

News & Notes

Thanks Again!

...to all who set up and/or decorated the fellowship hall; helped in the kitchen; donated, prepped, or cooked food; cleaned up; etc. for last week's Easter breakfast. Bernie Vickman is soooooo grateful for your participation that he plans to coordinate this event for at least the next 20 years (unless Jesus comes first)!

Easter Plants / Lilies

If you purchased an Easter lily, you're welcome to take it home with you today or next week.

Important Every-Member Meetings

All adult members – both husband and wife, if possible – are asked to sign up to attend an upcoming meeting during April / May. Various options are listed on the sheet in the entryway. The reason for these meetings is three-fold: 1) to review the biblical principles of stewardship; 2) to give an important update on the current finances of the congregation; and 3) to provide the rationale for moving to a “unified budget” and answer any questions or address any concerns in that regard. **PLEASE NOTE: those members who don't sign up will be contacted by phone to indicate when they'll be able to attend.** The church council has approved these meetings and feels strongly that all members need to be well-informed.

Summer Greeters & Ushers

Don Treptow has made a list; now go and check it once or twice. If your name is already printed, and you're willing to continue serving in this way, nothing more needs to be done. If you wish to add or cross off your name, please do so.

St. John Color Run / Walk

Event is May 20th – register online by May 5th.

2017-18 Church Councilmen & Officers

(newly elected officers are in bold and their term begins on July 1st)

Cong. President: **Terry Sieker** (1-year term)
 Recording Secretary: **Bart Reschke**
 Financial Secretary: Norb Kussow
 Treasurer: Ralph Bohrtz
 Elders: Ron Zahn (chairman), **Dale Laabs, Perry Schisel**, Kevin Vande Hey
 Property Manager: Phil Roberts
 Board of Ed: Eric Kraus (chairman), Wayne Cisler, **Andrew DeMerritt, Carl Uitenbroek**
 Don Treptow, Josh Bohrtz, and Travis Gilson continue to serve until their terms expire 6/30.

Evangelism / Stewardship Coordinators

Pastor Gehl is seeking interested individuals – man or woman – who have the desire and ability to coordinate these two areas of ministry. Both would provide written reports to the council / voters, but wouldn't be required to attend the meetings (unless they wished to do so).

The Stewardship Coordinator would help members discover and utilize their God-given talents.

The Evangelism Coordinator would help publicize and promote all school and church activities to the Wrightstown community.

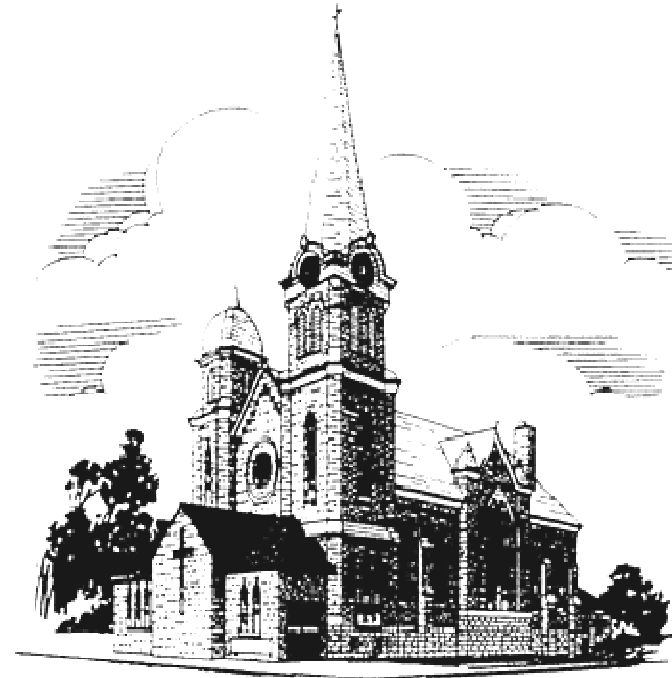
Seeking Names

We're attempting to compile a comprehensive database of St. John School alumni. If you can provide names of your fellow schoolmates and maybe even those slightly older or younger than you, please share that info with our church secretary at your earliest convenience.

Bells Fest – April 30th – 2 pm

Wisconsin Rapids High School is holding the event.

**Second Sunday of Easter
 April 23, 2017**



St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School

437 Turner Street, Wrightstown WI, 54180

www.stjlw.com

- Pastor Mike Gehl (pastorgehl@gmail.com)..... (920) 309-5171
- Church Office (church@stjlw.com)..... (920) 532-4865
- School Office (stjls@stjlw.com) (920) 532-4361
- Mr. Timothy Raddatz, Principal, Grades 4-8..... (920) 636-5007
- 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:

	<u>7:45</u>	<u>10:15</u>
Greeters:	Janet Wierschke Lois Baumgartener Tammy Olp Aura Lee Gehl	Diane Laabs Joan Zahn Tina DeMerritt
Ushers:	Eric Olp Elliot Olp William Olp Carl Uitenbroek Randy Kluess	Dale Laabs Zaine Laabs Jeremy Uecker Doug Otten
PowerPoint:	Amy Vande Hey	Rebecca Wicks
Altar Guild:	Lou Beard, Mary Fritsch, Aura Lee Gehl	

Mission and Purpose

St. John Lutheran Church exists as part of the Holy Christian Church on earth. We engage in the continuing development of disciples of Jesus Christ by **GATHERING** for worship, education, and fellowship in order to **GROW** in faith and knowledge of our Lord and Savior. By God's **GRACE** we **GO** to proclaim Christ and his Word with our lips and lives. We realize that it's only through the **GOSPEL** in Word and Sacraments that one can be equipped for discipleship and bringing **GLORY** to God.

