



St. John Lutheran Church and School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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School Principal: Cheryl Black

Divine Service III with Holy Communion

**stand as you are able*

Page

Prelude – (8:00) “ <i>Advent Prelude</i> ”	Callahan
(10:45) “ <i>Once He Came in Blessing</i> ”	Behnke
Hymn <i>Arise, O Christian People</i>	354
*Invocation, Confession, Absolution	184
*Introit	dated insert
*Kyrie	186
*Salutation & Collect	189
First Reading	
(8:00) “ <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> ”	Mixed Choir
(10:45) Gradual	dated insert
Epistle Reading	
*Alleluia	190
*Gospel Reading	
*Nicene Creed	191
Hymn <i>Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding</i>	345
Sermon “ <i>Using the Powerful Word</i> ” John 1:6-8, 19-28	
*Offertory	192
Gathering of Tithes and Offering	
(8:00) “ <i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i> ”	Mixed Choir
(10:45) “ <i>Advent Prelude</i> ”	Callahan
*Prayers	193
*Service of the Sacrament	194
Communion Hymns – 349, 563, (346), 333	
*Nunc Dimittis	199
*Thanksgiving	200
*Prayer and Benediction	201
Postlude – “ <i>Nun komm der heiden Heiland</i> ”	Bach

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 – Kurt, Dan, Nick, Jeremy; 10:45 – Bryce, Matt, Chris, Mike. **Ushers:** 8:00 – AJ & Everett; 10:45 – Eli & Noah. **Instrumentalist:** Randy-clarinet.

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 and family in memory of mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother Nellie Zahrndt. We also remember the following people in our prayers: *for peace and comfort:* Nancy and family at the death of her mother Wanda; *for healing and recovery:* Keith, Merv, Judy, Jim, Kaylianna, Robin, Karla, Charlene, Brian, Teresa, Barbara, John, Hendricks, Maria Stifnos, Rebecca, Roy, Todd, Brett; *for successful treatments:* Kevin, Susan, Dan, Nancy, Barb, Luke, Earl, Linda, Joan, Jeanette, Nancy; *for our college students:* John, Brian; *for those in the military:* Nick D, Nick F, Andy, Brandon, Zachary, David; *for our homebound:* Alice, Gilbert.

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; 12:00 Instrumentalist Rehearsal; 3:30 Christmas Caroling
Tuesday	10:00 Adult Bible Class
Wednesday	8:10 Chapel; 3:30 Advent Service; 5:45 Midweek; 6:00 Handbells; 7:15 Advent Service
Thursday	6:00 Mixed & Men’s Choirs
Sunday	<i>4th Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve</i> ; 9:00 Holy Communion; 3:00 Family Service; 5:00 Family Service; 10:00 Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve Instrumentalist/Choir Rehearsals – Today, following the 10:45am service, there will be a rehearsal for all instrumentalists who will be playing for the services on Christmas Eve. Wednesday, 12/20 – 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal; Thursday, 12/21 – 6:00 – Men's & Mixed Choir Rehearsal.

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

Advent Dinners – The meal, to be served this Wednesday, December 20th will be lasagna served by the school board. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board near the church office to bring food items we need. Come and enjoy these delicious dinners along with some great fellowship. We hope to see you there.

Lifelight is back. Join us as we study the Gospel of Mark, a 9-week Bible study that take us into Lent. You can join us Wednesday evenings at 5:45pm or Thursday mornings at 10:00am. Classes start January 17th and 18th. To sign up, look for our table in the overflow or contact Matt, Donna or Bill.

LWML will be holding their annual Soup Supper on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm. You are invited to join us for a devotion, short business meeting, plus food, fun, and fellowship. Mark your calendars now and do plan to attend. For further information, please contact Donna E or Linda. Looking forward to seeing you at this event.

Stewardship Corner - Philippians 4:6 – "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Paul puts two things in opposition to each other: anxiety and prayer. So, trade your worries for prayers. You have a Father who loves you and desires to hear your prayers and bless you.

EDUCATION HOUR TODAY

Sunday School Christmas Program – The Christmas Program will be presented by the Preschool - 8th grade children today during the Sunday School hour. We look forward to their message.

Sunday Adult Bible Class – Pastor’s Sunday Bible Class will not meet on December 17th or December 24th. We look forward to meeting again on December 31st.

Poinsettias for Christmas – Please turn in your poinsettia forms by tomorrow. Poinsettias can be purchased for \$10 each and can be given in memory or in honor of someone. Thank you.

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.

Tuesday/Wednesday Bible Class will not be meeting on December 26th or January 2nd. We will see you again on Wednesday, January 10th at 10:00am.

2024 Altar Flower Chart – The Altar Flower Chart is available in the overflow. Please print your name and leave a number for the Altar Guild Ladies to contact you. Thank you.

December/January Deadlines – Please send any last minute announcements to the church office by Monday, December 18th. Deadlines for December and January have been moved up to ensure everything is completed on time.

School Christmas Program – Thank you to everyone who attended the school Christmas program last Tuesday. What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Merry Christmas from St. John Lutheran School Teachers and Staff – We wish everyone the happiest season of joy as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior. St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb Preschool will be closed Thursday, December 21st through Wednesday, January 3rd. School resumes on Thursday, Jan. 4th. The school office will be closed during this time as well.

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 (1-5)

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 387 *Joy to the World*

Psalm 147:12-20

Bible Readings for the Week:

The Flight into Egypt – Matthew 2:13-15

The Slaughter of the Holy Innocents – Matthew 2:16-23

The Boy Jesus in the Temple – Luke 2:41-52