



Symbols of Salvation: Foretelling Christ's Birth
Advent Midweek Service 4

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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. Sunday bulletins with announcements are available on the narthex table.

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:** Alicia Haggin. **Elders:** 3:30 – Dan & Matt; 7:15 – Joe & Harold.

Advent Dinner – There will be no Advent dinner tonight.

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 29th. New Year's Eve Service will be at 7:15pm. There will be no evening service on Wednesday, January 5th. Epiphany Service will be at 7:15pm on Thursday, January 6th.

2022 Contribution Envelopes are available on the table in the hallway near the fellowship hall, please stop by and pick yours up. If you do not see your envelopes, please contact the church office.

2022 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.

E.A.T. Night Update- Many thanks to all who picked up a Pronto Pack or bought a gift card from Biaggi's this past Monday. Our church and school community once again impressed the restaurant with sales of \$2,000 in just 4 hours. St. John Lutheran School PTF will receive \$200 from this amount. Your support of these nights has resulted in over \$2,500 raised in the second half of 2021. These funds will go directly back to students and teachers for classroom enhancements and family fellowship. PTF wishes all of our church and school families a Merry Christmas and happy dining in 2022.

Tuesday/Wednesday Bible Class will not meet December 28th.

The Church and School Offices will be closed December 27th, 2021 through January 3rd, 2022.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the
spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in
battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his
shoulder,

and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of
peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his
kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Epistle Reading: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us
to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions,
and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly

lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our
blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our
great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave
himself for us to redeem us from all
lawlessness and to purify for himself a people
for his own possession who are zealous for
good works.

Holy Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent
from God to a city of Galilee
named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a
man whose name was Joseph, of the house of
David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And
he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored
one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was
greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to
discern what sort of greeting this might
be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be
afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with
God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your
womb and bear a son, and you shall call his
name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be
called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord
God will give to him the throne of his father
David, ³³and he will reign over the house of
Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be
no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How
will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the
angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will
come upon you, and the power of the Most
High will overshadow you; therefore the child
to be born will be called holy—the Son of
God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in
her old age has also conceived a son, and this
is the sixth month with her who was called
barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with
God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the
servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to
your word." And the angel departed from her.