

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 24, 2023

9:00am



St. John Lutheran Church and School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeff Caithamer

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School Principal: Cheryl Black

Divine Service IV with Holy Communion	Page
<i>*stand as you are able</i>	
Prelude – “ <i>Veni Emmanuel</i> ”	Near
Hymn <i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	338
*Invocation, Confession, Absolution	203
*Introit	dated insert
*Kyrie	204
*Salutation & Collect	205
First Reading	
Gradual	dated insert
Epistle Reading	
*Alleluia and Verse	205
*Holy Gospel Reading	
*Apostles’ Creed	207
Hymn <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	357
Sermon “ <i>What Did the Angel Say?</i> ” Luke 1:26-38	
*Prayers	207
Gathering of Tithes and Offering	
“ <i>Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming</i> ”	Brahms
*Service of the Sacrament	208
Communion Hymns – 356, 337, (855 sts. 1,8,3,4), 383	
*Nunc Dimittis	211
*Post-Communion Collect	212
*Benedicamus and Benediction	212
Postlude – “ <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> ”	Lovelace

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:** Phil, Steve, Dan, Mike. **Ushers:** Peter & Lucas.

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 Mark & Cheryl in celebration of Christmas. We also remember the following people in our prayers: *for peace & comfort:* Esther and family at the death of her husband Keith; *for healing and recovery:* Elena-granddaughter of Steve & Susie, Gary, Lois, Merv, Judy, Jim, Kaylianna, Robin, Karla, Charlene, Brian, Teresa, Barbara, John, Hendricks, Maria, 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>4th Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve</i> ; 9:00 Holy Communion; 3:00 Family Service; 5:00 Family Service; 10:00 Candlelight Service
Monday	<i>Christmas Day</i> ; 10:00 Holy Communion
Tuesday	<i>Church & School Offices Closed 12/26-1/1</i>
Wednesday	<i>No Evening Service</i>
Sunday	<i>1st Sunday after Christmas/New Years Eve</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion; 7:15 Holy Communion

Service Schedule – December 24th - *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.

Office Hours – The Church Office will be closed December 26th-January 1st. We will resume normal office hours on January 2nd.

Advent Dinners – Thank you to all who enjoyed the Advent dinners and donated items. The money raised will go toward the St. John 6th & 7th grade class trip. We really appreciate your support and generosity.

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.

Open House – We will be hosting a Community Open House for Little Lamb Preschool and St. John Lutheran School on Tuesday, January 30th, 5:00-7:00pm. Prospective families will have an opportunity to meet our teachers, see the classrooms, and ask questions about our school. Please invite friends, neighbors, family members, or anyone else who may be interested in sending their child to St. John this upcoming school year.

EDUCATION HOUR TODAY

There will be no Adult Bible Class or Sunday School today.

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 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.

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

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.

Hat and Mitten Tree – Thank you to all who donated hats, mittens, scarves, etc... We collected 93 total items: 42 hats, 46 pairs of mittens/gloves, 4 scarves and 1 pair of earmuffs. A donation of a \$250 gift card from Thrivent will be used to purchase additional items. Thank you for your generosity.

National Lutheran School Week – Mark your calendars for NLSW, scheduled for January 21-28. More information about the exciting celebration will be coming in January.

Pasta Dinner – Join us for a great evening of food and fellowship on Friday, January 26, 5:30-7:00. The 7th & 8th grade classes are hosting a dinner to raise funds for their class trip in April 2024. Desserts will be available at the Live and Silent Auction. Tickets will be available in January and may be purchased in the school office or at the door.

St. John Lutheran School Talent Show – Friday, January 26, (following the Pasta Dinner) - Do you have a special talent? Want to sing a song, perform a silly skit, or play a musical instrument? If you would like to perform in the talent show, please fill out a form (one per act) and return it to the school office no later than Thursday, January 11. Registration forms are available on the Parent Portal and in the school office. Acts should be God-pleasing, should run no longer than 3-4 minutes and must be approved by the Talent Show Committee.

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 (6-10)

The Sixth Commandment – You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

The Seventh Commandment – You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

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

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

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

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

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.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Hymn 387 *Joy to the World*

Psalm 43

Bible Readings for the Week:

John the Baptist Prepares the Way of the Lord – Matthew 3:1-12

The Baptism of Our Lord – Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17