

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023

8:00 & 10:45am



St. John Lutheran Church and School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeff Caithamer

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School Principal: Cheryl Black

Divine Service II with Holy Communion	Page
<i>*stand as you are able</i>	
Prelude – “Regent Square”	Thalben-Ball
Hymn <i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i>	367
*Invocation, Confession, Absolution	167
*Introit	dated insert
*Kyrie	blue insert
*Hymn of Praise	blue insert
*Salutation & Collect	172
First Reading	
Gradual	dated insert
Epistle Reading	
*Alleluia and Verse	173
*Gospel Reading	
Hymn <i>Let All Together Praise the Lord</i>	389
Sermon “ <i>Fulfilling the Law for the Sake of the Gospel</i> ”	
	Luke 2:22-40
*Apostles’ Creed	175
*Prayers	175
Gathering of Tithes and Offering	
“ <i>O Jesus Christ Thy Manger Is</i> ”	Kosche
*Offertory	176
*Service of the Sacrament	177
*Sanctus	blue insert
*Agnus Dei	blue insert
Communion Hymns – 358, (546, 374), 372	
* Post Communion Hymn <i>From Heaven Above...</i> (st.1)	358
*Collect and Benediction	183
Postlude – “ <i>Lobt Gott, ihr Christen</i> ”	Bach

Communion Hymns 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:** 8:00 – Kurt, Dan, Dan, Nick; 10:45 – Jeremy, Harold, Mike, Phil. **Ushers:** 8:00 – Lucas & Eli; 10:45 – Jordan & Nick.

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 Harold in memory of parents Harold & Annie and brother Gerald. We also remember the following people in our prayers: *for peace and comfort:* Andy & Cindy at the death of Andy’s brother Dan; *for healing and recovery:* Elena-granddaughter of Steve & Susie, Gary, Lois, Judy, Jim, Kaylianna, Robin, Karla, Charlene, Brian, Teresa, Barbara, John, Hendricks, Maria, Merv, Rebecca, Roy, Todd, Brett; *for successful treatments:* Kevin Brnt, Susan, Dan, Nancy, Barb, Luke, Earl, Linda, Joan, Jeanette, Nancy; *for our college students:* Charlie, Margaret; *for those in the military:* Nick D, Nick F, Andy, Brandon, Zachary, David; *for our homebound:* Lola, Lavina.

Fifth Sunday Door Offering – Today is the fifth Sunday of the month and we will be taking a door offering following both services this morning for all current and future students studying to be church workers.

OUR WEEK AHEAD

Today	<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
Monday	<i>New Years Day; Church Office Closed</i>
Tuesday	6:00 Trustees
Wednesday	7:15 Holy Communion
Thursday	<i>School Resumes</i>
Saturday	9:00 Church Undecorating
Sunday	<i>Epiphany (Obs.)</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion

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

E.A.T. Night @ Panera - The January E.A.T. night will be at Panera on Kirby Ave. on Monday, January 8, 4-8pm. Bring in the flyer or show it on your smart phone to make sure that 20% of the proceeds will be donated to St. John Lutheran School. Flyers are available on the narthex table and on the school website. Flyers will also be sent home with students. Panera Gift Cards (\$25) are available in the school office through Ram Rebate. See you there.

Church Undecorating – Please consider helping us undecorate the church. We will meet Saturday, January 6th at 9am in the overflow. Many hands make the work go quickly. Thank you.

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

Adult Bible Class – led by Pastor Caithamer in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday School – Kindergarten-High School will start out in the Sanctuary for opening, and then go to their respective classrooms. Preschool will have opening in their own classroom.

3/4yrs Room 4C

4th-5th

Band Room

K-1st Art Room

6th-8th

Conference Room

2nd-3rd Room 4B

High School Youth Room

Tuesday/Wednesday Bible Class will not be meeting on 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.

Poinsettias – Please leave the plastic clear plates when you pick up a poinsettia. They are reused every year. Thank you.

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 soon.

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:

The Lord's Prayer

The Seventh Petition – But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

The Conclusion – For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean? This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

Bible Verse: The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29

Hymn 367 *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (sts. 1&2)

Psalm 67

Bible Readings for the Week:

Behold the Lamb of God – John 1:19-34

Nicodemus Comes to Jesus by Night – John 3:1-16

The Woman at the Well – John 4:1-26, 39-42

The Pool of Bethesda – John 5:2-15