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

Worship	261; 180 LS	ABC: N/A	SST: N/A	YSS: N/A
		<u>LW</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Goal</u>
Church Offerings		\$7,230.10	\$220,586.01	\$286,332.06
St. John LES Tuition		\$0	\$28,500	\$56,538.30
Synod / Missions		\$1,772	\$13,267.49	\$14,538.30
Fox Valley Luth. HS		\$135	\$8,180	\$8,077.02

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

Today (23rd)	7:45 am	Worship
	9:00 am	Sunday School (The Sower and the Seed) Adult Bible Class (Welcoming Worship)
	10:15 am 6:00 pm	Worship FVL Schools Youth Band Concert (at FVLHS)
Mon (24th)	7:00 pm	Board of Elders Meeting
Tue (25th)	7:00 pm	Long-Range Planning Meeting
Wed (26th)	3:30 pm	6 th -8 th Grade Catechism Class
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Thu (27th)	7:00 pm	Handbells Practice (at Trinity, Kaukauna)
	7:30 pm	Board of Education Meeting
Sun (30th)	7:45 am	Worship (WELS Connection)
	9:00 am	Sunday School (Jesus Calms the Storm) Adult Bible Class (topic TBD)
	10:15 am	Worship (WELS Connection)
Fri (5/5th)	10:00 am	Grandparents Day Program and Luncheon (at church)
Sun (5/14th)	6:00 pm	FVLHS Spring Concert
Sat (5/20th)	8:00 am	Children's Fun-Fest & Food Booth (at church)
	9:00 am	St. John 5k Color Run/Walk
Tue (5/23rd)	7:00 pm	FVLHS General Board Meeting
Fri (5/26th)	9:30 am	St. John School Closing Service (at church)
Sat (6/3rd)		St. John Fishing Extravaganza

Closing Prayer

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



Closing Hymn "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" (CW 141)

Service Theme for the Second Sunday of Easter: In the face of doubt, Christ gives us proof and peace. To the doubting disciples, he gave certain proof that led to certain peace. Through his Word and sacraments, Jesus gives the same proof to all people of all time. "Peace be with you," said our Lord. Then he sent his people forth with this message of peace based on the proof of his resurrection.

Service of the Word

This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word, and believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Opening Hymn..... "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks" (CW 154)

The grace of our Lord [✠] Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Confession of Sins

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen.

Prayer and Praise

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

Oh, Taste and See

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

The Word

First LessonActs 10:34a,36,39-43 (EHV)

The Gentile believers to whom Peter spoke had never seen the risen Lord. But Peter had; Peter had watched Jesus eat and drink; Peter had touched and felt his risen body. God had made his disciples both apostles and witnesses of the resurrection so that they could provide proof for the Gentiles. They were sent to give this proof and proclaim Christ's peace to these new Christians who fulfilled Jesus' promise to Thomas: they had not seen, but yet they believed.

With the Church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have crushed Satan's head and have removed our guilt.

You are risen!

Dear Savior, we who are weary and burdened come to you for rest, knowing that because of your perfect redemption there is now no condemnation for us.

You are risen indeed!

Take away our doubts and fears, and daily renew in us the joy of our salvation.

Alleluia!

Holy Spirit, God of grace, you have called us by the gospel and brought us to saving faith in our risen Lord.

We glorify you for opening our eyes to see the light of life.

Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

He is risen!

As we journey through life, make us yearn for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ.

He is risen indeed!

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Work through us as we proclaim the saving message of the crucified and risen Jesus near and far, so that many others may hear your call, obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, and join us before the throne of our God and of the Lamb.

Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia! Amen.

© 1999 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.

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.

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving

Free-Will 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

Heavenly Father, God of grace, you have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Christ is risen!

For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

He is risen indeed!

He was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification.

Alleluia!

We marvel at the love you showed by your willingness to sacrifice your Son to pay for our sins; we bow down in adoration at your mighty power, which raised him from the dead.

We praise you for sending the true Life and Light into the world.

Lord Jesus, God of grace, you have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by your victory over sin, death, and the grave.

You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: ³⁶“He sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁹Indeed, we are witnesses of all the things he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem, yet they killed him by hanging him on a cross. ⁴⁰But God raised him on the third day and caused him to be seen, ⁴¹not by all the people, but by the witnesses God had already chosen—by us, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify solemnly that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that, through his name, everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.”

