

>Welcome

"THIS IS A HARD SAYING"

AUGUST 18, 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.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 18, 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

Beautiful Savior

LSB 537

BAPTISM

Landon Leigh Roberts

INVOCATION

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*)

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Old Testament

Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18

¹ Then Joshua summoned all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, including their elders, leaders, judges, and officers. So they came and presented themselves to God. ² Joshua said to the people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: "Fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." ¹⁶ The people replied, "We would never abandon the Lord and serve other gods. ¹⁷ For the Lord our God is the one who rescued us and our ancestors from slavery in the land of Egypt. He performed mighty miracles before our very eyes. As we traveled through the wilderness among our enemies, he preserved us. ¹⁸ It was the Lord who drove out the Amorites and the other nations living here in the land. So we, too, will serve the Lord, for he alone is our God." (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT

Ephesians 5:6-21

⁶ Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. ⁷ Don't participate in the things these

people do. ⁸For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! ⁹For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. ¹⁰Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. ¹³But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, ¹⁴for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light." ¹⁵So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. ¹⁸Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. ²⁰And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:51-69

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

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

⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh." ⁵²Then the people began arguing with each other about what he meant. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they asked. ⁵³So Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. ⁵⁴But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and

my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna) but will live forever.” ⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. ⁶⁰ Many of his disciples said, “This is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it?” ⁶¹ Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what will you think if you see the Son of Man ascend to heaven again? ⁶³ The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But some of you do not believe me.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn’t believe, and he knew who would betray him.) ⁶⁵ Then he said, “That is why I said that people can’t come to me unless the Father gives them to me.” ⁶⁶ At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. ⁶⁹ We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.” (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

SERMON

“This Is a Hard Saying”

John 6:51-69

Pastor Aaron Bird

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>Blessed Jesus, at Your Word</i>	LSB 904
<i>Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread</i>	LSB 625
<i>Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior</i>	LSB 619

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

<i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer</i>	LSB 918
--	---------

POSTLUDE

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$7,275.00
Online Giving	\$1,661.60
Total Giving.....	\$8,936.60

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	127
11:00 a.m.	48
Total	175

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 18, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.

OPENING SONGS

Great Things

Trust in God

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

John 6:51-69

SERMON

"This Is a Hard Saying"

John 6:51-69

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

This Is Amazing Grace

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Mike Patzwitz
Communion Helper	Kevin Tavarczyk/Jason Frisby
Lay Minister	8:30 – Drew Miller 11:00 – Mark Langston
Organist	Ted Hesse
Ushers	8:30 – Brady Fawcett 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Tom Schollenbruch
Computer	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Ellie Hesse
Live Stream	11:00 – Brandon Patzwitz
Camera	11:00 – Brandon Patzwitz
Sound	8:30 – Doug Hicks 11:00 – Steve Wright
Vocals.....	Melissa Saurmann, Pam Saurmann
Acoustic Guitar	Wendy Salefski/Nathan Stoll
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

Sunday School is Back! All children grades K-8 are invited to join us for Sunday School hour beginning Sunday, September 8th. There will be a class for K-4th and a class for 5th-8th each Sunday from 9:45-10:45am. Our Discipleship Team has prepared engaging lessons and activities that will help our children grow in their faith while having fun! We look forward to seeing your children in Sunday School and growing together in Christ!

Confirmation Orientation: We will be hosting a Confirmation Orientation meeting on Sunday, August 25th at 12:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is for all of our 7th and 8th grade students and their families. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ladies of St. John's! We are assembling one or two auction baskets for Camp Cilca. The theme for the baskets will be "Homemade". Do you can? Do you knit or crochet or sew? Do you make decorative items? Do you bake? Other? If you would like to donate an item, please text Brenda Salogga at 217-429-9183 or email dnbsal@comcast.net by August 11th.

Bus Trips: Tickets are available for the Aug. 21st performance of "Nunsense". Make your reservations with Jerry Pelz (217-433-2961) or the church office. The cost is \$36.00 per ticket. We will be leaving the church at 12:45 p.m.

All women of St. John's! We are hosting the LWML Decatur Zone Fall Rally on Mon., Sept. 19th. We will provide a meal and listen to speaker Dr. Gerald Perschbacher of the Orphan Grain Train as we dine. Doors open at 4:30, dinner at 5:00. Cost is 10.00 per person. Please bring a non-perishable item for NECF. Contact Brenda Salogga at 217-429-9183 or email dnbsal@comcast.net or the church office if you plan to attend.

4th Annual St. John's Golf Scramble Fun-Raiser to be held September 22, at 1:30 at the Moweaqua Golf Course. The 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 on the back table of the sanctuary or in the church office. Deadline is September 6th!

Mark your calendars for our first Fall Festival on Sunday October 6th from 4-6 p.m. Come play some games, decorate a pumpkin and engage in some good ole' Fall Festival fun! This event will be great for families of all ages and will be an easy opportunity to invite friends or neighbors that you are seeking to build relationships with in our community. Contact Pastor Aaron with any questions.

Trinity's Youth Group will have a rummage sale on Aug. 23rd -24th, in Trinity's church basement. All proceeds go to Trinity's youth trip to NYG 2025. Please join us! Trinity is located at 1960 E. Johns Avenue in Decatur. For more information, call Trinity's Church Office at: (217)422-3630.

LSA ReSale Shop: August brings the beginning of fall decor for sale. If you need to recycle your fall decor, the ReSale Shop is the place. Mark your calendar for these important dates: Thursday, Sept. 12 is the 10 Cent Sale from 9am to Noon and on Monday, Sept. 16 the store re-opens with all new fall/winter/holiday merchandise. Volunteers needed for restocking on Friday & Saturday, Sept. 13 & 14.

You are invited to Camp CILCA's **26th Annual Chicken Dinner and Auction on September 1, 2024**. The meal is served 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Meals are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 4-12. Menu: grilled chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, homemade desserts, and drinks. The live auction begins at 12:30. The Trading Post and beach will be open in the afternoon.

Whippoorwill Challenge: Golf Scramble for Camp CILCA. Hickory Point, Forsyth on Friday, Sept. 13th. Shotgun starts at 12:30 p.m. Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. Cost is \$65 for golf, cart, dinner. Build a team or join a team. Deadline is Sept. 9th.

NECF Farm to Fund Event: Saturday, September 28th at 6:00 p.m. Purchase your tickets now at northeastcommunityfund.org

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts (FH)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
6:30 P.M. Parish Planning Meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study (FH)
12:45 P.M. Bus Trip to Sullivan

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

5:30 P.M. TOPS (FH)
7:00 P.M. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour (FH)
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
12:15 P.M. Confirmation Orientation Meeting (FH)