

June 25, 2017
Third Sunday after Pentecost



St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School

437 Turner Street, Wrightstown WI, 54180

www.stjlw.com

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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:

Greeters:	Bea Ambrosius Jennifer Bunn Betty Schmidt	Pat Vickman Rebecca Wicks
Ushers:	Dale Laabs Richard Patton Terry Sieker	Kevin Vande Hey Ross Vande Hey Bernie Vickman
PowerPoint:	Sun: Carol Just Mon: Phil Roberts	
Altar Guild:	Pat Vickman, Betty Schmidt, Tina DeMerritt	

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.

Service Theme for the Third Sunday after Pentecost: The Holy Ministry is filled with people whom God called out of his boundless mercy. Nothing else could explain the choices for ministers that God made! He calls such sinful and weak men to fill this office. Only mercy can explain the men he chose in this Sunday's lessons: a despised tax collector, an exiled killer, a persecutor of Christians. How poignant these lessons are, when we remember that each lesson was penned by the unworthy minister called into service by God's boundless mercy!

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..... "Jesus Sinners Does Receive" (CW 304)

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.

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, the strength of all who trust in you, mercifully hear our prayers. Be gracious to us in our weakness and give us strength to keep your commandments in all we say and do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of a simple melodic line for the word 'Amen' followed by a double bar line.

May God continue to bless us abundantly! And may our Savior continue to motivate us by his amazing, abundant, and undeserved love to joyfully, generously, faithfully, and regularly return a portion of his blessings toward the ministry of the gospel that we carry out at St. John!

Re: Offerings and Offering Envelopes

Several years ago, the voters approved moving to a “unified budget.” However, it was never fully implemented, and the offering envelopes were never updated accordingly.

The voters at this past week’s meeting approved the full implementation of a unified budget for the next fiscal year – July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Unfortunately, the current offering envelopes in your packets won’t be modified until January.

What does this mean for you? Probably not very much at all, if anything. The vast majority our members already give offerings following a unified budget model, without specifying amounts for this or that on the offering envelope. The biggest change is that our mission offering to WELS, our commitment to Fox Valley Lutheran HS, and regular debt retirement payments are now included as “home budget” items instead of coming exclusively from specially designated offerings.

Rest assured that this has not suddenly added a huge amount to our budget. We’d already been tracking and reporting it this way, even though it hasn’t been implemented until now.

Please continue to use your current envelopes until you get your new set for 2018 this fall. **However, members should no longer specify certain dollar amounts for “Missions,” “FVLHS,” or “Debt Retirement” (see the three outlined areas on the image below) UNLESS THEY SPECIFICALLY WANT TO EARMARK ADDITIONAL offerings toward those things. From now on, it’s recommended to leave those three lines blank. And we lovingly encourage those members who HAD been specifying amounts for those three areas to simply ADD those amounts to their “Home Budget” offering.** (Example: a member who previously gave \$100 to home, \$15 to missions, \$10 to FVLHS, and \$5 to debt retirement would now give all \$130 to home, knowing that the funds will be distributed according to the adopted budget.)

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MY WEEKLY OFFERING
St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Home Budget	\$ _____	St. John's School Bldg. Fund	\$ _____
Missions	\$ _____	St. John's Church Debt Ret.	\$ _____
FVL High School	\$ _____	WLC-FS	\$ _____
St. John's Endowment Fund	\$ _____		
Special	\$ _____		

Beginning next Sunday, 4.5% of our total monthly “Home Budget” offerings (the very first line on the envelope) will automatically be sent as a mission offering to WELS. \$12,000 of our annual “Home Budget” offerings will go toward retiring our line-of-credit debt (\$1,000 monthly). And \$10,000 of our annual “Home Budget” offerings will fulfill our commitment to FVLHS (\$2,500 quarterly). **(Please be aware that, beginning next Sunday, if you write an amount on the “Home Budget” line AND on the “Missions” line, 100% of the “Missions” amount PLUS 4.5% of the “Home Budget” amount will be sent to WELS as a mission offering.)**

The Word

First LessonExodus 3:1-15 (EHV)

We see the pre-incarnate Christ calling Moses into service by his mercy. What else could explain the choice? Moses had already proven himself a failure at delivering God’s people from bondage. He was an exiled killer, after fleeing the court of Pharaoh. No wonder Moses asked, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh?” Everyone called into God’s service asks this question of themselves again and again. It comes from knowing that only mercy can explain God choosing us to serve him. But when the minister stops marveling at God’s mercy and instead starts questioning God’s choice, then God’s answer rings out loud and true: I. Not you. I. Thirteen times in the NIV God uses the first person pronoun. Can the point be clearer? Your call is by my mercy, and the ability to perform the service I give you comes only from me, the great I AM. What comfort for both preacher and parishioner!

