



Welcome

"THE NATURE OF LOVE"

MAY 5, 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.)

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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

LSB 700

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

L: Praise the Lord!

C: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

L: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

C: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

L: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C: whose hope is in the Lord his God.

L: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

C: Praise the Lord!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

KYRIE (*responses sung*)

THIS IS THE FEAST (*sung*)

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD *Acts 10:34-48*

³⁴So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed:

³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been

chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” ⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT

1 John 5:1-8

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶ This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:9-17

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

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

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

SERMON

"The Nature of Love"

John 15:9-17

Pastor Aaron Bird

NICENE 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

PREFACE (*responses sung*)

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS (*sung*)

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

AGNUS DEI (*sung*)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

LSB 618

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

LSB 770

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

LSB 556

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

LSB 924

POSTLUDE

SIXTH OF SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.

OPENING SONGS

House of the Lord

WELCOME & GREETING

BAPTISM

Piper Eloise Armstrong

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

God You're So Good

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:9-17

SERMON

"The Nature of Love"

John 15:9-17

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

For All You've Done

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Troy Harrison
Communion Helper	Dan Harrison Jason Frisby
Lay Minister	8:30 – Troy Harrison 11:00 – Mike Baggett
Organist	Ted Hesse
Ushers	8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Dan Murphey
Computer	8:30 – Mike Patzwitz 11:00 – Zach Hesse
Live Stream	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz
Camera	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz
Sound	8:30 – Doug Hicks 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals.....	Lindsay Tipsword, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar	Wendy Salefski
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

Congratulations on the Baptism of Piper Eloise Armstrong, daughter of Brian & Katie (Salogga) Armstrong.

New Member Class: Are you interested in becoming a member of St. John's?! It's not too late to join our New Member Class. 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 contact the church office (217-875-3656) or by e-mailing Georgia (office@stjohnsdecatour.com).

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 tomorrow, Monday, May 6th. Proceeds benefit St. John's Youth. Flowers will be delivered Wednesday, May 8th.

Envelope Fundraiser: Support our youth attending the South Dakota Mission Trip. Take an envelope(s) from the back table and fill them with that specific dollar amount and return them to the church office. If you have any questions, please reach out to Angela Cushing!

"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."

Ladies Friendship Circle will visit the Millikin Homestead on Tuesday, May 21, to learn about the family, their friends, the home and some of the events that took place there. We will meet at church at 1:00 and immediately leave for our 1:15 tour at the homestead. Note that there is a \$5 charge/person for the tour. Upon our return to church, we will have refreshments and a brief meeting. All are invited, and guests are welcome!

The Properties Team is looking for new members to add to their team. If you're interested, please contact the Church Office or you can speak with Gary Schwartzle.

The Properties Team is looking for volunteers to help with the landscaping. This task will only take a few minutes out of your summer. Please contact the Church Office or Gary Schwartzle for more information.

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: 1 Timothy 2:5-6 – “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.” To be ransomed is to be bought back, to be purchased. We belong to God fair and square, not only because He created us, but now doubly so because we are ransomed. We belong to God: that's the beginning of thankfulness and generosity.

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$5,187.00
Online Giving	\$910.50
Total Giving.....	\$6097.50

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	126
11:00 a.m.	50
Total	176
Wednesday Adult Bible Study.....	15

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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

MONDAY, MAY 6

6:30 P.M. Properties Team Meeting (Rock)
6:30 P.M. Boy Scouts (FH)

TUESDAY, MAY 7

1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
5:30 P.M. Outreach Team Meeting (Rock Room)
5:30 P.M. Fellowship Hall Reserved
6:00 P.M. Discipleship Team Meeting (Lounge)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study (FH)
6:00 P.M. Lay Ministry Meeting (Rock Room)

THURSDAY, MAY 9

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

FRIDAY, MAY 10

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, MAY 12

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