

*Welcome*

***“Celebration of Discipline: Simplicity”***  
***March 3, 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.

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**SIMPLICITY**

**MARCH 3, 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**

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

*LSB 427*

**INVOCATION**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

**L:** God invites us to gather in His name.

**C:** **We are gathered to worship and praise.**

**L:** Our heavenly Father's house is a house of prayer for all the nations.

**C:** **He gathers people from every corner of the earth to sing His praises.**

**L:** We listen to God's Word.

**C:** **We hear the message proclaimed of Christ crucified.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**L:** Though this is a house of prayer, we do not always honor God's house

as we should. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us ever into His house to ask for forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

L: Heavenly Father,

**C: we have sinned against You and against our neighbors. 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. Forgive us, renew us, and restore us, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

L: Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into our world, not only to disrupt our sinfulness but also to forgive us by His death and resurrection. 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.**

## **SALUTATION**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD** *1 Timothy 6:3-10*

<sup>3</sup> Teach these things, Timothy, and encourage everyone to obey them.

<sup>3</sup> Some people may contradict our teaching, but these are the wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. These teachings promote a godly life. <sup>4</sup> Anyone who teaches something different is arrogant and lacks understanding. Such a person has an unhealthy desire to quibble over the meaning of words. This stirs up arguments ending in jealousy, division, slander, and evil suspicions. <sup>5</sup> These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they have turned their backs on the truth. To them, a show of godliness is just a way to become wealthy. <sup>6</sup> Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. <sup>7</sup> After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. <sup>8</sup> So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. <sup>9</sup> But

people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 6:19–34*

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

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

<sup>19</sup> “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. <sup>22</sup> “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. <sup>23</sup> But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is! <sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money. <sup>25</sup> “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? <sup>27</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? <sup>28</sup> “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, <sup>29</sup> yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>30</sup> And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? <sup>31</sup> “So don’t worry about these things,

saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. <sup>34</sup> "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today. (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

## **SERMON**

*Celebration of Discipline: Simplicity*

*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**

<i>Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord</i>	LSB 637
<i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	LSB 425
<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>	LSB 709

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG**

<i>Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways</i>	LSB 707
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**Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed .....	\$12,403.85
General Fund .....	\$6,071.00
Online Giving.....	\$3,711.00
Total Giving .....	\$9,782.00

**Last Week's Attendance**

Traditional Service.....	139
Contemporary Service.....	64
Total.....	203
Lenten Wednesday Service .....	76
Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study .....	12

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
*Simplicity*  
**MARCH 3, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.**

**OPENING SONGS**

*Praise*  
*God So Loved*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Matthew 6:19-34*

**SERMON**

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

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

*Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

*Mighty Warrior*



## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader .....	Mike Patzwitz
Communion Helper .....	David Salogga/Brian Cripe
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Troy Harrison 11:00 – Drew Miller
Organist .....	Ted Hesse
Ushers .....	8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Debbie Strong
Acolytes.....	8:30 – Jackson Miller 11:00 – Amelia Saurmann
Computer .....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream .....	8:30 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera .....	8:30 – Eric Brown
Sound .....	8:30 – Philip Johnson 11:00 – Steve Wright
Vocals .....	Janice Wright, Amanda Ray, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar .....	Malinda Standerfer
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

**To God be the Glory: Danny & Linda Harrison will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on March 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Chili Cook-Off:** Thank you for your generosity. The youth made over \$900 for their Summer Mission Trip.

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

#### **Inward**

Feb 18 – Meditation      Feb 25 – Prayer

#### **Outward**

Mar 3 – Simplicity      Mar 10 – Service

#### **Corporate**

Mar 17 – Confession      Mar 24 – Celebration

**Lent Services** on Wed., Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Lenten meal will begin at 5:00 p.m. We will explore some spiritual disciplines through our sermon series, Celebration of Discipline. The Youth Groups will be preparing the meal.

**Bus Trip:** Meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. on Wed., Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Daylight Saving Time** begins next Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Remember to turn your clocks up one hour!

**Wednesday Adult Bible Study** during the five weeks of Lent, Dan Harrison will be instructing on, On The Thoughts of A Christian's Prayer Life. This will be a two session study on *"Martin Luther's A Simple Way to Pray."*

#### **Holy Week Schedule**

Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> | Palm Sunday | 8:30 – Traditional & 11:00– Contemporary Service  
9:45 a.m. Palm Sunday Breakfast for everyone.

Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>| Maundy Thursday Service | 6:30 p.m. w/Communion

Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> | Good Friday Service | 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> | 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

**We need your voice!** The choir is looking for more voices. Come to Choir rehearsal on Thursday's at 6:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Hesse.

**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.

**Orders for St. John's Shirts are available.** Order forms are available on the table at the back of the church. Soft t-shirts are available in adult and youth sizes. Moisture-wicking short-sleeved polos and long-sleeved quarter-zip come in both men's and women's cuts. All orders are due to the church office by March 10th.

**New Life Pregnancy Center News – CHANGE FOR LIFE –** Baby Bottles are due, please bring back your filled bottles to the back table of the sanctuary or the church office.

**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.

**LSA ReSale Shop News:** Thurs., Mar. 7th is the semi-annual 10 cent sale at the LSA ReSale Shop, 421 E. Cerro Gordo St. The Shop will be open 9:00 AM – Noon. All merchandise will sell for 10 cents. The Shop is closed Mar. 8th – 10th for re-stocking, and re-open on Mon., Mar. 11th with spring and summer inventory. Volunteers are needed! For more information, contact the Shop at 217-423-0122.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, MARCH 3

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Education Hour  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service  
4:00 P.M. .... Confirmation Class  
5:30 P.M. .... Shared Dinner  
6:00 P.M. .... Jr. High Youth Groups

### MONDAY, MARCH 4

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

### TUESDAY, MARCH 5

1:00 P.M. .... Staff Meeting  
5:30 P.M. .... Outreach Meeting (FH)  
6:00 P.M. .... Discipleship Meeting (Rock)

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

10:00 A.M. .... Adult Bible Study (FH)  
12:30 P.M. .... Bus Trip to Sullivan  
5:00 P.M. .... Lenten Meal Served (FH)  
6:00 P.M. .... Lent Service  
6:45 P.M. .... Bells Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, MARCH 7

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

### FRIDAY, MARCH 8

No church activities scheduled.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 9

No church activities scheduled.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 10

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