¹Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, a priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

²The Angel of the LORD appeared to him in blazing fire from within a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but the bush was not burning up. ³So he said, “I will go over and look at this amazing sight—to find out why the bush is not burning up.” ⁴When the LORD saw that Moses had gone over to take a look, God called to him from the middle of the bush and said, “Moses! Moses!” Moses said, “I am here.” ⁵The LORD said, “Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶He then said, “I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. ⁷The LORD said, “I have certainly seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their cry for help because of their slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹Now indeed, the Israelites’ cry for help has come to me. Yes, I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” ¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹²So he said, “I will certainly be with you. This will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain.” ¹³But Moses said to God, “If I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what should I say to them?” ¹⁴So God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He also said, “You will say this to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.” ¹⁵God also told Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered from generation to generation.’”

Psalm of the Day Psalm 119c (EHV)

Refrain



Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

How I love your laws!

I meditate on them all day.

I have more wisdom than all my teachers,

because your testimonies are my meditation.

I have more understanding than the elders,

because I guard your precepts.

Refrain

I have kept my feet off every evil path

in order to keep your words.

I have not turned from your judgments,

because you yourself have instructed me.

How sweet are your sayings to my taste,

sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

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

Today (25th)	9:00 am	Worship (Installation of Officers; WELS Connection)
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Friendship Evangelism)
Mon (26th)	6:30 pm	Worship (Installation of Officers; WELS Connection)
Tue (27th)	7:00 pm	Long-Range Planning Meeting
Thu (29th)	7:30 pm	Board of Christian Education Meeting
Sun (2nd)	9:00 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Friendship Evangelism)
Mon (3rd)	6:30 pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	7:30 pm	Board of Elders Meeting
Mon (10th) – Fri (14th)		Vacation Bible Camp
Mon (17th)	7:30 pm	Quarterly Voters Meeting (w/ 2016-17 annual reports)
Mon (24th)	1:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive (until 6pm)

News & Notes

Apple Valley Food Pantry

The July collection date is the 16th. Please have your food donations here by that Sunday.

Especially needed: pancake mix & syrup; cereal; spaghetti sauce; hamburger helper; jam; boxed & canned potatoes; all crackers; canned pasta; canned meats (tuna, stew, sloppy joe, etc).

The pantry appreciates everything our members do to help stock the shelves! We hope that the generosity of the April and May donations will continue throughout the year. Thank you again!

2017 Vacation Bible Camp

Please speak with Niki Cappelle if you're able to help with lunches (also see the email that you should've received with a link to SignUpGenius.)

Please also give close attention to today's bulletin insert re: volunteer opportunities. Much help is needed, including host families for Camp Phillip staff members. Speak with Jen Bunn.

Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin

The annual field show will be held on the FVLHS football field this Thursday at 7:00pm. The show also features 4 competing bands: Green Beret Marching Band (Janesville), Lighthouse Brigade of Racine, Sound of Sun Prairie, and Rock River Concord (Fort Atkinson). Ticket pricing and more info can be found at fvlhs.org/homeshow.

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!

Check the narthex tables for more info and any ticket ordering instructions...

- Jul 10th-14th – Vacation Bible Camp
- Aug 10th – WELS Night at Miller Park
- Sep 17th – Fall Festival Potluck
- Oct 28th – Joint Reformation Svc. at the P.A.C.

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" (CW 385)

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

Worship	99 Att; 85 Comm	ABC: n/a		
		<u>LW</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Goal</u>
Church Offerings		\$4,392.00	\$255,884.33	\$279,034.77
St. John LES Tuition		\$0.00	\$38,500.00	\$68,653.65
Synod / Missions		\$128.00	\$15,111.49	\$17,653.65
Fox Valley Luth. HS		\$171.00	\$9,738.00	\$9,807.81

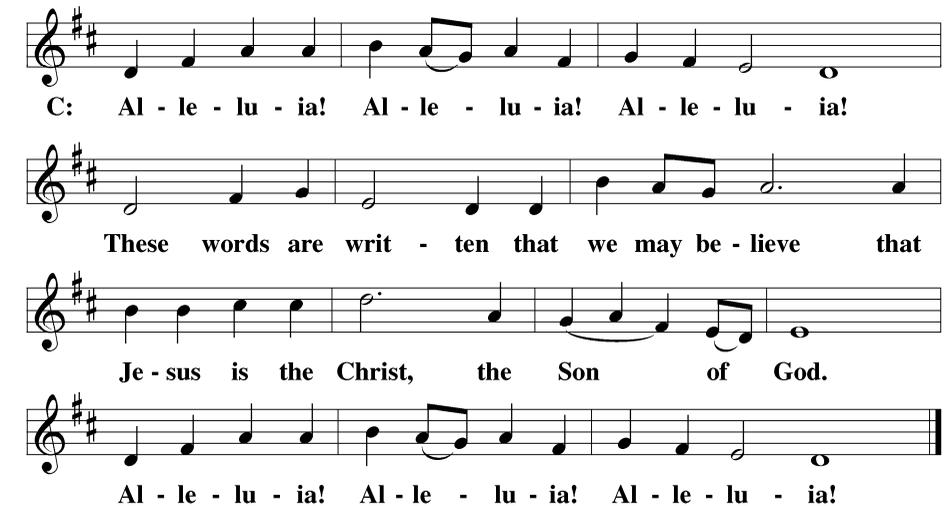
Second Lesson 1 Timothy 1:12-17 (EHV)

