

# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School (LCMS)

Est. 1864



Pastors:

Matthew V. Moss      and      Matthew P. Johnson

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# Important Announcements

## For those who watch services on Live-Stream during the Coronavirus Pandemic

**Stay Home when Sick:** If you are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 please stay home. If you start to experience symptoms while in attendance at a service or out anywhere else, please go home immediately. If at a service, notify a Safety Team member on your way out so we may direct our cleaning and communication efforts.

**Singing (updated):** MDH has gone from requiring no congregational singing to “not recommended” but does say that if a congregation sings masks and distancing are required. Please tune in early and stay late for the preludes, postludes, and sing with us the hymns that will be provided in the online bulletins.

**Maintaining Piety when Worshiping at Home:** The best way to get the most out of this temporary set-up is to keep things in your household as regular as possible:

- Print the bulletin or use your hymnals
- Dress like you would dress for church
- Stand when we stand, sit when we sit
- Sing along with the hymns
- Watch at the live time, Sunday morning, setting it aside as first priority instead of looking for whatever time is most convenient for you
- Limit the distractions, toys, and tech so that the time is truly "sacred" (set-apart) for Christ and His means of grace

These ideas can help you focus on the Service of the Word and will also help you prevent bad habits from developing during our temporary suspension of Divine Services

# The Fourth Sunday in Advent

## Rorate Coeli

December 20, 2020

**Preacher:** Pr. Matthew Johnson

**Liturgist:** Pr. Matthew Moss

**Kantor:** Dr. Crystal Rossow

Soloist: Duane Esterly (Saturday)

Soloist: Mike Gaffer (Sunday 8am)

Soloist: Aaron Rossow (Sunday 10:30am)

*Special Note for the Live Stream: Because the Absolution and Communion are sacramental acts that require the in-person interaction of penitent & pastor and communicant & pastor, we will not Live Stream those portions of the Divine Service. If you desire a more detailed explanation of the status of the controversies in Christianity and the LCMS around these acts that have led us to this decision on this practice, your pastors are more than willing to discuss it with you.*

### 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;

Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Tune and text: Public domain

## O Wisdom

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering | all things:\*

Come and teach us the way of | prudence.

## O Adonai

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on | Sinai:\*

Come with an outstretched arm and re- | deem us.

## O Root of Jesse

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do | homage:\*

Come quickly to de- | liver us.

## O Key of David

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can | open:\*

Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shad- | ow of death.

## O Dayspring

O Dayspring, splendor of light ever- | lasting:\*

Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death.

## O King

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all | people:\*

Come and save us all, whom You formed | out of clay.

## O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their | Savior:\*

Come and save us, O | Lord our God.

# Service of the Word

## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



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

**P** Let us pray.

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



Sit

### Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15–19

<sup>15</sup>“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— <sup>16</sup>just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ <sup>17</sup>And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. <sup>19</sup>And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

Psalm 145:18, 21

The LORD is near to all who | call on him,\*  
to all who call on | him in truth.  
My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,\*  
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.

### Epistle

Philippians 4:4–7

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

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

### Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–56

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

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

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
 For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him  
 from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
<sup>52</sup>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
 and exalted those of humble estate;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and the rich he has sent empty away.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
 in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers,  
 to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

### 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus  
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
 3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



’neath their sor - rows’ load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys shall  
 Now o’er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”  
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Sermon: "Let's Listen to John As He Keys Into Who He Is and What He Has Been Called to Do" (John 1:23)

*Stand*

### Nicene Creed

☐ 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

*Following the prayers, the Live Stream ends and the Service of the Sacrament begins.*

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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### **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Members who are sick and in need of healing and comfort**— Rick Bymark (wife Jackie, son Hank), Lynn Slauson, Pam Linton (daughter of LaVerne & Arlene Bagne), Ilene Shepherd, Brigitte Ritter, Dr. Crystal Rossow, Charice McDowell, Mavis Kalk, Joyce O'Hern, Melvin Haag, Patrick Oberle, Ramona Von Ende, Bruce Hansen, Justin Brynjulfson, Pat Ellinger, Doris Gangelhoff, Barb Grambart, Dick Rau, and Randy Goerke. Our Lord Jesus, who reached out to heal and comfort the sick and dying, continues to reach out with His healing Word through us. Cards, phone calls, and prayers are always appreciated. If you know of someone who is sick or hospitalized, please inform your pastors.

**Our homebound members** are John and Arleen Barrett, Sue Erickson, Inez Koehler, Steve Orbin, Mark Pruhs, Amy Schalo, and Ilene Shepherd.

**All those serving in our Armed Forces**— Agena Christophersen (Belgium), Kevin Mazurowski (Arizona), Nathan Mazurowski (Arizona), Isak Preus (Florida), Brian Pruhs (Germany), Joseph Radintz (home), Emily Sawyer (Florida), and Danny Schilling (home).

