

Welcome

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY FUND SUNDAY

"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR"

APRIL 14, 2024



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church

Grounded • Growing • Branching

Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church

Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! It is an honor to have you worshiping with us this morning and we pray that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness!

At St. John's we are pleased to offer two styles of worship services on Sunday morning. In our 8:30 a.m. traditional service, we offer familiar hymns and rich, traditional worship forms in a meaningful and inspirational setting. Our 11:00 a.m. contemporary service includes the same message as our 8:30 a.m. service, but in an informal style, enhanced with contemporary music. We encourage you to try both worship styles! Thank you for worshiping with us; we would love to have you join us again!

(If you need assistance or need a hearing aid device, please see one of the ushers.)

Contact Us

2727 North Union Boulevard, Decatur, IL 62526

Phone: (217) 875-3656; website: www.stjohnsdecatur.com

Church office hours: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday

Members of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod & Unity Christian School



St. John's Staff

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Unity Christian School Faculty & Staff – Members of St. John's Lutheran Church

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Stephanie Wilkerson

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY FUND SUNDAY

April 14, 2024

Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, Branching to Others

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

RINGING OF THE BELLS

OPENING SONG

Amazing Grace

LSB 744

INVOCATION

CONFESSION OF SIN AND JESUS' FORGIVENESS

L: Brothers and sisters in Christ, today we hear from Jesus the greatest of commandments: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Recognizing our failure to keep these commandments, let us confess our sin and plead to God for help.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

L: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my own but is God's forgiveness?

C: Yes.

L: Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

Micah 6:6-8

⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 12:28-34

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the twelfth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung)

²⁸And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” ²⁹Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’ ³⁰And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³²And the scribe said to him, “You

are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him.³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (*sung*)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Adam Ray

SERMON SONG

In Christ Alone

SERMON

"Love Thy Neighbor"

Mark 12:28-34

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at
www.stjohnsdecatour.com/giving.*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The Leader will conclude every prayer with: "Lord, in Your mercy"

People respond with: "hear our prayer"

LORD'S PRAYER

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY FUND

Angel Lawrence/Paul Lidy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

How Great Thou Art

LSB 801

POSTLUDE

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	AJ Clapp
Lay Minister	Drew Miller
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	Rick Laskowski/Gary Schwartzle
Computer	Brandon Patzwitz
Live Stream	Lindsay Tipsword
Camera	Eric Brown
Sound	Doug Hicks
Piano	Ted Hesse

OUR MISSION We are restored to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus. As a family of Christians, we are dedicated to the love and forgiveness of Christ as we reach out, preach and teach the truth of God's Word to each other, our community and the world.

IN NEED OF PRAYER: If you would like to be added to the prayer list or the prayer chain, please contact the church office. Please call the prayer chain with an update of your prayer request.

IN THE MILITARY: Laura Byers, Bryon Chaney, Kimberly Chaney, Kristel Chaney, Travis Chaney, Dan Cheney, Tristin Comer, Randy Edwards, Caleb Goodson, Austin Highcock, Braden Highcock, Destiny Little, Noah Lung, Nathan Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Goodson, Tyler Salefski, Jacob Thornell

CONGREGATION NEWS

Today is Northeast Community Fund Sunday. NECF will have a presentation with refreshments at 10:45 a.m. Please come and hear what NECF is doing for the community and what we can do for NECF.

There will be a table in the back of the sanctuary for collection of non-perishable food items and monetary donations for Northeast Community Fund.

Service Connect Night is tonight starting at 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. There will be stations to make fleece blankets for Growing Strong, birthday bags for NECF, stuffing back packs for Webster Cantrel Hall, and coloring/making placemats for the nursing homes. This is for all ages. Come and enjoy refreshments, games, and fun fellowship.

Ladies Friendship Circle will meet in the fellowship hall at 1:00 on Tuesday, April 16th. The program will be a representative from the Park District who will tell us about their programs for senior citizens. The District offers indoor and outdoor opportunities for both active and sedentary seniors at different times of the day throughout the year.

Save the date! On May 21 we will take a field trip to the Millikin Home. A spring field trip is a popular activity and the more the merrier!

Good Samaritan Inn: St. John's will host the noon meal at Good Samaritan Inn on Sunday, April 21st. Volunteers are appreciated. If you are interested, please call the church office so we know to expect you. The menu will be grilled hot dogs/buns, baked beans, chips, fresh fruit (apples/oranges/bananas) and a dessert. We are looking for **cookie donations** for the dessert. If you are willing to help, please call the church office. Please have the cookies to the church by the end of the early service on 4/21/2024. You can leave them in the kitchen.

Blood Drive: St John's is sponsoring a blood drive in the Fellowship Hall from 12:00 to 5:00 PM on April 30, 2024. Donors will receive instructions about claiming a gift card from one of the following: Amazon, Walmart,

Starbucks, Target, Home Depot, Lowe's, or Subway. Sign up after the 8:30 or before the 11 am services on 4/7, 4/14 or 4/21. Other sign-up options include ImpactLife at 800-747- 5401 or online at www.bloodcenter.org. Please bring a photo ID. ImpactLife is the sole supplier of blood to DMH and St. Mary's. The need is real. Please consider a donation.

The Properties Team is looking to fill the position of Cemetery Caretaker. This position is responsible for the basic upkeep of the grounds of the St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery from April thru October, and should require no more than (16) hours per week. If you're interested, a full job description is available in the Church Office or you can speak with Del Gross or Gary Schwartzle.

Hanging Baskets Youth Fundraiser: The youth are selling Hanging Flower Baskets in time for Mother's Day. Cost is \$32.00. Pick-up an order form on the back table of the sanctuary or in the church office. Deadline is Monday, May 6th. Proceeds benefit St. John's Youth. Flowers will be delivered Wednesday, May 8th.

"It's Spring Cleaning Season! Students at Your Service are here to help! Your donation will go toward the student's summer mission trip to South Dakota. From yard work, deep cleaning, dog walking, painting and more our students are ready to serve. Call the Church office to get a project set up. Talk to Angela Cushing if you have any further questions."

STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: John 10:14 – "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord: He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him, and in knowing Him, we learn to imitate Him. That is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord's grace.

The Unity Era Red & black Gala: Tickets are available now. The annual Dinner Auction is Friday, May 3! Please go to the Unity Christian School Facebook page for more information.

Musical Concert at Trinity Lutheran Church: Rachel Verseemann, Trinity’s organist, will have a concert senior recital on Saturday, April 27, 2024, 2:00pm at the church. She will play selections by various artists using her musical talents on the organ, piano, and clarinet. She may add an accompanist for some of her selections. A reception with light refreshments will follow the concert. Plan to attend this special concert and enjoy Rachel’s musical talents.

Last Week’s Giving

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$12,585.00
Online Giving	
Total Giving.....	\$12,585.00

Last Week’s Attendance

Traditional Service.....	98
Contemporary Service.....	52
Total	150
Wednesday Adult Bible Study.....	16

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

9:30 A.M. One Service for NECF Sunday
10:45 A.M. NECF Presentation and Reception (FH)
5:00-7:00 P.M. Service Connect Night (FH)

MONDAY, APRIL 15

6:30 P.M. Boy Scouts (FH)

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
1:00 P.M. Ladies Friendship Circle (FH)
6:30 P.M. Parish Planning Meeting (FH)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study (FH)

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

5:30 P.M. TOPS
6:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 P.M. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour (FH)
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
4-5:30 P.M. Confirmation Class (FH)
5:30-6 P.M. Share Meal
6:00 P.M. Jr. High Youth Groups