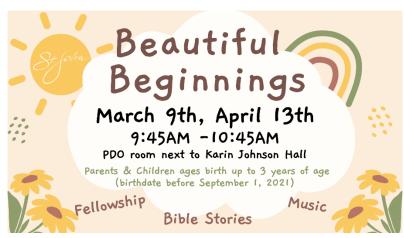




MARCH 8TH, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

2650 Plainfield Road, Joliet, IL 60435 815-439-2320 | contact@stjohnjoliet.org | stjohnjoliet.org







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

The flowers on the altar today are given by Margaret Holzrichter in memory of would have been Fred Holzrichter's 81st birthday.

To sponsor altar flowers or coffee hour, sign up at stjohnjoliet.org or call the church office.

Worship Leaders - Saturday, March 8, 2025 (5:30 pm)

Deacon Steve Volkening

Ushers Joan Fry

Piano Susan Yokubonis

Music Director Tori Hicks

Counters Pat Block-Hay, Wendy Eklund

Altar Guild Joan Fry, Marge West

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
Alyssa Rosas	operations@stjohnjolilet.org	815-439-2320
Pam Kornaus	pamkornaus@stjohnjoliet.org	815-439-2320
Jenelle Lambert	communications@stjohnjoliet.org	815-439-2320
Jonathan Adams, President	council@stiohnioliet.org	815-295-4092

St. John Lutheran Church 2650 Plainfield Road, Joliet, IL 60435 815-439-2320 contact@stjohnjoliet.org stjohnjoliet.org

facebook St. John by the Mall - Joliet, IL

▶ YouTube St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet

*Indicates Congregation, Please Stand

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

- P If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found,
- C then you are in the right place.
- P If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow,
- C then you are in the right place.
- P If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence,
- C then you are in the right place.
- P God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives.
- C So may we bring our full selves into this service and into this season.
- P With God's help, may it be so.
- C Let us worship our all-loving God.

*Confession and Forgiveness

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C Amen
- P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection

•

P Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not reflect your patience and forgiveness.

When we see the sacrifice to make, we don't want to walk in the ways that Jesus did.

When we rush to our next appointment, we do not slow down to help the neighbors who need us.

Too easily, we give up trying to reach the ones who have lost their way.

Lead us in between the extremes, transform our lives, and guide us with courage to hear our neighbor, listen to our heart, and follow your way with grace and love. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In + Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.

C Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

319, Vs. 1-4

*Kyrie



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

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



*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 for Illumination

- P Let us pray. Gracious God, with hope we question, we wonder, we dream, we listen. But sometimes the answers that come aren't what we like to hear. Awaken a curiosity in us. Awaken a penchant for listening and make room in our spirits for your Word to be received. In the name of your son, who shares all the wisdom of the answers we seek.
- C Amen.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 15

- D A responsive reading from the book of Psalms. Listen for the Word of the Lord.
- C Our hearts are open.

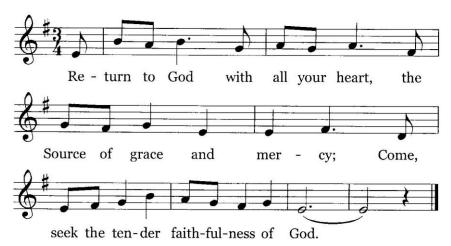
O LORD, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?
Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart;

who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors; in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel

Luke 10:25-37

- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the tenth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

- P The gospel of our Lord.
- C Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Robin E. Caldwell

*Hymn of the Day

"I Saw a Stranger"

Music: English traditional, arranged by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906. © Anna Strickland, 2024. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC. Free for congregational use. Reprinted & Streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

(Tune: Kingsfold - I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say ELW # 611)

Verse 1 NEIGHBOR:

I saw a stranger on the road in need of help and care No clues to their identity, just human flesh laid bare A thought had fluttered through my mind: "Is this one of my own?"

My tribal mind made me forget that they're bone of my bone

Verse 2 STRANGER:

I laid there desperate by the road in need of help and care As one by one they passed me by, too busy or too scared Then one approached and my first thought was "Do they mean me harm?"

To my surprise they met my eyes and held me in their arms

Verse 3 BOTH:

In our embrace the memory returned from Eden's dust Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, my kin whom I can trust The artificial walls we build around the tribes we claim Make us forget the gospel truth: "Beloved" is your name

*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

Grounded in the word and promise of God, the church prays, in the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ, for all the great needs of the world.

