

St. John
Lutheran Church



HARK!

Listen, God is Calling •

Advent II
Saturday, December 3, 2022

5:30pm

St. John

Next Week:
December 5 - 11

Monday 12/5

9:30 – 11:30am PDO
 1 - 3:30pm Staff Meeting: Zoom
 6:15 - 7pm Ensemble: SA
 6:30 - 8pm Small Group: TR
 7 - 8pm Handbells: SA
 7 - 8pm A.A. Women: KJ Hall
 7 - 8pm AI-Anon: WW 3&4
 7 - 8pm Cub Scouts Committee: Zoom

Tuesday 12/6

9:30 - 11:30am PDO
 4 - 5pm Prayer Shawl Ministry: TR
 7 - 8pm Sunday School Team Meet.: WW 3 & 4
 7 - 8:30pm Boy Scouts: KJH

Wednesday 12/7

8am - 2pm Food Bank Delivery: KJH
 9:30 - 11:30am PDO
 6 - 7pm YAM: Leader Meeting
 6 - 9pm Tech Rehearsal for Cantata
 6:15 - 7:15pm Youth Choir: SA
 7 - 8:15pm Confirmation: Building
 7 - 9pm Senior Choir: CR/SA
 8:15 - 9:15PM HS FIRE: YR

Thursday 12/8

9 - 11:30am Coffee with Friends: TR
 9:30 - 11:30am PDO
 11am - 3pm FP Delivery: KJH
 5 - 7pm FP Packing: KJH
 7 - 8 pm Advent Evening Prayer
 7 - 8pm AA Men: Zoom
 8 - 9pm Praise Team: SA

Friday 12/9

9 - 11am Quilters: WW5
 9 - 10:30am Meals on Wheels
 9:30 - 11:30am MOPS: NX

Saturday 12/10

8 – 10am FP Distribution Drive
 Thru: NX & KJH
 5:30 – 6:30pm Worship: SA

Sunday 12/11

8:30 – 9:30am Worship: SA
 9:45 – 10:45am Fair Trade Coffee: NX
 9:45 – 10:45am Sunday School
 11am – Noon Worship
 12:15 - 2:30pm Tween *GO!*

CR - Choir Room
 KJH - Karin Johnson Hall
 NX - Narthex
 SA - Sanctuary
 TR - Trinity Room
 WW - West Wing
 YR - Youth Room

STJOHNJOLIET.ORG/CALENDAR

Available 24/7 - Subscribe and link to your personal calendar

Norman Rockwell Calendars

Available in Narthex. Free!

Christmas Poinsettia Plants

Remember your loved ones with a poinsettia plant for Christmas.

Plants cost \$15. Dedication choices: In Honor of, In Memory of, and In Thanksgiving for. Sign up by 12/19 to have dedications included in Christmas bulletins.

We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church as we gather for this time of worship and reflection on God's love for the world.

Today the altar flowers are given by Brent, Denise, Heather, and Christopher Rimmke in memory of father and grandfather, Arthur Rimmke; and by the Repavich family in remembrance of our parents and grandparents

To sponsor altar flowers for our worship space, sign up at stjohnjoliet.org or call the church office.

Worship Leaders – Saturday, December 3, 2022 (5:30 pm)

Deacon	Steve Volkening
Ushers	Elizabeth Fee, John Fleming
Acolyte	Juliet Michalesko
Piano Organ	Susan Yokubonis
Counters	Jan Drish, Nancy Kautz
Altar Guild	Monica Engel, Joan Fry

Contact Information

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 **St. John by the Mall – Joliet, IL**

 **St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet**

**Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

P We are gathered today in the name of the Father, Son, and † Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

P Today, on this second week of Advent, we light the candle of love because God has interwoven the world with it. May the light remind us that threads of love weave neighbors together, unite friends and family, and tether us to God.
C Amen.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

257, Vs. 2

Text by: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite. Music by: French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6,7 © Augsburg Fortress.
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Verse 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Embracing all things far and nigh:
In strength and beauty come and stay;
Teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

*Confession and Forgiveness

P In God's house, everyone is welcome—
those who seem like they have it all together,
and those who feel like their world is falling apart.
No matter who we are, there's room for us here.
With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer,
speaking the truth of our lives.

Let us pray:

P God of today and God of tomorrow, you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

C But we say, "Our lives are too messy."

P You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here."

C But we say, "It's too risky to hope."

P You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."

C But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."

P God of today and God of tomorrow, we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

**C Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.
Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.**

P Help us remember, today and tomorrow, there's room for everyone.

C Amen.

P Family of faith,

We who feel scattered are held together. We who have lost our way are forgiven and found. And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told, "There's room for you here." From generation to generation, this is the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed. Thanks be to God!

C Amen.

*Opening Hymn

264 Vs. 1, 3, & 4

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Text by: Frans Mikael Franzen; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Music: Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

- Verse 1** Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
- Refrain** Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
- Verse 3** Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: **Refrain**
- Verse 4** His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: **Refrain**

*Prayer of the Day

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Let us pray. God of love, your inevitable salvation flows through the world and you invite us to join in. Grant us the thrill of your courageous grace to fend off hurt and violence by caring for one another and trusting in you.
- C **Amen.**

Reading

Esther 4:1-17

D A reading from the book of Esther, the fourth chapter.
Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and to entreat him for her people.

Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai: "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that, if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law: to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days." When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Gospel

Matthew 10:26-31

P The gospel according to Matthew, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

P The gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Robin Caldwell

“People, Look East”

Text by: Eleanor Farjeon. Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose. Text © Miss E. farjeon Will Trust,
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Verse 1 People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today – Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Verse 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flow’r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today – Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Verse 3 Stars, keep the watch when night is dim,
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as the sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today – Love, the Star, is on the way.

