

**News & Notes**

**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 a couple weeks ago, another one is planned for **TODAY** after the service. 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.

**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 the July 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](http://goo.gl/e1fwsb).

**Reformation 500 Service**

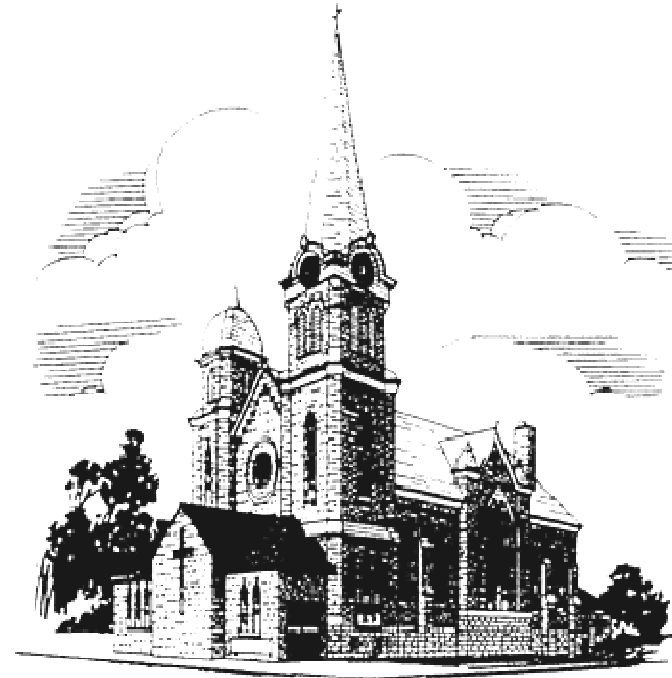
The congregations of the Fox River Valley will join for a special worship service on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm at the Appleton P.A.C. Seating is limited to the first 2,000 people, and tickets are required but they’re free for the asking. (FYI, about 800 tickets have already been claimed.) Simply go to [goo.gl/aaJBAk](http://goo.gl/aaJBAk) to get some for your family.

**OWLS Picnic**

The Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors invites senior members of our congregation to join them on August 8<sup>th</sup> at 1000 Islands Nature Center in Kaukauna for their summer picnic. The 12:00 pm lunch will be potluck-style; please bring a dish to share and your own tableware and beverage.

Following the meal, an EMT member of the Kaukauna FD will give two presentations on “If You’re a Victim of a Stroke” and “The Safety Precautions in Your Home.”

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 30 & 31, 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@stjlw.com](mailto: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>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>
<b>Greeters:</b>	Bea Ambrosius Jennifer Bunn Rebecca Wicks Joan Zahn – Lynn Zirbel	
<b>Ushers:</b>	Zaine Gehl Eric Olp Elliot Olp William Olp Jeremy Uecker	
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Amy Vande Hey	Carol Just
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	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 .....“On What Has Now Been Sown” (CW 322)**

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

<b>Worship</b> 114	<b>ABC:</b> 26		
		<u>July 23<sup>rd</sup></u>	<u>YTD</u>
<b>Budgetary Offerings</b>		\$3,667.25	\$31,868.63
			<u>YTD Goal</u>
			\$32,090.04

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

<b>Today (30<sup>th</sup>)</b>	9:00 am	Worship (WELS Connection)
	10:15 am	Shepherding Program Intro. Meeting
<b>Mon (31<sup>st</sup>)</b>	6:30 pm	Worship (WELS Connection)
<b>Mon (31<sup>st</sup>) – Thu (3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>		WELS Synod Convention (at LPS, Watertown, WI)
<b>Wed (2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>	6:45 am	Breakfast & Bible Study (The Augsburg Confession)
<b>Sun (6<sup>th</sup>)</b>	9:00 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Friendship Evangelism)
<b>Mon (7<sup>th</sup>)</b>	6:30 pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion
<b>Tue (8<sup>th</sup>)</b>	11:30 am	Senior Luncheon
	7:00 pm	Board of Elders Meeting
<b>Thu (10<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:00 pm	WELS Night @ Miller Park
<b>Mon (14<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
<b>Tue (22<sup>nd</sup>)</b>	7:00 pm	Long-Range Planning Meeting
<b>Wed (23<sup>rd</sup>) &amp; Thu (24<sup>th</sup>)</b>		St. John School Registration / Orientation (4:30 – 7:30 pm)
<b>Thu (31<sup>st</sup>)</b>	7:30 pm	Board of Ed. Meeting


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.

**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**



**L** Let us praise the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.


**Blessing**



**L** The Lord bless and keep you.



**C** A - men.



**L** The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



**C** A - men.

Service Theme for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: The Christian is planted by the Word and produces fruit. The Sunday is summarized in the Prayer of the Day which thanks God for the implanting of the Word and asks for the Spirit's help in producing fruits of faith.

