

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

Worship	134	LS: 108	ABC: 23
Church Offerings	<u>Aug 20</u> \$4,429.25	<u>YTD</u> \$49,376.10	<u>YTD Goal</u> \$66,904.16

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

<b>Today (27<sup>th</sup>)</b>	9:00 am	Worship (WELS Connection)
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Galatians)
<b>Mon (28<sup>th</sup>)</b>	6:30 pm	Worship (WELS Connection)
<b>Wed (30<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:00 pm	FVLHS Federation Open Forum
<b>Thu (31<sup>st</sup>)</b>	7:30 pm	Board of Christian Education Meeting
<b>Sun (3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>	9:00 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Galatians)
<b>Mon (4<sup>th</sup>)</b>	6:30 pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion
<b>Tue (5<sup>th</sup>)</b>	8:30 am	St. John Lutheran School Opening Service (at church)
<b>Wed (6<sup>th</sup>)</b>	3:30 pm	Catechism Class Begins (public school)

***News & Notes***

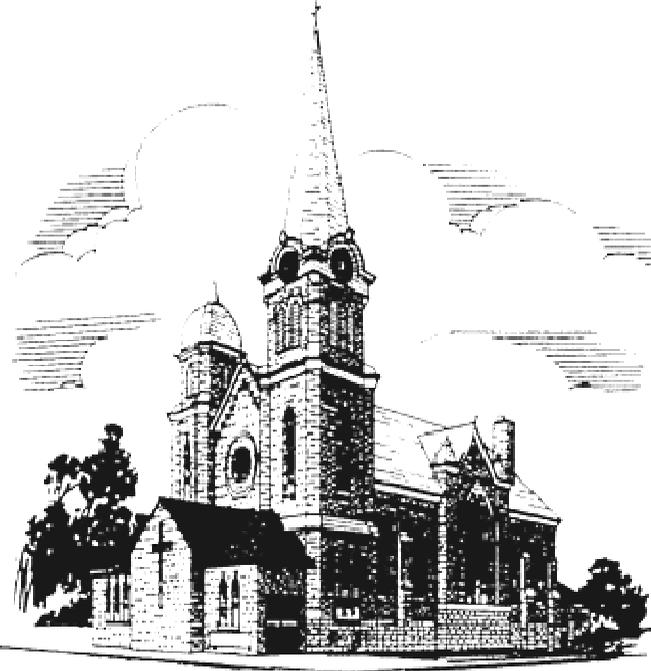
**WELS Mission to the Children Collection**  
 This year's collection for *Mission to the Children* from NE Wisconsin's congregations, LWMS groups, and individuals is for new children's undergarments (t-shirts, underwear, and socks). Items must be **NEW** and **IN STORE PACKAGING** in order to transport 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](tel:920.213.3204) or [glennlois2317@yahoo.com](mailto:glennlois2317@yahoo.com).

**CPH Fall Bible Sale**  
 Several Bibles and resources are discounted, and you can view samples and find order forms in the entryway. NOTE that the Bible translation is the ESV, not NIV or the newer EHV.

**Sunday School Roundup**  
 Please register your children A.S.A.P. Find forms to do so on the entryway table.

**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Catechism Classes**  
 ...begin after Labor Day (Tue / Thu for St. John students and after school on Wednesdays for Wrightstown MS students). If you haven't received an email from pastor and have a child in those grades, please touch base with him.

**The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 ([stjlsww@gmail.com](mailto:stjlsww@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.

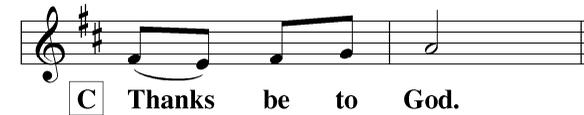
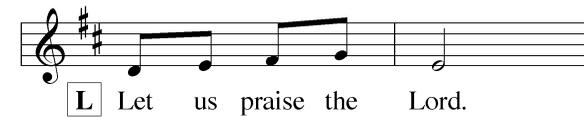
Today's order of service is displayed on the screen and printed out in the worship folder (with music notes) for your convenience. Hymns are found in the red book in front of you.

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.

