

***Last Week's Stewardship of the Means of Grace  
and the Means for His Work***

Worship 104

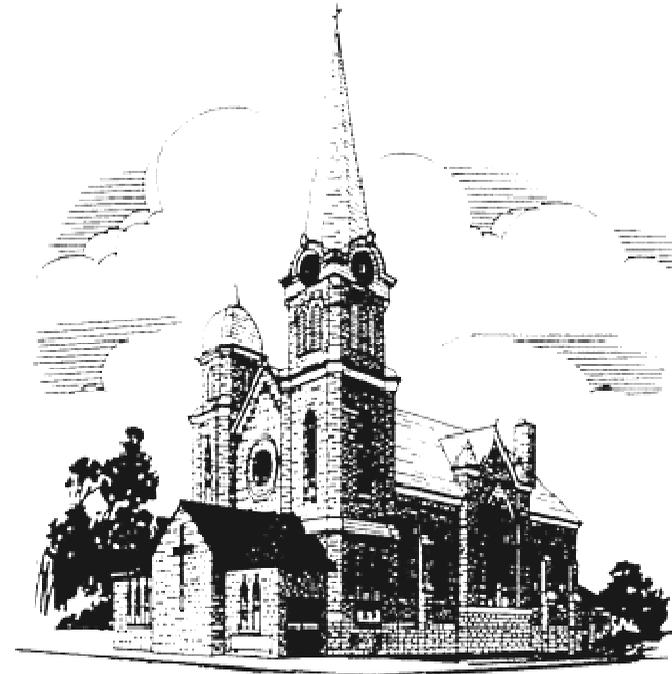
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	<u>LW</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Goal</u>
Church Offerings	\$10,741.50	\$141,656.39	\$177,253.18
St. John LES Tuition	\$0	\$16,000	\$34,999.90
Synod / Missions	\$1,325	\$8,227.49	\$8,999.90
Fox Valley Luth. HS	\$210	\$4,735	\$5,000.06

***The Week+ Ahead as We Live in God's Grace***

<b>Today (1<sup>st</sup>)</b>		NO ADULT OR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
<b>Tue (3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>	9:00 am	Martha's Circle
<b>Wed (4<sup>th</sup>)</b>	6:45 am	Breakfast & Bible Study (topic: Divorce and Remarriage)
	8:15 am	St. John LES Chapel (at church)
	1:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive (at church; until 6pm)
	3:30 pm	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Catechism Class
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Thu (5<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:00 pm	Handbells (at Trinity, Kaukauna)
<b>Sun (8<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:45 am	Worship
	9:00 am	Sunday School (lesson: the Wise Men)
		Adult Bible Class (Life of Christ: Jesus Teaches about God's Will)
	10:15 am	Worship
<b>Mon (9<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
<b>Tue (10<sup>th</sup>)</b>	11:30 am	Senior Luncheon (all members invited)
<b>Sun (15<sup>th</sup>)</b>	9:00 am	All-Member Open Forum
<b>Mon (16<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:30 pm	Quarterly Voters Meeting
<b>Thu (19<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:00 pm	Elders Meeting
<b>Mon-Tue (23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>)</b>		Pastors Conference (St. Peter's, Sturgeon Bay)
<b>Thu (26<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:30 pm	Board of Ed. / School Board Meeting
<b>Sat (28<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:00 pm	St. John Night at the Green Bay Gamblers (Resch Center)
<b>Tue (31<sup>st</sup>)</b>	7:00 pm	Long-Range Planning Meeting
<b>Wed (1<sup>st</sup>)</b>	6:00 pm	WELS Online Study (Randy Hunter: "Mysterious Marriage")
	6:30 pm	the Ave Student Ministries (Copper Rock on College Ave.)
	8:00 pm	WELS Online Study (Randy Hunter: "Mysterious Marriage")
<b>Mon (27<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:00 pm	FVL General Board Meeting
<b>Thu (3/2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>	12:30 pm	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade "Discover FVL Day"

**First Sunday after Christmas  
January 1, 2017**



**St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School**

*437 Turner Street, Wrightstown WI, 54180*

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Mrs. Jennifer Bunn, Grades 1-3 .....	(920) 217-3405
Mrs. Rebecca Wicks, Pre-K and K.....	(920) 809-8648
Miss. Jamie Buss, Preschool and Pre-K .....	(920) 538-0470
Mr. Terry Sieker, Congregation President .....	(920) 864-7307
Fox Valley Lutheran High School .....	(920) 739-4441

## Welcome!

We extend a very warm and friendly welcome to all who've joined us for worship today. We pray that the God of grace, who sent his Son to save you and who proved his love for you by raising him from the dead, will fill your heart with joy in knowing that your salvation has been made sure through Jesus. May God bless your worship!

If you're a guest with us this morning, please sign the Friendship Register in your row, checking any applicable boxes. If you need assistance of any kind, don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers. If you'd like to learn more about St. John congregation or the Bible's teachings, please speak with Pastor Mike Gehl. And if you don't already have a church-home, feel free to return and worship with us again at your earliest convenience.

Our restrooms are located downstairs (through the entryway). Activity bags to help keep children occupied are on a hanger in the entryway. We love having your children sit with you during the service, but if you feel that your infant or toddler is getting a little too fussy, you may briefly step out of the sanctuary until they're ready to come back in.

Today's order of service is displayed on the screen and printed out in the worship folder (with music notes) for your convenience. Hymns are found in the red book in front of you.

St. John also operates an all-day preschool and a full-day kindergarten through eighth grade Lutheran Elementary School. We're a member of the Fox Valley Lutheran High School federation. If you are interested in hearing more about these opportunities for Christian education, please speak with Pastor Gehl or Principal Tim Raddatz.