**Those who have lost loved ones during the past year**— the family of Betty Schmiede, Justin Bermel & family (at the loss of his father Douglas, and his brother Jeffrey), Rob Borcharding & family (at the loss of his mother Carol), the family of Rev. Greg Tyler (Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran in Osseo), Lisa Kolander & family (at the loss of her mother Lucy Fairchild), Jan Stadler & family (at the loss of her sister, JoAnne Hackbarth), John Meyer & family (at the loss of his brother Jeff), the family of Larry Jobses, Dan Kappel & family (at the loss of his father Francis), Joellyn Wicht & family (at the loss of her mother Frances Spielman), Larissa Alvarez & family (at the loss of her grandmother Luci Correa), the family of Fred Hunt, the family of Diane Lawrence, Gerald Anderson & family (at the loss of his father Dale), Joyce O’Hern & family (at the loss of her father-in-law Marland), Arlene Rogge & family (at the loss of her father George Hackler), Lois Foggia & family (at the loss of her brother-in-law Tom Hooker), the family of Vivian Kuns, Stephanie Haver & family (at the loss of her brother Brandon), and Char Abraham & family (at the loss of her brother Russell).

**And we remember those who have recently lost loved ones**— the family of Linda Bredenberg, the family of Tracey Rosso, Cindy Cook & family (at the loss of her brother, Daniel Anderson), the family of Gerald Oswald, Kyle Gaffaney & family (at the loss of his grandfather Bill Reese), Jim Day & family (at the loss of his sister), the family of Marlys Johnson, and the family of Harold Grambart.

**All expecting families and their unborn children**— especially Brittany & Adam Strohschein, Stephanie & Noah Heidorn, Martha & Aaron Reseburg, and Jenna & Leighton Spaulding. If you would like to announce your pregnancy to the Church that we might pray for you, please contact one of our pastors.

**THIS WEEK:** The congregations in our circuit are praying for Rev. John Fehrmann and his work with Confessional Lutheran Educational Foundation(CLEF) in other nations.

**PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL:** This week we pray for our Safety Team, our PTL Members, and our Eighth Grade Language Arts Teacher/School Administrator-Principal Gretchen Dolan.

### † Announcements †

**COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, Phased-Reopening:** *All St. John’s events and activities have been cancelled or postponed until further notice, however, we now are able to hold Divine Services, weddings, and funerals that adhere to our protocols, as published in the pastoral letter of May 24, and available in our church’s “Covid-19 Preparedness Plan”. Please visit our website for the link to these documents and to stay informed as updates can happen quickly.*

**SOCIAL DISTANCING:** Please keep in mind your social distancing awareness and hygiene when entering the building and encountering other individuals; you are required to wear a mask as you enter, exit, or at any time when not social distancing. Our Custodial Staff has been working diligently maintaining disinfection measures throughout the building to help keep our limited staff & visitors safe.

**SPECIAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK:** In addition to the Feast of Our Lord’s Nativity, the Church also observes these feasts of great importance:

*12/21- St. Thomas, Apostle (Judges 6:36-40; Ephesians 4:7, 11-16; John 20:24-29)*

*12/26- St. Stephen, the First Christian Martyr (2 Chron. 24:17-22; Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51-60; Matt. 23:34-39)*

**NOTICE OF CHURCH MEMBER’S PASSING:** It has pleased Our Heavenly Father to call home devoted church member Harold Grambart on December 13th, 2020. The Funeral Service and Christian Burial at St. John’s took place yesterday. Please keep his family in your prayers.

**BIBLE STUDY IS BACK IN BUSINESS:** Thanks to our many, great volunteers at 8am’s Divine Service willing to help clean up, we are able to bring back adult Bible Study in between services.

Dec. 20 – TOPIC: What Is the Place of Bible Study in the Congregation’s Life?

Dec. 27 – Special Feast Day: The Saint John’s No-Whining Wine Exchange, bring a bottle of wine for a grab-bag exchange and hear the legend of how the Apostle John survived an assassination attempt by a poisoned chalice!

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** has resumed as we take up again the Book of Acts. We meet via Facebook Live at 9:45 am each Tuesday. This format will allow any questions you might have, simply post a comment and if it is seen it will be answered. We will move from the Psalms to the quotations Peter gives in Acts 3 from Deuteronomy 18 and Genesis 22, related to Moses the lawgiver and father Abraham, respectively. But before doing that we will look a little more closely at Psalm 110 in the broader New Testament beyond Acts 3.

