



**St. John Lutheran Church and School**

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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School Principal – Jonathan Kamin

<b>Divine Service III with Holy Communion</b>	<b>Page</b>
<i>*stand as you are able</i>	
(8:00) Prelude – <i>An Advent Prelude</i>	Callahan
(10:45) Prelude – <i>Tocatta on “Veni Emmanuel”</i>	Hailstork
<b>Hymn</b> <i>Savior of the Nations, Come</i>	<b>332</b>
*Invocation, Confession, Absolution	184
*Introit	dated insert
*Kyrie	186
*Salutation & Collect	189
First Reading	
(8:00) <i>Comfort, Comfort Ye My People</i>	Men’s Choir
(10:45) Gradual	dated insert
Epistle Reading	
*Alleluia	190
*Gospel Reading	
*Nicene Creed	191
<b>Hymn</b> <i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	<b>357</b>
(sts. 2&5 men; sts. 3&6 women)	
Sermon “ <i>Almost There</i> ” Matthew 1:18-25	
*Offertory	192
Gathering of Tithes and Offering	
(8:00) <i>People, Look East</i>	Men’s Choir
(10:45) <i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	Near
*Prayers	193
*Service of the Sacrament	194
<b>Communion Hymns – 343, 356, 359</b>	
*Nunc Dimittis	199
*Thanksgiving	200
*Prayer and Benediction	201
Postlude – <i>Nun komm der heiden Heiland</i>	Bach

**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 – Nick, Dan, Andy, Todd; 10:45 – Mark, Chris, Jim, Jim. **Ushers:** 8:00 – Charlie & Jack; 10:45 – Jordan & Noah. **Instrumentalists:** Lou Ann, oboe; 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 our mother, grandmother and great grandmother Nellie Zahrndt. We also remember the following people in our prayers: *hospitalized:* Rachel; *following surgery:* Sherry; *for healing and recovery:* Mimi, 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:* Lexie, Noah, Nadia; *for those in the military:* Nick, Andy, Brandon, Zachary, David; *for our homebound:* Lola, Alice.

For requests for the prayer chain or to be added to the chain: <http://stjohnmedia.org/church/PrayerList.html>

**Baptism –** Lainey Wren was baptized on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Lainey was born on August 20, 2022 to Kyle & Andrea. Her sponsors are Andrew & Elizabeth. We welcome Lainey into the Lord’s Family!

## **OUR WEEK AHEAD**

<b>Today</b>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:45 Sunday School Christmas Program; 10:45 Holy Communion; 12:00 Handbells; 3:30 Christmas Caroling
<b>Wednesday</b>	3:30 Advent Service; 5:30 Handbells; 7:15 Advent Service
<b>Saturday</b>	<i>Christmas Eve</i> ; 3:00 Family Service; 5:00 Family Service; 7:15 Holy Communion; 10:00 Candlelight Service
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>Christmas Day</i> ; 10:00 Holy Communion

**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.

**Music Rehearsals** – Rehearsal at noon today will be just for the adult singing choirs. Handbells will rehearse this Wednesday at 5:30pm. Singing choirs rehearsal on Thursday to be determined.

**Tuesday/Wednesday Bible Class** will not be meeting the next two weeks (December 20<sup>th</sup> and December 27<sup>th</sup>).

**Advent Meal** – Fellowship Board will be hosting the last Advent dinner on December 21<sup>st</sup> in between services. Menu is sloppy joes, hot dogs, chips & dessert. Please come and join us in fellowship. Merry Christmas.

**Office Email** – The church office email address is churchoffice - at - stjohn-lcms.church. Please add this new email into your email address book and remove the old address to make sure the Office receives your emails.

**Christmas Service Schedule** – *Christmas Eve Services*: 3:00 & 5:00pm Family Service, 7:15pm Divine Service with Holy Communion, and 10:00pm Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service. *Christmas Day Service*: 10:00am Holy Communion Service (there is no evening service). There will be no evening service on Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. New Year's Eve Service will be at 7:15pm. Epiphany Service will be at 7:15pm on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

**E.A.T. Night @ Hickory River** – The next E.A.T Night will be on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm. Hickory River (3514 Fields S. Dr., Champaign) is donating 15% of total sales back to the St. John Lutheran School PTF. Dine-In, carry out, and drive thru are all included. Flyers are needed and available on the narthex table and on the school website [www.stjohnls.com](http://www.stjohnls.com). Thank you for your continued support of these events.

## **EDUCATION HOUR TODAY**

**Sunday School Christmas Program** – The Christmas Program will be presented by the Preschool - 8<sup>th</sup> grade children during the Sunday School hour today. Please join us.

**Sunday Adult Bible Class** – Pastor's Sunday Bible Class will not be meeting December 18<sup>th</sup> or December 25<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**2023 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.

**LWML** – All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend the January 17, 2023 LWML soup supper at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will also consist of a devotion and short business meeting. A signup sheet may be posted by the main office. Further information will be made available as the actual meeting date approaches.

**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 1:18-25: At first, Joseph had trouble believing that the Holy Spirit was directly involved with Mary's pregnancy. He planned to divorce her quietly until an angel of the Lord came to assure him that Mary would bear a Son and he was to give this special Child the name "Jesus" because He will save His people from their sins. What a blessed privilege we have to share the Good News of Jesus for the salvation of many people. By just sharing the truth of His name, you are sharing God's plan to save us from the slavery of sin, the wretchedness of the devil, the defeat of the grave and the challenges of the sinful flesh. It's all in a name. It's all in Jesus – the reason for the season.

**Education & Edification** – Issues, Etc. is a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's interview topics include: The Movie "Avatar," Marriage Enrichment, Looking Forward to Christmas Sunday, Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter and more. You can listen on-demand at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

**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 384 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Psalm 147:12-20

Bible Readings for the Week:

The Flight into Egypt – Matthew 2:13-15

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

Simeon and Anna Receive the Christ Child – Luke 2:41-52