

St. John Lutheran Church



“The King Shall Come to
Bring Us Love”

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday Morning Worship @ 8:00 and 10:30 A.M.

Sunday School and Bible Classes @ 9:15 A.M.

Holy Communion Celebrated Every Sunday at Both Services

December 23, 2018

St. John Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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Rev. John L. Telsoni, *Pastor*
Dr. Lewis P. Porter, *Organist/Choirmaster*
Sherrie Zagorc, *Pastor's Secretary/Office Manager*
Ms. Elizabeth Kulick, *Bookkeeper, Payroll Manager*
Mr. Dennis Brown, Sr., *Custodian*
All Members of St. John's, Ministers and Disciples of Christ

St. John Lutheran Church



“One in the Spirit: United in Christ and with Each Other”

‘... that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.’
(Colossians 2:2-3)

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2015 - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

“The King Shall Come to Bring Us Love!”

AS WE GATHER

*This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word. (LSB 384:3)*

Micah is one such seer and prophet. He prophesies of the Savior's birthplace, Bethlehem, which means “*house of bread.*” How fitting that the Bread of Life would be born in such a place. How fitting that He continues to feed us with His body and blood to this day. As we come to the Lord's Supper, we come to the house of bread. We come to Bethlehem or, rather, Bethlehem comes to us.

+ DIVINE SERVICE +
Setting Two, LSB (pp. 167 ff.)

In the Name of Jesus

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

OPENING VOLUNTARY: “Behold, a Rose Breaks into Bloom”
– Johannes Brahms

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

LSB # 341

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Blessed is the fruit of Mary's womb!

People: He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord!

Pastor: His flock shall dwell secure.

People: And He will be their peace.

Pastor: My soul magnifies the Lord,

People: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Hebrews 10:10

Pastor: In the season of Advent we prepare for Jesus to come. Sometimes in our preparations we lose sight of God's grace. Sometimes we are so desperate for God's approval we think we can earn His favor by doing more, by being better, or by scheming in just the right way. Despite God's unconditional love, we still try to earn our way into security and salvation. We turn to the Lord for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,
People: we confess that we have not trusted Your Word of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We have questioned if we are truly forgiven. We have doubted the new life we now live. We have distrusted Your way of salvation. Restore us, O God. Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Pastor: God's ways are not our ways. Despite our continued failures and our inability to trust as we ought, Christ's death and resurrection for Your forgiveness remains effective, and it always will. Hear these words of forgiveness for they are from Christ Himself: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit..

People: Amen. We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

(The people greet one another with Christ's peace.)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

ENTRANCE PSALM FOR ADVENT 4

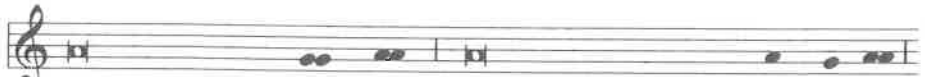
(sung)

Pastor: You heav'ns above, rain righteousness,
Let clouds burst forth with love.

People: Let earth break forth, salvation rise,
God's plan issued from above.

Pastor: Creation cries glory, honor, and esteem
To God's great dignity.

People: The skies proclaim that God is Master of
His works to infinity!



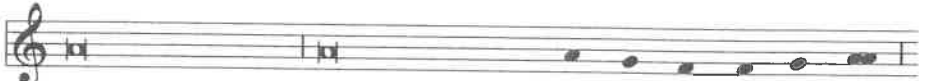
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

ADVENT CANTICLE: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

Oh, come, oh, come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

(Veni, Emmanuel, French processional, 15th cent.)

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY (p. 172, LSB)



P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



G And al - so with you.

