

Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
a reconciling in Christ congregation



Third Sunday of Epiphany

January 21st, 2024

10:30 am

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Mike Button

Director of Music: Jessica Madow

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Statement of Welcome

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female;
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. — Galatians 3:28*

As a community of God striving to be open to all people, we at St. John's Lutheran Congregation believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We welcome all to join us as we struggle to better understand the mysteries of God's teachings. We are challenged by Christ to care for, to love, to understand, and to listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual/affectional orientation, national origin, or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God's people.

St. John's Lutheran Congregation is a place for each person to shine in their own unique gifts.

Statement of Mission

St. John's Lutheran Church is a downtown, community-oriented, congregation of Christians. We worship God, strive to welcome, and wholly accept everyone, and reach out with and in God's love.

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Communion is a time we invite all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament. If this is your belief, there are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

Service Notes:

- (asterisk) indicates, please stand as you are able.
- Page # indicates the front of the hymnal is used . . .
- Hymn # indicates the back of the Hymnal is used . . .

Hymn Book Abbreviations:

ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book
WOV – With One Voice
ACS – All Creation Sings

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome

Prelude *“Lord, Revive Us” (North American, 19th c.)*

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock, and refuge,

C: We pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God’s beloved.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

ELW # 588 *“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”*

*Greeting

- page 203

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.**

*Kyrie

- page 203

*Canticle of Praise

“Glory to God” (verse 1)

- page 204

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

Children’s Chat

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalms 62:5-12

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

**⁶God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

**⁸Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

**¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

**¹²Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** Gospel**

Mark 1:14-20

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — *The Reverend Mike Button*

***Hymn of the Day** —

ACS #991 *“Go to the World”*

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, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 Intercession*

A: Let us pray. God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. If we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Installation of 2024 St. John's Council

*Welcome new Council Members: Cindy Black, & Barbara Horinko, and thanks to those who are continuing to support our congregation.
Bob Black, Monica Weiss-Nolen, Judi Kalapay, Brad Thomas,
Panama Crozier, Wayne Docker, Carol Faulkner and Rob Smith.*

* *The Sharing of the Peace*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

(Ushers now proceed to the Altar to receive the offering plates...)

Offertory *“Thy Word”* by Michael Smith & Amy Grant
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

***Presentation of Gifts** *(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)*

***Offertory Hymn**

ELW #465 *“As the Grains of Wheat”*

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving** - page 206

*** Preface** (*Leader continues . . .*)

***Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 207

***Thanksgiving at the Table** (*Leader continues . . .*)

***Lord's Prayer** - page 208

***Lamb of God** - page 208

***Invitation to Communion**

Holy Communion - *If you are baptized and believe that it is the real blood and body of Christ, we welcome you at the Lord's table.*

**At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion. Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.*

Communion Hymns

ELW # 815 *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

ELW # 696 *"Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"*

ELW # 661 *"I Love to Tell the Story"*

*Table Blessing

*Post Communion Hymn

ELW #313 *"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"*.

*Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

*Blessing

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✚ bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW # 810 *“O Jesus, I Have Promised”*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Steve Moyer
Ushers – Panama Crozier / Connie Garr
Reader – Karla lake
Altar Guild – Joyce Petty / Connie Garr
Video Team – Pete Lake

This Week at St. John's: January 21st – January 28st

Today (1/21/24) – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany, 10:30 am

Today (1/21/24) – Following Worship: Property – Pastor's Office
Membership – Fellowship Hall

Today (1/21/24) – Gallery Open: 12-3:00 pm

Monday (1/22/24) – Choir, 1:00 pm

Tuesday (1/23/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

Wednesday (1/24/24) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

Sunday (1/28/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am

Sunday (1/28/24) – Fourth Sunday of Epiphany, 10:30 am

Sunday (1/28/24) – Following Worship: Annual Meeting
- Light Lunch

Attendance: 48

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$3,341.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$3,341.00



*Altar Flowers are dedicated today to the
Glory of God
by Monica Weiss- Nolen*

*Join us at Prayer Group:
The 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the Month at 11:00 am*



Prayer Concerns: Chuck, Fritzie, Sandy, Pam, James, Kara, Christine, Carolyn, Julia, Charles, Bill, Jim, Betty, Madelyn, Ken, Louise, Sylvia, Tony, Caitlin, Arlene, Pat, and Our Homebound Family and Friends . . .

***Save the Date . . .
~ Annual Congregational Meeting ~
January 28, 2024 – Following Worship***

****Membership will be sponsoring a light lunch following the meeting, the Congregation is asked to bring a Green Salad or Dessert to share.****



*****Volunteers are also needed to help in the kitchen, and with clean-up. Please say “Yes” when asked ! *****

Winter is Here . . .

In the case of inclement weather, please check your e-mails, church website, and WFMZ Stormcenter – Channel 69 News for information on the church closing. If you did not receive an e-mail this past week regarding the recent “Closing for Snow”, please send a quick e-mail to the church office to be included on our list.

Admin@stjohnseaston.org



Adult Forum:
JOIN US SUNDAY'S AT 9:00 AM
in the Gallery ...
NEW TOPIC:
"Everything you wanted to know
about worship but were afraid to
ask ..."



The Gallery at St. John's . . .
Currently exhibiting art from the ACE and
FAAS Communities . . .
Today – January 21, 12-3:00 pm
Come check it out !!

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE WHERE NEEDED MOST

ELCA.org/disaster

In the face of disaster, Lutheran Disaster Response shares relief today and builds resilience for tomorrow. From wildfires to hurricanes to refugee crises, we are present when disaster strikes, ready to accompany communities through relief and recovery. We are also in communities when there are no impending disasters, preparing people to mitigate the effects of a disaster and enabling them to bounce back more quickly.

Lutheran Disaster Response relies upon strong partnerships with global companion churches, ELCA synods and Lutheran

social service organizations. We recognize that every disaster is local and responses need to be rooted in community. Our partners know their communities the best and can address local needs.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response share healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disaster. Together, we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need. Give today to support survivors in the United States and around the world, wherever and whenever a disaster may strike.

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write "Where needed most" on
your check's memo line.