

**News & Notes**

**Easter Plants / Lilies**

If you purchased an Easter lily, please take one home with you after worship today.

**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 / Brat Fry**

Event is May 20<sup>th</sup> – register online by May 5<sup>th</sup>.  
[happyfeetsjls.eventbrite.com](http://happyfeetsjls.eventbrite.com)

A supervised “kid area” will be located at the church if you wish to drop them off while you run (or shop at the neighborhood garage sales). A concession stand will also be open at the church throughout the morning and for lunch.

**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.

**St. John Fishing Extravaganza**

Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – save the date! No license is needed, as that’s one of the Wisconsin Free Fishing Weekends. Speak with Richard Patton for more information or if you have questions.

**Membership Roster Updates / Member Search**

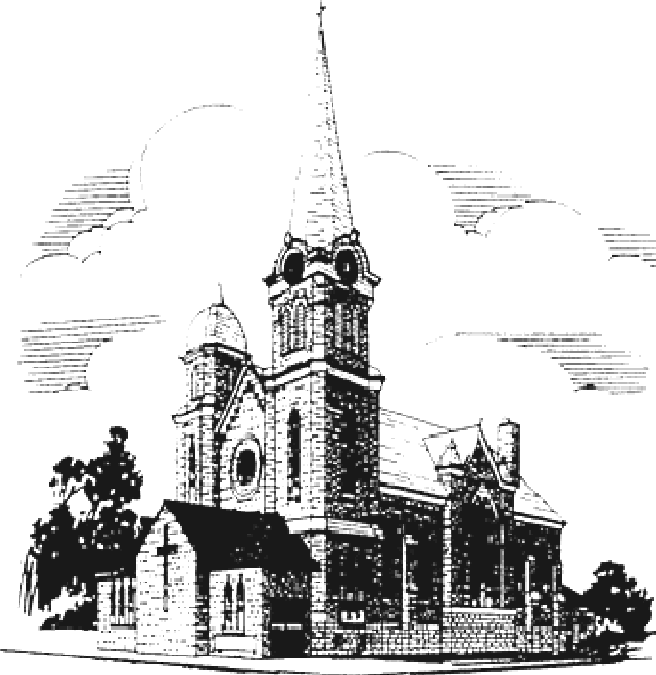
In addition to serving our members, the board of elders is working at making sure we have an accurate membership roster. If any of your contact info has recently changed, please leave a note in the church office with the updated info (address, phone, mobile, etc.).

Also, we’re attempting to touch base with one of our members – Lisa Vanden Elsen. We have no contact info whatsoever. If anyone knows her or has any way of contacting her, please speak with Ron Zahn, our head elder.

**Shepherding Meeting**

We thank those members who’ve volunteered to serve in this way. Keep hanging in there! A meeting will be scheduled when our newly elected elders are on board and up to speed.

**Third Sunday of Easter  
 April 30, 2017**



**St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School**  
 437 Turner Street, Wrightstown WI, 54180  
[www.stjlw.com](http://www.stjlw.com)

- Pastor Mike Gehl ([pastorgehl@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgehl@gmail.com))..... (920) 309-5171
- Church Office ([church@stjlw.com](mailto:church@stjlw.com))..... (920) 532-4865
- School Office ([stjls@gmail.com](mailto:stjls@gmail.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>
<b>Greeters:</b>	Lois B & Janet W Aura Lee Gehl Tammy Olp	Tina DeMerritt Diane Laabs Joan Zahn
<b>Ushers:</b>	Eric Olp Elliot Olp William Olp Carl Uitenbroek Randy Kluess	Zaine Gehl Dale Laabs Doug Otten Jeremy Uecker
<b>Organist:</b>	Deb Schaeuble	Deb Schaeuble
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Phil Roberts	Carol Just
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Lou Ann B, Mary F, Aura Lee G	

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

<b>Worship</b>	125	<b>ABC:</b> 21	<b>SST:</b> 6	<b>YSS:</b> 18
		<u>LW</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Goal</u>
<b>Church Offerings</b>		\$3,377.65	\$223,963.66	\$293,149.49
<b>St. John LES Tuition</b>		\$5,000	\$33,500	\$57,884.45
<b>Synod / Missions</b>		\$125	\$13,392.49	\$14,884.45
<b>Fox Valley Luth. HS</b>		\$196	\$8,376	\$8,269.33

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

<b>Today (30<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:45 am	Worship (WELS Connection)
	9:00 am	Sunday School (Jesus Calms the Storm) Adult Bible Class (Welcoming Worship)
	10:15 am	Worship (WELS Connection)
<b>Tue (2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>	8a-4p	Pastors Conference (at Beautiful Savior, Green Bay)
	9:00 am	Martha's Circle
<b>Wed (3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>	6:45 am	Breakfast & Bible Study (Augsburg Confession)
	8:15 am	St. John LES Chapel (at church)
	3:30 pm	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Catechism Class (LES + WMS – Year-End Party)
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Thu (4<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:00 pm	Handbells Practice (at Trinity, Kaukauna)
<b>Fri (5<sup>th</sup>)</b>	10:00 am	Grandparents Day Program & Luncheon
<b>Sun (7<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:45 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	9:00 am	Sunday School (The Daughter of Jairus) Adult Bible Class (Welcoming Worship)
	10:15 am 7:00 pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion Satellite Bible Study (topic: Parenting; location: Roberts)
<b>Mon (8<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
<b>Sun (14<sup>th</sup>)</b>	10:15 am	Examination of Confirmands
	6:00 pm	FVLHS Spring Concert (bands and choirs)
<b>Sat (20<sup>th</sup>)</b>	8a-12p	Children's Fun-Fest / Concessions / Brat Fry
	9:00 am	St. John 5k Color Run/Walk
<b>Sun (21<sup>st</sup>)</b>	10:15 am	Confirmation Sunday
<b>Fri (26<sup>th</sup>)</b>	9:30 am	St. John LES Closing Service

**Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

*Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.*

**Special prayers and intercessions may follow**

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

**Silent prayer**

*Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:*

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**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.**

**Closing Prayer and Blessing**

*Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



*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.*



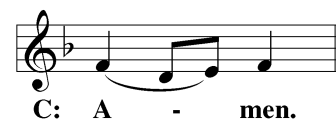
**Closing Hymn ..... "The Day of Resurrection" (CW 166)**

Service Theme for **Third Sunday of Easter**: The intimate connection to our risen Lord wrought by the gospel means of grace has rich consequences for our life with him even now.