Pastor: Let us pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT: Micah 5:2-5a (*The shepherd/king of Israel shall come from Bethlehem.*)

2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

5 And he shall be their peace.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 10:5-10 (*Christ came to earth to offer Himself as
an offering for sin.*)

5 When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings
you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings
and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is
written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

8 When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in
sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered
according to the law), 9 then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will."
He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will
we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once
for all.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(10:30 a.m. only)

ANTHEM: "Come, Jesus, Holy Child"
(Adult Choir; Dr. Lewis P. Porter, Choirmaster)

- H. Willan

ALLELUIA and VERSE

Common

John 6:68

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

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-56 (*Elizabeth greets Mary as our Lord's mother; Mary sings the Magnificat.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. the 1st chapter.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

46 And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

55 as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON HYMN: *"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"*

LSB # 356

SERMON: *"The Wondrous and One-of-a-Kind Visitation"*

(Luke 1:39-56)

NICENE CREED

(p. 174 LSB)

**All: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

**the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the virgin Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LSB 357

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and
for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus Christ, come to all those who are in bondage to
sin and Satan. Break their chains and release them from
their enslavement, that they serve You in peace and
quietness. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel.

People:

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we live in a world where everyone does what is right in their own minds. Come to us with Your perfect wisdom, that we follow You and not our own selfish ways. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
People: who orders all things mightily.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, come to those whose life is in chaos and provide order, structure, and discipline, that they live in peace and unity with their neighbors. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
People: who gave the Law on Sinai's height.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Satan remains an active voice in the world. Silence him by Your mighty power, and proclaim liberty to those who are under his influence. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
People: free us from Satan's tyranny.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, there are many who do not know You and Your salvation. Send missionaries, pastors, teachers, and anyone willing to share Your grace around the world, that more might believe in You and be saved by Your death and resurrection. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
People: and open wide our heav'nly home.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, so many in this world are lonely and longing for friendship and a place to belong. Send us to those people, that we befriend them and bring them to You. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
People: and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, come to Your broken Church with the gifts of reconciliation and restoration. Unite Your people once again, that we enjoy fellowship rather than fractured division. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
People: bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.

Pastor: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your everpresent mercy.
People: Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Voluntary at the Offertory:

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

— J. Eggert

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE & PROPER PREFACE

(p. 177)

SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy

(p. 178)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(p. 178)

LORD’S PRAYER

(p. 179)

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

(pp. 179-180)

PAX DOMINI ~ The Peace of the Lord

(p. 180)

AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God

(p. 180)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

LSB # 332

“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”

LSB # 347

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

(p. 181)

Thank the Lord

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

(p. 183)

Pastor: Let us pray: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

(p. 183)

Numbers 6:24–26



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.



G A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: *“The Light,’ Said John the Baptist”*

Text: John L. Telloni, © 2003. Tune: Haf trones lampa färdig (Swedish)

(Words and Music are printed on page 15.)

SILENT PRAYER

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY:

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

— J. B. Weber

To God Alone the Glory!

“The Light,’ Said John the Baptist”

Text: John L. Telloni, © 2003. Tune: *Haf trones lampa färdig* (Swedish)



1."The Light," said John the Bap - tist, "Is com - ing to the earth. He
 2."Pre - pare the way be - fore Him, the roy - al path - way straight," The
 3.The ang - el greet - ed Ma - ry With God's a - maz - ing Word That
 4.Then Ma - ry sang a love song, "My soul is filled with joy, For
 5.Come wor - ship, Ad - vent her - alds, And praise the Ad - vent King Who



will dis - pel the dark - ness So there can be new birth." But
 voice cries from the de - sert, "The hour is get - ting late!" He
 she would birth the Sav - ior. And then he re - as - sured, "Your
 God my Sav - ior's mer - cy, His pow'r for us em - ployed. He/has
 comes to grant His bles - sings And crush death's aw - ful sting. His



John was not the true light - He came to tes - ti - fy That
 bap - tized in the Jor - dan As folks con - fessed their sin. He
 Son will be both ho - ly And great - est of them all." She
 lift - ed up the low - ly And hum - bled rich and proud. He
 Word has awe - some pow - er To hum - ble and to save. Re -



all may come to know Christ And live no more to die.
 point - ed to the Sav - ior Who will sal - va - tion win.
 said, "I am God's ser - vant. His will is my life's call."
 helps His ser - vant Is - rael As He had once a - vowed."
 - pent and trust the Gos - pel And live the hope Christ gave!