Paul tells the end result of a bright light on the Damascus road—Christ had come to call Saul to service by his mercy. But what an astounding choice! Such a man, to such an office! Only mercy could explain why Christ picked Paul, the worst of sinners. Could there have been a more unlikely man to call as Apostle to the Gentiles? The reason had nothing to do with Paul. It had to do with Christ and his patience. It had to do with us: Jesus wanted us to know that the call to ministry is not based on merit, but on mercy. Here is the example par excellence of ministry based on Christ's mercy and not human merit: Saul, the persecutor, is called into ministry as Paul, the Apostle. When he reflects on God calling him to ministry, Paul cannot help but sing the praises of the King of mercy.

¹²I give thanks to the one who empowered me, namely, Christ Jesus our Lord, that he treated me as trustworthy, appointing me into his ministry. ¹³He did this even though formerly I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent man. But I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴The grace of our Lord overflowed on me along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵This saying is trustworthy and worthy of full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶But I was shown mercy for this reason: that in me, the worst sinner, Christ Jesus might demonstrate his unlimited patience as an example for those who are going to believe in him, resulting in eternal life. ¹⁷Now to the King eternal, to the immortal, invisible, only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Verse of the Day 2 Corinthians 5:19 (EHV)

Alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia.

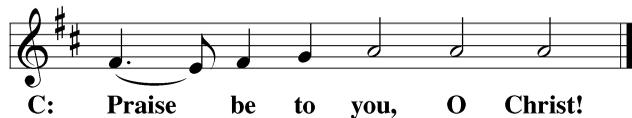


Gospel LessonMatthew 9:9-13 (EHV)

The call of Matthew manifests God's mercy. The Pharisees knew the Scriptures and walked the walk. Their outward righteousness and place of respect among the people were the mirror opposite of the man sitting in the tax collector's booth. Despised as a traitor and swindler, the publican's only companions were the other "sinners" who lived beyond the pale of Jewish Law. Yet Christ's call to faith and apostleship didn't come to these outwardly righteous Pharisees, but to the tax collector. So powerful was the call that Matthew left his old life behind and followed. Jesus bypassed the Pharisees because they knew sacrifice but were blind to mercy. When they questioned Christ's acts of mercy, Jesus tells the teachers of Israel to go and learn Scripture, to see the difference between mercy and sacrifice... to see that their claims of righteousness were nothing but more whitewash on tombs. Can they really be healthy when they're blind to mercy for their brothers, blind to the prophets, and blind to the Messiah? Christ wanted different ministers than these. He wanted ministers who knew the mercy of God and would share the mercy of God. So he turned to the sinner, Matthew, and called him from his life of sin to a life of ministry with those merciful words, "Follow me."

⁹As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting in the tax collector's booth. He said to him, "Follow me." Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰As Jesus was reclining at the table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners were actually there too, eating with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "The healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. ¹³Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' In fact, I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

...this is the Gospel of our Lord.



Hymn of the Day....."Let Me Be Yours Forever" (CW 596)

SermonMatthew 9:9-13

The Physician Jesus Prescribes Mercy.

He freely dispenses
it to sinners.

He eagerly desires to see
its effect on sinners.

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

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.

Installation of Officers

** indicates a newly elected officer; ^ indicates a voting member of the church council*

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cong. President: | Terry Sieker*^ (1 yr term) | Elders: | Dale Laabs*^ |
| Recording Secretary: | Bart Reschke*^ | | Perry Schisel*^ |
| Financial Secretary: | Norb Kussow^ | | Kevin Vande Hey^ |
| Treasurer: | Ralph Bohrtz*^ | | Ron Zahn^ |
| Board of Christian Ed.: | Eric Kraus^ (chairman) | Property: | Phil Roberts^ |
| | Wayne Cisler | | |
| | Andrew DeMerritt* | | |
| | Carl Uitenbroek* | | |

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.