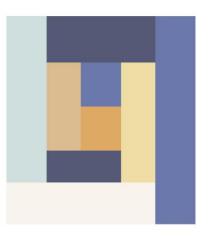


Lutheran Church

Senior Pastor, Robin E. Caldwell Associate Pastor, Evan Mayhew



- RETURN WITH ALL YOUR HEART -



DECEMBER 8TH, 2024 @ 11:00 AM

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT: COCOA & CAROLS TREE LIGHTING

DECEMBER OTTL 2024

4:00 pm Sunday School Christmas Program, Sanctuary4:30 pm Light Up the Night: Cocoa & Carols, Outside5:00 pm Light Up the Night: Tree Lighting, Outside

CRYSTAL LAWNS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOUDAY ANGEL GIVING TREE CHECK OUT STUDENTS' GIFT REQUESTS HERE: -



LABEL YOUR GIFT(S)

THE TAG NUMBER

CHOOSE YOUR GIFT(S) REVIEW AVAILABLE SLOTS AND CLICK ON THE BUTTON TO SIGN UP

ONCE PURCHASED, PLEASE LABEL IT WITH



DROP OFF YOUR GIFT(S) BRING YOUR UNWRAPPED & LABELLED GIFT(S) TO ST. JOHN BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH OR CRYSTAL LAWNS BY TUESDAY DEC. 10TH

THANK YOU FOR HELPING PROVIDE HOLIDAY GIFTS TO THE CRYSTAL LAWNS STUDENT AND FAMILIES FACING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP THIS YEAR!

GIVING TREE BEGINS 12/8/24 IN THE NARTHEX These giftcards help provide assistance to many of our community members throughout the year.



We are looking for \$10-\$20 increments for Target, Thortons, Walmart, Speedway, McDonald's, Shell & Aldi work best. 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 Cathy Hawkins in celebration of her daughter, Trish's birthday!

Coffee Hour is hosted by Monday Night Small Group today.

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

Worship Leaders – Sunday, December 8, 2024 (11:00 am)

Deacon Communion Assistant Acolytes Greeter Ushers Piano & Organ Music Director Audio Board Counters Altar Guild Sandy Smith Renee Lacivita Isaak Johnson Carol Wortel Henry Bay, Tim Hay, Mike Smith Janet Blomquist Tori Hicks Rob Doyle Wendy Eklund, Pat Block-Hay Joan Fry, Marge West

Contact Information

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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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Invocation

- C Amen.

*Lighting of the Advent Candle

- D In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?
- C Let us return to God. Let us return in self-reflection. Let us return in humility instead of self-righteousness. Let us begin with merciful words of peace.
- D Yes, let us begin with peace. Today we light the candles of hope and peace.
- May these lights remind us of the dawn from on high that will break upon us.
 May the spirit of peace pour out on all flesh.
 May these lights mark a new beginning.
- D With dreams and visions of a new day to come, may we begin again.
- C Amen!

	"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" # 257, Vs. 2 Text: Psalteriolum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite; Music: French processional, 15 th Cent.; Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.
Verse 2	O come, O Wisdom from on high, Embracing all things far and nigh:

4

In strength and beauty come and stay; Teach us your will and guide our way.

*Confession and Forgiveness

P There are times when the weight of the world can feel so heavy. But, when we come before God in confession, God lifts that weight. God sees our sin and offers us grace. So, join me in the prayer of confession.

Gracious God,

There are days when the world can feel like it's too much. There are times when we doubt, we can make a difference. Yet, at every turn, you remind us that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours. Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid. Amen.

P Friends, no matter how many times we lose momentum, doubt our own ability or tell ourselves that the problems of the world are too big, God calls us by name, surrounds us in grace, and invites us to begin again. Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

C We are loved. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for this new beginning. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"He Shall Reign Forevermore"

Chris Tomlin, Matt Maher © 2015 S. D. G. Publishing, Sixsteps Songs, Worship Together Music, Be Essential Songs, I Am A Pilgrim Songs; CCLI License #2793209 Reprinted under CCLI License #2793209 and streamed under CCLI License #20285260 with permission. All Rights Reserved.

Verse 1	In the bleak mid-winter All creation groans For a world in darkness Frozen like a stone. Light is breaking In a stable for a throne.
Chorus	And he shall reign forevermore, forevermore. And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore. Unto us a Child is born, The King of kings and Lord of lords. He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.

