



**St. John Lutheran Church and School**

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeff Caithamer

Interim School Principal: Faith Block

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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:** 8:00 – Kurt, Dave & Robert. 10:45 – Larry, Terry, Dan & Matt.

**OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY** – The altar flowers are given today by Jim & Jennifer in honor of Zowie's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 30<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, Taylor, Andy, Christopher, Brandon, Suzzanna -, Ben, Allyson, Tom; *for our homebound:* LaVonne, Mavis, Floyd, & Helen.

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

**Please Join Us** for our New Year's Eve Service tonight at 7:15pm.

**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>.

**Fifth Sunday** - This is the fifth Sunday of the month and we will be taking an offering following both services this morning for all students studying to be church workers.

## **EDUCATION HOUR TODAY**

**Adult Bible Class** – Pastor Caithamer, fellowship hall

**Sunday School Opening** will be in the Sanctuary for 1<sup>st</sup> Grade - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. 3 and 4 year olds and Kindergarten meet in room 4C. We begin at 9:30. Come and join us!

1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Room 4A	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Room 2B
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Room 1C	High School	Youth Room
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Room 4B		

**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.

**The Nominating Committee** members are Kurt, Tony, Dan, John and Mike, working with Pastor Caithamer and Matt to develop a slate of officer candidates for 2018. If you're interested in serving in church office in the coming year, please feel free to speak with any of them. Thanks to all the committee members for helping out.

**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, Matt, or Neil.

**Fire Alarm/Security System** – 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.

**This Week at St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb Preschool** – Jan. 1-7: Thursday – BBB Varsity @ St. Thomas, Philo, 6pm; Saturday – Ice Skating party @ UI Ice Arena, 4:30-6:30pm

**Pasta Dinner** - Friday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm – Join us for a great evening of food and fellowship. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade class is hosting the dinner to raise funds for their class trip to Gettysburg and Washington, DC next fall. The meal includes penne with marinara, meatball, breadsticks, and salad. Desserts will be available at the Live and Silent Auction. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets may be purchased from a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student, in the school office or at the door.

**Desserts for Pasta Dinner** – If you would like to donate a dessert for the dessert auction during the Pasta Dinner, there is a sign-up sheet by the school office or contact Kim or the school office.

**St. John Lutheran School Talent Show**, Friday Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (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 Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Entry forms are on the Narthex table. Acts should run no longer than 3-4 minutes and must be approved by the Talent Show Committee.

## OUR WEEK AHEAD

<b>Today</b>	<i>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</i>
<b>Monday</b>	<i>New Year's Day; Church Office Closed</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>5:30 Fellowship Board; 6:00 Trustees; 6:30 School Board</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>Epiphany Observed; 7:15 Holy Communion</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>12:30 Widow's Group</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<i>5:30 Faith &amp; Family Night</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	<i>Epiphany; 9:00 Un-decorating the Sanctuary; 4:30 PTF Ice Skating Party</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>Baptism of Our Lord; 8:00 Holy Communion (Alleluia Ringers); 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion</i>

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

**Widow's Group** will meet Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30pm at Arby's on Springfield Ave.

**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.

**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.

**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 (call or text).

**E.A.T. @ Panera** – The January E.A.T. night will be at Panera on Kirby Ave. on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 4-8pm. Panera is giving back 20% of our purchases. Bring in the flier or show it on your smart phone to make sure that 20% of the proceeds will be donated to St. John Lutheran School. Fliers are available on the Narthex table. Panera Gift Cards (\$10) are available through Ram Rebate. See you there.

**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.

**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:

The Lord's Prayer

The Sixth Petition – And lead us not into temptation.

*What does this mean?* God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Bible Passage: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

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