

# St. John Lutheran Church

Senior Pastor, Robin E. Caldwell

Associate Pastor, Evan Mayhew



## Breaking The Chains

**January 20, 2024 @ 5:30 pm**

2650 Plainfield Road, Joliet, IL 60435  
815-439-2320 | [contact@stjohnjoliet.org](mailto:contact@stjohnjoliet.org) | [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org)

# ST. JOHN CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET Q&A

In anticipation of our annual Congregational Meeting on January 28th, we will host two Q&A sessions for you to ask questions about the 2024 budget and church business. One in person and one on Zoom. We hope to see you there.

21 JANUARY, 2024 | 09:45 AM | TRINITY ROOM

23 JANUARY, 2024 | 07:00 PM | ZOOM

## CONGREGATIONAL MTG.

28 JANUARY, 2024 | 09:45 AM | SANCTUARY



## January Special Offering: Helping Hands



### YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS KEEP PEOPLE



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*UTILITY ASSISTANCE*



**AT WORK**  
*TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE*



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Use a gold envelope labeled Helping Hands or click "give" at [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org)

*St. John*  
Lutheran Church

## FAITH FIELD TRIPS

*St. John*  
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### WORSHIP

Visit to Joliet Jewish Congregation  
**01/27 9:30 - 11:30am**

*Join us!*

### SHOW

36th Annual Gospel Extravaganza  
Off-Site: Naperville  
**02/10 3:00-5:00pm**

Let us know you're interested on  
[StJohnJoliet.org](http://StJohnJoliet.org) or scan the QR code to go  
directly to the rsvp form



Questions? Contact Janel Eaton, Coordinator - **815-341-7365**

*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.*

*The flowers on the altar today are given by the Altar Guild.*

*To sponsor altar flowers for our worship space, sign up at [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org) or call the church office.*

**Worship Leaders – Saturday, January 20, 2024 (5:30 pm)**

<b>Deacon</b>	Steve Volkening
<b>Usher</b>	John Fleming
<b>Piano</b>	Susan Yokubonis
<b>Music Director</b>	Tori Hicks
<b>Counters</b>	Frank Norem, Norm Roland
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jinny Buchholtz, Cheryl Lovell

**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.**

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.  
C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God, our rock and refuge,  
C **we pour out our hearts before you.**  
**We have known you but have not always loved you.**  
**We have wounded one another and sinned against you.**  
**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.**  
**Remember your covenant.**  
**Renew your creation.**  
**Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.  
God has spoken:  
The time of grace is now.  
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.  
By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
You are God's beloved.  
C **Amen.**

## \*Opening Hymn

# 632, Vs. 1-4

### **“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”**

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- Verse 1**      O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
- Verse 2**      Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.
- Verse 3**      Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.
- Verse 4**      A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

## \*Greeting

- 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.**

## \*KYRIE

*Assistant:* In peace, in peace,

*Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,  
 Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have  
 mer - cy.

*Assistant:* For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

*Assistant:* For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)

*Assistant:*  
 Help, save and de - fend us, O God.  
*Congregation:*  
 A - - - men.

## \*Hymn of Praise

"Now the Feast and Celebration"

Now the feast and cel-e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion sings for  
 joy to the God of life and love and free - dom:  
 praise and glo - ry for ev - er - more!

- Leader Verse 1** Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,  
Whose blood has freed and united us  
To be one great people of God. **Refrain**
- Leader Verse 2** Power and riches, wisdom and might,  
All honor and glory to Christ forever. **Refrain**
- Leader Verse 3** For God has come to dwell with us,  
To make us people of God; to make all things new. **Refrain**

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray. Great Seeker of the Lost, your son sought out those scattered on the furthest edges of society, those feared and rejected by the world, and brought them back into community. Give us the compassion of Jesus, who valued the life of outcasts above riches or comfort, who declared, in his sacrifice, that all are worthy of love. We pray this in your holy name.  
**C** **Amen.**

### **Psalm 89:1-8 (NRSVUE)**

- D** A responsive reading from the book of Psalms.  
Listen for the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Our hearts are open.**

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.  
**I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;  
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to my servant David:  
**'I will establish your descendants forever  
and build your throne for all generations.'** "

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.  
**For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?  
Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,**

a God feared in the council of the holy ones,  
 great and awesome above all who are around him?  
**O LORD God of hosts,**  
**who is as mighty as you, O LORD?**  
**Your faithfulness surrounds you.**

**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

**Mark 5:1-20 (NRSVUE)**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the fifth chapter.  
**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes. And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. He lived among the tombs, and no one could restrain him anymore, even with a chain, for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces, and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him, and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he had said to him,



“Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region. Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding, and the unclean spirits begged him, “Send us into the swine; let us enter them.” So, he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, stampeded down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. They came to Jesus and saw the man possessed by demons sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion, and they became frightened. Those who had seen what had happened to the man possessed by demons and to the swine reported it. Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. But Jesus refused and said to him, “Go home to your own people, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and what mercy he has shown you.” And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.

