

**St. John's Lutheran Church, Ruma
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

8446 1st Road Evansville, IL 62242

stjohnlutheranruma@gmail.com

Rev. Jonathan Winterfeldt, Pastor

Fourth Sunday in Advent

10 a.m.

December 21, 2025

Matins, LSB p.219

Hymn: 341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Stand

Versicles (Advent)

LSB 219

Psalmody

Antiphon (Common)

LSB 220

Venite

LSB 220

Antiphon (Common)

LSB 221

Sit

Readings

Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

(P) A reading from Isaiah, chapter 7.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz

said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.”¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Romans 1:1–7

P A reading from Romans, chapter 1.

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Matthew 1:18–25

P A reading from Matthew, chapter 1.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory

LSB 221

Sit

Sermon Hymn: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Sermon: Nothing to Figure Out

Matthew 1:18–25

Canticle

Stand

Te Deum

LSB 223

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 227

Lord's Prayer

Collects

Collect of the Day

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.

C Amen.

Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Collect for Grace

Stand

Benedicamus and Benediction

LSB 228

Hymn to Depart: 900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

Acknowledgments

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Please place your offerings in the plate at the back of church.

POINSETTIAS BEAUTIFYING THE SANCTUARY

*by Nancy Kruse
in memory of Roger Kruse,
Paul and Louise Kruse
Albert and Anna Whelan*

*by Marlene Ling
in memory of Lydia and Lewis Wegener*

*by Pearl May
in memory of Norman May*

*by Dennis and Jill Phegley
in honor of family and friends*

*by Mark and Diann Scherle
in memory of Bob and Regina Scherle
Charlie and Aldina Schrader*

ADVENT CANDLES

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word *adventus* which translates to “coming.” This coming is exactly what the church year is celebrating: the coming of Christ as the Light of the world. During Advent, four candles - three purple and one pink - are lit each Sunday, on an Advent wreath. The candles represent hope, faith, joy and peace, respectively. Often, a fifth white candle, called the Christ candle, sits in the center of the wreath and is lit on Christmas day.

Colors of Advent and Christmas: The colors typically used during Advent are blue or violet. The violet color that traditionally represents the coming King, Christ. The pink candle represents joy. For Christmas, white is used to represent holiness, glory, and joy.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

***for healing and strength** for Helen, Cara, David, Elaine, Sarah, Art and Gladys, Linda, Delbert, Brian, Dawn, Susan, Paul, Robert, Jace, Mary, and Dorothy

***for thanksgiving** for the healing and recovery of Dennis, Jeff, and Carolyn

***for comfort** for Amanda, Amy, and all the family and friends who mourn the death of Delbert

***for all members of the military, police, and firefighters including** Jace and Ryan.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR CHURCH

Organist Diann Scherle

Sunday School Teachers

Amanda Roedl, Sunday School director and 5th through 8th grade; Kaley Roedl, pre-school through 4th grade; Joy Meyer, handbells.

Officers

Dennis Phegley, chairman; Deb McCutcheon, secretary; Jill Phegley, treasurer; Diann Scherle, assistant treasurer; Brian Liefer, Jonathan Mehring, and Tim Schrader, elders; Matt Roedl, Jeff Schlueter, and Lloyd Schoenbeck, trustees.

Stewardship Committee (responsible for the Bible presentation series) Rachel Mehring and Jill Phegley from St. John's; Troy Birch and Nathan Koester from St. Peter's.

TO CONTACT PASTOR WINTERFELDT

Call or text: (618) 830-6762. Email: jwinterfel@aol.com

TO SHARE INFORMATION

Church Council: Dennis Phegley, chairman; Brian Liefer, elder; Jonathan Mehring, elder; Timothy Schrader, elder.

Church Bulletin: By Wednesday afternoon, send email to church address (stjohnlutheranruma@gmail.com)

Church Facebook Page: Directly message *StJohnEvLutheranChurchRumAIL*, send an email to the church email address (above), or ask Amanda to have your information posted.

FOR MORE ONLINE INFORMATION

Church Facebook Page: *StJohnEvLutheranRumAIL* for Sunday School activities and church news updates.

Church Website: Check the website for the week's bulletin, a calendar of church activities, and links to all things LCMS. Look for us at www.stjohnlutheranruma.com.

Pastor's YouTube Channel:

If you are unable to attend services or want to listen again to a particular sermon, go to "jwinterfel" on YouTube where Pastor posts a recording of the week's **Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel readings, as well as his weekly sermon**. You will also find video and audio of some entire services.

PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

By purchasing our Ladies Aid Apple Butter for only \$5 a pint or \$8 a quart: The Ladies Aid uses the money to buy items for our church and for area food pantries. They also donate to COSHLS and LWML. See Pearl May or Marlene Ling to buy a jar. **The shelves are restocked with fresh apple butter!**

By working with the Sochowski family as Susan recovers from a stroke. At our request, Mark has provided a list of concrete ways we can help. A copy of the list is available on the pew in back of church.

By leaving non-perishable food items in the back of church. The Ladies Aid/LWML members are collecting for area food pantries.

By donating toward our NEW Lutheran Heritage Foundation Mission Project FOR 2025... The new LHF mission project will focus on children in Ghana. Every \$5.00 donation provides a beautiful hardcover Bible storybook for children in the Kusaal language. **Write Ghana in the memo line of your check or on an envelope with cash.** We will send collected money to LHF at the end of each quarter in 2024. *Check out Diann's bulletin board display just outside the Fellowship Hall for more information.*

By bringing altar flowers: You are welcome to provide fresh flowers for a special occasion or just because. Check the sign-up list in the Fellowship Hall to see what months are available. Please let Deb know by Wednesday afternoon so she can acknowledge the gift and occasion in the bulletin.

By donating toward the Cemetery Fund: Spring rains washed deep ruts into the entrances to the cemetery. Voters approved the cost of asphalting the entire cemetery road. The road is finished and should be beautiful and maintenance-free for years! If you would like to help replenish the cost of the road, please put your donation in an envelope marked Cemetery Fund.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec. 21: Sunday School students from St. John's and St. Peter's will meet here **at 11 a.m.** to prepare for the Sunday School Christmas program this afternoon.

Sunday, Dec. 21: Our **Sunday School Christmas Program** with students from St. Peter's **will begin at 4 p.m. here in the church.** The students and teachers invite us to join them after the program for a dessert reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols begins here at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Winterfeldt will lead the service.

Wednesday, Dec. 24: St. Peter's Christmas Eve service led by Nathan Koester also begins at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day: A combined Christmas Day service with St. Peter's will be held here at 8:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve: A combined New Year's Eve service with St. Peter's will be held at St. Peter's at 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion will be served.

Sunday, Jan. 4: Members of the Church Council will meet immediately after the worship service.

Sunday, Jan. 11: Voters will meet immediately after the worship service.