**THE SERVICE OF INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** is available this month by appointment only. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear God's Word of forgiveness spoken to you individually in Jesus' Name. "If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

<b>FINANCIAL UPDATE</b>	<u>Last Week</u> 12/13/20	<u>Year-to-date</u> since 07/01/20
Total General Fund Receipts-All Sources	\$ 24,890	\$ 751,336
Amount Needed	\$ 31,353	\$ 777,347
Amount Ahead (Behind)	\$ (6,464)	\$ (26,011)
% Ahead (-Behind)		-3%

Current Building Mortgage Balance (November 30, 2020): \$228,057

Amount Needed above includes all budgeted revenues, including offerings, school tuition and third-source income, for the current budget year beginning July 1, 2020. There was no cumulative deficit as of July 1. Questions can be directed to Church Treasurer Mike Gaffer (mtgaff@comcast.net)

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK... Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>:** Total 166 CM 108

**Advent Midweek Dec 16<sup>th</sup>:** Total 50

*Note: The pastors and kantor are only counted once in both figures above, but take up three of the 150 slots at each service. Also, Safety Team members are positioned in the halls, and do not count against the 150 available spots in the sanctuary, however they are included in the numbers of those present for worship and communing if they communed.*

**MUSICIANS NEEDED:** Singers and instrumentalists are wanted for our Christmas services. Soloists and small groups work best under our COVID-19 protection. Family groups work great, too. It can be as simple as singing or playing a hymn. If you are willing and able, contact Kantor Rossow or the church office.

**PLEASE CALL FIRST:** In order to better protect you, our students and staff, we are limiting foot traffic through the building during the day. Please make an appointment with one of our secretaries to pick up any church items. Your materials can be placed in a holding bin located in the vestibule, between the double doorway for pick up at your designated appointment.

**SCHEDULING CHURCH AND SCHOOL EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S:** We are not scheduling member events at this time. Please direct any questions to 763-420-2426.

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Items received by *noon* on Wednesday are considered for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin; kindly please submit your request timely to ensure your announcement gets published as needed.

**EMAIL ADDRESS REQUESTED:** If you are not already getting weekly emails from church, please submit your email address so we can communicate notices such as upcoming church services, funerals, weather closures, etc. Please provide your email address to secretary@stjlutheran.org.

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** (December 20 – December 26) ***Sunday-*** Gina Bussing/Cindy Kmecik, ***Monday- ...,*** ***Tuesday-*** Evan Orth, ***Wednesday-*** Kyle Christopher, ***Thursday-*** David Dufault/Andrew Heinen, ***Friday-*** Aiden Ashland, ***Saturday-*** ...

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** The boxes of envelopes for the 2021 calendar year have been placed in the church mailboxes. Members have the option of contacting the church office to make an appointment to pick them up.

Please remember not to use the new boxes until Jan 1<sup>st</sup>; and discard your old ones after Dec 31<sup>st</sup> as your assigned number will likely change during the re-numbering process, and you will want your offerings assigned correctly to you.

**HOLIDAY SERVICES & PROGRAMS:**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols	Dec 24	3:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols	Dec 24	5:00 pm
Christmas Midnight Divine Service	Thursday, December 24	11:00 pm
Christmas Day Divine Service	Friday, December 25	10:00 am
Epiphany Divine Service	Wednesday, January 06	7:00 pm

**Keep an eye on our website and sign-up genius for changes to the schedule due to attendance maximums and Covid-19 restrictions.**



## **Merry Christmas!**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE  
APPRECIATION FOR ALL THOSE WHO MADE OUR  
CHURCH SO FESTIVE FOR THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.**

*Thank you to Mike & Janine DeSplinter, Tom & Patty Gardner,  
and Phil and LuAn Schutte for their donations towards the  
purchase of the Christmas trees.*

### AND TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THE POINSETTIAS:

*Larry & Lois Anderson in memory of our loved ones  
Randy Bredenberg Family in memory of loved ones  
Chad & Tanya Brown in memory of Darlene & Donald Schalo  
John & Lora Cleaveland in memory of loved ones  
Rick & Lois Foggia in Memory of Virginia Foggia, Nathan Foggia,  
and Ray & Ellen Hidde  
Tom & Patty Gardner in honor of our wonderful church family  
Scott & Jill Gehl in memory of Robert & Viola Fuller and William &  
Loretta Gehl  
Jessica Gugliuzza in honor of The Sand Family  
Shirley Holthus in honor of the Christ Child  
Carol Jobes and family in memory of Larry Jobes  
Ed & Sally Kemna in memory of grandsons Nathanael Schilling  
and Billy Harper and Great Grandson Marlow Kent  
Bradley, Jackson, Robert, Faith, Kaylee, and Della in memory of  
Grandma Kruse  
Phil & Tori Kuehne in honor of our sons, Amos & Isaac  
The Kulberg Family in honor of our Savior's birth  
Jim & Jamie Peterson in memory of Vince & Ruby Johnson and  
Grant & Coral Peterson  
Mary & Mark Pruhs in memory of Helen Wenzl and Bud & Doris  
Pruhs  
Dana and Children Rossow in honor of Dr. Crystal Rossow's 15  
years at St. John's  
Jack & Marcia Scahlo in memory of loved ones  
DJ, Nichole, Danny, Naomi, & Diana Schilling in memory of  
Nathanael  
Paul & Gayle Schlueter in memory of Dan  
Sandra Scott in memory of husband Walter Scott, granddaughter  
Megan Johnson, and son-in-law Chuck Johnson*

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD  
FOR THEIR HELP DURING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON**