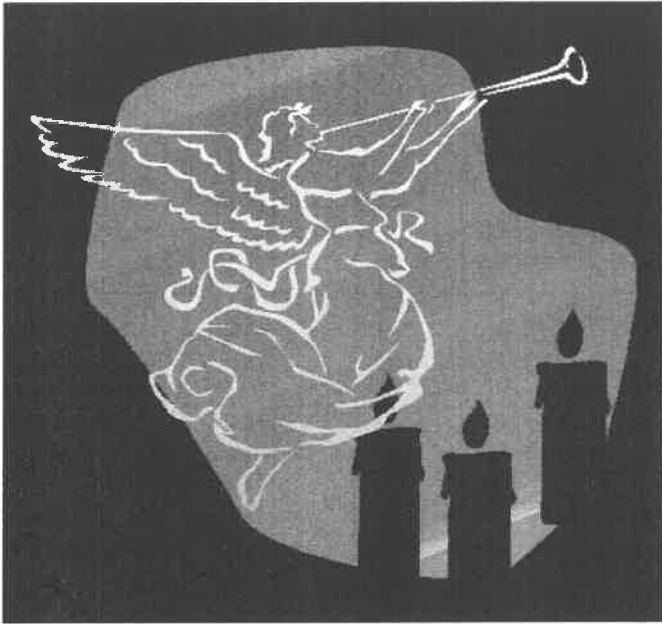


# St. John Lutheran Church



“The King Shall Come  
to Bring Us Joy!”

Third 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 16, 2018

# St. John Lutheran Church

## The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

1900 Wales Road NE  
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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)

# *Third Sunday in Advent*

December 16, 2018 - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

## ***"The King Shall Come to Bring Us Joy!"***

### **AS WE GATHER**

*"Rejoice in the Lord always!"* may seem like quite the daunting task in today's world. Yes, there are moments of joy, but there are also moments of tragedy and devastation. It is not possible to be always joyful. But rejoicing is not a task that we have to add to our to-do list. And we are not called to rejoice in everything always. We are called to rejoice in the Lord always. In fact, the historic name for this day in the Church Year is *"Gaudete,"* which is Latin for *"Rejoice,"* the first word in today's Epistle. The God who rejoices over us with gladness and calms us with His love brings us into a relationship with Him that is filled with rejoicing at His presence and providence.

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### **DIVINE SERVICE**

***Setting Two, LSB (pp. 167 ff.)***

**In the Name of Jesus**

**+ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION +**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY: "O Thou of God the Father"**

*– M. Knickelbein*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## OPENING HYMN: "Rejoice! The Savior's On His Way"

Text and Tune: John L. Telloni, 2005, based on Philippians 4:4-7, Advent 3  
(Dedicated to First Grandchild, Grace Morgan Telloni, born March 8, 2006)

### Rejoice! The Savior's On His Way



1. "Re - joice, the Sav - ior's on His way," A - gain I say, "Re - joice!" Let  
2. God loved the world so that He gave His one and on - ly Son Who  
3. So ev' - ry hum - an life on earth Has val - ue to our King - A  
4. So pray, pe - ti - tion, in - ter - cede With thanks straight from the heart! The



joy and prais - es fill the day! To - geth - er with one voice We  
en - tered life that He may save All sin - ners - ev - ry - one! Since  
pre - cious, bles - sed soul at birth For whom the an - gels sing! Through  
Lord takes care of all our needs Right from the ve - ry start! May



cheer that Christ is ve - ry near To grant His gifts of love! We  
we be - lieve, we will not die But have e - ter - nal life! All  
wat - er and His Gos - pel pow'r Christ then is born a - new, Cre -  
peace which on - ly God can give Stand guard o'er heart and mind So



need not wor - ry, fret, or fear But humb - ly look a - bove!  
glo - ry be to God on high Who van - quished sin and strife!  
a - ting new life in that hour - True Christ - mas will en - sue.  
long as in Christ we shall live And with Him ev - er shine!

