

News & Notes

CPH Fall Bible Sale – Through September

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

St. John School Snack Donations

In an effort to reduce expenses, we appreciate any member donations. If you find a good deal while out and about, consider picking up some snacks and donating them to our school. Snacks can be fruit cups, yogurt, crackers, pretzels, etc.

Apple Valley Food Pantry Donations

This month's collection date is the 17th. Especially needed: cranberry sauce, stuffing, cereal, chunky soup, canned fruit, rice, boxed & canned potatoes, canned meats (ham / tuna / salmon), cake mix & frosting, and household & hygiene products.

REMINDER: Thanksgiving donations are given in October and Christmas donations in November.

Online Talent Database Form

Please submit a form (goo.gl/e1fwsb) so that we can have an up-to-date record of our members' talents, as well an indication of the ways members would like to serve. Thanks!

Reformation 500 Service

The congregations of the Valley will join for a special service on Sat., Oct. 28th, at 2pm at the Fox Cities P.A.C. Seating is limited to the first 2,000 people, and FREE tickets are required. (FYI, only 400 tickets are left.) Simply go to goo.gl/aaJBAk to get some for your family.

WELS Member Seeking Work

Jeremy Wittig, a member of Zion, Morrison (and our assistant wrestling coach) was recently laid off and is asking that any job opportunities (engineering / manufacturing) be passed along: JeremyWittig@yahoo.com or (920) 864-2322.

WELS United Events at Sister Congregations

Speak with Pastor for any info on the following:

- **Recovery through Christ** (for addicts) and **Peace through Christ** (for friends and family of addicts) at Mt. Olive, Appleton
- **Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace"** seminar at Immanuel, Greenville
- **DivorceCare** at Immanuel, Greenville and St. Paul, Appleton
- **GriefShare** at Beautiful Savior, Green Bay

WELS Mission to the Children Collection

This year's collection from NE WI 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 will take the items to Tucson in mid-October, so please have your donations in the narthex boxes **no later than Oct 1st**.

Fall Festival Potluck

We don't mean to jump the gun – there are still a few days of summer left – but our fall festival potluck is planned for next weekend. There's no need to sign up for anything ahead of time; just bring a hot dish, side dish, and/or dessert to share.

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 2017**



St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School

437 Turner Street, Wrightstown WI, 54180

www.stjlw.com

- Pastor Mike Gehl (pastorgehl@gmail.com)..... (920) 309-5171
- Church Office (church@stjlw.com)..... (920) 532-4865
- School Office (stjlschool@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>7:45</u>	<u>10:15</u>
Greeters:	Michelle Bruecker Carroll Treptow Nichole Meyers	Mary Fritsch Barb Verbeten Rozanne Bohrtz
Ushers:	Jacob Bruecker Bryce Herlache Noah Pennenberg Monty Reynolds Don Treptow Dave Treptow	Ryan Lemke Josh Bohrtz Ralph Bohrtz Ed Maass Kenny Lemke Chris Lemke
PowerPoint:	Zaine Gehl	
Altar Guild:	Tina D, Betty S, & Pat V	

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

Worship	114	LS	89	ABC:	28
Church Offerings		Sept 3	YTD	YTD Goal	
		\$5,202.50	\$67,122.67	\$83,630.20	

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

Today (10th)	7:45 am 9:00 am	Worship Sunday School (Adam and Eve) Adult Bible Class (Galatians)
	10:15 am	Worship
Mon (11th)	9:30 am 7:30 pm	Pastors Circuit Meeting (here at St. John) Church Council Meeting
Tue (12th)	11:30 am	Senior Luncheon
Wed (13th)	3:30 pm	6 th -8 th Grade Catechism Class
Sun (17th)	7:45 am 9:00 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion Sunday School (The Fall and the Promise) Adult Bible Class (Galatians)
	10:15 am 11:30 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion Fall Festival Potluck
		* * * * *
Wed (20th)	6:45 am 6:30 pm	Breakfast and Bible Study (Augsburg Confession) FVL Schools Community Parent Night (at FVLHS) topic: Teen Suicide (FREE childcare provided)
Mon (25th)	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive Long-Range Planning Meeting
Tue (26th)		Fall Pastors Conference (at St. Paul, Dale, WI)
	7:00 pm	FVLHS General Board Meeting
Thu (28th)	7:30 pm	Board of Education Meeting
Tue (Oct 3rd)	7:00 pm	Board of Elders Meeting
Sun (Oct 8th)	1:30 pm	FVL Bands & Choirs Concert (at FVLHS)
Mon (Oct 16th)	7:30 pm	Quarterly Voters Meeting
Sat (Oct 28th)	2:00 pm	Joint Reformation Service (at Fox Cities P.A.C.)
TBD		Trunk or Treat Event
Sat (Nov 11th)	6:30 pm	Church Movie Night

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

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, 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 "The Church's One Foundation" (CW 538)

Service Theme for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: The Church will stand forever. Nothing can keep our Redeemer from upholding his promised salvation. Neither false expectations nor the gates of hell, neither an Egyptian army nor a flowing river, not even the great tribulation of the end times will keep our God from preserving his Church.

