



Welcomed

**"EXCEEDINGLY ASTONISHED"**

**OCTOBER 20, 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.

# TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 20, 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

*By Grace I'm Saved*

LSB 566

## INVOCATION

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Dear friends in Christ, let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and ask His gracious forgiveness.

**C: Almighty God, we confess before the whole company of heaven and before one another, that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not always put You first. We have used Your holy name in ways that do not honor You. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation, and have not shared Your bounty with others at all times. We have not always kept our thoughts, words, and deeds pure and honorable. We strayed from Your paths of righteousness and have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. O God, we pray that You would have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

L: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, 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**

**L:** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You call us to trust in You above all things, and to be willing to leave everything behind in order to follow You. Help us to not misplace our trust in the things of this world, and strengthen us to obey Your call to follow. This we ask and pray in Your Name, Jesus, for You live and reign with the Father and the Spirit as the one true God, both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Old Testament*

*Ecclesiastes 5:10-20*

<sup>10</sup> Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! <sup>11</sup> The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth—except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers! <sup>12</sup> People who work hard sleep well, whether they eat little or much. But the rich seldom get a good night's sleep. <sup>13</sup> There is another serious problem I have seen under the sun. Hoarding riches harms the saver. <sup>14</sup> Money is put into risky investments that turn sour, and everything is lost. In the end, there is nothing left to pass on to one's children. <sup>15</sup> We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us. <sup>16</sup> And this, too, is a very serious problem. People leave this world no better off than when they came. All their hard work is for nothing—like working for the wind. <sup>17</sup> Throughout their lives, they live under a cloud—frustrated, discouraged, and angry. <sup>18</sup> Even so, I have noticed one thing, at least, that is good. It is good for people to eat, drink, and enjoy their work under the sun during the short life God has given them, and to accept their lot in life. <sup>19</sup> And it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life—this is indeed a gift from God. <sup>20</sup> God keeps such

people so busy enjoying life that they take no time to brood over the past.  
(NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*New Testament*

*Hebrews 4:1-13*

God's promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it. <sup>2</sup>For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn't share the faith of those who listened to God. <sup>3</sup>For only we who believe can enter his rest. As for the others, God said, "In my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest,'" even though this rest has been ready since he made the world. <sup>4</sup>We know it is ready because of the place in the Scriptures where it mentions the seventh day: "On the seventh day God rested from all his work." <sup>5</sup>But in the other passage God said, "They will never enter my place of rest." <sup>6</sup>So God's rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God. <sup>7</sup>So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts." <sup>8</sup>Now if Joshua had succeeded in giving them this rest, God would not have spoken about another day of rest still to come. <sup>9</sup>So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. <sup>10</sup>For all who have entered into God's rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. <sup>11</sup>So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall. <sup>12</sup>For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. <sup>13</sup>Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

### **Holy Gospel**

*Mark 10:23–31*

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

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

<sup>23</sup> Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup> This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. <sup>25</sup> In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!” <sup>26</sup> The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. <sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.” <sup>28</sup> Then Peter began to speak up. “We’ve given up everything to follow you,” he said. <sup>29</sup> “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, <sup>30</sup> will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.” (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

## **SERMON**

*“Exceedingly Astonished”*

*Mark 10:23–31*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **NICENE CREED**

## **OFFERING**

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at  
[www.stjohnsdecatur.com/giving](http://www.stjohnsdecatur.com/giving).*

## **CONFIRMATION FAITH TESTIMONY**

*Allison Cushing*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*The Leader will conclude every prayer with: "Lord, according to Your will,"*

***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**

*Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray*

*LSB 623*

*I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table*

*LSB 618*

*Jesus Comes Today with Healing*

*LSB 620*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

*LSB 940*

## **POSTLUDE**

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**OCTOBER 20, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.**

