

**Sunday, December 17, 2017  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Holy Communion**



**Worship leader: Pastor Catherine Burnette  
Church office 812-482-7623  
Pastor Catherine Cell: 812-631-5052  
Pastor Catherine's email: [catburnette@gmail.com](mailto:catburnette@gmail.com)  
Administrative Assistant: Paula Mann 812-827-6363  
Church email: [stjohnsboonetwp@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsboonetwp@gmail.com)  
St John's Lutheran Church, Boone Township  
6483 W 580 N Otwell, IN 47564**

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP*

### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Brief Silence*

Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  $\text{†}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

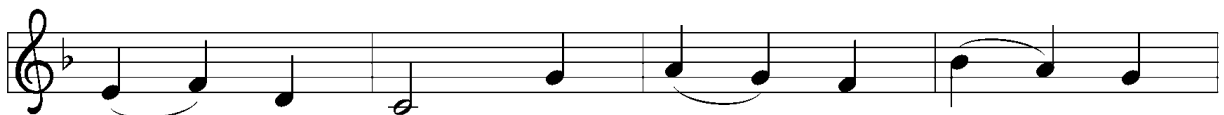
*Hark, the Glad Sound!*

LBW35

Hark, the Glad Sound!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.


Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751  
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

## GREETING


**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



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **☒** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **☒** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **☒** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

- <sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Luke 2: 8-19**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 1-12

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to **MATTHEW**, the **2<sup>nd</sup>** chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead

of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
 C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON** *All I want for Christmas is the gift of Sign and a Star.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** *Lighting of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Prepare the Royal Highway*  
 LBW26

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!



## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 INTERCESSION

**A:** Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

*Brief Silence*

**A:** Guiding Lord, bless church leaders, volunteers, teachers, musicians, acolytes, deacons, pastors, seminarians, and those discerning a call to ministry. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**A:** Creating God, protect Earth's wilderness, especially where the lands are isolated and unexplored. Watch over all living creatures who remain free from human exploitation. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Prince of Peace, send us your Spirit of unity, so that justice may spring up among the nations. Give us the will to repair the broken systems that perpetuate injustice. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, comfort your children who are mourning, bind up the brokenhearted, and heal our wounds. We pray for those who are homeless or imprisoned, refugees, those who struggle with addiction or mental illness, and all in need (*especially, Sandra Lents, Janice Meyer, Linus Schnarr, Jay Harker, Robert Kelly, Anne Heeke, California wildfire and for Christians and all individuals who suffer from persecution*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Lord of justice, strengthen and increase the ministry of food pantries, meal service deliveries, employment training programs, and advocacy for equity among all classes and races. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Eternal God, clothe us in your garments of salvation, so that together we may rejoice in your presence with the saints who have died and with those unable to be with us today. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Other intercessions may be added.*

P: We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY



**C** Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**P:** Savior of the nations, come.  
Make your home here in us.  
Feed us with your love,  
that our faith shine ever new  
and our lives reveal your light.

**C:** Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORD OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:  
**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.**

# WE RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

## COMMUNION EXPLANATION

*We welcome all baptized believers to take part in Holy Communion. To receive communion please come down the center aisle in two continuous lines. You will first receive a wafer (gluten free wafers are available upon request) and then receive a cup containing either red wine or white grape juice (which is located in the center of the tray.) Once you have communed you may return to your seats by the side aisles. If you do not commune you are welcomed to come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come forward and would like to receive communion please indicate so after everyone else has communed by raising your hand.*

## WE PRAYERFULLY LISTEN TO MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

**P:** May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**P:** God for whom we wait,  
you come to us  
in the broken bread and the cup we share.  
Make us ready always  
to welcome Christ into our hearts,  
and send us forth to be your people in the world,  
announcing your coming among us  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

*People, Look East*  
WOV626

### People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## **BLESSING**

**P:** Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C:** **Amen**

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C:** **Working to Share God's Love. Thanks be to God.**

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**WELCOME VISITORS:** We welcome you to St. John's Lutheran Church and we hope that you will enjoy our worship to God. Please take time to fill out a "St. John's Ministry Notes" card that is located in the bulletin. Once you have filled that card out please place it in the offering plate. We hope that you will consider making St John's your worshiping community.

