

News & Notes

A Huge Thank-You!

...to all who donated food for the Apple Valley Food Pantry collection last week. Keep your eyes and ears open for the August collection date and what items will especially be needed.

Offering Envelope Reminder

Please remember to add your “home,” “missions,” “FVLHS,” and “debt retirement” offerings all together and print the grand total on the first line of your envelope. Then scribble out anything you’d written on those other three designated lines. Thanks!

Shepherding Team Informational Meetings

If you missed the first meeting last weekend, another one is planned for next Sunday (30th) during the regular Bible study time. All members are invited to listen in on the discussion. Especially those members who expressed interest in serving as “shepherds” or “shepherdesses” – or at least wanted to know more about the program – should attend.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our next drive is scheduled for TOMORROW here at St. John, from 1:00 until 6:00 pm. Signup sheets for both donors and helpers are located in the entryway. Donors will receive free pizza AND a \$10 visa debit card.

Disposal of Old Fellowship Hall Tables

New (and lightweight) Lifetime tables are being purchased for the fellowship hall. Some of the old ones will be kept for any outdoor fellowship activities, but there are (12) tables available for members to purchase if they’d like – (1) 8-foot and (11) 6-foot Submit your bid to either Don Treptow or Phil Roberts. Indicate the amount you’re willing to pay, table length, and quantity.

School / Capital Building Funds

With the sale of a few acres of our Plum Road property a couple months ago, the voters directed a portion of the proceeds into a new “Capital Building Fund” to be used for any future capital projects, whether a church or a school. At last week’s voters meeting, a motion was passed that any donations to the “School Building Fund” received after 1/1/18 be directed into the CBF. At that time, the SBF will be “capped” to any future donations. The two funds are NOT being combined. New envelopes in the 2018 packet will be printed accordingly.

Member-to-Member Ministry

If you visit a “shut-in” member to keep them company and provide some encouragement, please remember to use the form in the far right slots of the church mailboxes to record your visit. Keep it anonymous if you wish, but it’s beneficial that the elders know of visits that are being made so that our members are served in the very best way possible. Thanks!

Online Talent Database Form

Please find time to submit a form so that we can have an up-to-date and complete database of our members’ talents, as well an indication of the ways members would like to serve. Find the online form at goo.gl/e1fwsb.

Reformation 500 Service

The congregations of the Fox River Valley will join for a special worship service on Saturday, October 28th, at 2:00 pm at the Appleton P.A.C. Seating is limited to the first 2,000 people, and tickets are required but they’re free for the asking. Simply go to goo.gl/aaJBak to get them.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 23, 2017



St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School

437 Turner Street, Wrightstown WI, 54180

www.stjlw.com

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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>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>
Greeters:	Bea Ambrosius Jennifer Bunn – Joan Zahn Rebecca Wicks – Lynn Zirbel	
Ushers:	Zaine Gehl Eric Olp Elliot Olp William Olp Jeremy Uecker	
Organist:	Deb Schaeuble	N/A
PowerPoint:	Lou Ann Beard	Zaine Gehl
Altar Guild:	Lou Ann B, Mary F, & Aura Lee G	

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.



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Closing Hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (CW 338)

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

Worship	105; 96 LS	ABC: n/a		
		<u>LW</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Goal</u>
Church Offerings		\$5,147.38	\$28,201.38	\$24,067.53

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

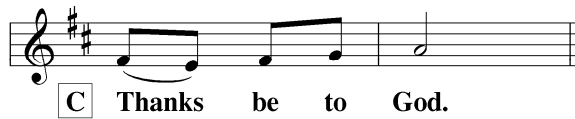
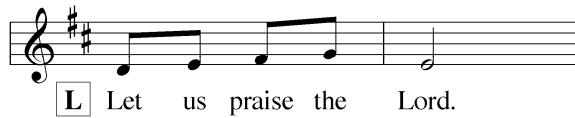
Today (23rd)	9:00 am	Worship
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Friendship Evangelism)
Mon (24th)	1-6pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
	6:30 pm	Worship
Tue (25th)	7:00 pm	Long-Range Planning Meeting
Thu (27th)	7:30 pm	Board of Christian Education Meeting
Sun (30th)	9:00 am	Worship (WELS Connection)
	10:15 am	Shepherding Program Into. Meeting
Mon (31st)	6:30 pm	Worship (WELS Connection)
Mon (31st) - Thu (3rd)		WELS Synod Convention (LPS, Watertown, WI)

