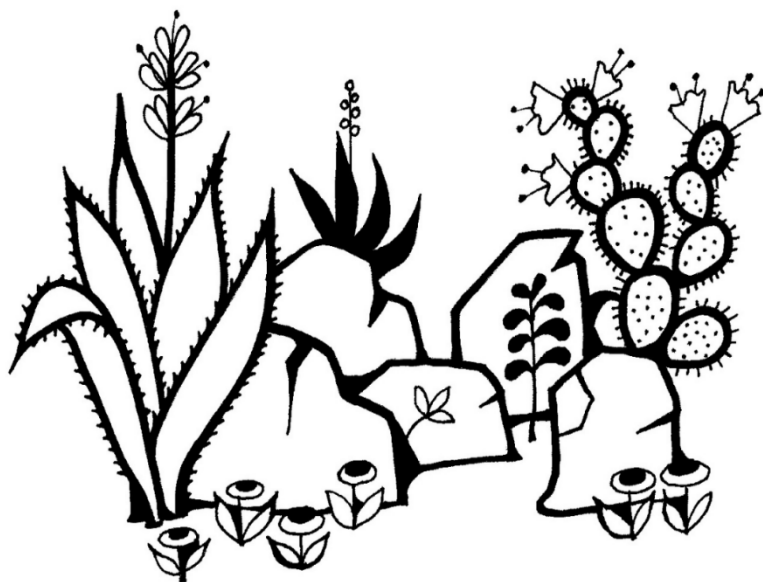


St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH



Finding Our Way: God's Advent Perseverance
Advent III: Joy as Resistance

December 13th, 2025 at 5:30 PM

December 14th, 2025 at 8:30 AM

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 in honor of what would have been Dennis and Suzan Paulson's 60th wedding anniversary.

Worship Leaders – Saturday, December 13, 2025 (5:30 pm)

Deacon	Steve Volkening
Usher	Elizabeth Fee
Piano	Susan Yokubonis
Music Director	Tori Hicks
Welcome Center	Claudia Smoljo

Worship Leaders – Sunday, December 14, 2025 (8:30 am)

Deacon	Judy Wierman
Communion Assistant	Pam Murray
Greeter	Bartleman family
Ushers	Bob Makowka, Paul & Kathy Thomason
Acolytes	Aiden Henry, Sage Quiaoit
Piano & Organ	Janet Blomquist
Music Director	Tori Hicks
Audio Board	Bill Bromer
Livestream	Kyra Drucek, Matt Markwell
Counters	Pat Block-Hay, Wendy Eklund
Altar Guild	Joan Fry, Marge West
Welcome Center	Judy Butler
Wiggle Room	Nicole Adams
Coffee Hour Host	Friends of St. John

Contact Information

Pastor Robin Caldwell	robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org	630-408-1402
Pastor Evan Mayhew	evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org	262-366-3132
Tori Hicks	torihicks@stjohnjoliet.org	815-355-3205
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St. John Lutheran Church
2650 Plainfield Road, Joliet, IL 60435
815-439-2320 contact@stjohnjoliet.org stjohnjoliet.org



St. John by the Mall – Joliet, IL



St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet

**Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

Prelude (8:30)

"A Rossetti Christmas"

Hayes

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 Isaiah proclaims the day when the root of Jesse, the Christ, our savior, will gather all people on the holy mountain where no one will hurt or destroy.

C **We wait with hope in God's advent perseverance, for the day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb; when little children will lead us.**

P We light the advent candle today as a sign of the resilience of hope.

C **We trust that God is here, that Christ will come, and that we will find our way, walking in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

"In Silence We Wait"

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*Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Long-expected God,
C **we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

P God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
✙ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

C **Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

"Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"

242, Vs. 1, 2, 4

***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.**

***Prayer of the Day**

- P Let us pray. Sustain our will as we look to you, Lord God.
Strengthen our faith, that, transformed by grace, we may resist evil
and be filled with joy in the promise of your presence, and the
promise of your coming; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.
- C **Amen.**

Anthem (8:30)

“Lost in the Night”
St. John Handbell Choir
Rachel Uffelmann, Violin

arr. Mokolbust

Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

- D A reading from the book of Isaiah, the 35th chapter.
Listen for the Word of the Lord.
- C **Our hearts are open.**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
 and streams in the desert;
 the burning sand shall become a pool
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;
 the unclean shall not travel on it,
 but it shall be for God's people;
 no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
 they shall not be found there,
 but the redeemed shall walk there.
 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
 and come to Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

D Word of God, Word of Life!
 C **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation

S 142a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel**

Matthew 11:2-11

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P The gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children's Sermon (8:30)

*After the Children's Sermon, parents with children of all ages,
may bring them to the Wiggle Room Leader standing
at the end of the center aisle. They will then take the children
to the Wiggle Room. The children will return to the sanctuary
during the Sharing of the Peace.*

Sermon

Pastor Evan Mayhew

***Hymn of the Day**

"Joy to the World"

267, Vs. 1-4

***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

In the hope of God's grace and salvation, the church prays for all the great needs of the world.