Verse 2 If I were a wise man, I would travel far. If I were a shepherd, I would do my part; But poor as I am I will give to Him my heart. Repeat Chorus Bridge Here within a manger lies The One who made the starry skies. This baby born for sacrifice: Christ, the Messiah, Into our hopes, into our fears The Savior of the world appears; The promise of eternal years: Christ, the Messiah. Repeat Chorus

*Greeting and Prayer for Illumination

- 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.
- P Let us pray. Holy God, the words of this world whip around us like a mighty wind. But here on this day we remember you too are speaking. Still the voices around us. Calm our minds and center our hearts so that we can hear your words above the wind. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray.
- C Amen.

Responsive Reading Joel 2:12-13, 28-29 (Inclusive Version)

- D A responsive reading from the book of Joel, the second chapter. Listen for the Word of the Lord.
- C Our hearts are open.

"But know this," says YHWH: "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Tear open your heart, not your clothes!"

Return to YHWH your God, who is gracious and deeply loving as a mother, quick to forgive, abundantly tender-hearted and relents from inflicting disaster.

After	that,	
After	that,	

I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind. Your daughters and sons will prophesy, your elders will have prophetic dreams, and your young people will see visions.

In those days, I will pour out my Spirit even on those in servitude, women and men alike.

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C Thanks be to God!

Special Music	"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"	arr. Geschke
-	St. John Handbell Choir	

Reading

Luke 1:67, 72-79

- D A reading from the book of Luke, the first chapter. Listen for the Word of the Lord.
- C Our hearts are open.

Then John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

"Thus, the Lord God of Israel has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

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

*Gospel Acclamation

253, Vs. 2

"He Came Down"

Text by: Cameroon Traditional. Music by: arr. John L. Bell. © 1986 Iona Community. Gia Publications, Inc. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense 3A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Verse 2 He came down that we may have light; He came down that we may have light; He came down that we may have light; Hallelujah forevermore.

*Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

> "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

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

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Robin E. Caldwell

*Hymn of the Day

"Song of Hope (Heaven Come Down)"

© 2007 Birdwing Music | Meaux Hits | Tedasia Music (a div. of EMI Christian Music Publishing) Chase Jenkins | Dan Hamilton | Robbie Seay | Ryan Owens | Taylor Johnson | Tedd Tjornhom CCLI License #2793209 Reprinted under CCLI License #2793209 and streamed under CCLI License #20282260 with permission. All Rights Reserved.

- Verse 1All things bright and beautiful You are.
All things wise and wonderful You are.
In my darkest night You brighten up the skies.
A song will rise.
- Chorus 1 Sing a song of hope, sing along, God of heaven, come down; Heaven come down. Just to know that You are near is enough. God of heaven, come down; Heaven come down.

Verse 2 All things new, I can start again. Creator God, calling me Your friend. Sing praise, my soul, to the Maker of the skies; A song will rise.

Repeat Chorus 1

Chorus 2 Oh, sing a song of hope, sing along, God of heaven come down; Heaven come down. Just to know You and be loved is enough, God of heaven, come down; Heaven come down.

Bridge Hallelujah, sing! (3x)

Repeat Chorus 1 & 2

*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

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

P As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Congregation sings this response:

"Come and Fill Our Hearts"

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taize Community. Music by: Jacques Berthier. Text and Music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taize, admin. GIA Publications. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

> Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia.

The prayers conclude:

- P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

*Sharing the Peace

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

You may share the peace of Christ with others. Those who choose to stay in their pew may wave or give signs of peace.

Offertory

Commitment to Community Giving Out of Gratitude

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

The Offertory is an invitation to be a part of the mission, ministry, and outreach of Christ through St. John Lutheran Church. Together, there is enough for everyone.

Please place any financial gifts, attendance sheets, and prayer concerns in the offering plate when it comes to you and pass it on to the person next to you or behind you. Thank you for your generosity!











Offertory Response

"Offering"

Paul Baloche © 2002 Integrity's Hosannal Music CCLI License No. 2793209 Reprinted under CCLI License #2793209 and streamed under CCLI License #20285260 with permission. All Rights Reserved.

Chorus

I bring an offering of worship to my King. No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing. Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due. O Lord, I bring an offering to You.

O Lord, I bring an offering to You. O Lord, I bring an offering to You.

U Lord, I bring an offering to You

I bring an offering to You.

*Offertory Prayer

- D Let us pray.
- C God of new beginnings, bless the gifts we offer back to you that they may reach the world with the fullness of your love. And now, as we gather at your table, pour out your spirit upon us, that your Word and your presence may reignite our faith. Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving (spoken)

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"



*Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

C Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Invitation to Communion

P All are welcome at this joyful feast.

C Thanks be to God!

