

Welcome

"ABIDE IN ME"

APRIL 28, 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

Rev. Adam Ray, Lead Pastor
pastoradam@stjohnsdecatur.com

Rev. Aaron Bird, Assoc. Pastor
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Jeff Miller, Custodian

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

<i>Ciara Collins</i>	<i>Anne Jesgarz</i>	<i>Angela Martinek</i>	<i>Jeff Salefski</i>
<i>Brenda Salogga</i>	<i>Melissa Saurmann</i>	<i>Stephanie Wilkerson</i>	

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, Branching to Others

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG

Come, Thou Almighty King

LSB 905

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES (*Psalm 66 & 40*)

L: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

C: Sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

L: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!

C: All the earth worships You and sings praises to Your name."

L: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

C: Who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Let us now turn to our gracious God with repentant hearts, humbling ourselves as we confess our sins to him...

C: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually broken Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit

that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance. Amen.

L: Brother and Sisters in Christ, may God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith. Let it be done for you as you believe: as a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore 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 *Acts 8:26-40*

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they

both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT

1 John 4:1-11

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

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

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Aaron Bird

SERMON HYMN

God Loves Me Dearly

LSB 392

SERMON

“Abide in Me”

John 15:1-8

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES’ CREED

OFFERING

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at
www.stjohnsdecatur.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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

LSB 691

POSTLUDE

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$6,815.25
Online Giving.....	\$2,283.31
Total Giving.....	\$9,098.56

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	133
11:00 a.m.	51
Total.....	184
Wednesday Adult Bible Study.....	19

FIFTH OF SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.

OPENING SONGS

All The Earth

There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-8

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Aaron Bird

SERMON

"Abide in Me"

John 15:1-8

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Who You Say I Am

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Steve Funk
Lay Minister	8:30 – Drew Miller 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Organist	Ted Hesse
Ushers	8:30 – David Vanskike 11:00 – Dan Murphey
Computer	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Allison Cushing
Live Stream	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera	11:00 – Eric Brown
Sound	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals.....	Melissa Saurmann, Pam Saurmann, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar	Mike Dahn
Piano.....	Angela Cushing

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

New Member Class: Are you interested in becoming a member of St. John's?! Join us for our New Member Class which will begin today. These classes are for all new members and will be held in the Lounge (across from Sanctuary) from 9:45-10:45am each Sunday for 8 weeks.

Please sign up on the sheet found on the back tables in the Sanctuary, by calling the church office (217-875-3656) or by e-mailing Georgia (office@stjohnsdecatour.com).

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.

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."

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

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 Gary Schwartzle.

Mite Boxes: Remember mite boxes are collected the first Sunday of every month at the back of the sanctuary. There are 31 grants being supported in 2023 and 2024. Ladies contact Brenda Salogga via email dnbsal@comcast.net or 217-429-9183 if interested in being included in St. John's LWML emails concerning our activities.

STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: James 1:17 – “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.” God is the source of all goodness. When we do good, therefore, we imitate Him and reflect His light to all the world. Christians give freely because God has first given so freely to us; we are only imitating our Father, growing up into His likeness.

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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour (FH)
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service

MONDAY, APRIL 29

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

12:00 – 5:00 P.M. Blood Drive (FH)
1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting (Conference Room)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

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

THURSDAY, MAY 2

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

FRIDAY, MAY 3

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, MAY 5

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 P.M. Share Dinner
6–8:00 P.M. Jr. High Youth Groups