

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

**Soaring on eagle's wings
Striving to be Christ-like in all things
THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR
STRENGTH. THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES. . .
(Isaiah 40:31)**

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**CHRISTMAS EVE CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP-9AM
"The Perfect Tree"**



THOSE WHO SERVE US

Each Member of St. John's.....A Minister
Rev. Ted GallSenior Pastor
Praise Band 9AM Service
Mrs. Erin Wendling..... Songleader
Mr. Jerry Pruemmer 9AM Elder on Duty
Missionaries from Pakistan Younis Darshan and Raja Shaleem
Missionaries from IndiaAjay Paul & Sonne
Sister Congregation in Blidene, Latvia
Julie Scott 343-3047Prayer 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 “Glory to God in the highest!” The expression of praise by the heavenly host on the night when Jesus was born into our world has echoed through the ages. As we gather for this most special day, we find joy in repeating the words of God’s heavenly messengers. The angels proclaimed a message of peace and good will, a word from God that was appearing in the Word made flesh—the baby Jesus born to bring the light of redemption to a people on earth lost in darkness. “Gloria in excelsis Deo!” Whether we are singing in English or Latin or some other language, the message of the words is what matters. We worship our Lord and rejoice in the glory of Christmas!

PRESERVICE MUSIC **“Away In A Manger”**

**Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus,
Laid down His sweet head,
The stars in the sky
Looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep in the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing,
The Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus,
No crying He makes
I love Thee Lord Jesus,
Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle,
Till morning is nigh**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever,
And love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there.**

*“Away In A Manger” written by John Thomas McFarland, Martin Luther, William James Kirkpatrick
Public Domain CCLI Song: 322031 CCLI License: 51072*

"Mary Did You Know"

**Mary, did you know
That your Baby Boy will one day walk on water?**

**Mary, did you know
That your Baby Boy will save our sons and daughters?**

**Did you know,
That your Baby Boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered,
Will soon deliver you.**

**Mary, did you know
That your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?**

**Mary, did you know
Your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?**

**Did you know,
That your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little Baby,
You've kissed the face of God.**

**The blind will see
The deaf will hear
The dead will live again.
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb.**

**Mary, did you know
That your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?**

**Mary, did you know
That your Baby Boy will one day rule the nations?**

**Did you know,
That your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect lamb?
This sleeping Child you're holding, is the great I AM.**

"Mary Did You Know" written by Buddy Greene, Mark Lowry 1991, 1993 Word Music, LLC Scripture Reference: Matthew 14:25-27, Matthew 8:23-26, John 1:12-13 CCLI Song: 839225 CCLI License: 51072

WORSHIP THEME: “The Perfect Tree”

Finding the perfect Christmas tree can be a daunting task. Even if you are looking for an artificial tree, there are so many to choose from these days. We all look for the perfect one – just the right size, color, and shape. The Christmas tree is a wonderful symbol of life--green, full of life year-round. Have you wondered if the Father already had the perfect tree picked out that first Christmas that would become the cross? At some point the Father had a perfect tree that would become the manger where Jesus lay. And at some point the Father had a perfect tree that would become the life-giving cross. It's ironic that from the fruit of a tree in the Garden of Eden sin and death entered our world but that also through a “tree” on Calvary that God redeemed us. Tonight we are reminded that the Father offers His Son as the perfect gift--the Perfect One, who would give His life on a cross made of a tree – in a very real sense, the perfect tree!

+ We Lift Our Hearts in Worship +

OPENING SONG..... “O Come All Ye Faithful”

**O Come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him,
Born the king of angels:
O Come, let us adore Him,
O Come, let us adore Him,
O Come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
All Glory In the highest:
O Come, let us adore Him,
O Come, let us adore Him,
O Come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

**O let us, let us adore Him,
O let us, let us adore Him,
O let us, let us adore Him,
O let us, let us adore Him**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!**

**Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
O Come, let us adore Him,
O Come, let us adore Him,
O Come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord. Christ the Lord.
O Come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

*"O Come All Ye Faithful" written by C. Frederick Oakeley, John Francis Wade Public Domain
Scripture Reference: Luke 2:8-16 CCLI Song: 7031866 CCLI License: 51072*

INVOCATION

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

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: When we see the way Jesus Christ lived upon the earth we are somewhat startled to by the pictures of humility, poverty, and simplicity. When Jesus was born, the Father chose to first reveal the Good News to some lowly, humble shepherds in a field. When Jesus grew and wandered the land of Israel, He favored the poor and lowly of heart, often choosing to spend His time with them. In fact, when He chose His disciples, we see that most of them were poor, uneducated, and without any title or fame that they should be singled out. Jesus' preferences have not changed. He still singles out the humble of heart with whom to share His secrets. Will we be found among these?