**NURSERY:** St. John's loves having children in church, but we want parents to know that we do have an unmanned nursery available downstairs in our Education Wing if needed. The nursery is wired for sound so you can still participate in the service. Take the ramp downstairs which is located next to the upstairs restroom. The nursery is located on the left-hand side of the long hallway four doors down.

**HEARING DEVICES:** St. John's offers "Hearing Devices" to individuals who need them. They are located in a basket in the Narthex. They have been updated and are ready to be used. The batteries are not in the device but are in the basket and need to be installed to use. If you wear a hearing aid you will need to remove it and put the ear bud directly into your ear. You are welcomed to bring your own ear buds. If you have any questions or need any help contact Linus Mann at 812-351-0612. Our Pastor uses a microphone but sometimes extra help is needed to help enhance your worship experience.



**Those Serving TODAY December 17, 2017**

Worship Leader: Pastor Catherine Burnette

Acolyte: Blake Broeker

Reader: Carol Zehr

Ushers: Rhegann Weisheit & Kylee Weisheit

Greeters: Emily & Mallory Lents

**Those Serving December 24, 2017**

Worship Leader: Pastor Catherine Burnette

Acolyte: Tess Weisheit

Reader: Diann Zehr

Ushers: Mary Kate Hopf & Zach Broeker

Greeters: Jim & Janice Schiller

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday School Attendance: 10

Church Attendance: 68

Current: \$3,728.00 Goal: \$3,314.00

Benevolence: \$217.00 Goal: \$221.00

Africa: \$40.00

Backpack Buddies: \$100.00

ELCA Disaster Offering: \$10.00

ELCA Hunger Appeal: \$10.00

Food for the Poor: \$20.00

Loose: \$10.00

Lutheran Child & Family Services: \$15.00

Lutheran World Relief: \$10.00

Sunday School: \$58.00

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Praise Team practice

## Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup>

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation

## Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>

2:45 p.m. Praise Team Practice

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** On Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> we will not have a Sunday morning service. Instead we will have



our Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Praise Team will begin playing 15 minutes before the service.

**PASTOR ON VACATION:** Pastor Catherine will be on vacation December 25<sup>th</sup> - January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pastor Tim Kraemer will be on call for her during that time. He can be reached at 812-631-9372.

**125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CROCK:** If you purchased a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Crock and have not been contacted by Doris Eck please get in touch with her. *Thank you.*

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY SPECIAL OFFERING:** December 31<sup>st</sup> is the next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday that we collect a special offering for the Christ Centered Church in Ntinda, Uganda.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> following 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. Please plan to attend. (*Snow date is Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.*)



**GIFT BAGS FOR 80 AND OLDER:** Gift bags are ready to pick up in the Narthex. If you can, please help us deliver the gift bags.



**THE CELEBRATION SINGERS** will present their final Concert of the Christmas season on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. at Precious Blood Church in Jasper.



**CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND DINNER** with Brian Arner, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at Dale United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Concert at 7:00 p.m. Dinner tickets are \$10 per person or \$100 per table. Questions or to purchase tickets contact Pastor Mike Turner 812-499-3839 or Pastor Paul Frey 812-483-7216.

**ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION:** If you have not submitted your Ministry Team report please do so as soon as possible. Email them to [stjohnsboonetwp@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsboonetwp@gmail.com) or drop them off in the office. *Thank you.*

**2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available to be picked up in the Narthex.

# Working + to Share God's Love

**Church office: 812-482-7623**  
**Pastor Catherine Cell: 812-631-5052**

## Your Church Council

Pastor Catherine Burnette—Spiritual Advisor & Worship Leader (812-631-5052)

Carol Zehr – President (812-482-7647)

Jason Sendelweck – Vice President (812-630-5039)

Janelle Durcholz – Secretary (812-631-0562)

Paul Mann – Treasurer (812-630-1946)

Tim Mehne – Facilities Team (812-631-2586)

Scott Weisman – Parish Life Team (812-309-2822)

Helen Kendall – Outreach Team (812-482-7732)

Michelle Bonner – Worship Team (812-631-1089)