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## 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: Rejoice in the Lord always!  
People: For He will rejoice over us with gladness.

Pastor: Again, I say, rejoice!  
People: He will quiet us with His love.

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet.  
People: Righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Pastor: In Christ, the blind receive their sight, the lame walk,  
People: the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear.

Pastor: In Christ, the dead are raised up,  
People: and the poor have the good news preached to them.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!  
People: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 85:2*

Pastor: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. While today is a celebration of joy, we know that on our own, we would be entirely devoid of joy. Without Christ's intervention and incarnation, we would be lost in torment forever. We approach God in reverence, mindful of how unworthy we are to be in God's presence.

*Silence for reflection.*

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father,  
**People:** we confess that we have doubted Your Son and His power. We have been filled with anxiety and stress. Revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You.

**Pastor:** The Lord God is in Your midst, the mighty One who will save. In Christ's death and resurrection, God withdrew His wrath and put away His burning anger. He rejoices over you with singing and quiets your anxious hearts by His love. 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. "ou forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin."

## 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 3

*(sung)*

**Pastor:** Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,  
And rescue us from rank discord.

**People:** I hear what God, my Lord, will say:  
He vows to grant His peace today.

**Men:** Please, Lord, keep us from foolish ways;  
Your saints are pleased to pray and praise!

**Women:** We fear Your awesome saving grace,  
Your glory dwells and swells apace.

**Men:** God grants good gifts to those who trust  
And lets His harvest bless the just.  
**Women:** His righteousness is in the lead  
And plants His steps for us to heed.

**All:** Praise to the Father and the Son  
And to the Spirit, Three-in-One,  
Just as it was, is now, and then  
It will forever be, Amen.

**All:** Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,  
And rescue us from rank discord.  
I hear what God, my Lord, will say:  
He vows to grant His peace today.

*(Words by John L. Telloni, © 2000, based on Ps. 85:7-9, 12-13. Tune: Von Himmel Hoch.)*

**KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy**

*(pp. 168-169, LSB)*

*Mark 10:47*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



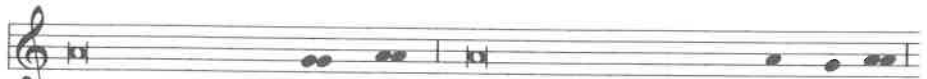
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



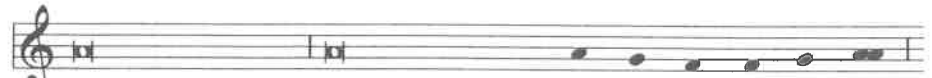
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.)*

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



**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*



**C** And al - so with you.

**Pastor:** Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT:** Zephaniah 3:14–20 (*Rejoice, O daughter of Zion*)

14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

17 The Lord your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,

so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

19 Behold, at that time I will deal

with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

20 At that time I will bring you in,

at the time when I gather you together;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes,” says the Lord.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **EPISTLE:** Philippians 4:4-7 (*Rejoice in the Lord always!.*)

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus..

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

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(10:30 a.m. only)

**ANTHEM:** "Lift Up Your Heads, O Gates" - D. von Kampen  
(Adult Choir, Dr. Lewis P. Porter, Choirmaster)

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## 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 7:18–28 (*Jesus teaches that John the Baptist is the promised messenger who came to prepare the way for the Messiah.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

18 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, 19 calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 20 And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" 21 In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. 22 And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you

have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. 23 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

24 When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 25 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. 26 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 27 This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ 28 I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**SERMON HYMN:** *"Hark the Glad Sound"*

LSB # 349

**SERMON:** "Good News of Great Joy"

(Luke 7:18-28; Phil. 4:4-7)

**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

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

Dear heavenly Father, as we wait for the return of Christ, we often grow impatient. We are tempted to disdain our families, dismiss our friends, and deny our neighbors what they need. Our hearts are often far from joy, but we pray that You would teach us to rejoice in the Lord always!