People: **Almighty God, though we are completely unworthy, You have given to us this night the most wonderful gift we could ever imagine! You have given Your Son, born in a lowly manger. You have sent Him to teach us right ways to live, and You have sent Him to die for us, so that we will not be lost forever in our sin. Thank You for this marvelous gift! Thank You that we have been born again and made Your children by adoption and grace. Help us to follow in Jesus' footsteps, walking humbly before You, with self-control, right conduct, and whole-hearted devotion to You alone. Forgive our sins, and renew us daily by the power of Your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Our Almighty God has had mercy on us and forgiven us of all our sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ. He loves you. He will not stop loving you. He has given you eternal life through this Baby of Bethlehem! Amen.

OPENING LITANY

Pastor: In the stillness of this night-

People: A gift is given.

Pastor: In the stillness of this night-

People: A gift is given wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Pastor: In the stillness of this night-

People: A gift is given wrapped up in human flesh.

Pastor: In the stillness of this night-

People: Our Savior is born!

Pastor: In the stillness of this night-

People: We unwrap our gift!

Pastor: In the stillness of this night-

People: We come to worship Him!

+ We Hear God's Word +

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,

¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,
⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, let us declare the beliefs of our faith!

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The
third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From
thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and
the life everlasting. Amen**

SERMON SONG“Born That We May Have Life”

**No reputation, no stately bearing,
No palace bed for royalty
But a star in the heavens,
A sign full of wonder
Announcing the coming of the King of kings**

**Rejoice! O, world Your Savior has come,
Through the love of a virgin's womb
Son of God, Son of Man,
Born that we may have life
You were born that we may have life**

**A throne in a manger, the cross in a cradle,
The hidden revealing this glorious plan
A child who would suffer,
A child who would conquer
The sin of every woman, the sin of every man**

**Rejoice! O, world Your Savior has come,
Through the love of a virgin's womb
Son of God, Son of Man,
Born that we may have life
You were born that we may have life**

**Rejoice! O, world Your Savior has come,
Through the love of a virgin's womb
Son of God, Son of Man,
Born that we may have life**

Rejoice! O, world Your Savior has come,
Through the love of a virgin's womb
Son of God, Son of Man,
Born that we may have life
You were born that we may have life,
You were born that we may have life

*"Born That We May Have Life" written by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Maher 2009 worshiptogether.com songs
Scripture Reference: John 3:16 CCLI Song: 5601839 CCLI License: 51072*

MESSAGE....."A Child Is Born" by Rev. Gary Fortkamp.....Isaiah 9:6

OFFERING SONG....."Go Tell It On The Mountain"

REFRAIN

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching,
Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy light. **REFRAIN**

Down in a lowly manger,
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation,
That blessed Christmas morn. **REFRAIN**

"Go Tell It On The Mountain" written by John W., Jr. Work Public Domain CCLI License: 51072

+ We Pray +

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

+ We Celebrate the Lord's Supper +

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION SONG "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;

**Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia.
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

*"Silent Night" written by Franz Xaver Gruber, John Freeman Young, Joseph Mohr Public Domain
Scripture Reference: Luke 2:1-20 CCLI Song: 27862 CCLI License: 51072*

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Where there is humility, grace abounds. So we contemplate our Savior, who gave Himself as the least of men out of His love for us. He lived a perfect life. He gave a perfect sacrifice on the Perfect Tree. Walk humbly in His footsteps, and be blessed by His grace and the fullness of His Love. Amen.

CLOSING SONG..... "Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)"

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come, Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and Heaven and nature sing**

**Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns, Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy**

**Joy, Unspeakable joy, overflowing well no tongue can tell
Joy Unspeakable joy, Rises in my soul, never lets me go.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love**

**Joy, Unspeakable joy, overflowing well no tongue can tell
Joy Unspeakable joy, Rises in my soul, never lets me go.**

*"Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)" written by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, George Frideric Handel, Isaac Watts, Matt Gilder
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We Exit to Serve!

If this service has moved you spiritually and you have questions regarding your spiritual life, please feel free to visit with one of the Pastors after the service.