

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

901 West Jefferson Avenue
Effingham, IL 62401
Phone: (217) 342-4334
Christian Education: Sun. 9:15am

E-mail: office@stjohnsLCMS.net

Website: stjohnsLCMS.net

Preschool Website: eaglesnestpreschool.com

Services: Sat. 5:30pm – Sun. 8:00am & 10:30am

Dec 26 and Jan 2 we will hold ONE Service at 9:00am

December 24, 2021 – Christmas Eve
4:00pm, 6:30pm, and 11:00pm

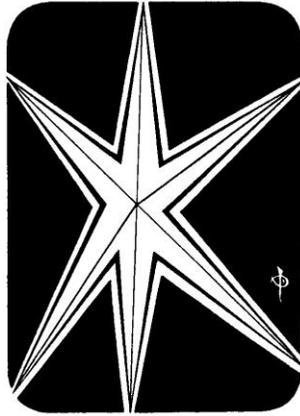
Welcome

We welcome you to God's Service in worship at St. John's, and extend a special welcome to all guests and visitors with us.

- Restrooms are located on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th floors. Those on the 2nd and 5th floors include diaper-changing stations.
- The Service video is broadcast in the Atrium and in the Library area on the 5th floor.
- Visitors are not expected to bring an offering. Our members do so in free response to the Gospel and to finance the extension of God's Kingdom. They place offerings in the boxes at the North and West doors, or give through our online portal on our website.
- **All worshipers are requested to complete an attendance card. They will be collected by ushers after the sermon. Thank you!**

Holy Communion

Welcome! 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*" elements of the Holy Supper. Please register your intent to commune on the pew card after prayerfully reading it. If you are visiting with us and you desire to join with us in communion fellowship in agreement with these beliefs, please speak to our Pastor or the elder on duty before the Service. Thank You.



JESUS CHRIST

IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

As We Gather

The shepherds had a sudden awakening when angelic light dispelled the darkness of night. God was entering human history in Bethlehem then, but for centuries He had been shedding light on His plans. This evening we thank God that His grace has dawned within us, giving us believing hearts to joyfully celebrate His birth. We not only recall what God has done in the past, but also, we light our own candles to spread the warmth of God's love to one another. And then we go out into a world where many people still walk in darkness. What joy there will be when they see the Light!

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Call to Worship

Welcome

Prelude and Light of Christ

4:00pm

6:30pm & 11:00pm

“O Come, Little Children” (Bell Choir)
(Organ Prelude)

Hymn #361

O Little Town of Bethlehem *sts. 1–3*

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in. Text: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

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

C **Amen.**

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake, grant us remission of all our sin; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end, that by Your grace, we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen!**

Hymn #361

O Little Town of Bethlehem *st. 4*

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel! Text: Public domain

Prayer

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.**

READINGS

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
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 be 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

(continued)

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer

Psalm 96

¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!

²Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

³Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

⁴For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary....

¹⁰Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established;
it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
¹²**let the field exult, and everything in it!**

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
¹³**before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Musical Offerings

- "Joy To The World" *(Bell Choir at 4:00pm Service)*
- "Let Our Gladness Have No End" *(Choir at 6:30pm Service)*

"For if, while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

(Romans 5:10-11)

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Responsory

Matthew 1:21; Isaiah 9:6

P She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,

C To us a child is born, to us a son is given.

P for He will save His people from their sins.

C To us a child is born, to us a son is given.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C To us a child is born, to us a son is given.

The Nativity of Our Lord (*remain seated*)

Luke 2:1–20

P In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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.

Hymn #393

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 Infant holy,
 Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
 Oxen lowing,
 Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Swiftly winging,
 Angels singing,
 Bells are ringing,
 Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping,
 Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
 Saw the glory,
 Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
 Thus rejoicing,
 Free from sorrow,
 Praises voicing,
 Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Public domain

P And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

Hymn #368

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 Angels we have heard on high,
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
 Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
 Which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

P 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." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn #362

O Sing of Christ

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known
The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone
So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity
God's finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity,
The icon of His grace. | 3 He came to that which was His own,
But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone,
And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be
The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry
But born of God in love. |
| 2 What Adam lost, none could reclaim,
And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came
To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right
God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light
And our redemption won. | 4 Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell
Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel,
To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became
One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name
For all eternity! |

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Apostles' Creed

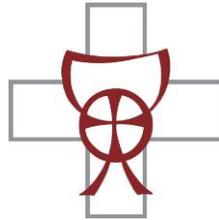
C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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.

Preparation for Communion & Collection of Pew Cards

Prayer of the Church



SACRAMENT

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into time and space as You had promised and graciously enlightened us with the gift of faith. Gathered in the name of Jesus, we ask, O Lord, that You forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Gather us together with all Your saints on that day when we join them at the eternal banquet, which we anticipate in this foretaste of the feast to come. To You—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be all praise and glory, now and forever.

C Amen!

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Distribution Hymns

Hymn #380

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" *Refrain*

refrain Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the_incarinate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

Hymn #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.

Text: Public domain

Hymn #386

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

- 1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!
- 2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!
- 3 Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!
- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

Text: Public domain

Communion Blessing

Candlelighting

(Please hold lighted candles upright, dipping only unlit candles to the flame.)

The following is spoken repeatedly while the candlelight is shared:

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

C **The Light no darkness can overcome.**

Hymn #363

Silent Night, Holy Night stanza 1 / stanza 1 German / stanza 2

1 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.