**P** The gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise to you O Christ.

## **Children’s Sermon**

## **Sermon**

Pastor Evan Mayhew

## “Healer of Our Every Ill”

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**Refrain** Healer of our ev’ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
Give us peace beyond our fear and hope beyond our sorrow.

**Verse 1** You who know our fears and sadness,  
Grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. **Refrain**

**Verse 2** In the pain and joy beholding  
How your grace is still unfolding,  
Give us all your vision, God of love. **Refrain**

**Verse 3** Give us strength to love each other,  
Ev’ry sibling, ev’ry wand’rer;  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. **Refrain**

**Verse 4** You who know each thought and feeling,  
Teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. **Refrain**

## \*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

# 814

Music: John L. Bell, b. 1949. Music: John L. Bell. Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.  
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P As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*Congregation sings this response:*

**Take, oh, take me as I am;  
Summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal upon my heart  
And live in me.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

*Today we celebrate the gift of God's love for the world. In turn, we share that love by giving what we can. We pray that whatever we offer of our time, money, and talents will be used by the Holy Spirit to create a more purposeful world of love and belonging for one another.*

*Please place any financial gifts, attendance sheets, and prayer requests in the offering plate when it comes to you and pass it on to the person next to you or behind you.  
May God bless your generous heart!*

Try our new giving platform, *Tithe.ly*



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***More information coming in 2024 on Tithe.ly for recurring givers.***

## **\*Offertory Response**

**# 465, Vs. 1**

### **"As the Grains of Wheat"**

Text: Diadache, 2nd Cent. Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Music: As The Grains, Marty Haugen.  
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#### ***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. **Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. 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. By the leading of a star, he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water, turned to wine, he revealed your glory. 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 At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.  
C **Thanks be to God!**

## **Distribution**

*We believe Jesus Christ is the host of this table, his true presence is in this meal,  
and that you are welcome here!*

*St. John provides an introduction to First Communion in the spring to third graders and anyone else who is interested. Younger children typically receive a blessing at the altar rail, but any people with open hands will be offered bread and wine/juice. If you are a parent and prefer your child receive a blessing, place your hand on their head. If you are older and prefer a blessing, please request it of the pastor at the rail.*

*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 communion rail**

- *You will be invited forward by the usher to receive bread from the pastor. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request to the pastor.*
- *Communion assistants hold trays with red wine in the outer rings of the tray and white grape juice in the inner rings of the tray.*
- *After receiving communion, place the used communion cup in the basket, and return to your pew via the side aisle.*
- *At the 5:30pm service, the pastor will offer a blessing before you leave the communion rail.*

# 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 are God's light to all of the world:

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

**# 638, Vs. 1-3**

## “Blessed Assurance”

Text: Fanny L. Crosby, 1820-1915; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908; Public Domain  
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### Verse 1

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

## Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long:  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

### Verse 2

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight:  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **Refrain**

### Verse 3

Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love. **Refrain**



**“Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal”**

Text & Music: Ray Makeever, b. 1943, arr. Rusty Edwards, b. 1955; Text & Music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company  
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- Verse 1** Bread of life, our host and meal, Jesus, feed us.  
Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
- Verse 2** Bread now break and wine now pour, Jesus, feed us.  
Make us one, our hope restore; feed us with your love.
- Verse 3** Grant forgiveness in the feast – Jesus, feed us. –  
For the greatest and the least; feed us with your love.
- Verse 4** Thank you for this gift we share. Jesus, feed us.  
Save God’s children ev’rywhere; feed us with your love.

**\*Prayer after Communion**

- D** Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ’s body is our food, and we are  
Christ’s body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to  
your glory, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

**\*Benediction**



“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt.; Music: Arthur H. Messiter, 1834-1916, Public Domain  
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**Verse 1**      Rejoice, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your king.

