

*Welcome*

***"Celebration of Discipline: Confession"***  
***March 17, 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.)*

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### **The Lord's Supper**

Though we are eager for all to participate fully in the Lord's Supper, we do not want to compromise any portion of God's Word among us. Because Scripture states that the Lord's Supper can be taken to one's spiritual harm if not properly understood, we ask all visitors to refer to the following statement of belief regarding the Lord's Supper before communing:

*I am truly sorry for the sin in my life. I am struggling to die to my sin and to live in faith in Jesus. I am looking to Jesus to empower me to stop my sinning and to live a new life in Him. I believe when I receive the bread, I am receiving the true body of Christ, and when I receive the wine, I am receiving the true blood of Jesus. I believe that when I receive His true body and blood my sins are forgiven, I am given power over sin, death and the devil, and the gift of eternal life. My faith is completely in the words of Jesus.*

The Lord's Supper offers the two-fold gift of forgiveness and peace with God on the one hand, and unity and oneness among those who commune together on the other hand (Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17). Those who receive the body and the blood of the Lord do so in terms of their relationship with God as well as with their fellow-communicants. Therefore, all baptized believers who understand and agree with the above Lutheran teaching of the Lord's Supper are welcome to attend. As always, we encourage you to speak with Pastor Ray or Pastor Aaron with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Disabled – The pastor and lay minister will gladly commune anyone unable to come to the communion rail. Let the pastor or an usher know before the service begins.

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
CONFESSION  
MARCH 17, 2024  
8:30 A.M.**

***Our Vision: Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, Branching to Others***

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER**

*Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! It truly is an honor to have you worshiping with us this morning and it is our prayer that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness! Thank you for worshiping with us; we would love to have you join us again!*

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME/GREETING OF ONE ANOTHER**

*Please take time to complete the appropriate side of the attendance registration cards. Once completed, pass the cards toward the center aisle. They will be collected during the offering.*

**OPENING SONG**

*I Lay My Sins on Jesus*

*LSB 606*

**INVOCATION**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

**L:** What a priest we have in Jesus!

**C:** **He is our source of eternal salvation.**

**L:** He sacrificed himself for us.

**C:** **Through Him we have forgiveness.**

**L:** He is the source of our salvation.

**C:** **What a priest we have in Jesus!**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**L:** Though Jesus is our great High Priest, we have lived as if we did not

need Him, as though our sin was not serious or deadly. Despite our self-centered failures, our heavenly Father is merciful, and because of Jesus, He invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence to ask for forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

L: Heavenly Father,

**C: we have sinned against our neighbors and against You. Pride, arrogance, and indifference have caused us to believe we often don't need You or Your grace. Forgive us, renew us, and humble us, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.**

L: Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into our world to be our great High Priest, who came to serve and offer His life as a ransom for us. Christ died and is risen for you. As a called and ordained servant of 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. Christ has sacrificed His life for us. We are forgiven.**

## **SALUTATION**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

## **LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

*New Testament*

*1 John 1:5-10*

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. <sup>6</sup>So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. <sup>9</sup>But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. <sup>10</sup>If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Luke 15:11-24*

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

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

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. (NIV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

**SERMON**

*Celebration of Discipline: Confession*  
*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **NICENE CREED**

## **OFFERING**

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

**PREFACE** (*responses sung*)

## **PROPER PREFACE**

**SANCTUS** (*sung*)

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

## **PAX DOMINI**

**AGNUS DEI** (*sung*)

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

*Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior*

*LSB 619*

*Your Table I Approach*

*LSB 628*

*Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing*

*LSB 421*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **SENDING SONG**

*Christ Sits at God's Right Hand (Vv. 1-5)*

*LSB 564*

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**CONFESSION**  
**MARCH 17, 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**

*Luke 15:11-24*

**SERMON**

*Celebration of Discipline: Confession*  
*Pastor Adam Ray*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

*Lord I Need You*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

*Who You Say I Am*

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader .....	Jill Davis
Communion Helper .....	8:30 – Dan Harrison 11:00 – Jeff Salefski
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Larry Westbrook 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Organist .....	Sharon Cripe
Ushers .....	8:30 – Brady Fawcett 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Serenity Calhoun
Computer .....	8:30 – Ted Hesse 11:00 – Allison Cushing
Live Stream .....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz
Camera .....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz
Sound .....	8:30 – Philip Johnson 11:00 – Steve Wright
Vocals .....	Melissa Saurmann, Pam Saurmann, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar .....	Wendy Salefski
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

### Outline for Sunday Lent Services: Celebration of Discipline Series:

#### Corporate

Mar 17 - Confession      Mar 24 - Celebration

**Voter's Meeting** during the education hour at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Lent Services** on Wed., Mar. 20th at 6:00 p.m. Lenten meal will begin at 5:00 p.m. The Communications Team will be preparing the meal of Lagondola sandwiches, potato salad, cole slaw, dessert.