Prayer for Grace

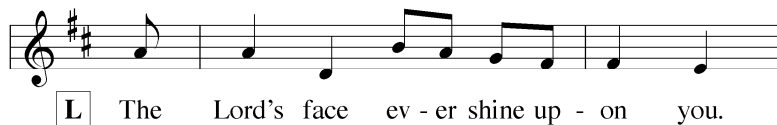
O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Closing Verses



Blessing



Service Theme for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: The Christian finds rest in Jesus. From the beginning of time, God provided rest for his creation. He blessed the seventh day and set it apart, that man might learn to find his rest in God alone. In Jesus, the Christian finds rest from his burdens, rest from his battles, and rest forever in heaven.

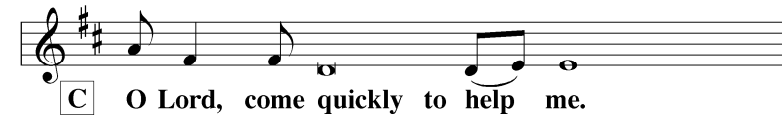
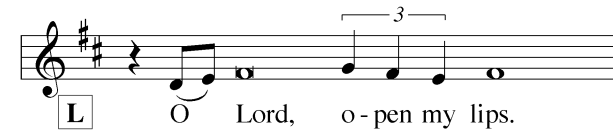
Morning Praise

"Morning Praise" is based on the historic service called "Matins."

Joined to Christ, our risen Lord, we glorify God as we rise to the activities of this new day.

Opening Hymn....."Come unto Me, Ye Weary" (CW 336)

Opening Verses



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Come, Oh, Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord (Venite)

The pastor introduces the refrain and then the congregation joins him to sing it a second time.
The pastor sings the verses and the congregation sings the refrain a single time after each verse.

1
Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,

2
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;

3
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,

Repeat for use with canon
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

Verses

1. You are a great and a won - drous God,
2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,
cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.

You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,

to Refrain
you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

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Final Refrain

1
You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.

2
To you, O Fa - ther ho - ly, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise,
all cre - a - tion of - fers praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.

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Thank-Offering

Lord, Have Mercy (Kyrie)

L In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you;
be mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.

C Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

You Are God; We Praise You.....(Te Deum Laudamus)

*The pastor introduces the refrain and then the congregation joins him to sing it a second time.
The pastor sings the verses and the congregation sings the refrain a single time after each verse.*



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.



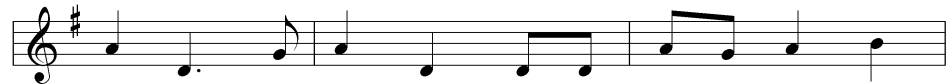
- Verses*
1. With the an - gels in heav - en,
 2. Cre - a - tor of all things, **We praise you, we**
 3. O Christ, King of glo - ry,



praise you! With the cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim,
O Je - sus Christ, the Son of God, **We**
You be - came a man to set us free;



praise you, we praise you! With a - pos - tles and proph - ets,
O Spir - it, most ho - ly, **We**
You have ris - en to free us;



praise you, we praise you! With the mar - tyr - s and your
To the Trin - i - ty most
And with all your saints in



ho - ly Church, *to Refrain*
bless - ed, **We sing in end - less praise!** *to Refrain*
glo - ry, *to Final Refrain*

Confession of Sins and Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

we have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, and in all that we have not done. Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Deliver and restore us that we may rest in peace.

*By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven.
Let us rest in his peace with the rising of the sun as we serve him in newness of life.*

Amen.

The Word

First Lesson Joshua 23:1-11 (EHV)

God kept the promise he made in the First Lesson: he had gone with his people to the Promised Land. Many years after finishing the conquest of Canaan, Joshua looked back and reminded the people that God had fought for them and had given them rest from all their enemies. Since God had done this, Joshua called on the people to give the Lord their allegiance, their obedience, and their love. Let the preacher make that same call to God's people today. We can look back and see that God fought for us and gave us rest from our three great enemies. Now, with sin atoned, the devil defeated, and death vanquished, let all God's people thank him for this rest by giving him allegiance, obedience, and love.

