

*Welcome*

***Palm Sunday***

***"Celebration of Discipline: Celebration"***

***March 24, 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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### **Contact Us**

**2727 North Union Boulevard, Decatur, IL 62526**

**Phone: (217) 875-3656; website: [www.stjohnsdecatur.com](http://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](mailto:pastoradam@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Rev. Aaron Bird**, Assoc. Pastor

[pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Malinda Standerfer**, Dir. of Christian Ed

[dcemalinda@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:dcemalinda@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Ted Hesse**, Worship Music Director

[tedh@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:tedh@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Georgia Newman**, Office Manager

[georgian@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:georgian@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Carol Reynolds**, Financial Secretary

[carolr@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:carolr@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Jeff Miller**, Custodian

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

Ciara Collins

Anne Jesgarz

Angela Martinek

Jeff Salefski

Brenda Salogga

Melissa Saurmann

Stephanie Wilkerson

**PALM SUNDAY  
CELEBRATION  
MARCH 24, 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**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*Hosanna Loud Hosanna*

*LSB 443*

**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.*

**BAPTISM**

*Luca Delfino Ziegler*

**INVOCATION**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**L:** Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

**C:** **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna to the Son of David.**

**L:** On this day when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as King and Savior, we join with the inhabitants of Jerusalem, with loud shouts of hosanna and praise. The King is coming and we celebrate. But we also inwardly examine ourselves. As we come before the throne of our King, we pray that God would search our hearts and minds that we may

receive His Word, share in His Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with Him and with one another.

*We take a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.*

L: Lord Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray:

**C: Lord, You reign over all things and yet humbled Yourself for our salvation. We confess that our rebellion against You in thought, word, and deed is the reason why You entered into this world. It is why You passed through the gates of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and why You laid down Your life upon Calvary's cross on Good Friday—to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God. With hearts that are humble and lives that are grateful, help us to receive Your grace and bow before You in worship. Amen.**

L: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, shows His mercy to us in the sending of His only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords. The One who entered into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday was handed over to death upon the cross so that we may be reconciled to the Father and granted His remission, full and free. In Him is forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen! Rejoice in the Lord always. The joy of the Lord is our strength!**

## **SALUTATION**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

*New Testament*

*Philippians 4:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of

God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 15:1-11*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

### **SERMON HYMN**

*Earth and All Stars (Vv. 1,3,6,7)*

*LSB 817*

### **SERMON**

*Celebration of Discipline: Celebration*  
*Pastor Aaron Bird*

## **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**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **SENDING SONG**

*All Glory Laud and Honor*

*LSB 442*

**PALM SUNDAY  
CELEBRATION  
MARCH 24, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.**

**PROCESSIONAL SONG**

*Hosanna*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

*Trust in God*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Philippians 4:4-7*

*John 15:1-11*

**SERMON**

*Celebration of Discipline: Celebration*

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

*He Is*

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader .....	Scott Tavarckty
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Larry Westbrook 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Organist .....	Ted Hesse
Ushers .....	8:30 – David Vanskike 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Computer .....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Allison Cushing
Live Stream .....	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera .....	11:00 – Eric Brown
Sound .....	8:30 – Brendan Duewer 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals .....	Becky Dosien, Amanda Ray, Ted Hesse
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

**Baptism** of Luca Delfino Ziegler, son of Dillon & Lauren (Peterson) Ziegler.

**To God be the Glory:** Doug & Pat Precht celebrated their 47<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

#### **Corporate**

Mar 17 - Confession      Mar 24 - Celebration

#### **Holy Week Schedule**

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.

**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.

**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.

**Blood Drive:** St John's is sponsoring a blood drive in the Fellowship Hall from 12:00 to 5:00 PM on April 25, 2023. 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](http://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.

**STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: Zechariah 9:9 – “Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”** No king ever rode to war like this. But no king had ever come to wage battle by dying. In His Passion, our Lord Jesus gives everything He has and is; He does this to bring us from death to life, to make us His own people, and show us an example of self-giving love that we should follow.

**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 .....	\$8,268.90
Online Giving .....	\$821.97
Total Giving .....	\$9,090.87

**Last Week's Attendance**

Traditional Service. ....	130
Contemporary Service.....	49
Total.....	179
Wednesday Morning Bible Study .....	16
Wednesday Lent Service (3/20).....	56

**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24**

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Palm Sunday Breakfast (FH)  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service

**MONDAY, MARCH 25**

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

**TUESDAY, MARCH 26**

9-11:00 A.M. .... Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved  
10-11:00 A.M. .... DMH Grief Counseling (FH)  
1:00 P.M. .... Staff Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27**

10:00 A.M. .... Adult Bible Study (FH)  
6:00 P.M. .... Choir Rehearsal  
6:45 P.M. .... Bells Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, MARCH 28**

5:30 P.M. .... TOPS  
6:00 P.M. .... Maundy Thursday Service

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

6:00 P.M. .... Good Friday Service

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30**

No church activities listed.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31 – HAPPY EASTER**

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Coffee & Donuts in the Lounge  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service