This hymn was written as a summary of the whole Advent season and the appointed Sunday Gospel Lessons. It highlights the coming and the preaching of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah, the announcement of the angel Gabriel to Mary, and the response of the mother of our Lord to the promise and sign given to her regarding the birth of the world's Savior. The hymn concludes with the call to all Christians to prepare for Christ's coming and to herald His saving work!

WELCOME to all worshippers, especially visiting friends. If you have come seeking blessings, this is the place, where God's Word is proclaimed and sung on the Lord's Day as we celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection that delivers forgiveness, life, and salvation! If you are a visiting friend, please sign the guest register in the narthex. If you have no church home, we invite you to worship with us again and find out more about our Family of Faith.

THE LORD'S SUPPER is celebrated here in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PROCEDURE: *The Pastor will distribute the Host (bread) by placing it in the open, cupped hands of the communicant. A Lay Server will then offer the individual cups, and an Elder will immediately follow with the common cup. People who receive the individual cups should keep theirs visible so that the Elder can tell whether they have communed.*

SPECIAL COMMUNION NOTICE: Do you need assistance in walking to the communion rail or desire to commune at your pew? Please ask an usher who will be happy to provide assistance.

LARGE-PRINT HYMNALS are available at the west end of the narthex. They come in 7-volume sets. Ask an usher for a copy.

NURSERY (*Family Room*) is available in **Room # 104** in the main hallway for family needs (*nursery or private area*).

"BUSY BAGS FOR TOTS" are available in the narthex for parents with young children for use in the sanctuary during the worship service. After the service, please return the Busy Bag to the basket! (Note: We kindly request that parents use these items and refrain from allowing children to write on the offering envelopes and Communion cards in the pew racks. Thank you!)

FLOWERS: Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Gloria Pavelzik in loving memory of her mother, Clara Klay. Our sincere thanks!

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR HEALING will be offered this morning for the following: Jim Mizeres, recovering from surgery; Mark Sturm; Richard Bednar and Tricia Parker, at Altercare of Navarre; Jon McFarren; Jeff Houston; Betty Minch; Russ Halco; David and Karen Fisher; Rebecca Floom, granddaughter of Kim and Luther Russert; Steve and Debbie Marker; and Mildred Telloni of Lorain, Pastor Telloni's mother, who underwent surgery at the Cleveland Clinic this past Wednesday. Also we pray for Betty Slinger and her family, who are awaiting word about Betty's missing daughter, Christine Slinger. Please remember these folks with your prayers and cards!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE will be held **tomorrow at 6:00 p.m.** This is the exact time when Advent transitions to Christmas, the season of 12 days that celebrates the First Coming of Jesus our Savior! You are invited to "*come and adore Him, Christ the LORD!*" The message is entitled "*The Light Has Come!*" The Adult Choir will sing two selections. Then God's people will, like the shepherds, go to "*Bethlehem*" (literally, "*house of bread*") to partake of Jesus' body and blood in the bread and wine of the Holy Supper! Begin the Christmas season with our family of faith and then continue the celebration with your families in joy!

PRE-SERVICE CONCERT begins **tomorrow at 5:30 p.m.**, under the direction of Organist/Choirmaster, Dr. Lewis P. Porter.

CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE will be held on **Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.** The first full day of Christmas will begin with Word and Sacrament celebrating the birth of the "*Word made flesh*" and being served by our Savior Host in the Lord's Supper. Come and sing the beloved carols and hear the Word of the Lord who has come to save and strengthen His people!