¹After many days, when the LORD had given Israel rest from all its enemies all around, when Joshua had grown old and advanced in years, ²Joshua summoned all Israel—its elders, its heads, its judges, and its officers, and he said to them:

I have grown old and advanced in years. ³You yourselves have seen everything that the LORD your God has done for you against all these nations. Yes, the LORD your God was fighting for you! ⁴See now, I have allotted to your tribes an inheritance from these nations that remain unconquered, as well as from the nations that I have destroyed. It extends from the Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵The LORD your God himself will push them away from you and drive them out of your presence, until they perish. He will send wild animals among them until he completely destroys them and their kings from your presence, and you will take possession of their land, just as the LORD your God promised you. ⁶You must be very resolute in carrying out all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses by not turning from it to the right or to the left, ⁷by not intermingling with these nations that remain with you. Do not ever call on or swear by the names of their gods. Never serve them and never bow down to them. ⁸But hold fast to the LORD your God, just as you have been doing to this day.

⁹The LORD has driven out from among you great and powerful nations. As for you, no one has stood up against you to this day. ¹⁰One of you would put a thousand to flight because the LORD your God himself was fighting for you, just as he promised you. ¹¹So for your own sakes be very careful to love the LORD your God.

Psalm of the DayPsalm 63

*The congregation sings the opening refrain and after each verse.
The pastor sings the psalm verses printed in italics.*



In the morn-ing I will sing, I will
sing glad songs to you, I will sing glad songs of praise to
you. I will sing glad songs of praise to you.

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O God, you are my God; for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. [Refrain]

For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. [Refrain]

On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night, for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. [Refrain]

Second Lesson Hebrews 4:1-11 (EHV)

The rest that God gave his people in Canaan foreshadowed the true rest of God in heaven. The rest in the Promised Land was received by some through faith and rejected by others through unbelief. The writer to the Hebrews urges every Christian to heed the warning of the generation that died in the desert. Instead, by faith in Christ, we find the true Sabbath rest of God in heaven.

¹Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be fearful that any one of you may be judged to have failed to reach it. ²In fact, we have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did. But the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united in faith with those who did listen. ³Indeed, we who believe are going to enter his rest.

It happened just as he vowed when he said: So I swore an oath in my wrath, "They will never enter my rest."

And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. ⁴For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in this way: And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.

⁵And again in this statement: They will never enter my rest.

⁶Therefore, since it is still the case that some do enter this rest, and yet those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not enter because of disobedience, ⁷God again set a certain day, namely, "today," when he later said through David, as quoted before: Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.

⁸For, if Joshua had given them rest, then God would not have spoken later about another day.

⁹So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. ¹⁰For the one who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God rested from his work. ¹¹Therefore, let us make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience.

Verse of the DayLuke 11:28 (EHV)

Alleluia. Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it. Alleluia.

Gospel LessonMatthew 11:25-30 (EHV)

Though they had seen many signs of Christ's deity, Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum failed to repent. Jesus warned them of the coming wrath. Then he turned to his followers and praised God that the Lord of heaven and earth had revealed the truth of Jesus' identity to the little children who believe in him. He has no words of judgment for his followers. He has only words of invitation, of comfort, of rest. Yes, the rest comes with a yoke—but look at whose yoke it is! Our Savior's humble and gentle heart leads him to give us an easy yoke, a light burden, and rest for our souls. Christianity is not a religion of rules meant to impinge on our freedom; it does not call us to endlessly labor for God's favor; it does not leave us to work things out on our own. No, it frees us from the burden of carrying our sin and puts Christ in its place. It connect us to Jesus that we might learn from him. It gives us the rest our weary souls so desperately need.

²⁵At that time, Jesus continued, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from clever and learned people and have revealed them to little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, because this was pleasing to you. ²⁷Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.

²⁸"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

...this is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day....."If God Himself Be for Me" (CW 419:1,3,4,5,7)

Sermon Matthew 11:25-30

Listen as Jesus Teaches about Rest.