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..... "Built on the Rock" (CW 529)

Greeting

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.

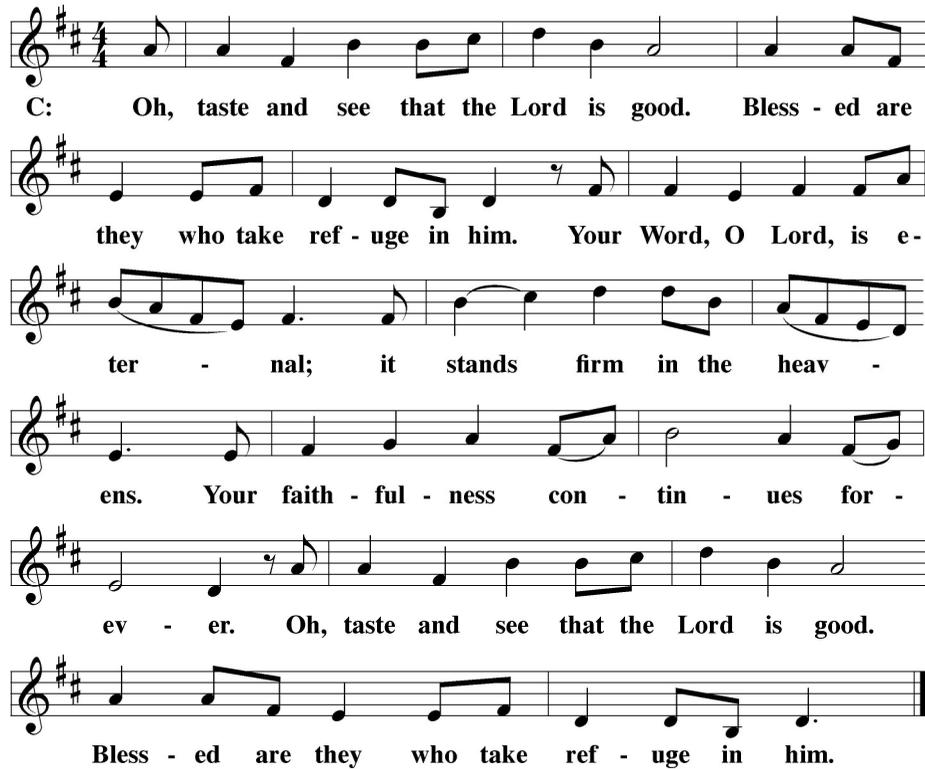
God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

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 e -
 ter - 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. Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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.

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.

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.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

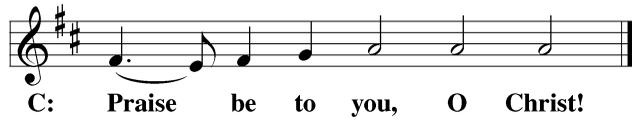
Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

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.

...this is the Gospel of our Lord.



Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day.....“*Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head*” (CW 536)

Sermon..... **Matthew 16:13-20**

Clearly Confess the Christ!

The content of our confession

The source of our confession

The result of our confession



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.

The Word

First Lesson **Joshua 4:1-9 (EHV)**

Twelve rocks told the story God’s grace and preservation to generations of his people. Through the Word, they still speak to us today. As he once used his might to halt a river in its place to preserve his people, so today God still preserves and protects the new Israel, his Holy Church. Today, rocks still speak. Not stones in a river, but people like Peter, little rocks who proclaim the Rock on which we stand forever.

When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD told Joshua, ²“Take twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, ³and give them the following orders: ‘Pick up twelve stones from here in the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the feet of the priests are standing securely. Carry them over with you and put them at the place where you will stay tonight.’” ⁴So Joshua called the twelve men whom he had selected from the people of Israel—a man from each tribe. ⁵Joshua said to them, “Go to the middle of the Jordan in front of the ark of the LORD your God, and each man is to lift up one stone on his shoulder. The number will correspond to the number of the tribes descended from the sons of Israel, ⁶so that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in the future, ‘What do these stones mean for you?’ ⁷Then you shall respond to them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD. When the ark passed through the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones will serve as a permanent memorial for the people of Israel.” ⁸So the people of Israel did just as Joshua had ordered. They picked up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, corresponding to the number of the tribes descended from the sons of Israel, as the LORD had instructed Joshua. They carried the stones over with them to their lodging place and deposited them there. ⁹Joshua also set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the feet of the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant had stood. The stones are there to this day.

