

## News & Notes

### New Sunday Morning Bible Study

Luther called Galatians his “Katie von Bora.” It was near and dear to him, like his own wife. Because it presented the message of “grace alone” so clearly, he loved it with all his heart. You and I will love it too, as we study it together over the next few weeks! We’ll kick things off **TODAY** with the introduction and chapter 1.

### The Apple Valley Food Pantry Collection

...is **NEXT SUNDAY, the 20<sup>th</sup>**. Especially needed: crackers, cookies, boxed & canned potatoes, jam, canned pasta, canned meats (ham / tuna / salmon), chunky soup, cereal. Thanks!

### St. John School Registration / Orientation

Make plans to stop by the school on either next **Wednesday (23<sup>rd</sup>) or Thursday (24<sup>th</sup>)** to register, sign forms, get info, and meet teachers.

We encourage all our members to drop in to see the exciting things happening at THEIR school!

### 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.

### 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.

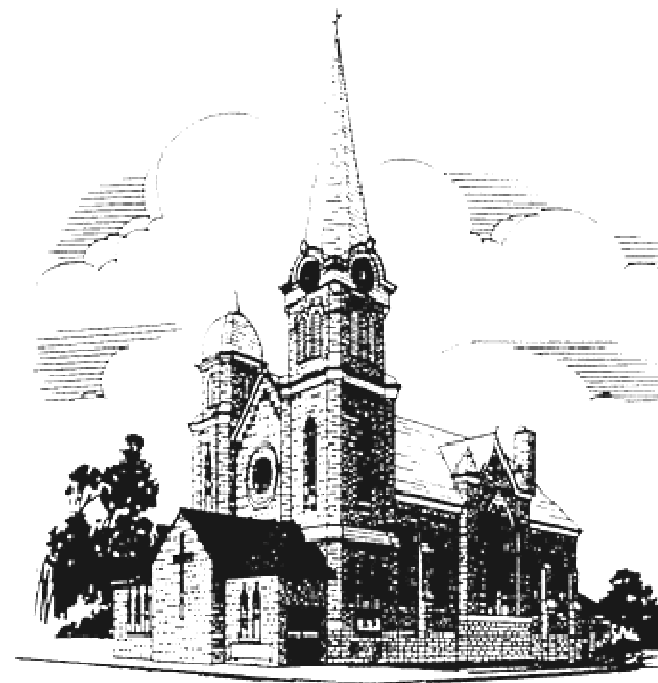
### WELS Mission to the Children Collection

This year’s collection for *Mission to the Children* from NE Wisconsin’s congregations, LWMS groups, and individuals is for new children’s undergarments (t-shirts, underwear, and socks). Items must be **NEW** and **IN STORE PACKAGING** in order to transport them across the border. The mission serves many children in northern Mexico with services, Bible classes, food coupons, and humanitarian items. Several vehicles (last year it required 10!!!) will take the items to Tucson in mid-October, so please have your donations in the narthex boxes **no later than Oct 1<sup>st</sup>**. If you have questions, contact Glenn or Lois Erdmann at 920.213.3204 or [glennlois2317@yahoo.com](mailto:glennlois2317@yahoo.com).

### Ruth Berens’ New Address

Bayshore Nursing Home – 3150 Gershwin Dr., Green Bay, WI, 54311

## The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017



### St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School

437 Turner Street, Wrightstown WI, 54180

[www.stjlw.com](http://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>
<b>Greeters:</b>	Lois Baumgartener Jean Brandt – Diane Laabs Marna Johns – Pat Vickman	
<b>Ushers:</b>	Loree Baumgartener Gary Brandt Dale Laabs Bernie Vickman Steve Wierschke	
<b>Organist:</b>	Deb Schaeuble	
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Zaine Gehl	Lou Ann Beard
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Lou Ann G, Janet W, & Courtney S	

### 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.

nev - er al - lured by the world, I in - her - it Your  
bring ev - 'ry plant - ing to per - fect fru - i - tion, A  
shine in the home - land that qui - ets all yearn - ing, Where

king - dom of glo - ry and light.  
mus - tard seed grown to a tree.  
sor - row and dan - ger are past.