Your prayer requests may be shared with the pastors or the congregation, by filling out a green prayer request card in your pew and placing it in the offering plate, or through the Prayer Request form at stjohnjoliet.org.

P Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Congregation sings this response:

"Let Your Peace Rain Upon Us"

Text: Palestinian traditional; tr. Mark Swanson, b. 1955, and Mark Sedio, b. 1954. Music: YArABBA SSALAMI, Palestinian traditional. English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Let Your Peace Rain Upon Us
O Living God of Peace
Let your Peace Rain Upon Us
Lord, fill our hearts with Your Peace

The prayers conclude:

- P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
- 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.

Ministry Highlight

8th Grade Confirmation Care Group

Offertory

Commitment to Community

Lent is a season of returning to God in response to the unearned grace we have received, renewing our commitment to generosity of heart by serving God and the world through prayers, offerings, and acts of kindness. Let us give and live out of generosity, gratitude and grace!

Your offering supports many ministries and outreach within the congregation, in the community, and around the world.

Eighth Grade Confirmation Care Group

Care Groups are central to the St. John Confirmation ministry and are intended to create a safe space for kids to sort out faith and life. In an age of significant growth through middle school and high school, the church walks with them. They build friendships, question, and discuss what they learned, have fellowship together, and grow their understanding of what church is.

Our eighth grade Care Group and all our ministries are made possible by Jesus and the General Fund, supported by generous people like you.

<u>Thank you!</u>

Financial gifts, attendance sheets, and prayer requests may be placed in the offering plate.











Offertory Response

186

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Music by: Richard W. Hillert. Music by © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, And take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, And uphold me with your free Spirit.

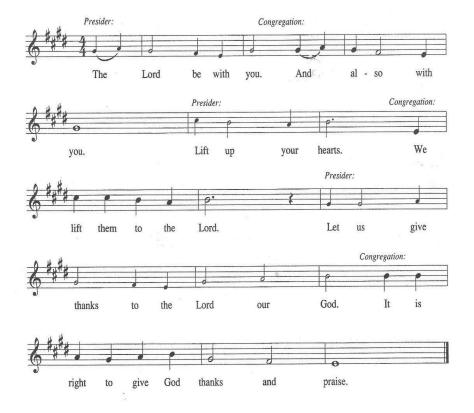
*Offertory Prayer

D Let us pray. Gracious Provider,

C you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to gather at your table of bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

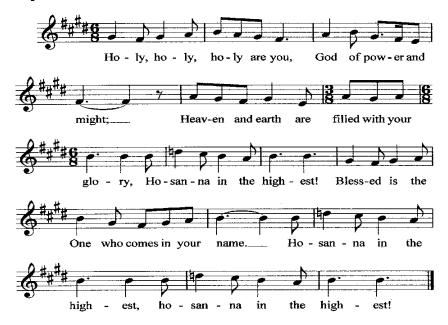
*Great Thanksgiving



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 call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

12

*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 The feast of grace is ready and the table is set for you.
- 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 here!

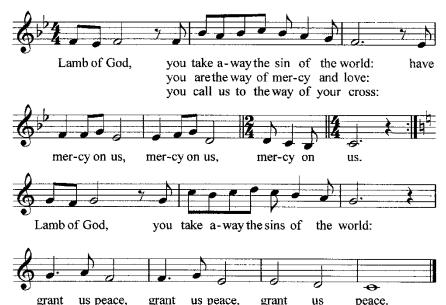
St. John provides introduction to First Communion in the spring to third graders and anyone else who is interested. Younger children typically receive a blessing at the altar rail, but any people with open hands will be offered bread and wine/juice. If you or your child prefer a blessing instead, keep hands folded and head bowed.

Communion Instruction

- You will be invited forward by the usher or pastor.
- Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Inform the pastor when receiving communion.
- Red wine is on the outer rings of the tray; white grape juice is on the inner rings of the tray.
- After receiving communion, place the 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 entrances to the sanctuary. The pastor will say the words of distribution after the Invitation to Communion.

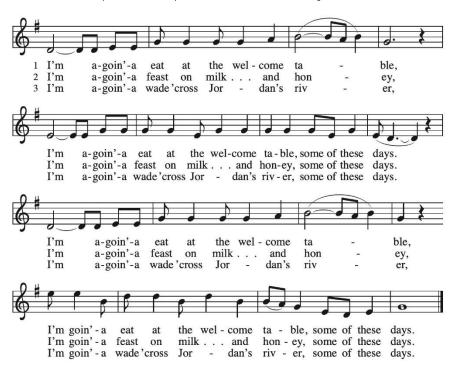
Lamb of God



Communion Music

"Welcome Table"

Text & Music: African American spiritual. Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.



