

>Welcome

"MYSTERIOUS MIDDLE"

JUNE 16, 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 16, 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

Renew Me, O Eternal Light

LSB 704

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, . . .

C: but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.

L: Let us prepare to receive God's strengthening of our faith this day as we confess our weakness and sin. We confess together...

C: Merciful God, we confess to You our discouragements; all our sins of thought, word, and deed; and the inward groaning of our souls. For the sake of Your Son's own bitter suffering and death on behalf of all, grant us forgiveness and the strength of renewed faith that we may live today as joyful members of Your Kingdom. This we ask in Jesus' Name, Amen.

L: May God be merciful to you and pardon your sins. Upon your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²² Thus says the Lord God: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it."

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

¹ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

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

²⁶ Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. ²⁸ The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. ²⁹ And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come." ³⁰ Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, ³² but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade." ³³ Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand. ³⁴ In fact, in his public ministry he never taught without using parables; but afterward, when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them. (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

SERMON

"Mysterious Middle"

Mark 4:26-34

Pastor Adam Ray

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

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

LSB 720

For Me to Live Is Jesus

LSB 742

Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

LSB 619

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

LSB 577

POSTLUDE

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 16, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.

OPENING SONGS

The Cross of Christ

Holy Is The Lord

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 4:26-34

SERMON

"Mysterious Middle"

Mark 4:26-34

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

Grace So Glorious

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Your Love Never Fails

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader	Frank Whitehead
Communion Helper	Jeff Salefski & Kevin Tavarczyk
Lay Minister	8:30 – Larry Westbrook 11:00 – Matt Cushing
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	8:30 – Brady Fawcett 11:00 – Tom Schollenbruch/Dan Murphey
Computer	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Allison Cushing
Live Stream	8:30 – Matt Cushing
Camera	8:30 – Matt Cushing
Sound	8:30 – Doug Hicks 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals.....	Melissa Saurmann, Pam Saurmann,
Acoustic Guitar	Wendy Salefski
Drums	Julia Cushing
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

Summer Break: Adult Bible Study and children's Sunday School will be on "Summer Break" and will not be meeting for the following Sundays: June 16, 23, and 30. However, a time of fellowship and refreshments will be offered on those Sundays between services in the lounge.

Thank you: The Properties Team would like to thank the following for their wonderful help trimming bushes, trees, and cleaning up landscaping. Mike Colbeck, Matt Cushing, Dale Fiala, Don & Judy Johnson, Larry Marquardt, David Salogga, Gary Schwartzle, David Vanskike, and Larry & LuAnne Westbrook. With your outstanding help, we were done in two hours, and the church grounds look great.

#lifetogether meals are back! Thank you to those who came out and enjoyed good food, games, and fellowship. Come and join us on Wednesday, July 10 and August 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Thrivent Members: Our Ministry Teams would benefit from using your Choice Dollars for upcoming church events. If you are a Thrivent Member and are willing to let the Ministry Teams use your Choice Dollars, please contact the church office. Thank you.

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!

Northeast Community Fund will be hosting an appreciation dinner for their donors and volunteers here at St. John's on the evening of Saturday June 22nd. We are hoping to provide a few desserts for the event to help out. Would you be willing to make something tasty to share with our friends at Northeast? Contact Pastor Aaron if you are interested and able to help!

Bus Trips: The tickets for the performance of "Grease" on August 1st are sold out but you can still get on a waiting list. There are tickets available for the August 21st performance of "Nunsense". Make your reservations with Jerry

Pelz (217-433-2961) or the church office. Cost is \$36.00 per ticket and we will be leaving from the church at 12:45 p.m.

4th Annual St. John's Golf Scramble Fun-Raiser to be held September 22, at 1:30 at the Moweaqua Golf Course. Cost is \$400 per team. Includes golf, prizes, and dinner afterwards. Proceeds go back to the church through various needs and governed by Lay Ministry Board. Sign-up sheets will be available in a few weeks. Please mark your calendars.

DO YOU HAVE? Garden Tools? Hand Tools? Nuts, Bolts & Screws? Nail Polish? Make-up and Perfume You Bought and Changed your mind? Flower Arrangements? Lamps? These items sell very well at the LSA ReSale Shop. If you are spring/summer cleaning and purging, consider donating these items. As Always, we will take your clothes, shoes, purses and holiday decor. Donation times are Mondays and Tuesdays from 9am to 1pm and Thursdays from 2pm to 6pm.

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$8,044.00
Online Giving.....	\$1,147.19
Total Giving.....	\$9,191.19

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	109
11:00 a.m.	69
Total.....	178

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

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

MONDAY, JUNE 17

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
3:00 P.M. Meeting in the Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

7:00 P.M. Mission Trip Meeting at Cushing's

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

5:30 P.M. TOPS
7:00 P.M. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

All Day Northeast Community Fund in FH

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

All Day Northeast Community Fund in FH

SUNDAY, June 23

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