

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

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

901 West Jefferson Avenue

Phone: (217) 342-4334

E-mail: [saintjohnslcms@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnslcms@gmail.com)

**PRESCHOOL WEBSITE:** [eaglesnestpreschool.com](http://eaglesnestpreschool.com)

Effingham, Illinois 62401

Fax: (217) 342-6599

**WEBSITE:** [stjohnslcms.net](http://stjohnslcms.net)

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

***"The King Shall Come To Bring Us Peace"***



**8:00AM — December 9, 2018**

**THOSE WHO SERVE US**

Each Member of St. John's .....	A Minister
Rev. Ted Gall .....	Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp .....	Liturgist
Mrs. Sandy Esker .....	Preschool Director
Mr. Jamie Lotz .....	Organist
Mrs. Meghan Wahl .....	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band .....	10:30AM
Mr. Jeff Stremming .....	8AM Elder on Duty
Andrew Lotz .....	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Jake Wendling .....	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Evan Pryor .....	10:30AM Acolyte
Mr. Jeff Stremming 857-3891 ..	Elder on Duty for December 10-December 14, 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) <a href="mailto:mjzmb@frontier.com">mjzmb@frontier.com</a> 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.

***HOLY COMMUNION*** – When the members of St. John’s Lutheran Church, (LCMS) celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we confess the Real Presence of Christ’s Body and Blood in the Bread and Wine, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. (*1 Cor 10:16 & 1 Cor 11:23-26*) We believe that Christ’s Body and Blood are present “in, with and under” the elements of the Holy Supper. (*Luther’s Small Catechism*) Members should register their intent to commune on the pew card. If you are visiting with us and you desire to join with us in communion fellowship in agreement with these beliefs, please speak to one of the Pastors or the elder on duty before the service.

**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** Preparation is probably on your mind. Christmas is only weeks away. There are presents to buy, visits to plan, decorations to put up, lights to see, food to cook, and so much more! As we prepare for Jesus to come, we reflect on John the Baptist's words to people who asked what they should do to prepare for the Messiah's coming. John says we are to "make His paths straight" by sharing food and clothing, by not taking advantage of people, and by being content with what the Lord has given us. In the midst of your busy preparations, consider these words.

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**+ PREPARATION +**

**HYMN**..... **"Prepare The Royal Highway"**..... **[LSB 343]**

**INVOCATION**

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

**People:** Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Based on Luke 3:4-6*

**Pastor:** Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

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

**Pastor:** Prepare the way of the Lord.

**People:** Make His paths straight.

**Pastor:** Every valley shall be filled,

**People:** and every mountain and hill made low.

**Pastor:** The crooked shall become straight,

**People:** and the rough places shall become level ways.

Pastor: All flesh shall see the salvation of God.  
People: **We wait for Christ's return and the resurrection of all flesh.**

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.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**      *Luke 3:6; Psalm 66:1-2*

Pastor: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. As we wait for His coming, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence, how crooked our world has become, and how unjust are our relationships. We come before the Lord in humility. Heavenly Father,

People: **we confess that we have strayed from Your path. We have been selfish and cruel. We have treated our neighbors with injustice and prejudice. We have oppressed the weak in order to gain power. We long to return to You, but how are we to return?**

Pastor: As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, he said, "All flesh shall see the salvation of God." God sent Jesus to bring salvation to the world through His death and resurrection. This salvation is complete, and Christ comes to you once again with forgiveness, life, and salvation. 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. "Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!"**

**+ WORD +**

**HYMN..... "Arise, O Christian People"..... [LSB 354]**

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING ..... Malachi 3:1–7b**  
*(God’s messenger prepares the way for the day of the Lord.)*

3 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. 5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. 6 “For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. 7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN..... “Once He Came In Blessing” ..... [LSB 333]**

**EPISTLE..... Philippians 1:2–11**  
*(We are all partakers of grace.)*

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until

now. <sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC** ..... **“Bell Carol”** ..... **by Praise and Worship Choir**

Ukraini Bell Carol Arranged with original Words by Heather Sorenson

Luke 2:14-16 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, “Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger

**VERSE** *Luke 3:4b, 6*

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL** ..... **Luke 3:1–20**

*(John the Baptist prepares the way.)*

**3** In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” <sup>7</sup> He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to

say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" <sup>11</sup> And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" <sup>13</sup> And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." <sup>15</sup> As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup> So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup> But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup> added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

***HYMN OF THE DAY .. "On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry"..... [LSB 344]***

***SERMON..... "St. Nicholas".....Galatians 2:20 by Rev. Gary Fortkamp***

***NICENE CREED .....(as found on the back page of the hymnal)***

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH Luke 19:38***

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 prepare the way for Christ to come, we proclaim: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Lord, we have kept our distance from You. Our repentance and return has been halfhearted and imperfect. Forgive us, and return to us despite our failures, for "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Lord, we have kept our distance from our neighbors, from the suffering and forsaken, from the widow and the orphan, from the foreigner and refugee. Strengthen us to serve our neighbors, and strengthen them in their trials. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

**People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Lord, heal the sick, injured, and recovering among us, [*especially . . .*]. Strengthen them with Your gracious hand and with Your unwavering presence. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

**People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Lord, console the grieving with Your presence. [*Today we remember the families and friends of . . .*] Comfort them with the hope of resurrection life that is ours in Christ Jesus. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

**People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Lord, gladden the hearts of those who rejoice and direct their praise and thanksgiving to You. [*Today we rejoice with . . .*] Grant that their rejoicing lead us all to say: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

**People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Pastor: Lord, help us to live under Your perfect care. Prevent us from turning aside to idols and distractions. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus that we evermore proclaim: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

**People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

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

**People: Amen.**

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY ..... "Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful" ..... [LSB 955]**

**+ SACRAMENT +**

**PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### ***PROPER PREFACE***

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

***HYMN..... “Draw Near To Take The Body Of The Lord”.....[LSB 637]***

### ***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING***

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

### ***WORDS OF INSTITUTION***

### ***PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST***

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

**AGNUS DEI**..... (p. 210 in hymnal)

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** ..... “O Lord, We Praise Thee” [LSB 617]  
“Jesus Comes Today with Healing” [LSB 620]  
“Thy Body Given For Me, O Savior” [LSB 619]

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**..... (p. 211 in hymnal)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

**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**..... “Joy To The World”..... [LSB 387]

**SILENT PRAYER**

**GREETING OF PEACE**

**POSTLUDE**