# The Common Service

**Opening Hymn..... "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won" (CW 145)**

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

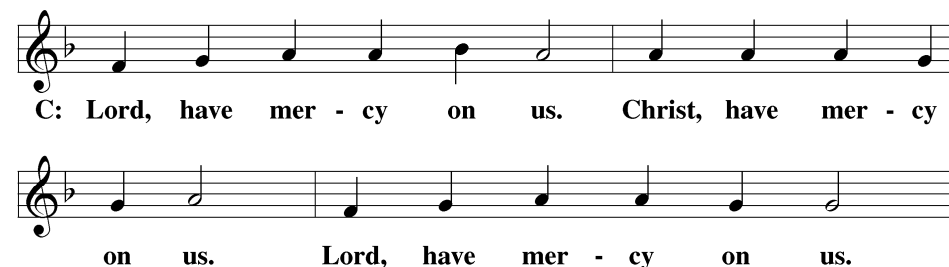


## Confession of Sins

*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)**



*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.*



## Prayer and Praise

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

### Glory Be to God..... (Gloria in Excelsis)

C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy; you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## Create in Me

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

## Thank-Offering

### Prayer of the Church

*O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.*

**Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.*

**Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

*Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory.*

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

*Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.*

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

...this is the Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

### 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.

Hymn of the Day.....“With High Delight Let Us Unite” (CW 168)

Sermon ..... John 15:1-8

*Kenneth Reschke is the grandson of Darol and Ethel, and is finishing up his first year at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. We thank him for sharing God’s Word with us this morning!*

#### We Are Fruitful Branches.

The Vine ensures it.

The Word empowers it.



### Prayer of the Day

*The Lord be with you.*



C: And al - so with you.

*Let us pray.*

*O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



C: A - men.

### The Word

First Lesson .....Acts 16:11-15 (NIV11)

*Here is another fruit that comes from the vine. Lydia was eager to serve those who served her with the gospel. The work that we do at church in assisting our pastors is no small thing. Lydia’s service made it possible for Paul to devote more of his time to the mission that God had given him in Philippi. Moreover her hospitality was a good confession of her faith to her neighbors. It told them that her love of the Word was not just a Sunday morning affair. No one told Lydia to do what she did. She looked for ways to be of service and found them. God treasures the service of those who serve the servants, e.g., elders, deacons, ushers, secretaries, Ladies’ Aid. So should we! Too often we think that we are the cogs that matter and disdain those who grease the wheels to make it all possible.*

<sup>11</sup> From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. <sup>12</sup> From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. <sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. <sup>15</sup> When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

**Psalm of the Day .....Psalm 67**

*Refrain*



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

*Psalm tone*



May God be gracious to us and • bless us\*  
 and make his face shine up- • on us;  
 may your ways be • known on earth,\*  
 your salvation among all • nations.  
 May the nations be glad and • sing for joy,\*  
 for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations • of the earth.

**Refrain**

Then the land will yield its • harvest,\*  
 and God, our God, will • bless us.  
 God will • bless us,\*  
 and all the ends of the earth will • fear him.  
**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 John 3:18-24 (NIV11)**

*Here is more fruit whose source is in the vine: an awareness that Christ is alive in us by his Word and when our conscience wants to drive us to despair he is there to assure us of our forgiveness. That assurance is renewed week in and week out as we hear his Word. Then there comes bursting forth the fruit of love. That love is not mere sentiment; it is in the will, not the emotion. It is love that is determined to seek the best interests of those around us, even those who may hate us or not appreciate our eagerness to be of service. Some of the grapes have to be crushed in order to make wine.*

<sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup> The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

**Verse of the Day ..... John 14:6**

*Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia.*



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

**Gospel Lesson ..... John 15:1-8 (NIV11)**

*Could the relationship be a closer one? There has to be a certain correspondence between the two parts, the vine and the branches. That correspondence is accomplished by the gospel that make us branches pure like the vine. Now the fruit from the good vine can be good fruit, pure because of its source in the vine. The rotten and the corrupt is pruned away. The process that may indeed be painful, but it is a process that is necessary. We might note in passing that it takes a while to determine that a branch is really dead and will never bear fruit; the Lord who sees everything is patient; we who see little need to be patient too. The branches pruned once were alive, once were connected to the vine. How tragic that they have chosen to die! Look for fruit that proves there is life in the branch. What is the fruit? It is a life that delights to receive all its strength from the vine. The Confessions often define the best worship of God as that worship which delights in receiving everything from him. Luther's chief complaint against the monks was that they did not want to receive anything from God without earning it first. Then it is the life we live with our family, at work and school, in service done as precious and good fruit that please him. It is the life of stewardship of all the energy and impulse that comes from the vine. What in you can you now appreciate as fruit that comes from him, even unconsciously? It all brings glory to his Father and is therefore precious to him. Your life therefore has infinite value, no matter how insignificant or lowly it may seem to you and to the world.*

*Today's Gospel reading is recorded in the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.*



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