

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.

Those Who Serve Us

Each Member of St. John's	A Minister
Rev. Mike Burdick.....	Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp	Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker	Preschool Director
Dennis Lading & St. John's Praise Band.....	Music
Brent Budde	Song Leader
Bob Brinkopf & Holly Bray	Soloist
Lilli Wernsing, Leo Wyckoff, Hank Sipe, and Melia Wendling.....	Acolyte
Mr. Todd Zeigler	4:00 PM Elder on Duty
Mr. Howard Janis.....	5:30PM Elder on Duty
Mr. Jim Schroeder	8AM Elder on Duty
Mr. Jake Wendling.....	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Mr. Jeff Stremming 217-821-3891.....	Elder on Duty for Dec. 21 – Dec. 25, 2020
Chatelain School & Baja School	Our Schools for feeding in Haiti
Mrs. Julie Scott	(217-343-3047) Prayer Partner Coordinator
State, National & International Missions	through our District and Synod

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.

Please turn your cell phones off before the service begins.

Offerings and Attendance Cards can be placed in the boxes at the doors.

10:30 Service:

“Hope Was Born This Night”

Preservice #1

“Joseph's Lullaby”

Preservice #2

Sunday School Children's Service
4:00pm 5:30pm 8:00am 10:30am

Bells / Call To Worship / Prelude

Welcome

*(verses to be sung by the congregation are in **bold**)*

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, ref, 2-3

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: *Refrain*

2 **Highest, most holy,**
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

3 **Sing, choirs of angels,**
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: *Refrain*

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Confession and Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P 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.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C the light no darkness can overcome.

P Let Your light scatter the darkness

C and illumine Your Church.

solo: We light the Advent candle
 And share the wondrous Word.
 With love, we tell of Jesus
 Till all around have heard.
 God's love is for each nation
 Throughout His whole creation.
 We wait with growing light
 Till God makes all things right!

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Sermon

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 **O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.**
Refrain

3 **O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe.**
Refrain

4 **O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.**
Refrain

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Epistle

1 John 4:7–16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (*spoken*)

L Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

C: You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Congregational Hymn:

#863 Our Father, by Whose Name

1 Our Father, by whose name

**All fatherhood is known,
Who does in love proclaim
Each family Thine own,
Bless Thou all parents, guarding well,
With constant love as sentinel,
The homes in which Thy people dwell.**

2 O Christ, Thyself a child

**Within an earthly home,
With heart still undefiled,
You did to manhood come;
Our children bless in ev’ry place
That they may all behold Thy face,
And knowing Thee may grow in grace.**

3 O Spirit, who dost bind

**Our hearts in unity,
Who teaches us to find
The love from self set free,
In all our hearts such love increase
That ev’ry home by this release
May be the dwelling place of peace.**

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364 Away in a Manger

- 1 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 on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
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.
- 3 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.

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Apostles' Creed

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C 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.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

387 Joy to the World!

st. 1

- 1 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.

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Benediction

LSB 166

388 Go Tell It on the Mountain!

ref Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *Refrain*

- 2 **The shepherds feared and trembled**
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

- 3 **Down in a lonely manger**
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessèd Christmas morn. *Refrain*

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Thank you to all of the Sunday School teachers who have made it possible for us to present the Christmas story in this modified way. Thanks also to Dennis Lading and the band members for your musical talents. Your dedication to Jesus and His little lambs is deeply appreciated!

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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