#### **Holy Week Schedule**

Mar. 24th | Palm Sunday | 8:30 - Traditional & 11:00- Contemporary Service

9:45 a.m. Palm Sunday Breakfast for everyone.

Mar. 28th| Maundy Thursday Service | 6:00 p.m. w/Communion

Mar. 29th | Good Friday Service | 6:00 p.m.

Mar. 31st | Easter Service | 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service w/Communion

9:45 a.m. Coffee & Donuts in the Lounge

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service, w/Communion

**Breakfast:** Sun., Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday, Hospitality will be serving pancakes and bacon in the fellowship hall, between services starting at 9:45 a.m. Easter Sunday we will have donuts and coffee in the lounge between services.

**Ladies Friendship Circle** will be "Crafting for a Cause" on Tues., March 19. We will meet in the lounge at 1:00 to assemble lip balm butterflies for patients at the Cancer Care Center. We also will have devotions, food, and time to visit. Please join us for Christian fellowship and service for our neighbors.

**Take Home Easter Breakfast:** The youth will be making Egg Casseroles and Coffee Cakes for you to take home on Easter weekend. Order forms are on the back table and online. Deadline is Wednesday, March 27th. Don't miss out on these delicious dishes.

**“Egg Your Yard”** Youth Fundraiser! Youth will hide candy/treat filled eggs in your or a loved one’s yard on Easter Eve. Great idea for anyone wanting to surprise someone special. Order forms available on the back table or online. Deadline is Wednesday, March 27th.

**Easter Lily:** Envelopes are available if you wish to purchase a lily for the altar. Please indicate whom you would like in Memory or Honor of. Cost is \$20.00 and deadline is Sunday, March 24th.

**Communion Clean-Up:** Altar Guild is looking for more volunteers to help clean up communion. This usually takes less than one hour. Please contact Jill Davis, LuAnne Westbrook, or the church office.

**LWML** would like to thank everyone who came out for their Lenten dinner on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. We raised over \$300 to support the ministry of Deaconess Kim Buelmann in Germany,

**STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: *Genesis 22:2 – “He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.’”*** It’s hard for us to even fathom a faith as strong as Abraham’s — he follows the Lord’s Word even when it seems impossibly hard. But he does so because he knows that the Lord only means to bless. What happened here to Abraham should be an encouragement for us: trust the Lord and keep His Word.

**Unity Prayer Walk!** Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Meet in the cafeteria. Use Post-It notes from the school or your own, to write down your favorite scriptures to share with the students.

**The Unity Era Red & black Gala:** Mark your calendar for our Annual Dinner Auction, Friday, May 3! **Tickets will be available beginning March 18th.** Please go to the Unity Christian School Facebook page for more information.

**REMINDER.** If you are a Thrivent member and have not yet directed your choice dollars for 2023, the deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed .....	\$12,403.85
General Fund .....	\$10,454.00
Online Giving .....	\$734.82
Total Giving .....	\$11,188.82

**Last Week's Attendance**

Traditional Service. ....	117
Contemporary Service.....	59
Total.....	176
Wednesday Lent Service (3/13) .....	64

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, MARCH 17

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service

9:45 A.M. .... Voter's Meeting (FH)

11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service

### MONDAY, MARCH 18

6:30 P.M. .... Boy Scouts

### TUESDAY, MARCH 19

All Day .... General Election (FH)

1:00 P.M. .... Staff Meeting

1:00 P.M. .... Friendship Circle (Lounge)

6:00 P.M. .... Prayer Walk (Unity Christian School)

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

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

5:00 P.M. .... Lenten Meal Served (FH)

6:00 P.M. .... Lent Service

6:45 P.M. .... Bells Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, MARCH 21

4:15-6:30 P.M. .... Fellowship Hall Reserved

5:30 P.M. .... TOPS

6:00 P.M. .... Choir Rehearsal

7:00 P.M. .... Worship Practice

### FRIDAY, MARCH 22

No church activities scheduled.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 23

..... Boy Scouts clean-up leaves

### SUNDAY, MARCH 24

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service

9:45 A.M. .... Palm Sunday Breakfast (FH)

11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service