THE JANUARY LUTHERAN BEACON, the monthly periodical of the SELC District - LC-MS, will be handed out this morning – one copy per family. Please note the St. John article on page 4.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for the January - March quarter is now available. Copies are located in the basket on the desk in the Gathering Place.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available on the table in the narthex. If you cannot find yours, or you would like a box of envelopes for your use, please contact Barb Leffler or the Church Office (330-837-46545).

2019 CALENDARS are located on the table in the narthex. They come courtesy of the Paquetel Funeral Home & Crematory, to whom we render our thanks!

Spiritual Growth ...

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS! Pastor Telloni is leading a study and conversation of the SUNDAY GOSPELS – all Lessons from St. Luke’s Gospel! In class we take a look at the real people, places, and events, and their connection to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. If you would like to become familiar with the truths surrounding and supporting our faith in the Christ of Christmas, please feel free – and get into the spirit of the season! – to join the group as we search the Scriptures and consider the truth and history of God’s action in our world to rescue sinful mankind from sin, death, and the devil. The session begins around 9:15 and ends at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday. Today’s Foci are **Luke 1:39-56 and Micah 5:2-5a**. Next Sunday: Luke 2:22-40.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is available for kids of all ages at 9:15 a.m. Please go to Room 109 for an hour-long Bible lesson – it’s all about Jesus! We have two teachers ready to lead: Mary Kay Pershing, for preschool and primary grades; and Janet Graber, for intermediate grades. Questions? Please see Superintendent Rosemary Sedjo.

LIFE WITH GOD is a brief program led by Pastor Telloni to assist those who would like to participate more in the worship and service life of our congregation. Resources used are the Scriptures and Luther’s Small Catechism. A new group of get-together’s is planned if there is enough interest. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the front bulletin board. Please include a phone number in addition to your name! Thank you!

PARENTS OF 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS! If you have not picked up the curriculum materials for the Pre-Confirmation Parent/Child Program, please see Pastor Telloni! Lutheranism 101 for Kids; Luther’s Small Catechism; and a gift Study Bible. Get started now!

NEW BOOK! *“Why Am I Joyfully Lutheran? Instruction, Meditation, and Prayers on Luther’s Small Catechism,”* by **Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison**, President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. This devotional treatment of the Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism centers on joy, specifically identifying what it means to be fully Lutheran, and joyfully so—Joy:fully Lutheran. If you would like a copy, please contact Pastor Telloni or the Church Office. Cost: \$14.99.



YOUTH ACOLYTES: Kids in the 4th grade and up who would like to serve as acolytes in our worship services are encouraged to sign up now! An Instruction Booklet will be handed out, and a training session conducted by Mike Krnach will be scheduled in the near future. This is a wonderful opportunity for service!

FELLOWSHIP: As a sign of our Christian hospitality, refreshments are served in the “*Gathering Place*” all morning. Please stay and enjoy the fellowship!

THANKS to all who decorated the sanctuary and hallways and outside the church for Advent and Christmas – the placing of wreaths, decorating trees, putting up banners, installing the outdoor manger scene, and other seasonal adornments. May the Lord bless each helper with His grace!

THANK YOU TO GBU: The Senior Men’s Fellowship would like to thank the GBU Financial Group (Greater Beneficial Union) for kindly providing matching funds for their on-going newspaper drive in the amount of \$500.00. Today, Melanie Kilgore, GBU representative and member of St. John’s, will be present with the Senior Men to officially present the check, along with an official photo of the presentation.

PRAYER GROUP continues to meet each **Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** in Room 104. Please feel free to come and participate in their sessions. Join Mickie, Debbie, Bonnie, Janet, and Marchaela.

PRAYER CHAIN: For prayer requests, please call the church office or Gloria Pavelzik (832-7379). For those who face hospitalization or in emergencies, please call the Church Office (837-4645) or Pastor Telloni’s home (830-2179).

THE MOBILE SNACK COMMITTEE will mobilize again the day after Christmas Day, **Wednesday, December 26th, at 11:00 am.** If you would like to help in the kitchen or make home deliveries, please see Debbie Stocker or Rosemary Sedjo.