*Based on Jesus' parables in Matthew 13, this hymn expresses the Christian's great joy in discovering the glorious and eternal treasures that only the gospel of forgiveness offers.*

Text: David W. Rogner, b. 1960 © 2002 David W. Rogner. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Tune: GLORIOUS TREASURE (12 8 12 8 D) Joseph Herl, b. 1959 © 2003 Joseph Herl. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

**Worship** 115; 101 LS **ABC:** 19

	<u>Aug 6<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Goal</u>
<b>Budgetary Offerings</b>	\$5,665	\$41,638.32	\$50,178.12

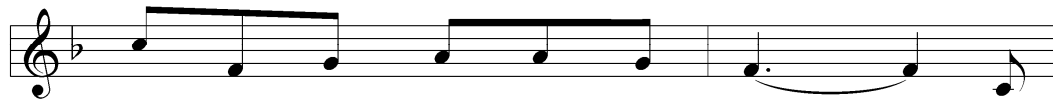
## The Week+ Ahead as We Live in God's Grace

<b>Today (13<sup>th</sup>)</b>	9:00 am	Worship
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Paul's Letter to the Galatians)
<b>Mon (14<sup>th</sup>)</b>	9:30 am	Pastors Circuit Meeting (at Mt. Calvary, Menasha)
	6:30 pm	Worship
	7:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
<b>Wed (16<sup>th</sup>)</b>	6:45 am	Breakfast & Bible Study (the Augsburg Confession)
<b>Sun (20<sup>th</sup>)</b>	9:00 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Paul's Letter to the Galatians)
	11:15 am	Sunday School Teacher Meeting
<b>Mon (21<sup>st</sup>)</b>	6:30 pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion
<b>Wed (23<sup>rd</sup>) &amp; Thu (24<sup>th</sup>)</b>		School Registration / Orientation (4:30 – 7:30 pm)

Closing Hymn....."Your Kingdom, O God" (CWS 755)



1 Your king-dom, O God, is my glo - ri - ous trea - sure, My  
 2 Your king-dom, O God, is a - live with the pow - er Your  
 3 Your king-dom, O God, is a field for the grow - ing Of



pearl of in - com - p'ra - ble worth. Its  
 Word and your Spir - it be - stow. Like  
 seeds that your mer - cy has sown, But



val - ue ex - ceeds ev - 'ry stand - ard of mea - sure, Sur -  
 yeast, they af - fect the whole mea - sure of flour, En -  
 still in our midst is the en - e - my sow - ing The



pass - ing the wealth of the earth. Lord,  
 a - bling your king - dom to grow. Em -  
 weeds that im - per - il your own. Sus -



give me your grace and the pow'r of the Spir - it To  
 pow - er me, Lord, as I live your com - mis - sion, Though  
 tain me, O Lord, till your day of re - turn - ing And



val - ue this trea - sure a - right That,  
 hum - ble my ser - vice may be, And  
 har - vest me home - ward at last, To

*Service Theme for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: The Christian seeks spiritual wealth. This Sunday's readings are centered around the very ancient Prayer of the Day. For nearly 1600 years God's people on this day have prayed that God might give them true spiritual wealth. "Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised." What a magnificent prayer for the materialist world in which we live! Our lessons today show people who have come into great wealth, but yet this earthly wealth only serves to illustrate where true treasure lies. Today we see that true, spiritual wealth can only be found in God and his eternal blessings for us in Christ.*

## 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....."Take My Life and Let It Be" (CW 469)

Opening Verses

*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.**

Absolution

*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 Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants, who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; 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.

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

### silent prayer

*We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.*

**We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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

*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.*

C: A - men.

### 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.*

C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

## 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

### Prayer of the Church

*Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.*

**We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

*You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.*

**We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

*Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.*

**Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

*Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.*

**Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

any special prayers

## The Word

### First Lesson ..... 1 Kings 3:5-12 (EHV)

*What would you have asked for? If anything in the world could be yours, what would be your request? God only gave one man the choice between unlimited riches and spiritual wealth. Can you imagine facing his dilemma? What should I pick, temporal blessings or eternal ones? What should I value, the things of this world or the things of God? How well Solomon expressed the words of our Prayer for today, to ask according to God's will. We marvel at his faith in choosing great wisdom over great riches—especially since we so often fail in the pitifully small choices we make! It's not for all the riches in the world that we turn down spiritual wealth, but for paltry overtime hours, or a little extra in the check book that we shaved off our offering. For such small things we are willing to trade away opportunities for true spiritual wealth. Look at Solomon and see an example of what God means by spiritual wealth. He doesn't mean we need to live as mendicant monks; he doesn't ask us to forgo all earthly treasure. He just doesn't want us to value them more than the pearl of great price. After choosing spiritual treasure, God blessed Solomon in unbelievable ways. (Do the math on the twenty--five tons worth of gold that was part of Solomon's annual income.) Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given you as well.*