People: **Again I will say, rejoice!**

Pastor: Lord, in the midst of our rejoicing there is also sadness and struggle. Some among us are sick, injured, and recovering. [*Today we pray for . . .*] Provide them with healing and calm their troubled hearts. In the midst of their suffering, teach them to rejoice in the Lord always!

**People:**           **Again I will say, rejoice!**

**Pastor:**           Lord, it is most challenging to rejoice when we are surrounded by death. Comfort those who grieve and mourn the death of loved ones. [*Today we remember the families and friends of . . .*] Place the hope of resurrection before their eyes. Remind them that in paradise we will all rejoice in the Lord always!

**People:**           **Again I will say, rejoice!**

**Pastor:**           Lord, we thank You for the times rejoicing is common in our lives. [*Today we rejoice with . . .*] Grant that their rejoicing lead us all to rejoice in the Lord always!

**People:**           **Again I will say, rejoice!**

**Pastor:**           Lord, many are struggling with loneliness, especially at this time of year. Inspire You Church to reach out in friendship and love to those who need it, that together we all rejoice in the Lord always!

**People:**           **Again I will say, rejoice!**

**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:** *“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”*  
— K. T. Kosche

## **+ 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:**

*"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"*

LSB # 350

*"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"*

LSB # 633

**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.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joyice 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 as we wait for the day of His coming, that 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.



**CLOSING HYMN:** *"Once He Came in Blessing"*

LSB # 333

## SILENT PRAYER

## CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY:

*"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"*

— J. B. Weber

**To God Alone the Glory!**



**WELCOME** to all worshipers, 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.

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**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.

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**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:** The *Blue Poinsettias* were given to the glory of God by Mike and Mickey Krnach, and the *White Poinsettias* were given to the glory of God by Jim and Gail Mizeres. Thank you!

**RED POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS:** If you would like to purchase a poinsettia(s) to decorate the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one, please place your information on the sign up sheet on the front bulletin board. Cost: \$7.00 per plant.

**SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR HEALING** will be offered this morning for the following: Jim Mizeres, who is at home recovering from surgery; Mark Sturm, who is in rehab at Mercy Medical Center in Canton; Richard Bednar and Tricia Parker, who are 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 will undergo surgery at the Cleveland Clinic this 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!

**FINAL MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE** will be held this **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 Noon and 7 :00 p.m.** The sermon series to be presented is entitled, "*Who is Jesus*", based on Matthew 1:1-17. This week's sermon is entitled, "*Jesus Is the Son of Mary*" (Matthew 1:18-25). We look forward to our fellowship around the Word and Prayer as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's Coming on Christmas! Please make plans to attend!

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET**, "*The Coming King*," courtesy of Lutheran Hour Ministries, is available in the narthex or on the desk in the Gathering Place. Feel free to take copies to friends and loved ones. May thee daily devotions enrich your personal and family life in this holiday season!

**2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND the 2019 CALENDARS** provided by Paquelet Funeral Homes are located on the table in the narthex.

**YOUTH ACOLYTES:** Kids in the 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

**WEDDING:** John M. Telloni and Michelle Coffie were united in marriage yesterday at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, North Canton, OH, with Rev. Richard "Kip" Smith officiating. John is the son of Pastor Telloni. The couple will be making their new home in Wadsworth. May our gracious God richly bless this couple as they begin their wedded life!

## *Spiritual Growth ...*

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**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS!** Pastor Telloni is leading a study and conversation of the ADVENT GOSPELS – all Lessons from St. Luke’s Gospel! – appointed for the Sunday’s in Advent, with 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 Focus** are **Luke 7:18-28**, and the Old Testament Lesson from **Zephaniah 3:14-16**. *Next week: Luke 1:39-55 and Micah 5:2-5a.*

**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.

**BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS** will be held **TODAY** after the late service in the Fellowship Hall. Join in the celebration!

**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 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> 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.



