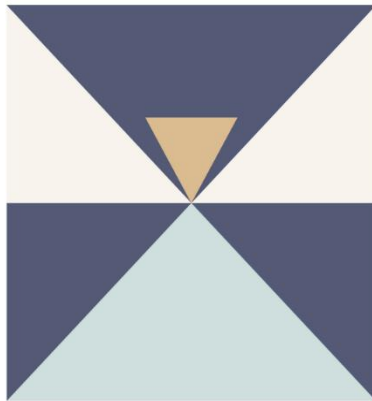


St. John
Lutheran Church

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

WORDS
FOR THE BEGINNING
— YOU ARE A BLESSING —



NOVEMBER 30TH, 2024 @ 5:30 PM

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

CRYSTAL LAWNS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HOLIDAY ANGEL GIVING TREE



1 CHECK OUT STUDENTS' GIFT REQUESTS HERE:
LINK ALSO FOUND AT STJOHNJOLIET.ORG

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

3 LABEL YOUR GIFT(S)
ONCE PURCHASED, PLEASE LABEL IT WITH
THE TAG NUMBER

4 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!

SANDHILL CRANES FIELD TRIP

WWW.STJOHNJOLIET.ORG

DECEMBER 7TH, 2024
12:00PM - 8:00 PM

We will drive to Kankakee Sands to view bison and Jasper-Pulaski to see Sandhill Cranes. We will stop for dinner on the way back to Joliet!

The cost is FREE if you drive yourself or \$10 per person if you want to carpool in a rented van. Make checks payable to "St. John Lutheran Church." All are welcome to attend!

Questions? Contact Bill Bromer at 815-931-9696 or at wbromer@gmail.com

SIGN UP



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**LIGHT UP THE NIGHT:
COCOA & CAROLS
TREE LIGHTING**

DECEMBER 8TH, 2024

4:00 pm Sunday School Christmas Program, Sanctuary

4:30 pm Light Up the Night: Cocoa & Carols, Outside

5:00 pm Light Up the Night: Tree Lighting, Outside



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 Linda Hunter in loving memory of Kevin Hunter, wonderful husband, amazing dad, and loving and caring son, on his birthday.

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

Worship Leaders – Saturday, November 30, 2024 (5:30 pm)

Deacon	Kim Jensen
Usher	John Fleming
Piano	Susan Yokubonis
Music Director	Tori Hicks
Counters	Jan Drish, Nancy Kautz
Altar Guild	Karen Becker, Joan Nunemaker

Contact Information

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

 **St. John by the Mall – Joliet, IL**

 **St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet**

**Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering**

P We are gathered today in the name of the Father, Son,
and ✠ Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***Lighting of the Advent Candle**

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

All: **Let us begin with the good news!**
Let us begin by trusting that we are a
blessing, loved by a gracious God.
Let us begin with music and singing!
Let us begin with warmth and welcome.
Let us begin with hope.

One: Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to
shine a light in a worn and weary world.

All: **May this be our foundation.**
May this be our fresh start.
May this be our new beginning.

One: May hope flow forth from here.

All: Amen!

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

257, Vs. 1

*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

"People , Look East"

248, Vs. 1-4

*Prayer of 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. Affirming God, how often do you speak to us, and we miss it? How often do you whisper blessings that we refuse to hear? Open our hearts. Create space in us to not only hear the words, but to believe the good news tucked between them. In the name of Emmanuel we pray,

C Amen.

Responsive Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

D A reading from the book of Isaiah, the 43rd chapter.
Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our hearts are open.**

But now thus says the LORD,
the one who created you, O Jacob,
the one who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.

**When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.**

For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
**Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.**

Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
**I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—**

everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, 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 1:26-38

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

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P The gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Robin E. Caldwell

*Hymn of the Day

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

265, Vs. 1-4

*Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

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.
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**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!*



Now Accepting



Offertory Response

836, Vs. 3

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.; Public Domain
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Verse 3 Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

*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.**

*Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

*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.