***Apostles’ Creed**

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

P Holy God, we know that you are here, for where two or more are gathered, you are there. We bow our heads with tender spirits and ask that once more you would lean in close to hear our prayers.

Congregation sings this response:

528

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taize Community. Music by: Jacques Berthier. Text and Music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taize, admin. GIA Publications. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!

The prayers conclude:

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

You may share the peace of Christ with others.

Those who choose to stay in their pew may wave or give signs of peace.

Offertory

All that we are and all that we have are gifts from God. In response to God's generosity, we offer these gifts to our neighbors and the world through our time, possessions, and money.

The Offertory is an invitation to be a part of the mission, ministry, and outreach of Christ through St. John Lutheran Church. Together, there is enough for everyone.

Please place any financial gifts, attendance sheets, and prayer concerns in the offering plate when it comes to you and pass it on to the person next to you or behind you. Thank you for your generosity!

*Offertory Response

465

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Refrain As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
So may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

Verse As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst
May we share the presence of your love. **Refrain**

*Offertory Prayer

D Let us pray. **God who keeps calling, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving

Presider *Congregation*

The — Lord be with you. And — al - so with

Presider *Congregation*

you. Lift up your hearts. We

Presider

lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation

thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

*Words of Institution

*The 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.

***Invitation to Communion**

P Christ is near. Christ is here!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Distribution

We believe in the true presence of Jesus Christ in this meal and at this table.

All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

There are two ways to receive communion today:

Receiving Communion in your pew

You may receive communion in your pew with the elements contained in the communion pod. The pastor will say the words of distribution after the Invitation to Communion:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Receiving Communion at the altar

- *You will be invited forward by the usher.*
- *Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Inform the pastor when receiving communion.*
- *Red wine is on the outer rings of the tray; white grape juice is on the inner rings of the tray.*
- *After receiving communion, place the used communion cup in the basket that the acolyte brings to you and return to your pew via the side aisle.*

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have
you are the way of jus-tice and peace:
you give us hope as we wait for you:



mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Music

487, Vs. 1-3

“What Feast of Love”

Text by: Delores Dufner, OSB. Music by: English ballad, 16th cent. Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications.
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Verse 1 What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

Verse 2 What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

Verse 3 What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Text by: Christina Georgina Rossetti. Music by: Gustav Holst. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth, stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Verse 2 Heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Verse 3 What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

***Prayer after Communion**

D Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

***Benediction**



*Sending Song

513, Vs. 1

“Listen, God is Calling”

Text by: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922, Music by: Tanzania tun; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, b. 1919, Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Madumira, Tanzania, admin, Augsburg Fortress. Arr. © 1968 Austin C. Lovelace. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Refrain Listen! Listen, God is calling,
 To the word inviting,
 Offering forgiveness,
 Comfort and joy **Repeat**

*Sending

D Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

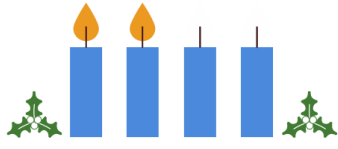
Postlude

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Tomorrow at St. John!

Angel Tree Gifts Due

Bring your unwrapped gift and tag to the church office by Noon tomorrow.



Advent II: Listen, God is Calling

Sunday School Christmas Program* & Light Up the Night

4pm Sunday School Christmas Program; Special offering will purchase diapers & wipes for our food pantry neighbors.

4:30pm Light Up the Night: Cocoa & Carols in the parking lot.

5pm Light Up the Night: Tree Lighting in the parking lot.

Cocoa & Carols: Treats & Volunteers

Bring cookies, brownies or treats for Cocoa & Carols tomorrow night, or volunteer to serve. See Penny & Mark Collins, Nicole Adams or Pam Korhaus in the church office. Thank you!

Coming Up...

2022 The Sanctified Art From Generation to Generation... devotional

This Advent devotional is unique because it offers readers many ways to connect with their faith during the Advent season. In addition to Bible verses and reflections, there is beautiful art, recipes, poetry, and music verses. Hard copies in the Narthex, or click the link in your weekly email for a digital version.

12/8 & 12/15 - Advent Evening Prayer, 7pm*

Spend some time in our Sanctuary space as pastors lead prayer time designed to help you recenter, refocus, and relax. December 1st, 8th, 15th.

12/18 - Christmas Cantata, 8:30am* & 11am

Enjoy *Little Lamb*, *Little Lion*, a cantata directed by Tori Hicks. Features St. John Chorale, Praise Team, and Youth Choir.

12/18 - Longest Night, 7pm*

Pastors offer you healing words of comfort when "the most wonderful time of the year" isn't quite so wonderful.

12/24 - Christmas Eve Worship, 3pm*, 5pm*, 11pm*

Celebrate the birth of the Christ child with St. John. Invite your family and friends for this special service. Candle lighting to *Silent Night* at all services.

12/25, 1/1 - Worship on Christmas Day & New Year's Day, 10am*

One service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. *Note: these will look different than our regular Sunday livestream. Download a bulletin, there will not be on-screen words.*

12/30 - Last day for 2022 Giving

Ensure your offerings and gifts post to your 2022 Giving Statement by bringing them to the church office on/before noon on 12/30. Thank you!

* Livestream on YouTube & Facebook



TOMORROW

December 4th

4PM



Sunday School Christmas Program, Sanctuary

Light **4:30PM** *Cocoa & Carols*
up the
Night **5PM** *Tree Lighting*



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

**Share the Good News.
Share our Worship Link.**