**Refrain**      Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

**Verse 6**      Praise God who reigns on high,  
The Lord whom we adore:  
The Father, Son, and Spirit blest,  
One God forevermore.      **Refrain**

\*Sending

D      Go in peace! You are God’s beloved.  
C      **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

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01

Anniversaries

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04

Special Occasions and more!

Signup in the church office  
or online at [stjohnjoliet.org](https://stjohnjoliet.org)





# Coffee Hour

## Hosts Needed for 2024

Sundays from 9:45AM - 10:45AM

signup at  
[stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org)  
or at the coffee  
hour table



WE PROVIDE THE COFFEE AND  
YOU BRING THE TREATS!

SANDY SMITH WILL CONTACT YOU WITH DETAILS.



Let's  
Laugh &  
Play with  
Friends

ST. JOHN

# GAME NIGHT

SATURDAY  
**FEBRUARY 10th**

EVENT STARTS AT: 06:30 PM  
IN THE NARTHEX/TRINITY ROOM

GAMES PROVIDED OR  
BRING YOUR FAVORITE GAME FROM HOME

For more information contact  
Penny Collins: 815-342-5339

Place your palm  
branches in the basket  
in the narthex for the

## Burning of the Palms

Sunday, February 11th  
9:45AM

## ASH WEDNESDAY

FEB. 14TH  
7:00 PM

*St. John*  
Lutheran Church

# January

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

- 8:30am - 9:30am Worship: Sanctuary
- 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School: Karin Johnson Hall & West Wing
- 9:45am - 10:45am Congregational Budget Q&A: Trinity Room
- 11:00am - 12:00pm Worship: Sanctuary
- 12:15pm - 2:30pm Tween Go!: Karin Johnson Hall
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm Girl Scout: Karin Johnson Hall & Narthex

## MONDAY, JANUARY 22

- 9:30am - 11:30am Parent's Day Out (PDO)
- 12:00pm - 3:00pm Staff Meeting: Trinity Room
- 4:45pm - 7:00pm 4:12 The Next Chapter: Church Office
- 5:30pm - 8:00pm A.A. Woman's Group: Karin Johnson Hall
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm Monday Night Small Group: Trinity Room
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm Al-Anon: West Wing 3 & 4

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

- 9:30am - 11:30am Parent's Day Out (PDO)
- 12:00pm - 4:00pm Staff Calendar Meeting: Trinity Room
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm Congregation/Budget Q & A: Zoom
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts: Karin Johnson Hall

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

- 8:30am - 12:00pm Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
- 9:30am - 11:30am Parent's Day Out (PDO)
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm Youth Choir: Choir Room
- 7:00pm - 8:15pm Confirmation: Building
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm St. John Chorale: Choir Room
- 8:15pm - 9:15pm High School FIRE: Youth Room

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

- 9:00am - 11:30am Coffee with Friends (Women): West Wing 3 & 4
- 9:00am - 1:00pm Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
- 9:00am - 11:00am East Conference Meeting: Trinity Room/Sanctuary
- 9:30am - 11:30am Parent's Day Out (PDO)
- 2:00pm - 6:00pm Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
- 4:00pm - 7:00pm Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
- 4:00pm - 6:00pm Food Pantry Distribution Online Orders: West Wing
- 6:30pm - 7:30pm Friends of the Youth: Trinity Room
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm MOPS Setup: Narthex
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm A.A. Men's Group: Zoom
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm Praise Team: Sanctuary

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 (Church Office Closed)

- 9:00am - 11:00am Quilters: West Wing 5
- 9:00am - 10:30am Meals on Wheels: Senior Services of Will County, Mark Frost
- 9:30am - 11:30am MOPS: Narthex

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

- 7:00am - 11:00am Food Pantry Volunteer Shifts: Narthex & Karin Johnson Hall
- 8:00am - 10:00am Food Pantry Distribution Drive-Thru: Parking Lot
- 9:30am - 11:30am Faith Field Trip: Joliet Jewish Congregation Worship: Off-Site
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm Worship: Sanctuary

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

- 8:30am - 9:30am Worship: Sanctuary
- 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School: Karin Johnson Hall & West Wing
- 9:45am - 10:15am Congregational Meeting: Sanctuary
- 11:00 am - 12:00pm Worship: Sanctuary
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm Girl Scout: Karin Johnson Hall & Narthex

**\*Check "stjohnfood.org" for Food Pantry distribution times and volunteer opportunities.**