PIPE ORGAN: Our church’s Pipe Organ is in need of some minor and expected maintenance. Contributions to the on-going *Pipe Organ Fund* are greatly appreciated!

VISION TEAM will meet for Bible study and planning on **Saturday, January 5th, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** On the agenda: Lectio Divina on Matthew 2:1-12, the Gospel for Epiphany; planning for the annual Spiritual Fellowship Retreat; the visit of Rev. Jacob Gaugert; and the next Leadership Summit.

NEXT CATECHISM CLASS will be held on **Saturday, January 5th, at 10:00 a.m.**

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS: The food deliveries will be handled by the Elders **TODAY**, Sunday, December 23rd. Thank you and blessings in Christ for your kindness and generosity! We thank the Lord for the opportunity He has given us to share our Christmas joy with families in our community. Besides food, each family will receive an Advent Devotional Booklet and a copy of the Portals of Prayer.

CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE for Student Pastors and their families: Thank you for your gifts for the students and their families at Concordia Theological Seminary at Fort Wayne. The gift cards and cash totaled \$310.00! Thank you!

LWML MITE BOXES are due by **December 30th**. You can drop off and pick up boxes in the Gathering Place. Thank you for your offerings to the LWML to help in their "mission" to proclaim the Gospel through our SELC district and LCMS Lutheran Women's Missionary League.



40-MONTH NOTE AT 4%

Over the last 40 years, our investors have made it possible for Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to support the work of tens of thousands of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod individuals and ministries through loans and ministry support services.

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund, you'll join over 60,000 investors who have discovered the joy of helping and supporting ministry work.

To meet future loan demand and help support growing ministry opportunities, we need to raise an additional \$100 million. Which is why we invite you to a special, limited-time investment opportunity: our 40-month 40th anniversary note at 4%.

**Visit lcef.org/40month or call
800-843-5233 to learn more.**

Application Forms are available in the narthex.

This Week at St. John's ...

Today	8:00 am	Divine Service
	9:15 am	Education Hour
	10:30 am	Divine Service
	12:00 - 2:00 pm	Deliver Christmas Baskets
Monday		Christmas Eve
	9:00 am	Poinsettia Decoration
	5:30 pm	Pre-Service Christmas Concert
	6:00 pm	Candlelight Communion Service
Tuesday		Christmas Day
	10:00 am	Christmas Festival Service
Wednesday	11:00 am	Mobile Snacks
Thursday	10:00 am	Prayer Group
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
Saturday	8:00 pm	AA Group
Sunday		Care and Share Sunday
	8:00 am	Divine Service
	9:15 am	Education Hour
	10:30 am	Divine Service

CONSECRATION SUNDAY was observed November 25th. Thank you to all who turned in Commitment Forms! Your 2019 commitment to the Lord of your time, talents, and treasures will assist in our congregation's mission and ministry. Your generosity will further our service to children, youth, older adults, the sick, the shut-ins, our staff, our facilities, and our outreach to the community and world around us.



If you have not turned in a Commitment Form, there is still time to do so. Forms are on the table in the narthex. Just place your completed forms in the offering plate or return them to the Church Office.

Commitments thus far: \$109,744.00 from 18 Giving Units ...

Other Notes of Interest ...

ISSUES, ETC., is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL, and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen at www.issuesetc.org and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

LUTHERAN HOUR: *"The King's Strength"* – Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler A true king's strength is seen, not in vaults and arsenals, but in the loyalty of his people. We celebrate the birth of the King who won the victory, not by taxing his subjects and killing his enemies, but by serving, loving and dying for them. By his resurrection, He destroyed the power of sin and lends us strength to become His loyal subjects. (Luke 1:26-56)

The Lutheran Hour is available on the following stations:

WTAM Cleveland, OH 106.9 FM Sun 6:30 AM

WTAM Cleveland, OH 1100 AM Sun 6:30 AM

WBTC Uhrichsville, OH 1540 AM Sun 6:04 AM

"WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS" has a new name - **"WORSHIP ANEW"** is broadcast on TCT Network on MCTV channel 13 and TWC channel 13 every Sunday from 11:30 to 12 noon and also on their website Page 24 hours a day.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE: "Christmas celebrates more than just Jesus' birthday. This historical event testifies to unchangeable truth about humankind and our Almighty Maker. It bestows upon us the honor of a special connection to the Lord God that makes us more precious than any other creature. It forms the foundation for all peace and love and joy and hope by revealing His salvation and testifying to how we participate in His everlasting life. Christmas profoundly proves the Gospel to be our history, identity, and destiny, and it proclaims a distinctly life-affirming reality." Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

DEBT REDUCTION FUND

Goal: \$ 50,000.00

Special Gifts Received to Date: \$28,030.00

(Note: The Board of Directors will keep this fund open for anyone who would like to give a kind donation. Thank you for your prayers and gifts to date! We are grateful to the Lord for entrusting our family of faith to serve Him in bringing the Gospel of Jesus to many!of Christ! Deadline for Gifts was November 30th (although gifts will still be happily received!).

Stewardship Notes ...

“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Wouldn’t you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn’t it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving in making our requests known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry, pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him. Phil. 4:5b-6

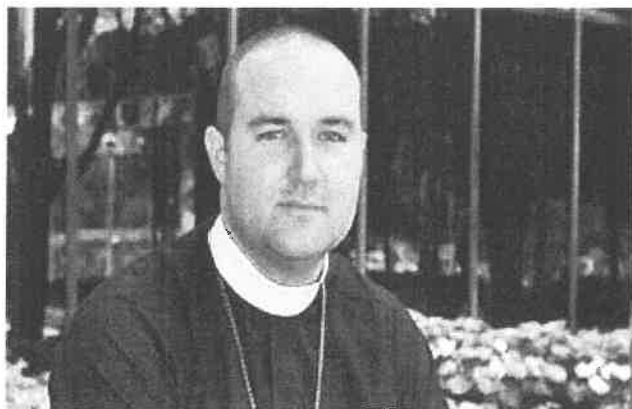
The Lord’s Accounts: Time and Treasures

Attendance:		Offerings:	12/12/18
12/12/18 (Wed.)	18/15(33)	General Fund	\$407.00
12/16/18	31/37 (68)	Offerings:	12/16/18
Communion:		General Fund	\$2983.00
12/16/18	27/27 (54)	SELC District - LCMS	
Sunday School:	19	Mission Goal	\$525.00
Year-to-date Offering:		Pipe Organ Fund	\$25.00
2017 Total:	\$192,915.22	Debt Reduction	\$100.00
2018 Total:	\$203,646.60		

Serving The Lord With Gladness In Worship

GREETERS:	* Nancy Duff ** Rosemary Sedjo
ELDERS:	* Mike Krnach ** Steve Marker
LAY SERVERS:	* Cal Shunk ** Dennis Brown
LAY READERS:	* Mike Krnach ** Steve Marker
ACOLYTES:	Ushers (both services)
USHERS:	* Bob Carr, Mark Kulick, Larry Meyer, Bill Parker, Cal Shunk, Grant Minor, Quentin Minor **Gene Stocker, Keith Graber, Jim Mizeres, Ron Gemma, Jerry Roseman
ALTAR GUILD:	* Mike and Mickey Krnach ** Judy Mantyla and Denise Ryder
TELLERS:	Graber/Ribauda

Rev. Jacob Gaugert
Missionary and Theological Instructor
Togo and West Africa



Sunday, January 20, 2019
Guest Preacher at both Divine Services
Guest Speaker: Noon Luncheon

We are looking forward to the visit of Rev. Jacob Gaugert on **Sunday, January 20th, 2019**. He will deliver a sermon at both services, conduct the Adult Bible Class, and join us for a congregational luncheon during which he will report, and provide a video or slides, on the mission and ministry in which he is involved in Togo, West Africa, and other French-speaking African nations.