Psalm of the Day **Psalm 34 (EHV)**



Taste and see that the LORD is good.
Blessed is everyone who takes refuge in him.
The eyes of the LORD watch over the righteous.
His ears listen to their cry.
The Angel of the LORD camps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.

Refrain

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears.

From all their distress he delivers them.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted.

He saves those whose spirits have been crushed.

The LORD redeems the soul of his servants.

Anyone who takes refuge in him will not be found guilty.

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



Hap-py the peo-ple the Lord has cho-sen to be his own.

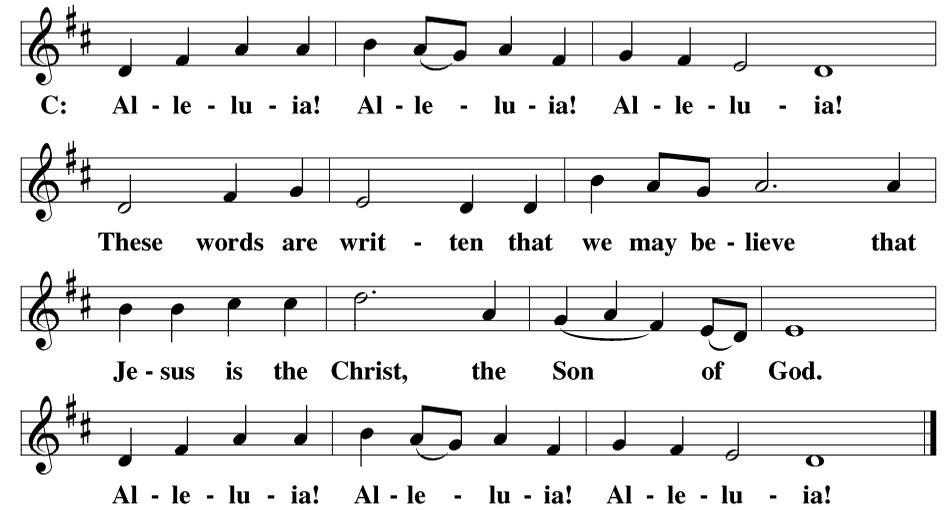
Second Lesson Revelation 7:1-8 (EHV)

God doesn't just hold back rivers, but he even holds back the winds of destruction until every one of his elect is safely sealed. Ezekiel 9 gives an interesting prophesy of such a seal. The believers are marked with the Hebrew letter *Taw*. It's intriguing to think of the image that would have formed in the mind of the people of Israel. The Hebrew script at the time would have marked each forehead with † or ‡ or ✕. Thus sealed with the seal of the living God, the whole Church is preserved forever ($12^2 \times 10^3 = 144,000$. The number of the Church is 12; the number of completeness is 10; multiplication intensifies the symbolism).

¹After this I saw four angels, who stood at the four corners of the earth. They were holding back the four winds of the earth so that the wind could not blow on the earth, the sea, or any tree. ²And I saw another angel coming up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He called out with a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to harm the earth and the sea. He said, ³"Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees until we have placed a seal on the foreheads of God's servants." ⁴And I heard the number of those sealed: 144,000 sealed from all the tribes of the people of Israel: ⁵from the tribe of Judah,12,000, who were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben,12,000, from the tribe of Gad,12,000, ⁶from the tribe of Asher,12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali,12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh,12,000, ⁷from the tribe of Simeon,12,000, from the tribe of Levi,12,000, from the tribe of Issachar,12,000, ⁸from the tribe of Zebulun,12,000, from the tribe of Joseph,12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin,12,000, who were sealed.

Verse of the Day 1 Timothy 1:10b (EHV)

Our Savior Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 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 LessonMatthew 16:13-20 (EHV)

Who do people say the Son of Man is? That question is as applicable today as it was in Matthew's Gospel. The question remains, "Who is Jesus?" As the disciples rattled off the popular misconceptions, one is struck by how illustrious that list actually was. There were no slouches in that group. But they didn't even begin to compare with the truth. Many people today give similar answers: they call Jesus a teacher, a philosopher, the founder of a religion, an agent of change. Their answers miss the mark as widely as the answers of the people in the Gospel. Only disciples of Jesus, through the work of the Spirit of God, can confess him as he truly is. Could Peter's answer be any better? "You are the Anointed One, the one set apart by God and prophesied by Scripture, the Promised Seed who would save us from sin." But even more than that, Peter showed that the disciples confessed him to be the Son of the living God. "You, Jesus of Nazareth, are the Son of the God who is life and who gives life." This living God is the hope of every sinful man ever since Adam in the face of death named his wife "Life," because through her womb would come the Seed who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Now here, in the flesh, stood the Son of the living God whose mission was to restore life to this world of death. This truth is the rock on which the Church stands. Because it stands on the rock and not on the pebbles of men who serve it, the Church will stand forever: its message is changeless; the ramifications of its work are eternal.

¹³When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴They said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But you, who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overpower it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he commanded the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.