"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

325, Vs. 1-3

*Prayer after Communion

- D Let us pray. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us out with renewed righteousness and abundant mercy, that your liberating love might nourish the world, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

*Benediction

Р As you leave this place, May you trust that you are made in the image of God. May you live with an open heart, a curious mind, and with the faith that you do not go alone.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



*Sending Hymn

"O God, You Give Us Neighbors"

Text: Copyright © 2019 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Music: Public Domain. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress (Tune: The Church's One Foundation: Aurelia)

O God, you give us neighbors and call us all to see Our common fears and longings, our shared humanity. You call us all to listen to burdens they have known, To hear the truth they tell us, to see the love they've shown.

*Sending

- Go in peace. Serve in love.
- Thanks be to God!

Postlude

All St. John Lutheran Church services may contain liturgy and songs with permission from the following: Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006677. New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition, copyright 2021, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. Gospel Verse, Holy, and Amen from *Now the Feast and Celebration*. Text & Tune by: Marry Haugen. © 1990 GIA Publications. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved. Liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

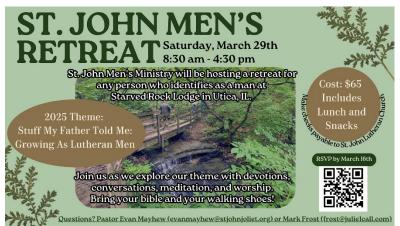


PARENT CARE GROUP MEETING

For parents with children of all ages

Trinity Room Sunday, March 16th 9:45 - 10:45am





Worship & Events 2025 MARCH

everything [in] between

WED 5 Ash Wednesday, Intention & Action

12:30 pm, Ash Wednesday Meal: Soup and Salad
7:00 pm*, Ash Wednesday Worship

SAT 8 Taste of St. John 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Entire Building

SUN 9 1st Weekend in Lent, Stranger & Neighbor Sunday School Sings at 11:00 am Worship

WED 12 Midweek Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm*

One-to-one Conversations to follow Worship

4:00 pm-7:00 pm, Lenten Dinner Fundraiser at Potbelly

2575 Plainfield Rd. Joliet, IL 60435

SAT 15 SUN 16 2nd Weekend in Lent, Faith & Works 9:45 am, Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, & Chocolate Liquidation Sale

WED 19 Midweek Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm*

One-to-one Conversations to follow Worship

All Day, Lenten Dinner Fundraiser at Panera Bread

2360 Illinois Rte 59, Plainfield, IL 60586

SUN 23 3rd Weekend in Lent, Rest & Growth
12:15 pm -2:30 pm New Members Class & Lunch

WED 26 Midweek Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm*

One-to-one Conversations to follow Worship

All Day, Lenten Dinner Fundraiser at Station One BBQ

15025 Des Plaines, Plainfield, IL 60544

SAT 29 Men's Retreat "Stuff My Father Told Me: Growing As Lutheran Men" 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Starved Rock Lodge, Utica, IL

SUN 30 : 4th Weekend in Lent, Lost & Found

Meet our New Members during coffee hour, Blessing during Worship

Lenten

Fach Wednesday in Lent, we are hosting
fundraisers at different restaurants around town.

Dinner

Dinner

Dine in or take out - just make sure to mention St. John!
Up to 30% of your total cost will be donated to the church!

Fundraisers

You're encouraged to bring and eat your meal
at 6:00 PM in the Narthex!

Worship & Events 2025 APRI



Weekend worship: Saturday at 5:30 pm

WED 2 : Midweek Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm*

Sunday at 8:30 & 11:00 am *Concurrent LiveStream

One-to-one Conversations to follow Worship

4:00 pm - 9:00 pm Lenten Dinner Fundraiser at Raising Cane's

3000 Plainfield Rd Joliet, IL 60435

SAT 5 SUN 6

5th Weekend in Lent, Righteousness & Mercy

2:00pm - 5:00pm 1st Communion Instruction

WED 9 : Midweek Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm*

One-to-one Conversations to follow Worship All Day, Lenten Dinner Fundraiser at Wendy's