**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!

**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).

**MARTHA SOCIETY HOLIDAY LUNCHEON** will be held **TODAY at 12:30 pm**, at the Canal Grill, 2223 Locust St. (in the Giant Eagle Plaza) in Canal Fulton.

**THE MOBILE SNACK COMMITTEE** will mobilize again the day after Christmas Day, **Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 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!

**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.

### **WANT TO MAKE A BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR JESUS AT HOME?**

1. Make the cake round - because Jesus’ love for us goes round and round and never ends.
2. Make it chocolate - like the darkness of our sins.
3. Cover it with white frosting - like Jesus covers our sins and makes them white as snow.
4. Top it with a yellow star and an angel - the first ones to let people know about Jesus’ birth.
5. Put 12 red candles on top - for the 12 months of the year that Christ is our light.
6. Add drops of red food coloring - for the blood Jesus willingly shed for us.
7. Encircle this loving cake with evergreens - the symbol of everlasting life.
8. Sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus - cut the cake, enjoy, and remember the real “Reason for the Season.”

**CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS:** Please return your food packages to the church by **December 19<sup>th</sup>**. The food deliveries will be handled by the Elders on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you and blessings in Christ for your kindness and generosity!

**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](http://lcef.org/40month) or call  
800-843-5233 to learn more.**

Application Forms are available in the narthex.

## *This Week at St. John's ...*

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<b>Today</b>	8:00 am	Divine Service
	9:15 am	Education Hour
	10:30 am	Divine Service
	12:00 pm	Birthday Party for Jesus
	12:30 pm	Martha Society Christmas Luncheon at Canal Grill, Canal Fulton
	2:30 pm	Girl Scouts
<b>Monday</b>	6:00 pm	Cub Scouts
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
<b>Wednesday</b>	12:00 pm and 7:00 pm	Midweek Advent Services **Last Day for Food Basket Contributions
<b>Thursday</b>	10:00 am	Prayer Group
	12:00 pm	AARP Luncheon
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00 pm	AA Group
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 am	Divine Service
	9:15 am	Education Hour
	10:30 am	Divine Service

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**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. 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: \$86,804.00 from 14 Giving Units ...*

## *Other Notes of Interest ...*

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**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](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

**LUTHERAN HOUR:** "In Anxious Times, Rejoice!" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. With anxiety on the rise, the Apostle Paul's call to "rejoice always" seems all but unobtainable. While there are many helpful ways to cope with society's increasing anxiety, Paul points us to a frequently overlooked source of joy and peace, God's grace in Christ. (Philippians 4:4-7)

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:** "We love children as they can remind us of the simple fact of love's openness and embrace of new life and communion of one person with another. Children can open up our hearts to this. That our society now treats children the way it does is a dark shame, another sign of its separation from God. Regardless, we confess that Jesus Christ, Son of God, has come in the flesh and preach these glad tidings to all." James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

### **DEBT REDUCTION FUND**

**Goal: \$ 50,000.00**

**Special Gifts Received to Date: \$27,930.00**

(Note: This fund was established by the Board of Directors to retire the balance due for the Credit Line provided by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.) Thank you for your prayers and gifts! You are invited to participate by giving a gift so that, without a deficit, our congregation may move forward in the mission and ministry of Christ! Deadline for Gifts was November 30<sup>th</sup> (although gifts will still be happily received!). Thank you!

“As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: *Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*’ ” God makes long range plans: Isaiah lived more than 700 years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do. That’s yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives: He knows what’s coming, and we don’t.

