



**St. John Lutheran Church and School**  
 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
 Reverend Jeff Caithamer  
 Interim School Principal: Faith Block

**Divine Service IV with Holy Communion**

*\*stand as you are able*

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Prelude – <i>“Veni, Emmanuel”</i>	
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Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Jeff Caithamer

**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 – Organist:** Mark Dirksen. **Elders:** Dave, Kendall, & Robert.  
**Greeters:** Andy & Cindy Jones.

**OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY –** The altar flowers are given today by Tom to the Glory of Our Savior. The Radio Ministry is sponsored today by Tom & Eunice in honor of their 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 27<sup>th</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:* Jason -grandson of Lois; Joan, Jeannette, Connie -sister in law of Linda, Nancy, Maxine, Ken; *for those in the military:* Mitchell, Heath, 1LT Taylor, Andy, Christopher, Brandon, Suzzanna, Ben, Allyson, Tom; *for our homebound:* Jim, Mary, Bob & Alice.

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

**Bible Class & Sunday School** will not meet today. Classes will resume Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Christmas Service Schedule –** Please join us for Christmas Eve services tonight at 5pm (Family Service) and 10pm (Candlelight Service). Our Christmas Day service is at 10am with Holy Communion.

**New Year's Eve Day –** We will have our regular Sunday Worship Services at 8:00am and 10:45am with Bible Class and Sunday School at 9:30am. We will have a New Year's Eve Evening Service at 7:15pm with Holy Communion.

**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>.

**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.

**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 Carmichael, Matt Kaufman, or Neil Anderson.

**Thank You** – The family of Darlene Martin wish to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for all of the prayers, cards, and memorials offered on behalf of our mother. We also wish to deeply thank all those who prepared food for the wonderful luncheon, and the faithful ladies who served it. Though we are saddened by mom's death, we rejoice in the truth that she is at rest in our Lord and Savior.

**New Fire Alarm/Security System** – The 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**

**Today** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent; Christmas Eve; 9:00 Holy Communion; 5:00 Family Service; 10:00 Candlelight Service

**Monday** Christmas Day; 10:00 Holy Communion (*Church Office Closed Dec. 23-Jan. 1*) (*Day School Christmas Break Dec. 22- Jan. 8*)

**Wednesday** *There will be NO service this evening*

**Sunday** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas; New Year's Eve; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion; 7:15 New Year's Eve Service

**Merry Christmas** from the St. John Lutheran School Teachers and Staff. We wish everyone the happiest season of joy as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Our Savior.

**Tuesday/Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Class** will not meet December 26<sup>th</sup> or January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Class will resume on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**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.

**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.

**Coming Up at St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb Preschool:** PTF Ice Skating party, UI Ice Arena, Saturday January 6<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-6:30p; E.A.T. @ Panera, Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-8:00p; Pasta Dinner and Talent Show, Friday January 19<sup>th</sup>, 5p-8p

**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.

**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 Sixth Commandment – You shall not commit adultery.

The Seventh Commandment – You shall not steal.

The Eighth Commandment – You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

The Ninth Commandment – You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

The Tenth Commandment – You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*(meanings can be found on pgs. 12-13 in Luther's Small Catechism)*

Hymn 387 *Joy to the World*

Psalm 147:12-20

Bible Readings for the Week:

The Flight into Egypt – Matthew 2:23-15

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

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