Your prayer requests may be shared silently during today's prayers, by filling out a green prayer request card in your pew or completing the Prayer Request form at stjohnjoliet.org.

P In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Congregation sings this response:

232

"Let My Prayer Rise Up"

Text: Holden Evening Prayer, Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 141. Music: Marty Haugen. Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

**Let My Prayer rise up
Like incense before you,
The lifting up of my hands
As an offering to you.**

The prayers conclude:

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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 (8:30)

"Immanuel"

Card

Commitment to Community

In this season of giving, we remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from God. When we offer back a portion of our time, possessions, and money, we trust that God will reach our neighbors in need right here and throughout the world through what we gratefully give.

*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!



Now Accepting



*Offertory Response

207

"Gift to the World"

Words & Music by Robin Mann, ©1993 Robin Mann, CCLI #2793209

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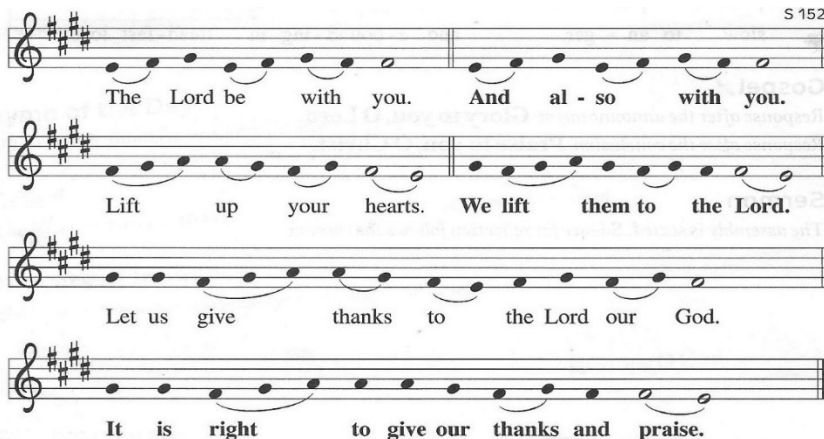
We bring the gifts that You have brought us,
we sing the songs that You are teach - ing to us.
Take our lives, take our time, take our pos - ses - sions.
Make us Your gift to the world, _____
make us Your gift to the world. _____

*Offertory Prayer

- D Let us pray.
- C **Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving

S 152



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



***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 All are welcome at this joyful feast.

C Thanks be to God!

Distribution

*We believe Jesus Christ is the host of this table,
his true presence is in this meal, and you are welcome to receive
the bread and wine of resurrection.*

*If you prefer your child to receive a blessing,
place your hand upon their head or their hands.*

Communion Instruction

- You will be invited forward by the usher or pastor.
- To receive communion, hold your hands open to receive the bread in your palm.
- Gluten-free/vegan 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, and return to your pew via the side aisle.
- If you prefer to receive communion in your pew, communion pods are available at the entrance to the sanctuary. The pastor will say the words of distribution after the Invitation to Communion.

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

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

257, Vs. 1-2

"Christ Be Our Light"

715, Vs. 1-5

***Blessing (8:30)**

C Amen.

***Prayer after Communion**

D Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

*Benediction



*Sending Hymn

254, Vs. 1

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; Music W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; Public Domain.
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(Sung to the tune of HYFRYDOL # 631)

Verse 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

*Sending

D Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude (8:30) "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" (reprise)



Order Poinsettias

Christmas is Coming!

Purchase a poinsettia for the St. John celebration of the Christ child.

Deadline: Sunday, December 14th

\$15 per plant



TO ORDER

Visit stjohnjoliet.org

Bulletin Order Form

Call the Church Office

St. John

Longest Night

A Holiday Service of Longing, Loss, and Hope

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted"
Matthew 5:4

Sunday, December 21st 7:00PM

December 2025

Advent

SAT/SUN 6-7 **Advent 2: "Hope as Resilience"**
5:30 PM Saturday Worship, *8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Sunday Worship

SUN 7 **Sunday School Christmas Program at 4:00 PM**

THU 11 **Advent Evening Prayer: "Hope as Resilience"**
*7:00 PM Worship

SAT/SUN 13-14 **Advent 3: "Joy as Resistance"**
5:30 PM Saturday Worship, *8:30 AM & *11:00 AM Sunday Worship