Psalm of the DayPsalm 16



I will walk in the pres-ence of the Lord,



in the land of the liv - ing.

Psalm tone



Keep me • safe, O God,*

for in you I take • refuge.

I said to the LORD, “You • are my Lord;*”

apart from you I have • no good thing.”

I have set the LORD always be- • fore me.*

Because he is at my right hand, I will not be • shaken.

Refrain

My heart is glad and my tongue re- • joices;*

my body also will • rest secure,

because you will not abandon me • to the grave,*

nor will you let your Holy One • see decay.

You have made known to me the • path of life;*

you will fill me with joy in your • presence.

**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.**

Refrain

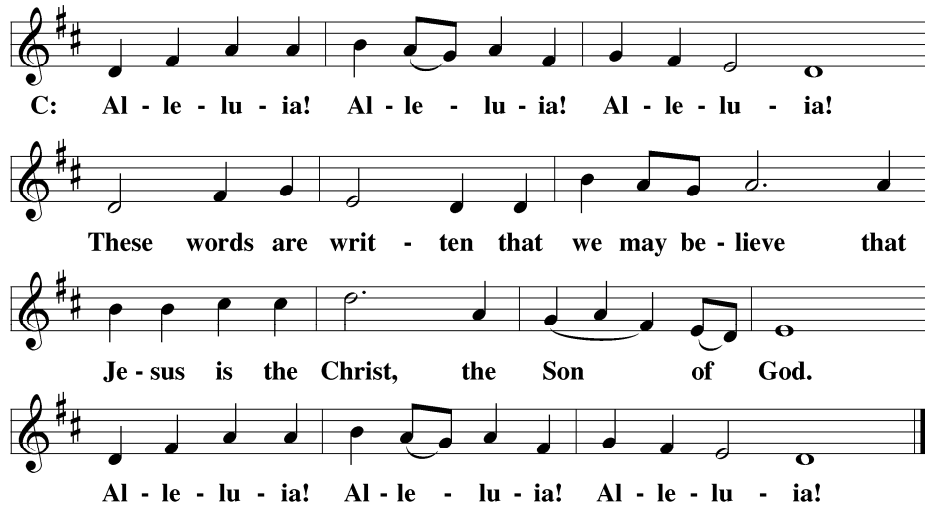
Second Lesson 1 Peter 1:3-9 (EHV)

What brings more doubt into our lives than grief or sorrow? “Why did this happen to me?” “How could God let my loved one die?” “When will this sickness stop?” Grief and sorrow raise doubts about God’s love and God’s plan for our lives. Peter points us to the resurrection as proof of the living hope we have regardless of our outward circumstances. We may doubt when we face trials, but the trials themselves prove the genuineness of our faith. Faith clings to a Savior we have not seen, but love. And this unseen Savior gives us the inexpressible joy of proof and peace even in the face of doubt.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴into an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ⁵Through faith you are being protected by God’s power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time. ⁶Because of this you rejoice very much, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various kinds of trials ⁷so that the proven character of your faith—which is more valuable than gold, which passes away even though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet by believing in him, you are filled with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Verse of the Day John 20:29b (EHV)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

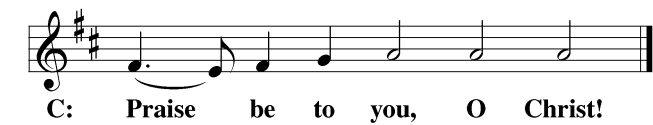
Gospel Lesson John 20:19-31 (EHV)

Peace was one thing the disciples did not have. They had questions, concerns, and doubts. But they had no peace that Easter evening as they huddled behind locked doors. Jesus was dead—killed on a Roman cross—and now fear held them in its icy grip. They lacked more than peace of mind; the disciples also lacked any peace of spirit. Shame hung heavy on their shoulders. Grief and guilt

weighed down their hearts. They had great doubts about their Lord, their lives, their salvation. But then Jesus came! In the face of all their doubts he offered proof that he was alive and sin was dead. Jesus showed them his nail-marked hands and riven side. These holy wounds are the proof positive that God is at peace with us. Thomas could be the poster child for our existential culture. No matter how many times the others told him about the resurrection, he set himself against them all. Thomas required more evidence. He must see him with his own eyes; he must touch the wounds—more than that, he must thrust his hand into Jesus’ side. Unless he got the evidence that he demanded, he would in no way ever believe it. What grace we see in Jesus! He comes again and repeats Thomas’ objections nearly word for word. Again, he gives the ultimate proof that he was alive, and sin was dead. Jesus gave the proof that led to peace for Thomas, peace that could only be found in his Lord and his God.

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you.” ²²After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³Whenever you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” ²⁴But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.” ²⁶After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

...this is the Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day..... “O Sons and Daughters of the King” (CW 165:1,4-8)

Sermon 1 Peter 1:3-9

Eulogize the Living God!