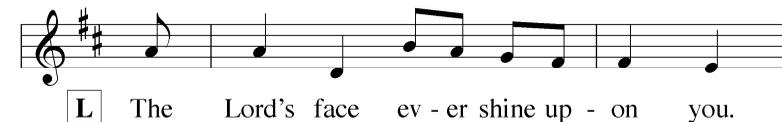
### At Your Service Today:

	<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>
<b>Greeters:</b>	Tina DeMerritt Carol Just – Betty Schmidt Faye Patoka – Joan Zahn	
<b>Ushers:</b>	Zaine Gehl Lloyd Patoka Richard Patton Monty Reynolds Terry Sieker – Jack Zirbel	
<b>Guitarist:</b>	Adam Bunn	
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Carol Just	Amy Vande Hey
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Lou Ann G, Janet W, & Courtney S	

## Closing Verses



## Blessing



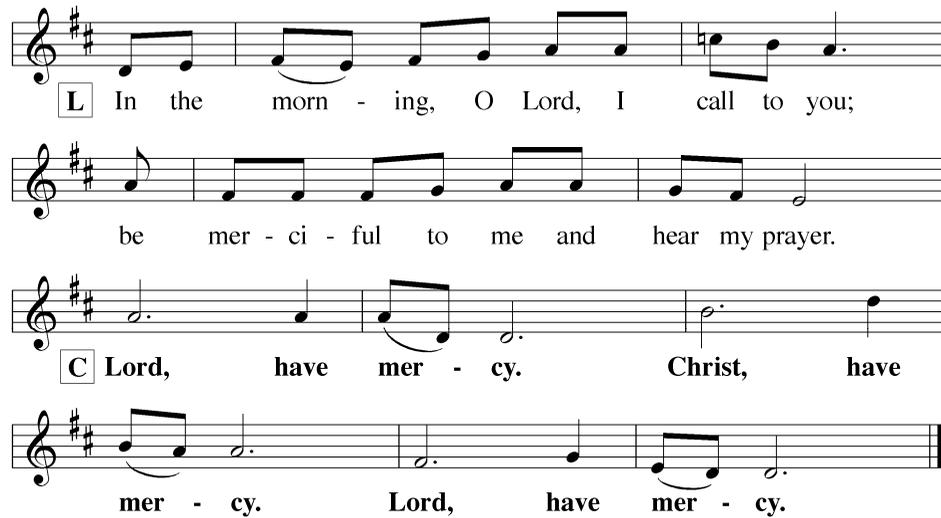
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Closing Hymn ..... *"Almighty Father, Strong to Save"* (CW 517)

## 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.*

## 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.**

### 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.**

Service Theme for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: The Christian answers doubt with faith. Doubt is the unfortunate companion of faith. Wherever faith clings to the promises of God, doubt is always right there lingering in the back of our mind, constantly asking the serpent's Garden question, "Did God really say?" How striking to think that we must have faith in God before we can doubt him! Today's lessons show us believers who had faith in God and his abilities to save them, but yet doubted when his plans or purpose failed to match theirs. In each case, it is adversity that fights against faith and allows its unfortunate companion to rear its ugly head. And in each case, the true answer to doubt is not found in the great miracle that removes adversity, but in the still small voice of our Savior God whispering in his Word. Today we hear our Savior God ask us, "Why did you doubt?", and we see that the Christian answers doubt with 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..... "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" (CW 353)

### 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.

# 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.

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

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

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

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

*Final Refrain*

① You are God; we praise you. ② 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.

from shore, being pounded by the waves because the wind was against it. <sup>25</sup>In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came toward them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup>When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified and cried out in fear, "It's a ghost!" <sup>27</sup>But Jesus spoke to them at once, saying, "Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid." <sup>28</sup>Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Come!" Peter stepped down from the boat, walked on the water, and went toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid. As he began to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. <sup>33</sup>Those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God!"

...this is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

**Hymn of the Day**.....*"How Firm a Foundation"* (CW 416)

**Sermon**..... **Matthew 14:22-33**

**Jesus Is the Calm Within the Storm!**

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

*The refrain is introduced once and then the congregation joins to sing it the second time through. 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 acclaim you.



To you, O Father holy, all creation offers praise.