THU 18 **Advent Evening Prayer: "Joy as Resistance"**
*7:00 PM Worship

SAT/SUN 20-21 **Advent 4: "Love as Deliverance"**
5:30 PM Saturday Worship, *8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Sunday Worship

SUN 21 **The Longest Night Service at *7:00 PM**

WED 24 ***3:00 PM Worship, with YouTube Livestream**
***5:30 PM Worship, with YouTube Livestream**
***11:00 PM Worship, with YouTube Livestream**



WATCH NOW



Worship & Events 2025

stjohnjoliet.org

*Denotes Livestream is Available



GIVING TREE

BEGINS 12/07/25 IN THE NARTHEX

These giftcards help provide assistance to many of our community members throughout the year.



We are looking for \$10 increments for Target, Thornton, Walmart, Speedway, McDonald's, Shell & Aldi work best.



**Please
Remember**

DUE BY 12/31

Ministry Leader Annual Reports

2025 Ministry Reports due to Alyssa Rosas
on/before December 31st.

Drop them off in the office or email
Operations@stjohnjoliet.org.



WORSHIP TIMES

**December 28th
and
January 4th**

9:30 AM ONLY

It's Advent so...Keep awake!

Matthew 24:42

For your well-being, as the season gets darker, please:

- park in well-lit areas
- be aware of your surroundings
- walk through the parking lot with others
- pick up people under the portico
- look out for one another
- be alert



THANK YOU FOR YOUR END OF YEAR GIVING!

- **Through Tithe.ly**, give early in December to ensure your offering is processed before the end of the year.
- **Cash/ Check**, please give by noon. on December 31st to ensure your offering is included on your 2025 Giving Statement.



Church Christmas De-Decorating

Sunday, January 4, 2026, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Adults Only Please

Sign up on the back of the attendance sheet

Questions? Contact Jackie Mansholt
at j.mansholt@gmail.com

St. John

**SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR
JANUARY 11TH, 2026**

**Celebrating the
Retirement of Mark Lenz
and Welcoming Howie Murray
as our new Maintenance Associate**



Mark Lenz



Howie Murray

December

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 *(Monthly Special Offering: Christmas)*

8:30am - 9:30am	Worship: Sanctuary
9:45am - 10:00am	Sunday School Sings Rehearsal (RECESS)
9:45am - 10:45am	Sunday School: Karin Johnson Hall, West Wing
9:45am - 10:45am	Coffee Hour: Friends of St. John
11:00am - 12:00pm	Worship: Sanctuary
12:15pm - 2:30pm	Tween GO!: Karin Johnson Hall
1:00pm - 4:00pm	Piano/Voice Recital: Sanctuary
4:00pm - 7:00pm	Girl Scouts: Karin Johnson Hall
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Spanish Worship: Sanctuary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

1:00pm - 3:00pm	Staff Meeting: Trinity Room
5:30pm - 8:30pm	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
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Handbells: Sanctuary
8:00pm - 9:00pm	Handbell Ensemble: Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

1:00pm - 3:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry: Youth Room
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Council Meeting: Trinity Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:30am - 12:00pm	Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
7:00pm - 8:30pm	Confirmation: (RECESS)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00am - 11:30am	Coffee with Friends (Women): Youth Room
9:00am - 1:00pm	Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
10:00am - 11:00am	Altar Guild Meeting: Trinity Room
2:00pm - 7:00pm	Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
7:00pm - 8:00pm	A.A. Men's Group: Zoom
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Advent Evening Prayer: Sanctuary
7:45pm - 9:30pm	St. John Chorale & Praise Team: Sanctuary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:30am - 12:00pm	Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
9:00am - 11:00am	Quilters: West Wing 5
9:00am - 10:30am	Meals on Wheels: Senior Services of Will County

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00am - 11:00am	Food Pantry Volunteer Shifts: Karin Johnson Hall, Narthex
8:00am - 10:00am	Food Pantry Distribution Drive-Thru: Parking Lot
5:30pm - 6:30pm	Worship: Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:30am - 9:30am	Worship: Sanctuary
9:45am - 10:45am	Coffee Hour: Karen Becker and friends
9:45am - 10:00am	Sunday School Sings Rehearsal (RECESS)
9:45am - 10:45am	Sunday School: Karin Johnson Hall, West Wing (RECESS)
11:00am - 12:00pm	Worship: Sanctuary
4:30pm - 7:00pm	HS FIRE Christmas Party: Pastor Robin's House
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Spanish Worship: Sanctuary
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Longest Night Service: Sanctuary

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