Distribution

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

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

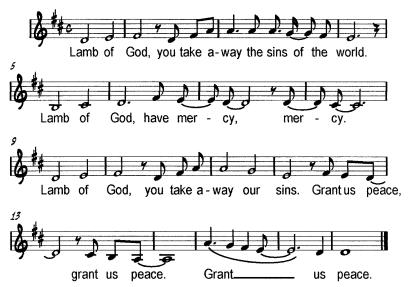
Communion Instruction

- 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

Words and Music by: Ellen Goodwin. Reprinted and streamed with permission.



Communion Music

"We Adore You"

Words and Music by Paul Baloche & Tim Janis ©2005 Integrity's Hosannal Music CCLI License #2793209 Reprinted under CCLI License #2793209 and streamed under CCLI License #20285260 with permission. All Rights Reserved.

- Verse 1Holy Child, Emmanuel;
Hope of all the ages, and the cry of every heart.
Bowing down, we lift You up;
You're the one we worship, You're the one we love.
- *Chorus* We adore You, we adore You, we adore You, Jesus. We adore You, we adore You, we adore You, Jesus.

Repeat All

Bridge We lift You up. We lift You up.

Repeat Chorus

Holy Child, Emmanuel; You're the hope of all the ages, and the cry of every heart.

*Blessing

C Amen.

*Prayer after Communion

- D Let us pray. Nourishing God, we have come to your table to get a glimpse of your kingdom. Thank you for the gift of all who surround it and for the fresh start you offer in ordinary bread and drink, reminders that your kingdom is here and wherever our faith is renewed.
- C Amen.

*Benediction

C Amen. (spoken)

*Sending Song

"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"

Chris Stevens, Matt Maher, Rachel Popadic; Meaux Mercy (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Moody Producer Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), I Am A Pilgrim Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) CCLI License No. 2793209 Reprinted under CCLI License #2793209 and streamed under CCLI License #20285260 with permission. All Rights Reserved.

Verse 1 One star burns in the darkness, Shines with the promise, Emmanuel. One child born in the stillness, Living within us, Emmanuel.

Chorus We're singing Glory, Glory! Let there be peace; let there be peace. Singing Glory, Glory! Let there be peace; let it start in me.

*Sending

- D Go in peace and prepare your hearts.
- C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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SUNDAY, DE	CEMBER 8	(Special Offering: Christmas)
8:30am -	9:30am	Worship: Sanctuary
9:45am -	10:45am	Sunday School: Sanctuary/Karin Johnson Hall/West Wing
9:45am -	10:45am	Beautiful Beginnings: (PDO Room
11:00am -	12:00pm	Worship: Sanctuary (Sunday School Sings)
4:00pm -	4:30pm	Sunday School Christmas Program: Sanctuary
4:30pm -	5:00pm	Cocoa & Carols: Parking Lot
5:00pm -	5:30pm	Light Up the Night Tree Lighting: Parking Lot
MONDAY, DI	ECEMBER	9
9:30am -	11:30am	Parent's Day Out (PDO)
12:00pm -	3:00pm	Staff Meeting
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, D	ECEMBER	10
9:30am -	11:30am	Parent's Day Out (PDO)
11:00am -	12:00pm	Funeral: Michael J. Fuller: Sanctuary
5:30pm -	7:00pm	Boy Scouts Committee Meeting: Narthex
6:30pm -		Finance/Executive Committee: Pastor Robin's Office
6:30pm -		Martha Circle: Off-Site
7:00pm -	8:30pm	Boy Scouts: Karin Johnson Hall
WEDNESDA	Y, DECEMB	ER 11
8:30am -	12:00pm	Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
9:30am -	11:30am	Parent's Day Out (PDO)
7:00pm -	7:30pm	Advent Evening Prayer Service: Sanctuary
7:30pm -	8:30pm	Bible Study: Sanctuary
7:00pm -		Confirmation: (Recess)
8:15pm -	9:15pm	High School FIRE: Youth Room
THURSDAY,	DECEMBE	R 12
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, DE	CEMBER 13	
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: Nartahaex/West Wing
SATURDAY,	DECEMBE	R 14
7:00am -	11:00am	Food Pantry Volunteer Shifts: Narthex & Karin John Hall
8:00am -	10:00am	Food Pantry Distribution Drive-Thru: Parking Lot
5:30pm -	6:30pm	Worship: Sanctuary (Baptism-Hoeg)
SUNDAY, DE	CEMBER 1	5
8:30am -	9:30am	Worship: Sanctuary (Cantata)
9:45am -	10:45am	Sunday School: Sanctuary/Karin Johnson Hall/West Wing
11:00am -	12:00pm	Worship: Sanctuary (Cantata)
12:15pm -	2:30pm	Tween GOI: Karin Johnson Hall
6:30pm -	9:00pm	HS FIRE Christmas Party: Off-Site

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