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,

## 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** .....**Exodus 14:10-31 (EHV)**

*The children of Israel during their great exodus aptly displayed that doubt is the unfortunate companion of faith. As they made their way from Egypt to Canaan, they scurried back and forth between the poles of faith and doubt with alarming regularity. Faith had led them to follow Moses and the Pillar into the desert. Now, however, with the sea in front of them and a great army behind them, faith fled and doubt reigned. Adversity made them forget the God of the Passover. Moses came with words so fitting for doubting hearts in the face of adversity, "You need only be still." As the psalmist said, "Be still and know that I am God." God's plan will prevail. The very water they thought was preventing their escape would in fact be the cause of their deliverance. The very army they thought would destroy them would in fact be destroyed. The troubles that seem to afflict us or hem us in, are, in fact, part of the plan for the glory of God and the salvation of man. It is only after the parted sea finds its former home that we recognize the grace of God's hand in our lives. And we hear the gentle whisper of our Savior God, "Why did you doubt?"*

<sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians marching after them. The Israelites were terrified and cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you took us to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Wasn't this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone. Let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." <sup>13</sup>Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm, and see the salvation from the LORD, which he will perform for you today. For the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again. <sup>14</sup>The LORD will fight for you. You must wait quietly." <sup>15</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to set out. <sup>16</sup>As for you, lift up your staff, stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide the sea so that the Israelites can go through the middle of the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>I myself will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go into the sea after them, and I will gain glory through Pharaoh and his entire army, through his chariots and his charioteers. <sup>18</sup>The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory through Pharaoh, his chariots, and his charioteers." <sup>19</sup>Then the Angel of God, who was going in front of the Israelite forces, moved and went behind them. The pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and stood behind them. <sup>20</sup>It went between the Egyptian forces and the Israelite forces. The cloud was dark on one side, but it lit up the night on the other. Neither group approached the other all night long. <sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all night long the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned

the sea into dry land. The waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the middle of the sea on dry ground. The waters were like a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued them, and all of Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his charioteers went after them into the middle of the sea. <sup>24</sup>During the last watch of the night, the LORD looked down on the Egyptian forces from the pillar of fire and cloud. Then he confused the Egyptian forces. <sup>25</sup>He jammed their chariot wheels, and they had difficulty driving them. The Egyptians said, "We must flee from Israel, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!" <sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, and the waters will come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their charioteers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its normal place. While the Egyptians were fleeing from it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the middle of the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters came back and covered the chariots and the charioteers, the entire army of Pharaoh that went into the sea after the Israelites. Not even one of them survived. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites went through the middle of the sea on dry land, and the waters were like a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup>On that day the LORD saved Israel from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the mighty hand which the LORD put into action against the Egyptians, and the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in Moses, his servant.

**Psalms of the Day .....Psalm 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 .....James 1:2-8,12 (EHV)**

*The trials we face in this sinful world can make us terrified like the disciples, or frustrated like Elijah, or despondent like the children of Israel before the sea. James calls us out as living like double-minded men when we doubt our God. He preaches a law to hearts that need to hear it: "Do not doubt!" But God promises that in the midst of the storms of life, we can listen and also hear his gentle whisper. "It is I. Don't be afraid!" When we hear his voice, the waves of doubt recede and faith finds its place again, making us once more sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

<sup>2</sup>Consider it complete joy, my brothers, whenever you fall into various kinds of trials, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith produces patient endurance. <sup>4</sup>And let patient endurance finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup>If any one of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives it to all without reservation and without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But let him ask in faith, without doubting, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>In fact, that person should not expect that he will receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup>He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. <sup>12</sup>Blessed is the man who endures a trial patiently, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God promised to those who love him.

**Verse of the Day ..... Hebrews 11:1 (EHV)**

*Alleluia. Faith is being sure about what we hope for, being convinced about things we do not see. Alleluia.*

**Gospel Lesson .....Matthew 14:22-33 (EHV)**

*Doubt and faith rose and fell like the waves of the sea that dark night. The evangelist paints a picture of frantic effort against a storm with little progress. Then Jesus came—and note the way he came! He did not simply appear among them, as he could have. He did not fly or float. He walked on the water. The very thing they had been fighting, the water that threatened to take their life, Jesus walked on it like it was dry ground. What a Savior we have that walks on the waters of all our greatest fears! See the faith in the disciples grow! See Peter show it in his own miraculous walk. But, all too often, doubt is the unfortunate companion of faith. Though Jesus was standing on the water, Peter feared it. What pulls our eyes of faith away from Jesus? What are the waves and wind in our lives that make us doubt him? To Peter, Jesus asked, "Why did you doubt?" He gave no answer. What could he say? With Jesus there is never any need to doubt. How sad that we so often do! Rather, let us focus on the Savior and watch our faith swell as the disciples' did when their doubts vanished, and they gave the greatest evidence of faith: they worshipped that man from Nazareth for what he truly was, the Son of God.*

<sup>22</sup>Immediately Jesus urged the disciples to get into the boat and to go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup>After he had dismissed the crowd, he went up onto the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. <sup>24</sup>By then the boat was quite a distance