

**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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SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

"Withering Grass, Enduring Word"

5:30PM — December 9, 2017

8:00AM — December 10, 2017



THOSE WHO SERVE US

Each Member of St. John's	A Minister
Rev. Ted Gall	Senior Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker.....	Preschool Director
Mr. Dean Manuel	Organist
Mrs. Kiley Bohnhoff.....	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band.....	10:30AM
Mr. John Jackson.....	5:30PM Elder on Duty
Wes Radloff	5:30PM Acolyte
Mr. Jerry Pruemer	8AM Elder on Duty
Makenna Duckwitz.....	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Howard Haake	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Tyler Budde & Camille Zeigler	10:30AM Acolyte
Mr. Todd Zeigler 821-6135.....	Elder on Duty for December 11-December 15, 2017
Missionaries from Pakistan	Younis Darshan and Raja Shaleem
Missionaries from India	Ajay Paul & Sonne
Sister Congregation	in Blidene, Latvia
Julie Scott 343-3047	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 We see the truth of the words of today's Old Testament Reading all around us. "The grass withers, the flower fades" (Isaiah 40:8). The flowers of summer fade and fall as autumn arrives and gives way to winter. The car we saved up to purchase piles on mileage and begins to require costly repairs. The once-new wedding dress has yellowed with age. The things of this world wither and fade. But that's not the end of what the prophet Isaiah has to say: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." In our ever-changing fallen world, there is one thing that remains unchanged—God and His Word. Listen today to the unchanging promises of God for you, anchored in His Son, Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN..... "Children Of The Heavenly Father"..... [LSB 725]

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Isaiah 40:8

Pastor: The grass withers,

People: the flower fades,

All: but the word of our God will stand forever.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE John 8:12; John 1:5; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2
Corinthians 4:6

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: the light no darkness can overcome.

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness

People: and illumine Your Church.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 40:10–11*

Pastor: “Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.”

 Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: “He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.”

 Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

+ WORD +

ADVENT VERSE..... “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”[Sts. 3–4: LSB 357]

INTROIT *Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: Psalm 80:3*

Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; it took deep root and filled the land.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

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,

People: **to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds;**

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING..... Isaiah 40:1-11

(“Comfort, comfort My people.”)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶ A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹ Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE2 Peter 3:8-14

(“The day of the Lord will come like a thief.”)

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC “O Come To Set Us Free”.....by Praise & Worship Choir

HOLY GOSPEL..... Mark 1:1-8

(John begins baptizing and preaching.)

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

NICENE CREED

HYMN OF THE DAY “On Jordan’s Bank The Baptist’s Cry” [LSB 344]

SERMON

OFFERING/OFFERTORY “Hark The Glad Sound” [St. 1: LSB 349]

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne And ev’ry voice a song.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51. Public domain

DEDICATION OF NATIVITY SCENE

Purchased with memorials from Flora Jean Haack and Loretta Siebert

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us come before our Lord in prayer, asking Him to hear our prayer and grant us peace. Lord of peace, during this season of Advent, prepare our hearts that we would be made ready to receive Your Son as He comes in His incarnation and birth, but also in His body and blood. Make us ever ready for His final coming on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

People respond: **hear our prayer and grant us peace.**

Pastor: Lord of peace, You have called Your Church to bear witness to Christ's redeeming work. Grant that we boldly proclaim the Good News of the One who brings joy to the world through His life, death, and resurrection, that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

Pastor: Lord of peace, You have instructed us to pray for workers in Your harvest field. Raise up faithful and loving teachers of Your Word so that Christ may be proclaimed near and far. Make us Your instruments to encourage and equip individuals for work in Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

Pastor: Lord of peace, we ask that You stretch forth Your almighty arm to protect the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces of our land. Support them, granting them courage and loyalty. Strengthen them to serve with integrity and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

Pastor: Lord of peace, You are the creator and sustainer of all things. According to Your will, grant healing to those who suffer in body and mind. Look with favor upon Your servants, [*especially* . . .], and if it is Your will, restore them to health, or give them grace to accept tribulation, knowing that Your grace is sufficient for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

Pastor: Lord of peace, thank You for calling us to be Your people through Holy Baptism. Make us ready to receive Your Supper as we remember the One who is truly present in this Meal as He comes to us in Holy Communion. Lord, in Your mercy,

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy and Your promise to hear us for the sake of the One in whose name we come, Your Son, Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

+ 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:

SANCTUS “Hark The Glad Sound” [St. 4: LSB 349]

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring With thy beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51. Public domain

LORD’S PRAYER

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*

PAX DOMINI

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

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI..... (p. 198 in hymnal)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “Just As I Am Without One Plea” [LSB 570]
“Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us” [LSB 711]

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE “Joy to the World” [St. 1: LSB 387]

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room
And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748. Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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 *Isaiah 40:8*

Pastor: The grass withers,

People: the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

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..... “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”..... [stz 1 & 4 LSB 515]

SILENT PRAYER

GREETING OF PEACE

POSTLUDE

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BAPTISM BEFORE 5:30PM SERVICE..... **AVERY JUNE NELSON**

Born: November 7, 2017

Parents: Jake & Stacy Nelson

Sponsor: Paige Rhodes

Witness: Paul Hecht