Receiving Communion at the altar

- 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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have
you are the way of jus-tice and peace:
you give us hope as we wait for you:



mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Music

“Christ Be Our Light”

715, Vs. 1-5

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

247, Vs. 1-4

*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



A - men.

*Sending Hymn

248, Vs. 1

“People Look East”

Text: Eleanor Fajeon, 1881-1965, Music: French Carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
Text: ©Miss E. Fajeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates, arr. © 1999 Novello & Co. Ltd., London
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Verse 1 People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today –
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

*Sending

D Go in peace and prepare your hearts.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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DECEMBER

ADVENT

WORSHIP & EVENTS 2024

- Sat/Sun 30-1 Advent 1: "You are a Blessing"
Wed 4 Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Worship
- Sat/Sun 7-8 Advent 2: "Return With All Your Heart"
Wed 11 Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Worship
- Sat/Sun 14-15 Advent 3: "Do the Good that is Yours to Do"
Wed 18 Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Worship
- Sat/Sun 21-22 Advent 4: "Hope is Worth the Risk"
Sun 22 The Longest Night Service at 7:00 PM Worship



CHRISTMAS EVE
TUESDAY, DEC 24TH

3:00 PM WORSHIP
5:30 PM WORSHIP
11:00 PM WORSHIP

2025 COMMITMENT CARDS RECEIVED

Goal 202
Current 160

Sharing a living, daring confidence in *God's unwavering grace* and offering the resilience of hope *to a world in need*

Prayerfully consider supporting the life-giving work of the church through 2025 by returning your Commitment Card to St. John or completing it online.

A gift of any size amounts to a lot! Thank you for your generosity.

COMMIT 2025 ONLINE COMMITMENT CARD

DAYBREAK

Meals for the Homeless

DONATIONS NEEDED

CAN YOU MAKE A FOOD DONATION?

- ✓ Specific food sign-up sheets are located in the narthex
- ✓ Volunteers are always needed!
- ✓ Only 1-2 hours a month
- ✓ Providing supportive services to homeless individuals and families

QUESTIONS?
CALL PAM ATKINSON
(815) 274-2747



"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25:35



December

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 (*Special Offering: Christmas*)

8:30am - 9:30am Worship: Sanctuary
9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School: Advent Family Event: Sanctuary/Karin Johnson Hall
11:00am - 3:00pm Christmas Decorating
11:00am - 12:00pm Worship: Sanctuary
4:30pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts: Karin Johnson Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:30am - 11:30am Parent's Day Out (PDO)
1:00pm - 3:00pm Staff Meeting
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, DECEMBER 3

9:30am - 11:30am Parent's Day Out (PDO)
3:00pm - 5:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry: Youth Room
5:30pm - 7:00pm Boy Scouts Committee Meeting: Narthex
7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts: Karin Johnson Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:30am - 12:00pm Food Pantry Volunteer Shift: Karin Johnson Hall
9:30am - 11:30am Parent's Day Out (PDO)
12:00pm - 1:00pm Good Grief: Youth Room
1:00pm - 2:00pm Family Worship Support
7:00pm - 8:30pm Advent Evening Prayer Service and Bible Study: Sanctuary
7:00pm - 8:15pm Confirmation: Sanctuary/Building
8:15pm - 9:15pm High School Fire: Youth Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

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
3:00pm - 5:00pm Daybreak Cooking: St. John Kitchen
5:15pm - 6:00pm Daybreak Transportation: Personal Car
6:00pm - 7:30pm Daybreak Service: Daybreak Shelter
7:00pm - 8:00pm A.A. Men's Group: Zoom
7:00pm - 8:00pm St. John Chorale: Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

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 Steering Team: Off-Site

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

7:00am - 11:00am Food Pantry Volunteer Shifts: Narthex & Karin Johnson Hall
8:00am - 10:00am Food Pantry Distribution Drive-Thru: Parking Lot
12:00am - 7:00pm Green Team Event: Sandhill Cranes: Off-Site
1:00pm - 3:00pm Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal: Sanctuary
5:30pm - 6:30pm Worship: Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

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

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