Luke 3:4

## **The Lord’s Accounts: Time and Treasures**

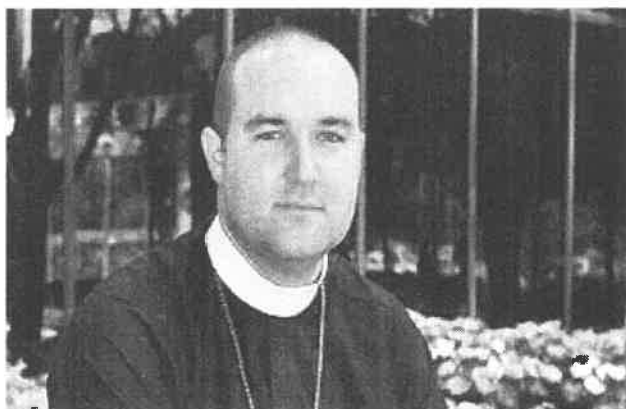
<b>Attendance:</b>		<b>Offerings:</b>	12/05/18
12/05/18 (Wed.)	13/15(28)	General Fund	\$562.00
12/09/18	33/40 (73)	<b>Offerings:</b>	12/09/18
<b>Communion:</b>		General Fund	\$3,640.00
12/09/18	32/31 (63)	Adult Sunday School	\$ 11.00
<b>Sunday School:</b>	19	SELC District - LC-MS	
<b>Year-to-date Offering:</b>		Mission Goal	\$1,000.00
2017 Total:	\$188,949.22		
2018 Total:	\$200,256.10		

## **Serving The Lord With Gladness In Worship**

<b>GREETERS:</b>	* Al & Pat Prazniak ** Ron, Linda & Dori Gemma
<b>ELDERS:</b>	* Keith Kleve ** Mike Halco
<b>LAY SERVERS:</b>	* Nick Moauro ** Dennis Lillich
<b>LAY READERS:</b>	* Keith Kleve ** Rosemary Sedjo
<b>ACOLYTES:</b>	Ushers (both services)
<b>USHERS:</b>	* Bob Carr, Mark Kulick, Larry Meyer, Bill Parker, Cal Shunk, Grant Minor, Quentin Minor **Gene Stocker, Keith Graber, Jim Mizeres, Ron Gemma
<b>ALTAR GUILD:</b>	* Mike and Mickey Krnach ** Judy Mantyla and Denise Ryder
<b>TELLERS:</b>	Leffler/Marker



**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**

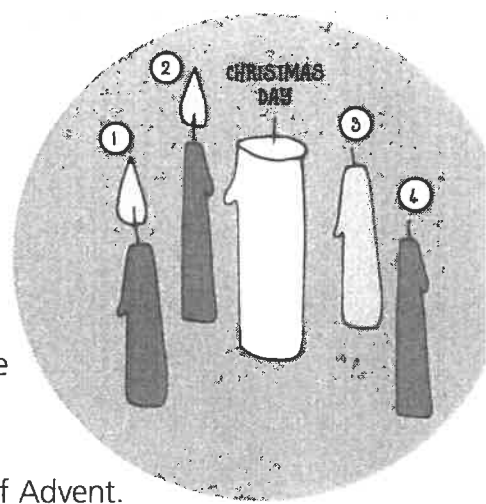
We are looking forward to the visit of Rev. Jacob Gaugert on **Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. He will deliver a sermon at both services, conduct the Adult Bible Class, and join us for a congregational luncheon during which he will report, and provide a video or slides, on the mission and ministry 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 is the Advent wreath?

The Advent wreath is the circle of candles (and/or evergreen branches) that you see in the sanctuary during the season of Advent.

Some Advent wreaths hang from the ceiling of the sanctuary while others are placed on a floor stand. Either way, the Advent wreath is one of the many beautiful things you'll see around the church during Advent.

## How do we use the advent wreath?

It used to be that the Advent wreath was used in the home to help count the four weeks of Advent. Now you can find them in homes as well as in the church sanctuary. Each Sunday in Advent, a new candle on the wreath is lit. For example, during the first week in Advent, only one candle is lit. During the second week in Advent, two candles are lit. We do this to remember and prepare for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!



**Parents:** Before or after the Divine Service, allow your children to walk up to get a better look at the Advent wreath. Remind them to be reverent in God's holy places. During this Advent season, try utilizing an Advent wreath at home with family devotions. If you are unsure how to get started, ask your pastor for help.



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and **hearing** through  
the **word of**  
**Christ.**

*Romans 10:17 ESV*



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