



>Welcome

"ANXIOUS HEARTS"

SEPTEMBER 8, 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.)

Contact Us

2727 North Union Boulevard, Decatur, IL 62526

Phone: (217) 875-3656; website: www.stjohnsdecatur.com

Church office hours: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday

Members of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod & Unity Christian School



St. John's Staff

Rev. Adam Ray, Lead Pastor
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Rev. Aaron Bird, Assoc. Pastor
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Unity Christian School Faculty & Staff – Members of St. John's Lutheran Church

Ciara Collins

Angela Martinek

Jeff Salefski

Brenda Salogga

Melissa Saurmann

Lindsay Tipsword

Stephanie Wilkerson

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 8, 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

Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing

LSB 584

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

L: The Lord sets the prisoners free;

C: the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

L: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

C: the Lord loves the righteous.

L: So also faith by itself,

C: if it does not have works, is dead.

L: But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works."

C: Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Though our Lord has called us to be witnesses of His love by our deeds, we recognize today that there is no amount of good works that can save us. What's more is that we will daily and willfully fail to do the good that God would have us do. In the face of such failings, we humble ourselves and come to God that He would heal us and forgive us in His grace and mercy. 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.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Old Testament

Isaiah 35:4-7

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT

James 2:1-10, 14-18

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? ⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Holy Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

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

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

²⁴ And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵ But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone. ³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak." (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

SERMON HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" v. 1-2, 4-5

LSB 790

SERMON

"Anxious Hearts"

Isaiah 35:4-7

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' 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

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

LSB 805

POSTLUDE

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$8,715.00
Online Giving.....	\$2,173.00
Total Giving.....	\$10,888.00

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	138
11:00 a.m.	62
Total	200

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 8, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.

OPENING SONGS

House Of The Lord

Goodness of God

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:4-7

SERMON

"Anxious Hearts"

Isaiah 35:4-7

Pastor Aaron Bird

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

My Lighthouse

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Frank Whitehead
Lay Minister	8:30 – Troy Harrison 11:00 – Mike Baggett
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	8:30 – Gary Schwartzle/Rick Laskowski 11:00 – Dan Zimmerman
Computer	8:30 – Mike Patzwitz 11:00 – Ellie Hesse
Live Stream	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera	11:00 – Pat Robinson
Sound	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Brandon Patzwitz
Vocals.....	Lindsay Tipsword, Janice Wright, 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

Sunday School is Back today! All children in grades K-8 are invited to join us for Sunday School hour today. There will be a class for K-4th and a class for 5th-8th each Sunday from 9:45-10:45am.

Fall Mums Fundraiser: Youth are selling Connie's Greenhouse Mums. They are 8 inch for \$10.00 each. **Order forms are on the back table** and the church office. Deadline is Sunday, Sept. 15th. Delivery on Wednesday, Sept. 18th. If any questions, contact Beth Tatum.

Nice shirt! Show your St. John's love by wearing one of our new shirt designs. You can order a short or long-sleeved t-shirt by filling out the order form in the back of the sanctuary. Give it to Georgia in the church office by October 6.

Ladies Friendship Circle will kick off a new year at 1:00 on Tuesday, September 17. We will meet in the fellowship hall for devotions, a brief meeting, refreshments, and some "trivial" mixer activities. Prizes just may be involved! Come and bring a friend. Please arrive at 12:30, if you want to make favors for the homebound members of St. John's.

All women of St. John's! We are hosting the LWML Decatur Zone Fall Rally on Thurs., Sept. 19th. We will provide a meal and listen to speaker Dr. Gerald Perschbacher of the Orphan Grain Train. 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.

Deadline to sign up is September 8th. Sign-up today!

4th Annual St. John's Golf Scramble Fun-Raiser to be held Sept. 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 are on the back table of the sanctuary or in the church office. **Deadline is NOW!**

Transfer the Blessing: Do you have a Lifetime Plan for Giving? Would you like to have one? Or do you have one you'd like to revisit and reconsider?

Join us on Wednesday, September 25th at 10am for a presentation from Rev. Charles Olander and Scott Radden of the LCMS Foundation as they provide information and materials to help you develop a "Lifetime Plan for Giving." Topics will include how wills, beneficiary designations, charitable trusts and gift annuities might be used to help you better provide for yourself, your family and your church. This presentation comes at no cost to you. We hope to see you there!

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 within our community. Contact Pastor Aaron with any questions.

LSA ReSale Shop: September brings our semi-annual 10¢ sale along with restocking and reopening with all new merchandise. Thursday, September 12 is the 10¢ sale from 9:00 AM – Noon. The shop will be closed Friday & Saturday, Sept. 13 & 14 for restocking. Volunteers are needed for restocking. Come anytime those days. If you have questions, contact the shop at 217-423-0122. The shop will re-open on Monday, Sept. 16 with all new fall/winter/holiday merchandise.

The **LWML CID Fall Retreat at Camp Cilca** is October 4th -5th. Registration packets are at the back of sanctuary; due September 23rd.

St. Paul's Early Learning Center has immediate openings in the three and four-year-old rooms. Please call or email Jamie Stanzione to set up a tour. Jamie@spldecatour.org 217-424-9183.

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

WSOY Community Food Drive is Friday, October 4th, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Take a grocery sack from the back of the sanctuary, fill it up with non-perishable food items, and take to Kroger's on Route 36. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the foyer.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

6:30 P.M. Properties Meeting
7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts (FH)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

10:00 A.M. DMH Grief Support Meeting (Lounge)
1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study (FH)
6:30 P.M. Youth Group Hangout (Hesse House)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

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)