



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

Interim School Principal: Faith Block

<b>Divine Service III with Holy Communion</b>	<b>Page</b>
<i>*stand as you are able</i>	
Prelude – “ <i>Wachet Auf</i> ”	J.S. Bach
<b>Hymn</b> <i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>	<b>338</b>
*Invocation, Confession, Absolution	184
*Introit ( <i>sung responsively by whole verse</i> )	dated insert
*Kyrie	186
*Salutation & Collect	189
First Reading	
(8:00) Gradual	dated insert
(10:45) “ <i>The Only Son from Heaven</i> ”	Mixed Choir
Epistle Reading	
*Alleluia	190
*Gospel Reading	
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Sermon “ <i>Advent: What Jesus Does</i> ” John 1:6-8,19-28	
*Offertory	192
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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.

**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 – Robert, Dave, Stephen & Kendall; 10:45 – Terry, Jeremy, Matt & Larry. **Greeters:** 8:00 – Ron & Susan.

**OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY** – The altar flowers are given today by Tom & Betty in honor of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We also remember the following people in our prayers: *for healing and recovery:* Gladys, Keith, Bruce, Lorelai, Rachel - niece of Judy, Gary, Leona, Lois, Eunice, Jack, Bobby -brother of Cindy, Marta, Nicholas -grandson of Tony & Jill, Ellie, Lucille, 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 Wallner, Ken; *for those in the military:* Mitchell, Heath, Taylor, Andy, Christopher, Brandon, Suzzanna, Ben, Allyson, Tom; *for our homebound:* Esther, Lavina, Avis & Betty.

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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Adult Bible Class** this morning will meet in the Sanctuary for the Sunday School Christmas Program.

**Sunday School Christmas Program** will be today during the Sunday School/Bible Class hour beginning at 9:45 in the Sanctuary.

**Announcements** – Please have all announcements for the 12.24 and 12.31 bulletins, as well as for the January newsletter, to the church office by tomorrow, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Lifelight** is back. Join us for a 9-week Bible study on the book of Acts, part 2. You can come Wednesday evenings at 5:45pm, Thursday mornings at 9am, or Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Classes start January 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>. To sign-up, look for our table in the overflow on Sunday mornings, or contact Eunice, Matt, or Neil.

**Many thanks** to everyone who participated in Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' children's gift drive by donating gifts. Through your generosity, over 90 gifts were given to local low-income foster children who would not have received any Christmas gifts otherwise. Many of these children have never had anything they can call their own, and being told they can keep their gifts (and not return them) is a source of wonder for them. God's blessings on your Christmas.

**PTF Holiday Service Project** – PTF is 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

**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.

**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.

**Have you heard of THRED?** THRED is an online Lutheran Hour Ministries outreach platform. THRED focuses on making connections with those outside of the church by fostering open and honest conversations (via blogs and moderated comments) about issues of life, faith, and Jesus. December's topic is reconciliation. Past discussion topics have included consumerism and gratitude for privilege in the midst of poverty. Check them out at [lhm.org/thred](http://lhm.org/thred) or by searching for THRED on Facebook.

## **OUR WEEK AHEAD**

<b>Today</b>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:45 Sunday School Christmas Program; 10:45 Holy Communion
<b>Monday</b>	<i>Announcements/Newsletter deadline</i> ; 4:00 E.A.T. at Chipotle (ends at 8:00)
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 Adult Bible Class; 6:30 Day School Christmas Program
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:05 Chapel; 3:30 Advent Service; 4:30 Advent Dinner; 5:45 Midweek School; 7:15 Advent Service
<b>Thursday</b>	6:00 Men's Choir; 6:45 Mixed Choir
<b>Friday</b>	<i>(Day School Christmas Break Dec. 22- Jan. 8)</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent; Christmas Eve</i> ; 9:00 Holy Communion; 5:00 Family Service; 10:00 Candlelight Service

**Tuesday/Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Class** will not meet December 26<sup>th</sup> or January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Class will resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**E.A.T. @ Chipotle** – The December E.A.T. night will be at Chipotle on Anthony Drive and Prospect Ave. tomorrow, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**Advent Dinners** – The sign-up sheet for donations of food items is posted on the youth board. Soups & Chili will be served on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. Please consider helping by signing up to donate food. Thank you.

**Faith and Family Night** – Please join us for our next Faith and Family night on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-7:00pm. We'll have dinner together, followed by an Epiphany themed scavenger hunt. Families with children of all ages are invited, and we'd love to see both new and returning families. A sign-up sheet is available near the fellowship hall.

**The St. John Youth Group** is invited to ice skating fun with St. John school PTF. Sat, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 4:30- 6:30pm at UI Ice Arena. No charge for admission or skate rental just bring money for concessions. Meet at Ice Arena. Sign up outside church office or RSVP to Vanessa (call or text) 630-672-5001.

**Un-decorating the Sanctuary** – We could use your help on Saturday morning, January 6<sup>th</sup>, to help take down and put away the church's Christmas decorations. Many hands will make the job go quickly. We'll get started at 9:00am.

**This Week at St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb Preschool** – Dec. 18-24: Monday – Ram Rebate Orders Due, 3p, E.A.T. @ Chipotle on Anthony Drive and Prospect Ave, 4-8p; Tuesday – St. John Christmas Program, 6p; Wednesday – Chapel, 8:10a - bring offering for Marta's Mission, Little Lamb Christmas Program on Wednesday, 10:30a, Advent Services, 3:30p & 7:15p; Thursday – Ram Rebate Pick up, All School Hymn Sing, 1p; Friday – No School – Christmas break begins

**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:

Review: The Ten Commandments

The First Commandment – You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?* We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

The Second Commandment – You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

The Third Commandment – Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

The Fourth Commandment – Honor your father and your mother.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

The Fifth Commandment – You shall not murder.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

Hymn 347 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* (st. 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 – Matthew 2:1-12