

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD
ST. JOHN'S EAGLE'S NEST PRESCHOOL**

MISSION STATEMENT
Fellowship of Hope, Teaching, Serving and Proclaiming!

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THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

“The King Shall Come To Bring Us Joy”

8:00AM — December 16, 2018

THOSE WHO SERVE US

Each Member of St. John's	A Minister
Rev. Ted Gall	Senior Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp.....	Preacher
Mrs. Sandy Esker.....	Preschool Director
Mr. Jerry Pruemer	8AM Elder on Duty
Kaiden Kohnert.....	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Todd Zeigler.....	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Evan Pryor	10:30AM Acolyte
Mr. Jake Wendling 246-8667 ..	Elder on Duty for December 17-December 21, 2018
Missionaries from Pakistan	Younis Darshan and Raja Shaleem
Missionaries from India	Ajay Paul & Sonne
Sister Congregation	in Blidene, Latvia
Adopted Chatelain School.....	Haiti
Mrs. Julie Scott	(343-3047) mjzmb@frontier.com Prayer Chain Coordinator

WELCOME To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to the stranger, we extend our sincere greeting. If you are a visitor, please understand that you are our guest and we want you to feel welcome and comfortable. We are happy you chose to be with us in this service, and pray you have been blessed by our Lord today as He has blessed us by your presence.

CHRIST is important to us

- in our worship
- in our study
- in our fellowship
- in our lives.

YOU are important to us

- in our worship
- in our study
- in our fellowship
- in our lives.

HIS VISION FOR US:

St. John's will be known for being involved in our changing community, for providing leadership in our changing world, and for serving others in Christian love.

We will welcome our diverse guests with open arms. Our friendly, loving and accepting people will engage our guests, mentor them in the faith, and inspire many to become members.

Our members will be motivated by the cross to be actively engaged in ministry, showing love and care to others. We will encourage one another, nurture one another, and enthusiastically serve our God together!

HIS GOAL FOR US:

We will pray and work with singleness of purpose to expand the impact of our ministry to God's children of all ages, with special emphasis on young families, by developing new ways to strengthen the relationship between St. John's, our members and our community, providing the facilities and resources to involve more people in ministry and outreach.

WELCOME CENTER Greeters are present at the Welcome Center in the atrium adjacent to our sanctuary before and after the service to answer any questions you may have, provide directions to restrooms, classrooms, etc. If you are a first time guest, we also have a gift for you. If you live in our community or surrounding area and you do not have a church home, we welcome your consideration. We offer true fellowship with a living Savior and membership in His Church.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER Kindly fill out a registration card (welcome side) located in the pew rack. Our guests are also asked to complete the address and phone number portion. Please pass your card to the center aisle to be gathered during the offering.

CELL PHONES Please turn your cell phones off before the service begins.

AS WE GATHER "Rejoice in the Lord always!" may seem like quite the daunting task in today's world. Yes, there are moments of joy, but there are also moments of tragedy and devastation. It is not possible to be always joyful. But rejoicing is not a task that we have to add to our to-do list. And we are not called to rejoice in everything always. We are called to rejoice in the Lord always. The God who rejoices over us with gladness and calms us with His love brings us into a relationship with Him that is filled with rejoicing at His presence and providence.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ PREPARATION +
HYMN..... "The Advent Of Our King"..... [LSB 331]

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always!

People: **For He will rejoice over us with gladness.**

Pastor: Again, I say, rejoice!

People: **He will quiet us with His love.**

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet.

People: **Righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

Pastor: In Christ, the blind receive their sight, the lame walk,

People: **the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear.**

Pastor: In Christ, the dead are raised up,

People: **and the poor have the good news preached to them.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love. Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.

People: **We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we hope.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

People: **We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rest.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the source of all joy.

People: **We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rejoice.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 85:2*

Pastor: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. While today is a celebration of joy, we know that on our own, we would be entirely devoid of joy. Without Christ’s intervention and incarnation, we would be lost in torment forever. We approach God in reverence, mindful of how unworthy we are to be in God’s presence. Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have doubted Your Son and His power. We have been filled with anxiety and stress. Revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You.

Pastor: The Lord God is in Your midst, the mighty One who will save. In Christ’s death and resurrection, God withdrew His wrath and put away His burning anger. He rejoices over you with singing and quiets your anxious hearts by His love. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: 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. “You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.”

+ WORD +

HYMN..... “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”[Sts. 1, 4: LSB 515]

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING..... Zephaniah 3:14–20
(The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness.)

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you

with loud singing. ¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN..... *“In Thee Is Gladness”*..... **[LSB 818]**

EPISTLE..... **Philippians 4:4–7**
(Rejoice in the Lord always.)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Matthew 11:10b*

Alleluia. Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL..... **Luke 7:18–35**
(“The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.”)

¹⁸ The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John,¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.²² And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ²⁴ When John's

messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” ²⁹ (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰ but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) ³¹ “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’ ³³ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES’ CREED

HYMN OF THE DAY “Hark The Glad Sound” [LSB 349]

SERMON..... “Rejoice! The Lord Is At Hand”Philippians 4:4-7

OFFERING/OFFERTORY“Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful”..... [LSB 955]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Dear heavenly Father, as we wait for the return of Christ, we often grow impatient. We are tempted to disdain our families, dismiss our friends, and deny our neighbors what they need. Our hearts are often far from joy, but we pray that You would teach us to rejoice in the Lord always!

People respond: Again I will say, rejoice!

Pastor: Lord, in the midst of our rejoicing there is also sadness and struggle. Some among us are sick, injured, and recovering. [*Today we pray for . . .*] Provide them with healing and calm their troubled hearts. In the midst of their suffering, teach them to rejoice in the Lord always!

Pastor: Lord, it is most challenging to rejoice when we are surrounded by death. Comfort those who grieve and mourn the death of loved ones. [*Today we remember the families and friends of . . .*] Place the hope of resurrection before their eyes. Remind them that in paradise we will all rejoice in the Lord always!

Pastor: Lord, we thank You for the times rejoicing is common in our lives. [*Today we rejoice with . . .*] Grant that their rejoicing lead us all to rejoice in the Lord always!

Pastor: Lord, many are struggling with loneliness, especially at this time of year. Inspire Your Church to reach out in friendship and love to those who need it, that together we all rejoice in the Lord always!

Pastor: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

HYMN..... **“Let The Earth Now Praise The Lord”** **[LSB 352]**

SILENT PRAYER

GREETING OF PEACE

POSTLUDE

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