### At Your Service Today:

9:00 am

**Greeters:** Michelle Bruecker  
Becke Pennenberg  
Ralia Pennenberg  
Carroll Treptow

**Ushers:** Don Treptow  
Dave Treptow  
Noah Pennenberg  
Monty Reynolds  
Jacob Bruecker

**PowerPoint:** Phil Roberts

**Altar Guild:** Lou Ann Beard & Mary Fritsch

## Thanksgiving

### Song of Simeon ..... (Nunc Dimittis)

In peace, Lord, you let your  
ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my  
eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for  
ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the  
glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

### Closing Prayer and Blessing

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.*

**And his mercy endures forever.**

*O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

*The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and [✠] give you peace.*

**Amen.**

### Closing Hymn ..... "Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter" (CW 70)

## Words of Institution

*Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

*Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**Amen.**

## O Christ, Lamb of God.....(Agnus Dei)

O Christ, Lamb of  
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of  
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of  
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

## Distribution

## ***The Biblical Practice of Close Communion***

Through the apostle Paul, God speaks of his desire for all of us to reach perfect unity (Ephesians 4:12,13). We members of St. John Congregation certainly share his desire. We seek to express that unity – with our current members, with those who desire membership, and also with Christians around the world.

Scripture speaks of two different types of unity. First, Christ has reconciled every single one of us to God through his perfect life and death on our behalf. Even now, God considers us saints and heirs of heaven, clothed with Christ’s righteousness. You might think of this as a “vertical” unity – purely between the individual and his or her God. Through Christ, peace with God has been restored. Then, there’s also an outward and public unity – a “horizontal” unity – as fellow saints worship side-by-side. The celebration of Holy Communion is guided by both types.

**For communion to be celebrated in a beneficial way, those attending will come united with their God and also with their fellow-communicants. The former is established by repentance – a sorrow over sin and a trust in God’s forgiveness – that he himself produces. It’s a matter of the heart. The latter is established by the outward confession of what each of us believes. It’s a matter of the mouth.**

We do not presume to look into the heart, for only God is able to do that. We do, however, seek to establish outward unity by studying God’s Word together so that we share a common confession. Our congregation offers a Bible study course that’s designed for just that purpose.

**And so, out of love for God and his Word, we kindly ask that all visitors speak with the pastor about how we can establish that outward unity prior to your attending Holy Communion here at St. John. We desire to make that goal a priority, so that you may receive the Sacrament as soon as possible.**

May God bless your hearing of the Word today as he reminds you of his full and free forgiveness in Christ!

*Service Theme for the First Sunday after Christmas: God cares for his sons. He cared for his son, the nation of Israel—though they were rebellious. He cared for his Son, Jesus—though Herod raged against him. He even cares for his newly adopted sons—though we do not deserve it. God cared for us by sending his Son to deliver us from the corruption of sin and transform us into sons just like Jesus (Prayer of the Day). That work of Christ gives us peace (Verse of the Day) that only sons can have.*

## Divine Service I

Opening Hymn.....“Peace Came to Earth” (CWS 707)



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night  
 2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held  
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And  
 The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The  
 In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In  
 How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but  
 wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but  
 bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but  
 else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
 sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
 see: Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
 pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

## The Sacrament

### Preface

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

**It is good and right so to do.**

*It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:*

Holy, Holy, Holy..... (Sanctus)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,



God of might: heav'n 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.

God's Given You a Most Wonderful Gift!

Create in Me

C Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me.  
 Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or  
 take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -  
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Thank-Offering

*These offerings are used to support the ministries of our church, both locally and worldwide. Our guests should not feel compelled to give an offering, but may do so if they desire.*

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Greeting

*In the name of the Father and of the Son [†] and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

Confession of Sins & Absolution

*Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.*

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord, Have Mercy.....(Kyrie)

C Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy  
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us. A - men.

*God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son [†] and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

Praise and Prayer

*In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.*

Gloria in Excelsis ..... "Angels We Have Heard on High" (CW 63)

## Prayer of the Day

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Let us pray. Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

## The Word

### First Lesson ..... Hosea 11:1-7

<sup>1</sup>I loved Israel when he was a young man. Out of Egypt I called my son. <sup>2</sup>The more I called them, the more they went away from me to the Baals. They sacrificed, and they burned incense to the idols. <sup>3</sup>I taught Ephraim to walk. I led him by his hand. They did not know that I healed them. <sup>4</sup>With human cords, with ropes of love, I drew them to me. For them I was like someone who removes a yoke. Into their mouths I gently placed food. <sup>5</sup>He will not return to the land of Egypt. An Assyrian will be his king, because he refused to repent. <sup>6</sup>A sword will whirl in his cities. It will put an end to the bars of his city gates and will devour them because of their advice. <sup>7</sup>My people are bent on turning away from me. Even if they will call to him on high, he will not lift them up.

### Second Lesson ..... Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, "Abba, Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

### Verse of the Day ..... Colossians 3:15a

*Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia.*

### Gospel Lesson ..... Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

*Today's Gospel reading is recorded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the 13<sup>th</sup> verse.*



**C** Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

<sup>13</sup>After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him." <sup>14</sup>Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt. <sup>15</sup>He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." <sup>19</sup>After Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel said, <sup>20</sup>"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to kill the child are dead." <sup>21</sup>Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus, Herod's son, had succeeded his father as ruler in Judea, he was afraid to go there. Since he had been warned in a dream, he went to the region of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>When he arrived there, he settled in a city called Nazareth. So what was spoken through the prophets was fulfilled: "He will be called a Nazarene."

*[the lesson ends with the words] ...this is the Gospel of our Lord.*



**C** Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

## The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day....."Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (CW 34)**