listen to your favorite Advent hymns 24/7 at [lutheranpublicradio.org](http://lutheranpublicradio.org), Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

**#1 Nails Offer** – The owners of #1 Nails on Marketview Dr. are parents of students at Little Lamb Preschool and St. John Lutheran School and have offered a special deal on Wednesdays thru December. Mention “St. John Little Lamb” and 10% of proceeds will be donated to St. John Lutheran School. (Gift Cards available.)

**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 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank You.

**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 357 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (sts. 5-7)

Psalm 114

Bible Readings for the Week:

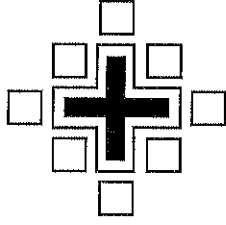
Circumcision, Purification of Mary, and Presentation – Luke 2: 21-24

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

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

# Third Sunday in Advent

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**INTROIT**    *Ps. 146:5–8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord | always,\*

again I will say, | Rejoice.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,\*

whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,\*

who keeps faith for- | ever;

who executes justice for | the oppressed,\*

who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.\*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,\*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Rejoice in the Lord | always,\*

again I will say, | Rejoice.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**GRADUAL**    *Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you,\*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.\*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

## DAILY READINGS

**December 12:** *Is. 29:1–14; Jude 1–25; 13: Is. 29:15–30:14; Rev. 1:1–20; 14: Is. 30:15–26; Rev. 2:1–29;*

*15: Is. 30:27–31:9; Rev. 3:1–22; 16: Is. 32:1–20; Rev. 4:1–11; 17: Is. 33:1–24; Rev. 5:1–14; 18: Is.*

*34:1–2, 8–35:10; Rev. 6:1–17.*

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## Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

15 The LORD has taken away the judgments  
against you;

he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in  
your midst;

16 On that day it shall be said to  
Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

17 The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud  
singing.

18 I will gather those of you who mourn  
for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer  
reproach.

19 Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into  
praise

and renown in all the earth.

20 At that time I will bring you in,

at the time when I gather you

together;

for I will make you renowned and  
praised

among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes,” says the LORD.

## Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will  
say, Rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be  
known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;  
6 do not be anxious about anything, but  
in everything by prayer and supplication

with thanksgiving let your requests be  
made known to God. 7 And the peace of  
God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in  
Christ Jesus.

## Holy Gospel: Luke 7:18-28

18 The disciples of John reported all  
these things to him. And John, 19 calling  
two of his disciples to him, sent them to  
the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who  
is to come, or shall we look for another?”

20 And when the men had come to him,  
they said, “John the Baptist has sent us  
to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is  
to come, or shall we look for another?’”

21 In that hour he healed many people of  
diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and  
on many who were blind he bestowed  
sight. 22 And he answered them, “Go and  
tell John what you have seen and heard:  
the blind receive their sight, the lame  
walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf  
hear, the dead are raised up, the poor  
have good news preached to them. 23 And  
blessed is the one who is not offended by  
me.”

24 When John’s messengers had gone,  
Jesus began to speak to the crowds con-  
cerning John: “What did you go out into  
the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by  
the wind? 25 What then did you go out to  
see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Be-  
hold, those who are dressed in splendid  
clothing and live in luxury are in kings’  
courts. 26 What then did you go out to  
see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more  
than a prophet. 27 This is he of whom it  
is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before  
your face,

who will prepare your way before  
you.’

28 I tell you, among those born of women  
none is greater than John. Yet the one  
who is least in the kingdom of God is  
greater than he.”