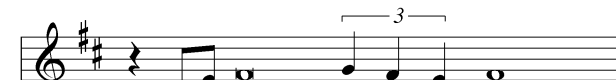
# Morning Praise

*"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....."Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" (CW 255)**

**Opening Verses**



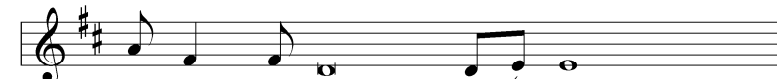
**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips.



**C** And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



**L** Hasten to save me, O God.



**C** O Lord, come quickly to help me.



**L** Give glory to God, our light and our life.



**C** Come, oh, come, let us wor - ship.

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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.

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

### Final Refrain

1 2  
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,  
all cre - a - tion of - fers praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.

## 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

Lord, Prepare the Soil of My Heart!

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-phem,  
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 - tyrs and your  
To the Trin - i - ty most  
And with all your saints in

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 .....Isaiah 55:10-13 (EHV)

Even though many seeds fall among soil that doesn't produce fruit, Isaiah gives us God's promise that his Word will never return to him fruitless. The Word is like the rain and snow sent from God in heaven that fall to bring blessing upon the earth and make it fruitful. Just as precipitation makes the earth bud and flourish, so God's Word will always do its work of planting faith in the heart of man and making it fruitful. While this passage is often used to illustrate that God's Word always works, either to convert or to harden, the tone of this passage and its context is decidedly positive. Faithful preachers are the mouth of God (Jeremiah 15:19) from which the Word goes forth to do its work of planting faith and making it bear much fruit in the heart of man. God sends his Word out for our joy and for the LORD's renown. Intermediately fulfilled in the return from Babylon, God's promise is ultimately fulfilled in the Holy Christian Church. The Word goes forth to plant faith for the glory of God and the salvation of man.

<sup>10</sup>Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and do not return there unless they water the earth, make it give birth, and cause it to sprout, and it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so it will be with my Word that goes forth from my mouth. It will not return to me empty. Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please, and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>Because in joy you will go forth, and in peace you will be carried along. The mountains and the hills will burst forth before you with shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn, a fir tree will grow up. Instead of the brier, a myrtle tree will grow up. And it will make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that will not be cut off.

**Psalm of the Day .....Psalm 63**



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 ..... Acts 18:1-11 (EHV)**

***The field of Corinth was filled with birds and stones and thorns. Although Paul reasoned and preached, one seed after another fell on soil that didn't produce a crop. Yet God's Word would accomplish his good purpose. Paul didn't have to go far to find a fertile field. He walked out of the synagogue and went right next door. In the home of Titius Justus he found good soil that produced a crop one hundred times that which was sown.***

<sup>1</sup>After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup>There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them. <sup>3</sup>Because he had the same occupation, he stayed and worked with them, for they were tentmakers by trade. <sup>4</sup>Every Sabbath he led a discussion in the synagogue, trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks. <sup>5</sup>When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was entirely devoted to preaching the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. <sup>6</sup>But when they opposed Paul and slandered him, he shook out his clothes and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!" <sup>7</sup>He left that place and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshipper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. <sup>8</sup>Crispus, the synagogue leader, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were

baptized. <sup>9</sup>One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid, but keep on speaking, and do not be silent. <sup>10</sup>For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, because I have many people in this city." <sup>11</sup>He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

**Verse of the Day .....Deuteronomy 30:14 (EHV)**

*Alleluia. The word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so you can obey it. Alleluia.*

**Gospel Lesson .....Matthew 13:1-9,18-23 (EHV)**

***What a description of Jesus' ministry! What a description of ours! The Sower scatters the seed of the Gospel to all with no regard for where it might land. Yet most of his seed bears no fruit. This parable brings warning and such comfort. Christ warns us that the seed of the Word faces great opposition from sin, Satan, and the world. Newborn faith can be choked or scorched. The gospel promise can be snatched from apathetic or misunderstanding soil. Even though we sow the seed faithfully and generously, Jesus warns us that most of it will never bear fruit that lasts. Yet for every faithful Gospel preacher, Christ comforts us by showing that the preacher's job is to sow the seed and leave the growing up to God. He comforts us by pointing to what his Word does in the good soil: it plants great faith that does great things. In the man who hears and understands it, the simple sowing of the Word will produce a crop – a hundred, sixty, or thirty-fold.***

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. <sup>2</sup>A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup>He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen, a sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it. <sup>8</sup>But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. <sup>9</sup>Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear." <sup>18</sup>"So listen carefully to the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup>yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. <sup>23</sup>But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown."

*...this is the Gospel of our Lord.*

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

**Hymn of the Day....."Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast" (CW 324)**

**Sermon .....Matthew 13:1-9,18-23**