2900 Plainfield Road, Joliet, IL 60435

SAT 12

SUN13

Palm Sunday, Shouting & Silence

8:30 am* & 11:00 am, Worship

9:45 am, Sunday School Family Lent Event

Sunday School Sings at 11:00 am Worship

THU 17 Maundy Thursday, Power & Humility

7:00 pm*, Worship

Featuring Agape Meal (during worship)

FRI 18 Good Friday

7:00 pm*, Worship

Prayer Vigil to follow worship (in-person)

Prayer Vigil (online), see weekly email

SAT 19

SUN 20

Easter Weekend, Grief & Hope

Saturday - 5:30 pm, Worship

Sunday - 6:30 am*, 8:30 am*, 11:00 am*, Worship

Alleluia Coffee Hour - 9:45 am

MON 21 : Church office will be closed Easter Monday, April 21st

For more details visit www.stjohnjoliet.org

March

SUNDAY, MA	ARCH 9	(Monthly Offering: Lent)	
8:30am -	9:30am	Worship: Sanctuary	
9:45am -	10:45am	Sunday School: Sanctuary, Karin Johnson Hall, West Wing	
9:45am -		Beautiful Beginnings: PDO Room	
11:00am -		Worship: Sanctuary (Sunday School Sings)	
4:30pm -	7:00pm	Girl Scouts: Karin Johnson Hall	
	MONDAY, MARCH 10		
9:30am -	11:30am	Parent's Day Out	
12:00pm -	3:00pm	Staff Meeting: Trinity Room	
5:00pm -	6:30pm	4:12 The Next Chapter: Narthex	
5:30pm -	8:00pm	A.A. Woman's Group: Karin Johnson Hall	
6:30pm -	8:30pm	Monday Night Small Group: Trinity Room	
7:00pm -	8:00pm	Al-Anon: West Wing 3 & 4	
7:00pm -	8:00pm	Handbell Choir: Sanctuary	
8:00pm -	8:30pm	Handbell Ensemble: Sanctuary	
TUESDAY, MARCH 11			
9:30am -	11:30am	Parent's Day Out (PDO)	
6:30pm -	8:00pm	Finance/Executive Committee: Pastor Robin's Office	
6:30pm -	8:00pm	Martha Circle: Trinity Room	
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12			
8:30am -	12:00pm	Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall	
9:30am -	11:30am	Parent's Day Out (PDO)	
3:30pm -	4:30pm	Memorial Committee: Trinity Room	
6:00pm -	7:00pm	Lenten Dinners (Bring Your Own Dinner): Narthex	
7:00pm -	8:00pm	Lenten Worship Service: Sanctuary	
7:00pm -	8:15pm	Confirmation (Recess)	
8:00pm -	8:30pm	1-to-1 Conversations: Sanctuary	
8:15pm -	9:15pm	High School FIRE	
THURSDAY,	MARCH 13		
9:00am -	11:30am	Coffee with Friends (Women): Youth Room	
9:00am -	1:00pm	Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall	
9:30am -	11:30am	Parent's Day Out (PDO)	
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	St. John Chorale: Choir Room	
8:00pm -	9:00pm	Praise Team: Sanctuary	
FRIDAY, MARCH 14			
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, Mark Frost	
9:30am -	11:30am	MOMCO: Narthex & West Wing	
SATURDAY,	MARCH 15		
7:00am -	11:00am	Food Pantry Volunteer Shifts: Narthex/Karin Johnson Hall	
8:00am -	10:00am	Food Pantry Distribution Drive-Thru: Parking Lot	
10:00am -	4:00pm	National Day of Quilting: West Wing Room 5	
5:30pm -	6:30pm	Worship: Sanctuary (Baptism: Leon)	
6:30pm -	9:00pm	Leon Baptism Party: Karin Johnson Hall	
SUNDAY, MA	ARCH 16		
8:30am -	9:30am	Worship: Sanctuary	
9:45am -	10:45am	Sunday School: Sanctuary, Karin Johnson Hall, West Wing	
9:45am -	10:45am	Parent Care Group Meeting: Trinity Room	
9:45am -	10:45am	Fair Trade Coffee Liquidation Sale: Narthex Hallway	
11:00am -	12:00pm	Worship: Sanctuary	
12:15pm -	2:30pm	Tween GO!: Karin Johnson Hall	
12:30pm -	2:30pm	Men's Ministry Meeting: Trinity Room	

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