<sup>5</sup>The LORD appeared to Solomon in Gibeon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask for whatever I may give to you." <sup>6</sup>Solomon said, "You have shown great mercy and faithfulness to your servant, my father David, just as he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward you. You have shown this great mercy and faithfulness to him and have given him a son who is sitting on his throne as it is today. <sup>7</sup>Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in the place of my father David, but I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is among your people, which you have chosen, a great people which cannot be counted or numbered because they are so many. <sup>9</sup>Now give to your servant a listening heart to judge your people, to discern between good and evil, for who is able to judge this great people of yours?" <sup>10</sup>What Solomon asked for was good in the eyes of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked for this, and you have not asked for a long life, nor have you asked for riches, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but you have asked for discernment to reach just verdicts, <sup>12</sup>therefore listen: I will act according your words. Yes, I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you before, nor will anyone like you rise up after you."

### Psalm of the Day ..... Psalm 119b (EHV)

*Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes.*

**Then I will guard it to the end.**

*Give me understanding, and I will guard your law.*

**I will keep it with all my heart.**

*Make me walk on the path of your commandments,  
for I take pleasure in it.*

*Keep my eyes from looking at worthless things.*

**Give me life according to your ways.**

*[continued on the next page]*

Confirm your sayings to your servant,  
so that you may be feared.

How I long for your precepts!

Give me life in your righteousness.

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.

**Second Lesson ..... 1 Timothy 6:17-21 (EHV)**

Could Paul's words be more timely or appropriate for this generation? He instructs preachers everywhere to warn the rich about the two pet sins of the wealthy: arrogance and false hope. Mankind so easily falls in the error of thinking that earthly treasures can provide security or a sense of worth. In our affluent society both of those sins run rampant in many a Christian heart. God commands us not to trust in earthly treasure because he wants us to have a firm foundation on which to stand, a certainty on which to place our hope. That can only be found in spiritual wealth. God richly provides for us, and then we give thanks by being rich in good deeds. Spiritual wealth is certain and secure, for it is treasure laid up in heaven. How can we possibly carry out this command? Teach us to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised.

<sup>17</sup>Instruct those who are rich in this present age not to be arrogant or to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches, but rather in God, who richly supplies us with all things for our enjoyment.

<sup>18</sup>Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup>In this way they are storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. <sup>20</sup>O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, turning away from godless, empty talk and the contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge." <sup>21</sup>By professing it, some have veered away from the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

**Verse of the Day ..... John 6:68 (EHV)**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. 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 .....Matthew 13:44-52 (EHV)**

Jesus' parables teach us to seek spiritual wealth. Both of the men in the parables found great treasure. For one it was a complete surprise, as unexpected as it was valuable. For the other it came from an expert search by a discerning man. Before they found these new treasures, both men no doubt valued what they previously owned. But once they saw this new treasure, see how little they valued all else they had! The spiritual wealth of Christ and his Gospel puts everything else into perspective; in fact it marginalizes all else. The importance of this truth comes to light in the parable of the net. All people, rich and poor, will be caught up. Only those who found true spiritual wealth are spared the furnace. Jesus concludes with an encouragement for the preacher of the Gospel: you have found true wealth in Christ; you have been given a storeroom full of treasures new and old. Bring them out to God's people with joy and delight.

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again. In his joy, he goes away and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls. <sup>46</sup>When he found one very valuable pearl, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup>When the net was filled, they pulled it onto the shore. They sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but threw the bad ones away. <sup>49</sup>That is how it will be at the end of the world. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous who are among them. <sup>50</sup>And they will throw the wicked into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." <sup>51</sup>Jesus said to them, "Did you understand all these things?" They answered him, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>He said to them, "Therefore every expert in the law who has been trained as a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his treasure both new things and old things."

...this is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

**Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day..... "What Is the World to Me" (CW 477)**

**Sermon ..... Matthew 13:44-52**

**Distribute God's Treasures!**

Be prepared to share them.

Be willing to share them.