**OPENING SONGS**

*God So Loved*

*Strong God*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Mark 10:23-31*

**SERMON**

*"Exceedingly Astonished"*

*Mark 10:23-31*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

*I Speak Jesus*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

*Goodness of God*



## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader .....	Troy Harrison
Communion Helper .....	Jeff Salefski/Jason Frisby
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Drew Miller 11:00 – Mark Langston
Organist .....	Carol Pelz
Ushers .....	8:30 – Brady Fawcett 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Tom Schollenbruch
Computer .....	8:30 – Ted Hesse 11:00 – Allison Cushing
Live Stream .....	8:30 – Eric Brown
Camera .....	8:30 – Eric Brown
Sound .....	8:30 – Doug Hicks 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals.....	Kristin Hesse, Ted Hesse, Janice Wright
Acoustic Guitar .....	Nathaniel Stoll
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

**Special Voter's Meeting is today** at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

There will be no **Wednesday Adult Bible Study** on Wednesday the 23rd

**October is Pastor Appreciation Month!** Join us in appreciating our pastors by mailing cards and well wishes to Pastor Adam and Pastor Aaron.

**LWML Decatur Salad Supper** will be on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. All Women are invited for an evening of food and fellowship. Attendees are asked to bring a salad, dessert or bread to share and a package of plastic spoons to donate to Good Samaritan Inn. Our guest speaker will be Patti Krueger. You can find more information about Patti on the back table next to the sign up sheet.

**Rite of Confirmation** will take place next Sunday, Oct. 27th during the 8:30 service. There will be a reception with refreshments in the lounge/foyer after the service. Please come and congratulate our Confirmands. Our Confirmation Students this year are: Jonathan Bart, Hayden Calhoun, Allison Cushing, Anna Kierbs, Micah Langston, Jackson Miller, Jackson Tatum, and Carli Wilkerson.

**Reformation Sunday** is next Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Please wear red.

**A BIG St John's THANK YOU** to the 18 members that signed up to be donors at our October IMPACTLIFE Blood Drive! 17 units of blood were collected – more than twice as much collected in April – is enough to save 51 lives!! Mark your calendars now for the next blood drive on April 29, 2025.

**The Altar Guild committee** is looking for volunteers to help set up for communion. If you are interested, please contact LuAnne Westbrook 217-433-2677 or Jill Davis 217-433-4529.

**Ride to Church needed:** We have a member needing a ride to the 8:30

a.m. service. They live off of Mound and Woodford St. Please contact the church office if you are available to do this.

**LSA ReSale Shop:** A BIG thank you to all the volunteers who helped with our fall/winter restock at the LSA ReSale Shop. Please stop by the ReSale Shop and see the “new” fall/winter merchandise. There is a great selection of Halloween and Christmas items too. The shop, located at 421 E. Cerro Gordo is open Mon.–Sat., 9am –3pm with extended hours on Thurs. 9am–6pm. Follow us on the LSA ReSale Shop Facebook page.

**STEWARDSHIP SEEDS: *Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created ...”***

Many studies report that atheism is on the rise in our culture. The appeal of atheism is in the denial of a Creator. If the world just happens to exist, and we are just accidents that arose out of a long process of random, directionless evolution, then we get to make our own rules, and nobody has any right to tell us otherwise. Because if there is a Creator, then obviously He would know best, and we would do best, to follow His commands. Of course, we Christians know this Creator very well, and we have seen not only His power and commands, but also His grace and mercy in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Last Week’s Giving**

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$11,585.00
Online Giving .....	\$1,482.19
Total Giving.....	\$13,067.19
Special Door Offering .....	\$1,500.00

**Last Week’s Attendance**

8:30 a.m. ....	110
11:00 a.m. ....	57
Total .....	167

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Education Hour (FH)  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service  
12:30 P.M. .... Confirmation Class (FH)  
1:30 P.M. .... Special Voter's Meeting (FH)

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

8:00-5:00 .... Fellowship Hall Reserved  
7:00 P.M. .... Boy Scouts (FH)

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

10:00 A.M. .... DMH Grief Support (Lounge)  
1:00 P.M. .... Staff Meeting  
6:00 P.M. .... LWML Salad Supper (FH)

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

No Wednesday Adult Bible Class

6:00 P.M. .... Choir Practice  
6:30 P.M. .... Youth Group Hangout

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

No church activities scheduled.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

No church activities scheduled.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

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