

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor

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Principal & Teacher: Mr. David Beikmann; Teachers: Mrs. Laura Stunkel,

Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl, Mrs. Kim Burke, & Mrs. Renae Bott

December 25, 2022 The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)

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: 379 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymn of the Day: 372 "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is"

Distribution Hymn: 368 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Distribution Hymn: 375 "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"

Distribution Hymn: 380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Distribution Hymn: 366 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Closing Hymn: 387 "Joy to the World"

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please e-mail prayer requests to Pastor Hayes at pastor.hayes@outlook.com.

Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.

Angie Reinert, Lula Stuenkel, Marilyn Ohlde, Loraine Oldehoeft, & Lorna Heitman (in the nursing home); **family of Bill Burger; Edith Lange** (recovery)

Acolyte this Sunday - Liam Voelker

Acolyte next Sunday - Greyson Ohlde

Ushers today - *Aaron Stuenkel, Ryan Stuenkel, Daniel Nabors, &

Noah Thalmann

Ushers Jan. 1st - *John Bott, Lance Gerleve, Aiden Sweet, & Mason Tiemeyer

LYF Fellowship Hour Dec. 25th & Jan. 1st - No Adult Bible Class

LYF Fellowship Hour Jan. 8th & 15th - Sophia & Ethan Bott

Upcoming Events

- December 25** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. **NO** Adult Bible Class or Children's Sunday School
- December 28** 5:30 p.m. **NO** Midweek/Confirmation
- December 31** 7:00 p.m. NYE/Eve of the Name of Jesus
- January 1** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. **NO** Adult Bible Class or Children's Sunday School
- January 2** 7:00 p.m. Men's Club meeting
- January 4** 5:30 p.m. **NO** Midweek/Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting
- January 8** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Sunday School
11:30 a.m. New Member Potluck w/Quarterly Voters Mtg following

Announcements

- * There will be no children's Sunday School classes today or New Years Day. Sunday School will resume on January 8. Teacher sign-up sheets are now hanging on the Sunday School bulletin board. Parents of Sunday School children, please check your calendars and sign up by **today**. Thank you!
- * The St. John Men's Club will have a meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 2nd. We will have a Bible study and a short business meeting to discuss the upcoming soup supper, which is on January 15th. On the list for refreshments are Gary Voelker and Ron Ohlde. All men of the congregation are invited to join us for the evening of men's Christian fellowship.
- * Zion, Linn is hosting a circuit-wide Epiphany service and soup-supper on Friday, January 6th. The soup supper begins at 6 p.m. Worship begins at 7 p.m. There is no cost for the meal. All offerings will go to support the church-plant in Concordia, KS.
- * The family of Lorna Heitman requests a card shower for her 95th birthday on Jan. 5th, 2023. Her address is: Lorna Heitman, c/o LCNH, 612 3rd St., Linn, KS 66953.
- * Christmas Break for Linn Lutheran School runs until Wed., Jan. 4, when classes resume. Merry Christmas & God's Blessings from all of us at Linn Lutheran School as we begin a new year!
- * **Calling all parents (past, present, and future)** - St. John will host a parenting Bible class led by Pastor Hayes. The class will run on the six Wednesdays leading up to Ash Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. (January 11th - February 25th). Open to all. Materials included. Topics will include: What does Biblical wisdom teach us about parenting? How can we instill in our children a love for God and his ways? What about discipline and nurture, friendship and extended family? Come build one another up in Christ and share our mutual burdens: **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2).**

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.

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.



Introit *(Psalm 93:1-2, 5; antiphon: Isaiah 9:2a, 6a, c)*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a | great light.*
To us a | child is born.
His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,*
Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

The Lord reigns; he is robed in | majesty;*
the Lord is robed; he has put on strength | as his belt.
Yes, the world is es- | tablished;*
it shall nev- | er be moved.
Your throne is established | from of old;*
you are from ever- | lasting.
Your decrees are very | trustworthy;*
holiness befits your house, O Lord, for- | evermore.
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 people who walked in darkness have seen a | great light.*
To us a | child is born.
His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,*
Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Collect for Christmas Day

Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading: *Micah 5:2-5a*

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.
⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
⁵ And he shall be their peace.

Gradual (*Psalms 118:26a, 27a, 23*)

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

This is the Lord's doing;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

Epistle Reading: *Titus 3:4-7*

⁴ When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior
appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in
righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of
regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us
richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his
grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Alleluia Verse (*Psalms 93:1*)

The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed; he has put on
strength as his belt. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:15-20*

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds
said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that
has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went
with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.
¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told
them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the
shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering
them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising
God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

From Martin Luther's Sermon for *The Principal Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord*

This gospel text allows of no other doctrine beside it; it desires only to
testify of Christ and lead men to him, who is the Light. Therefore, O Lord God,
these words, "*He was not the Light,*" are truly worthy to be capitalized and to
be well remembered against the men who set themselves up as the light and
give to men doctrines and laws of their own fabrication. They pretend to
enlighten men, but lead them with themselves into the depths of hell; for they
do not teach faith, and are not willing to teach it; and no one teaches it except
John, who is sent of God, and the holy Gospel. Truly much could be said on
this point.

In short, he who does not preach the Gospel to you, reject and re- fuse to
hear him. He, however, preaches the Gospel who teaches you to believe and
trust in Christ, the eternal Light, and not to build on any of your own works.
Therefore beware of everything told you that does not agree with the Gospel;
do not put your trust in it, nor accept it as some- thing external, as you regard
eating and drinking, which are necessary for your body, and which you may
use at your pleasure or at the pleasure of another; but by no means as
something necessary to your salvation. For this purpose nothing is necessary or
of use to you except this Light.

O, these abominable doctrines of men, which are now so prevalent and
which have almost banished this Light! They all wish to be this light
themselves, but not to be witnesses of it. They advocate themselves and teach
their own fancies, but are silent about this Light, or teach it in a way as to
preach themselves along with it. This is worse than to be entirely silent; for by
such teaching they make Samaritans who partly worship God and partly
worship idols (2 Kings 17,33).

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

BEGINS CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas means *Christ Mass*, that is, the liturgy celebrated on the day when Christ came among us as one of us. The church celebrates the mystery of salvation revealed in Christ's birth, rather than the birthday itself. We celebrate the mystery of God become man in Christ, who is both our King and our Savior.

The Christmas season also places special emphasis on the name of the Lord our God because Jesus would have received His name eight days after His birth when He was circumcised.

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him that Mary was with child through the Holy Spirit, the angel also told Joseph what to name the child: Jesus, which means *the LORD saves* (Matthew 1:20-21). Eight days after Jesus' birth, when He was circumcised, Joseph and Mary name Jesus as the angel had instructed.

Calendar: The Twelve Days of Christmas always fall on December 25th - January 5th.

Customs: The color white symbolizes the joy and the theme of light that plays so large a part in the Biblical texts associated with the season. Christmas carols also express the joy and wonder of Christ's birth. On Christmas Day, add the figures of Jesus, the angel, and the shepherds to the creche or nativity scene at church or at home. Add the Magi on Epiphany (January 6th). The Christmas tree should stand throughout the 12 days of Christmas and be removed on Epiphany. Read the Christmas story from Luke 2 with your family.

- from *The Lord Will Answer: A Daily Prayer Catechism* by CPH.



...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.



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