1G Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born! *Text: Public domain*

Prayer

P O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Benediction

Closing Verse: *verse 3 of "Silent Night"*

3 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 Prayer

(Carefully extinguish candles and keep them upright)

Postlude

Announcements

Come study with us to ***know what you believe and why!*** Participate in the Adult Catechism Bible Study series on Tuesdays, January 4 – March 15, 2022 7:00-8:00pm. This Bible Study is for any adults interested in going through adult confirmation, and any members interested in reviewing the faith they learned long ago. In these challenging days of a culture that's hostile to God's truth and grace, this study is timely for you. Pastor Burdick leads each class, beginning with a brief video to spark conversation. Then we study Luther's Small Catechism. We use the 2017 edition of the Catechism (available for \$16). Readings are assigned for home study prior to classes 2-10. You will grow in knowledge and faith through the Word of God. Invite a friend and know "what you believe and why!" Sign up on the hall bulletin board.

Thank you to every person contributing to the ministry of St. John's in this Christmas season, including the musicians, choirs, ushers, audio-visual techs, elders, communion assistants, greeters, acolytes, and more. You help us tell the Good News about Jesus. Thanks!



Our congregation is offering free access to the suite of Ramsey+ tools through June of 2022. Take advantage of these wise financial resources, and change the future of your household as you manage the money God has provided! Scan this QR code to sign up. Contact the church office by December 29 if you are interested in an in-person "Financial Peace University" class in January.

Sunday School resumes January 9 at 9:15am for children age 3 to 93.

2022 Offering Envelope Boxes are available in the gym/fellowship hall.

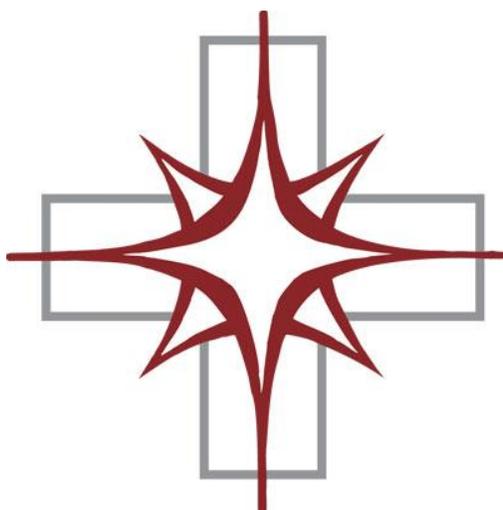
Where are your eyes today? ... Gaze at the baby Jesus in the manger—born into humanity for you. Watch as Jesus teaches, heals, comforts, and calls lost people to Himself. Fix your eyes on Him as He hangs on that cross for you. And look joyfully at Him as He meets you after the resurrection—loving you, forgiving you, and sending you out into His world to share His love with others ... Let's fix our eyes on Jesus!" *Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

The Children's Christmas Program last Sunday was wonderful. If you couldn't attend, watch it on our YouTube Channel (St. John's Lutheran Effingham, IL). Jubilee!

Merry Christmas! Christ is Lord!

Those Who Serve Us

Each Member of St. John's..... The Body of Christ
 Rev. Mike Burdick..... Pastor
 Rev. Gary Fortkamp..... Visitation Pastor
 Mrs. Sandy Esker Preschool Director
 Mrs. Dana Keller 4:00pm Organist
 Ms. Jerry Starner 6:30pm Organist
 Mr. Jamie Lotz 11:00pm Organist
 Jackson & Josie Fritch and Hank Sipe..... Acolytes
 Mrs. Linda Marxmann..... Bell Choir Director
 Ms. Holly Bray Choir Director
 Mr. Todd Zeigler 4:00pm Elder on Duty
 Mr. Dave Worman..... 6:30pm Elder on Duty
 Mr. Jeff Weis 11:00pm Elder on Duty
 Chatelain School & Baja School Our Schools for feeding in Haiti
 Ms. Janet Martins & Mr. Kris Lipe..... Stephen Ministry Leaders
 Mrs. Julie Scott (1-217-343-3047) Prayer Partner Coordinator
 State, National & International Missions through our District and Synod





Poinsettias Were Placed on the Altar by these Family & Friends



-  For blessings received by Warren & Lois Schlechte
-  To the Glory of God by Pastor Earl & Liz Brown
-  In memory of John, Henrietta, & Dennis from Jerry Lindsey
-  In loving Memory of Bob Wendling by Norma, children, grandchildren, & great grandchildren
-  For Lowell & Joyce Miller from their children & grandchildren
-  In memory of Clyde Janis from his wife, & family
-  In loving memory of Roger & Wyvonne Winter from Danny & Karen Stevenson & David Winter
-  Thanks for all our blessings from Allen & Fay Tomkins
-  In memory of Ronnie Wenthe & for God's blessings from the Wenthe family
-  In loving memory of Wilbert from Marilyn Schaefer & family
-  In memory of Kurt & Ethel Ziegler & Mardell Carter from Judy Ziegler and Vicki & Courtney Cook
-  In loving memory of Rolan & Lois Moeller from John & Marla Jackson
-  In loving memory of Glen from Helen Miller & family
-  God's blessings from Pastor & Kathy Burdick
-  In memory of Leroy Ziegler from Beulah Ziegler
-  In memory of Russell Wieneke from Sandy Wieneke
-  In memory of Tyler Walker from Todd & Julie Zeigler & family
-  In memory of Jim Wall from his family
-  In loving memory of Onda Wendte from her family
-  Two poinsettias from an anonymous donor
-  For all of God's blessings from David & Jeanette Worman
-  God's blessings from Marlene Walker & Howard Haake
-  In memory of Gerard Bierman, Melvin & Marilyn Wittenberg, Arthur & Grace Boldt, & Carolene & Henry Wittenberg from Carla Bierman & Vickie Budde
-  In memory of our sons, Gerald Jr. (Bo) & Gregory Allen from Jerry & Verna Bell Lankford
-  God's blessings from Pastor & Kathy Burdick
-  God's blessings from Todd & Sonja Martin & family