Pastor Gaugert is presently on a 6-month furlough here in the United States and is busy visiting congregations in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, including in our SELC District.

We hope you will set aside that important date so that you may be present to welcome and listen to and pray for our faithful missionary and Theological Instructor! More details to come!

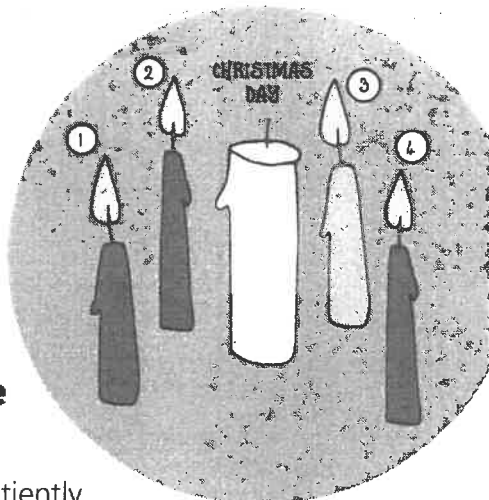


KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

+ + +

What does it mean when four candles have been lit on the Advent wreath?

You've been preparing and patiently waiting for that wonderful day of celebration. When four of the candles on the Advent wreath have been lit, it means that Christmas is almost here! That's right! The day on which we remember the birth of our Savior is right around the corner!



What does this mean to me?

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Today is the last Sunday of preparation for the birth of Jesus. Next week the Church will celebrate Christmas Day, one of the most important days of the whole year. As you can see, Advent has prepared us for the coming of Jesus, our wonderful Savior from sin!



Parents:

Remind your children of the important part that Advent plays in the lives of all Christians. This is the time in the Church Year that prepares us for the coming of our Savior. Be sure to bring your children to both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Christmas Holiday Services



Monday, December 24th -

CHRISTMAS EVE

SERMON: *"The Light Has
Come"* (Is. 9:2; Luke 2:1-20)

5:30 p.m. - CHRISTMAS

CONCERT (VOCALISTS AND
INSTRUMENTALISTS)

6:00 p.m. - CANDLELIGHT
COMMUNION SERVICE

SPECIAL VOCAL MUSIC BY THE ADULT CHOIR

TRADITIONAL CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

WITH THE SINGING OF *"Silent Night."*

JESUS HIMSELF WILL MEET US AND BLESS US IN HIS HOLY SUPPER.

Tuesday, December 25th -

CHRISTMAS DAY

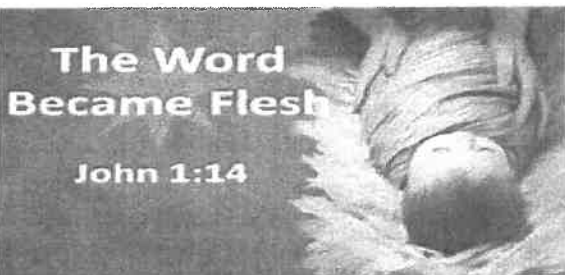
DIVINE FESTIVAL SERVICE

10:00 AM

SERMON: *"GRACE AND TRUTH,
DESPITE ..."* (JOHN 1:1-14)

SPECIAL MUSIC BY THE ADULT CHOIR

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR WILL BE
CELEBRATED



Tuesday, JANUARY 1 -

NEW YEAR'S DAY

THE CIRCUMCISION AND NAME
OF OUR LORD

DIVINE FESTIVAL SERVICE -

10:00 AM

SERMON: *"THE NAME ABOVE ALL
NAMES"* (LUKE 2:21)

THE SACRAMENT WILL BE CELEBRATED.

"O Come, let us adore Him ... Christ the Lord!"