

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: stjohsLCMS.net

Preschool Website: eaglesnestpreschool.com

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

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm

Welcome

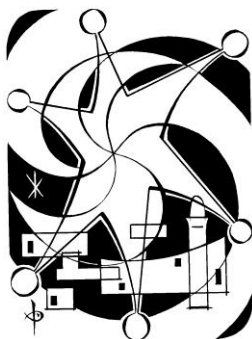
We welcome you to God's Service in worship at St. John's, and extend a special welcome to all guests and visitors with us.

- Little Children's Worship bags are available in the Atrium.
- 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.
- **All worshipers are requested to complete an attendance card. They will be collected by ushers after the sermon. Thank you!**
- Share prayer requests using the yellow cards in the pews.

Those Who Serve Us

Each Member of St. John's	The Body of Christ
Rev. Mike Burdick	Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp	Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Carrie Collier	Preschool Director
Dana Keller, Ruth Bray, & Jamie Lotz	Organists
Ms. Holly Bray	Choir Director
Mrs. Linda Marxmann	Bell Choir Director
Melia & Elijah Wendling, Braiden & ReAnn Parker, and Aleece & Evan Lots	Acolytes
Mr. Dave Worman and Jim Schroeder	4:00pm Elders on Duty
Gayland Bourland	6:30 pm Elder on Duty
Howard Janis	9:00 pm 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

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 upon us, giving us believing hearts to 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, to share Christ with them. What joy there will be when they see the Light!

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.

Call to Worship

Welcome

Prelude and Light of Christ

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.

(continued)

- 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

(stand)

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.**

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.**

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. **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.
⁷Of 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

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

- "What Child is This" *(Bell Choir at 4:00pm Service)*
- "Joy to the World!" *(Choir at 6:30pm Service)*

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,

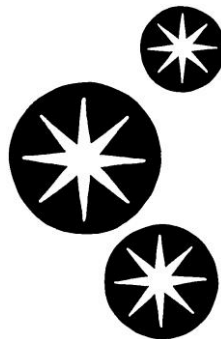
C To us a child is born, to us a son is given.

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

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.

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 On Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 While shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
 The babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate
 Where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
 The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 The babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
 The King of kings salvation brings;
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
 Raise, raise the song on high,
 The virgin sings her lullaby;
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98 Text: Public domain

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

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.

(continued)

- 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.
- 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.
- 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!

Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001224

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.

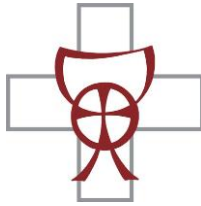
Sermon

"Behold: Good News!"

Luke 2:10-12

Offering, 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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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*

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

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 #366****It Came upon the Midnight Clear**

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.
- 3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.

(continued)

- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt. 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 Let us pray. 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

- P 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.
- C **Amen.**

Closing Verse:

“Silent Night, Holy Night” *verse 3*

- 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



Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.

THE CHRISTMAS EAGLE NEWSLETTER

We sometimes ask children, "what did you get for Christmas?" Wouldn't it be wonderful if they answered, "grace and truth!" I really don't mind if they tell us about the books, clothes, or toys that they receive. I hope, though, that you and I realize that we are children of God only through the Incarnation (coming into flesh) of Jesus, and that our Christmas gifts are grace and peace in Him. That's what our Christmas Day Gospel reading says, and that's what we believe. It's a joy to celebrate the Nativity with you. Merry Christmas!



Thank you to our office staff, custodians, musicians, ushers, altar guild, elders, trustees, acolytes, A-V techs, and all other special volunteers who have labored in Christian love throughout Advent and Christmas here at St. John's!

The Sunday School Christmas Service was wonderful on December 18. Thank you, children! If you haven't already, find the video of it on our YouTube channel (St. John's Lutheran Church, Effingham). To God be the glory for the work the youth and teachers put into the worship!

Are you interested in joining our congregation through adult confirmation? Are you a longtime Lutheran who would like to review Luther's Small Catechism? Our next series of 10 sessions in the Adult Catechism Class runs from January 31 to April 4, 2023, and classes are held from 4:00-5:00pm here at St. John's. If interested, sign-up on the main bulletin board in the Atrium Hallway, or email pastor at mike.burdick@stjohnsLCMS.net.

Are you about to make a new year's resolution? The finest one you can make for your spiritual health is to be here at St. John's for Service every single week (except when you're ill)! "*O, Come, Let Us Adore Him!*"

Our church households will be reading Luther's Small Catechism daily from January 1 to February 20. If you would like to receive a free copy with the schedule, pick up one at our Welcome Center in the Atrium.

Many in our congregation will finish the two-year "Today's Light" journey through the entire Bible this week. Our final review session will be Tuesday, January 3, at 4:00pm (offices are closed January 2).

The Church Calendar is always available on our website: www.stjohnsLCMS.net (you can sign up for weekly email updates at the top of that page, too).

Christmas Day Service w/Holy Communion	9:00am
<i>Office Closed all day Monday, Dec. 26</i>	
New Year's Eve Service w/Holy Communion	5:30pm
New Year's Day Service w/Holy Communion	9:00am
<i>Office Closed all day Monday, Jan. 2</i>	