

## St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor  
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### Member – Linn Lutheran School Association

Email: [linnluth@bluevalley.net](mailto:linnluth@bluevalley.net) Principal & Teacher: Mr. David Beikmann;  
Teachers: Mrs. Laura Stunkel, Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl, Mrs. Ramona Tiemeyer,  
& Ms. Robyn Meyer

### January 23, 2022 Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Welcome to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are a guest or visitor with us today, we welcome you and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Hayes, and we hope to see you again soon.

Remember that the Worship Service begins when you enter. As the Music for Meditation begins, you are invited to join in quiet, preparation time for worship. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

### Liturgy – Divine Service Setting Three (Page 184)

Opening Hymn: 734 "I Trust, O Lord, Your Holy Name"  
Hymn of the Day: 401 "From God the Father, Virgin-Born"  
Distribution Hymn: 571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"  
Distribution Hymn: 620 "Jesus Comes Today with Healing"  
Distribution Hymn: 528 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"  
Closing Hymn: 921 "On What Has Now Been Sown"

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please e-mail prayer requests to Pastor Hayes at [pastor.hayes@outlook.com](mailto:pastor.hayes@outlook.com).  
Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.  
**Angie Reinert, LaVon Hornbostel, Lula Stuenkel, Marilyn Ohlde,  
Loraine Oldehoeft, & Lorna Heitman** (in the nursing home)  
**Ladonna Hornkohl** (cancer treatment) **Makayla Rikli** (recovery)

**Acolyte this Sunday** - Aiden Sweet

**Acolyte next Sunday** - Noah Thalmann

**Ushers this Sunday** - \*Brady Kolle, John Bott, Evan Bott, & Conner Ohlde

**Ushers next Sunday** - \*John Bott, Ryan Stuenkel, Tyler Ohlde, & Lance Gerleve

**LYF Fellowship Hour today & Jan. 30th** - Mason Tiemeyer & Conner Ohlde

**LYF Fellowship Hour Feb. 6th & 13th** - Daniel Nabors & Elijah Meier

### Upcoming Events

- January 23** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Sunday School
- January 26** 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
- January 30** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Sunday School

### Announcements

- \* Immanuel Linn has their Soup Supper **TODAY, January 23rd**, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. There will be a free-will offering.
- \* At the 1/16/2022 Linn Lutheran School Association meeting, it was approved to spend \$53,192.76 from the Endowment Fund by adding an additional 50% to the donations from any association member. Linn Lutheran is now accepting donations for the endowment matching program; please call LLS if you have any questions. As of July 15, 2022, any funds left from this program will be directed toward the additional teacher fund. Thank you for allocating this beneficial resource.
- \* This spring we are encouraging members to think about people they can invite to church, especially on Easter Sunday (April 17). The Evangelism board plans to produce invitations that will be available to every member of St. John. An article about the meaning and importance of Easter will also be submitted to the newspaper. Then we ask everyone to personally give this to anyone we know that does not attend church regularly or at all. Be thinking now about anyone you and your children will give this invitation to. There are people all around us waiting to be invited. Evangelism can be as simple as when Philip invited skeptical Nathaniel in John 2:46, saying, "Come and see."
- \* St. Paul Lutheran Church in Clay Center has invited St. John members to join them for a Value Them Both informational meeting on **Saturday, January 29**, at 8 p.m. in their sanctuary. This amendment will be on the ballot come the August Primary Election. David Beauchamp (with Kansas Family Voice) will give a presentation on the amendment so that our community is more informed to the issues at hand – namely abortion in the State of Kansas. Coffee and refreshments will be available.
- \* Advice for raising Christian kids. Christian thinker and defender of the faith Greg Koukl recently outlined some sage and Biblical advice for raising children in these times (listen here: <https://www.str.org/w/advice-for-raising-christian-kids>). To summarize his points:
  - \* Start a program of domestic spiritual feeding (Bible & catechism) early.
  - \* Ideally, so early that they don't ever remember a time without it, but whenever you start, just start.
  - \* Be persistent to be consistent.
  - \* Send your kids to a Christian school (or homeschool).
  - \* Make sure that your Sunday church attendance is consistent. Sunday church is a fixed point of the universe.
  - \* Live a life of Christian integrity and loyalty to Christ.

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation 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 all sins, 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, according to Holy Scripture, 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, are asked to refrain from communing with us until such a time as they are properly instructed.

A short, more detailed explanation of our Confessional practice is available from our Ushers or Elders. If you would like to learn more about the Sacrament of the Altar and our confessional position, I would be happy to visit with you.

-Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

In preparation for Holy Communion, you may use the following statements as part of your self-examination:

- I admit that I am a sinner. **(1 John 1:8-10)**
- I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, from Satan and death. **(Acts 4:10-12; John 14:6)**
- I desire to live as God wants me to. **(John 14:15; 1 John 2:6)**
- I am sure of my eternal salvation because Jesus died for me and rose again. **(John 3:16; Romans 8:14; & 1 John 5:11-12)**
- I believe the Risen Christ is really present in Holy Communion and that with the bread and wine I receive His Body and Blood. **(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 4:22-24; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; Luke 22:17-20)**
- I forgive those who have wronged me.

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## MORNING PRAYER

*I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life my please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

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### **Introit** (*Psalm 97:1, 10-12; antiphon: vv. 6, 9*)

The heavens proclaim his | righteousness,\*  
and all the peoples see his | glory.  
For you, O Lord, are most high over | all the earth;\*  
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

**The Lord reigns, let the | earth rejoice;\***  
**let the many coast- | lands be glad!**

**O you who love the Lord, hate | evil!\***

**He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the  
hand of the | wicked.**

**Light is sown for the | righteous,\***  
**and joy for the up- | right in heart.**

**Rejoice in the Lord, O you | righteous,\***  
**and give thanks to his | holy name!**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The heavens proclaim his | righteousness,\*  
and all the peoples see his | glory.  
For you, O Lord, are most high over | all the earth;\*  
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

### **Collect for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Old Testament Reading: *2 Kings 5:1-15a*

<sup>1</sup> Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. <sup>2</sup> Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup> She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." <sup>4</sup> So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." <sup>5</sup> And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothes. <sup>6</sup> And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." <sup>7</sup> And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

<sup>8</sup> But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." <sup>9</sup> So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup> And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." <sup>11</sup> But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. <sup>12</sup> Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup> But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" <sup>14</sup> So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

<sup>15</sup> Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him.

## Epistle Reading: *Romans 12:16-21*

<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## Gospel Reading: *Matthew 8:1-13*

<sup>1</sup> When [Jesus] came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup> And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." <sup>3</sup> And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."

<sup>5</sup> When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, <sup>6</sup> "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." <sup>7</sup> And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." <sup>8</sup> But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." <sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. <sup>11</sup> I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, <sup>12</sup> while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." <sup>13</sup> And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

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*As We Gather...*

*Jesus Came for Gentiles, Too*

The Gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Gentile (**Romans 1:8–17**). Even in the Old Testament, the Gentiles were beneficiaries of God's saving power. Though unimpressed at first with the Word of God, a Syrian commander is persuaded to receive that Word, and in the water he is cleansed and brought to faith in the God of Israel (**2 Kings 5:1–15a**). Evil is overcome by good (**Romans 12:16–21**). So also in the New Testament, a Roman centurion demonstrates great and humble faith in the Lord (**Matthew 8:1–13**). All he needs is the Word of Christ, for he trusts that Jesus' Word of healing has authority to accomplish what it says. And indeed it does. The centurion's faith is praised by our Lord above that of any Israelite. For the last shall be first, and the first last. Apart from faith in Christ, there is no salvation—not even for a Jew—but only weeping and gnashing of teeth.



### God Chose You ...

Choice is a divine gift to humankind.

That means choice isn't a right.

And death isn't a decision.

It's everyone's inevitable destiny.

You can't "choice" your way out of death.

We won't keep our own deaths from happening by making anyone else's death happen.

Thanks be to God Jesus displaces freedom **of** choice and replaces it with freedom **from** choice.

The choice we need is not a choice we make but the choice we are.

What saves, what gives life, is not choosing but being chosen.

The choice we can't make, the one that matters most, is the one we don't have to.

God chose you, and that changes everything.

No matter who's left you alone, the Almighty Maker chose you.

No matter what makes you afraid, the Lord God chose you.

No matter why you feel ashamed, the Heavenly Father chose you.

God chose you into existence. Your body proves it. You are a privilege.

God chose you into forgiveness. Jesus' body proclaims it. He is a gift.

God chose you into making a difference.

Every neighbor portrays it. They are your invitation.

You're not an accident or an afterthought, even in sufferings or difficulties. You're special. No human life is a joke or a mistake, not even in surprise pregnancies or terminal diagnoses. Each one's precious, from fertilization to forever. None of us is hand-me-down or half-hearted, not embryos, not impaired persons, not elderly ones. We're all priceless, whatever our ages, abilities, and appearances.

God chose you to embody and to enact the sanctity of human lives.

Christians advocate this kind of choice.

**"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit."** (John 15:16)

We are equipping **Lutherans** and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices **For Life**

## *The Sunday of the Centurion's Faith*



January 23, 2022

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Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor



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