

*Welcome to Worship*

at

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
**a reconciling in Christ congregation**



*All Saints Sunday*

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

10:30 am

**Interim Pastor:** The Rev. Mike Button

**Director of Music:** Jessica Madow

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## Statement of Welcome

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female;  
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. — Galatians 3:28*

As a community of God striving to be open to all people, we at St. John's Lutheran Congregation believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We welcome all to join us as we struggle to better understand the mysteries of God's teachings. We are challenged by Christ to care for, to love, to understand, and to listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual/affectional orientation, national origin, or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God's people.

St. John's Lutheran Congregation is a place for each person to shine in their own unique gifts.

## Statement of Mission

St. John's Lutheran Church is a downtown, community-oriented, congregation of Christians. We worship God, strive to welcome, and wholly accept everyone, and reach out with and in God's love.

~

**Communion** is a time we invite all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament. If this is your belief, there are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

**Nursery** – A staffed nursery person is available in the nursery following Children's Chat . . .

### **Service Notes:**

- (asterisk) indicates, please stand as you are able.
- Page # indicates the front of the hymnal is used . . .
- Hymn # indicates the back of the Hymnal is used . . .

### **Hymn Book Abbreviations:**

ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book

WOV – With One Voice

ACS – All Creation Sings

# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## Welcome

**Prelude**      “*Land of Rest*” set. by Wilbur Held  
(Based on an Appalachian tune)

## **\*Remembrance of the Faithfully Departed**

**P:** When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

**C: We glorify you.**

**P:** Jesus Christ, the resurrection, and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

**C: We praise you.**

**P:** Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

**C: We worship you.**

P: To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

**C: Amen.**

P: O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sisters and brothers. We thank you for giving them to us to know and to love as our companions in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*Hymn**

*(Please sing the verses of the hymn and participate as the names of family and friends who have passed this year are read and the bell has chimed.)*

ELW# 427 *“For All Your Saints, O Lord”*, verse 1

**1 For all your saints, O Lord,  
who strove in you to live,  
who followed you, obeyed, adored,  
our grateful hymn receive.**

**Daniel E. Cressman**

*(August 26, 1949 ~ July 1, 2023)*

P: Rest eternal grant him, O Lord;

**C: and let light perpetual shine upon him.**

ELW# 427 *“For All Your Saints, O Lord”*, verse 2

- 2 For all your saints, O Lord,  
who strove in you to die,  
who counted you their great reward,  
accept our thankful cry.**

**Sandra L. Eichlin**

*(August 3, 1943 ~ October 15, 2023)*

P: Rest eternal grant her, O Lord;

**C: and let light perpetual shine upon her.**

ELW# 427 *“For All Your Saints, O Lord”*, verse 3

- 3 They all in life and death,  
with you, their Lord, in view,  
learned from your Holy Spirit's breath  
to suffer and to do.**

**Hilda Kalapay**

*(June 5, 1930 ~ January 24, 2023)*

P: Rest eternal grant her, O Lord;

**C: and let light perpetual shine upon her.**

ELW# 427 *“For All Your Saints, O Lord”*, verse 4

- 4 For this, your name we bless  
and humbly pray anew  
that we like them in holiness  
may live and die in you.**

**Eileen McNeal**

(July 12, 1943 ~ November 4, 2022)

P: Rest eternal grant her, O Lord;

**C: and let light perpetual shine upon her.**

ELW# 427 *“For All Your Saints, O Lord”*, verse 5

**5 To God, the Father, Son,  
and Spirit, ever blest,  
the One in Three, the Three in One,  
be endless praise addressed.**

### ***\*Prayer of the Day***

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**Childrens Chat**

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## First Reading

**Revelation 7:9-17**

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Reading:

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

<sup>1</sup>I will bless the LORD at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup>**I will glory in the LORD;  
let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

<sup>3</sup>Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;  
let us exalt God's name together.

<sup>4</sup>**I sought the LORD, who answered me  
and delivered me from all my terrors.**

<sup>5</sup>Look upon the LORD and be radiant,  
and let not your faces be ashamed.

<sup>6</sup>**I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me  
and saved me from all my troubles.**

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD  
and delivers them.

<sup>8</sup>**Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
happy are they who take refuge in God!**

<sup>9</sup>Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,  
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

<sup>10</sup>**The lions are in want and suffer hunger,  
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

<sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.



## Second Reading

1 John 3:1-3

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**      *“Alleluia . . .”*      - page 151

**\* Gospel**      **Matthew 5:1-12**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon - The Reverend Mike Button*

*\*Hymn of the Day –*

ELW #422 *“For All the Saints”*

*\*Affirmation of Baptism*

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in

the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**C: Amen.**

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**C: I renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the

example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### ***\*Prayers of Intercession***

A: Let us pray. Holy God, the church triumphant gathers around your throne to praise you. We join them in worship and remember your sustaining grace in every generation. Heal our divisions; show us unity in your presence. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Holy creator, we marvel at your creation revealed in the cycle of seasons, changing landscapes, and the rise and fall of ocean tides. Turn us from selfish consumption and open us to gentle healing of the earth so all creation thrives. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Holy advocate, we lift grateful hearts for the ability to vote and elect leaders. Grant wisdom to those who will be elected and safety to poll workers. May civic leaders serve the whole community, especially all who are underrepresented or oppressed. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Holy healer, bless the brokenhearted and all who mourn. Send your compassion to all who grieve, grant wholeness to those who are sick, and accompany the dying. Be near to all who need you including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Holy comforter, we pray for this congregation, that the promise of your new life may be shared and experienced. We pray for all the ministries of this congregation, that families and friends seeking your love find it here. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Holy One, for the saints who now rest in your mercy, we give you thanks. We remember their witness of faithfulness and love. Praise to you for the eternal life they have been given through Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## \* *The Sharing of the Peace*

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*(Ushers now proceed to the Altar to receive the offering plates...)*

**Offertory**      “*O How Blessed*” by Dan Schutte  
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

## \*Presentation of Gifts

*(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)*

## \*Offertory Hymn

ELW #184    “*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*”

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. God of all goodness, generation have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**C: Amen**

**\*Great Thanksgiving** - page 152

**\* Preface** (*Leader continues . . .*)

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 153

**\*Communion Form** (*Leader continues . . .*)

**\*Lord's Prayer** - page 154

**\*Lamb of God** - page 154

**\*Invitation to Communion**

**Holy Communion** - *If you are baptized and believe that it is the real blood and body of Christ, we welcome you at the Lord's table.*

*\*At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion. Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.*

## **Communion Hymns**

ELW # 472 ***“Eat This Bread”***

ELW # 474 ***“Bread of Life from Heaven”***

ELW # 468 ***“Around You, O Lord Jesus”***

## **\*Table Blessing**

**\*Post Communion Canticle**     *“Now Lord . . .”* - page 113

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **Announcements**



## \*Blessing

P: May the God of all creation in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessings of God Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

**C: Amen.**

## \*Sending Hymn

ELW # 428 *“Give Thanks for Saints”*

## \*Dismissal

P: Beloved of God, go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude *“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”* by Arthur Messiter

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7. “Give Thanks for Saints” (ELW #428, Text: Martin E. Leckebusch © 2003 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.)

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**Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .**

**Worship Assistant**– Jim Heck

**Ushers** – Bob & Cindy Black

**Reader** – Chuck Lewis

**Altar Guild** – Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

**Video Team** – David Faulkner

**This Week at St. John's: November 5<sup>th</sup> – November 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (11/5/23) – All Saints Sunday, 10:30 am

**Today** (11/5/23) – Following Worship:      Finance – Office  
   Rachel's Circle

**Today** (11/5/23) – Baconfest – (Help Volunteer with Parking !)

**Monday** (11/6/23) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm

**Tuesday** (11/7/23) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (11/8/23) – Council Reports Due

**Wednesday** (11/8/23) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am – Hospitality Rm.

**Saturday** (11/11/23) – Archive Meeting, 10:00 am

**Sunday** (11/12/23) – Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am

**Sunday** (11/12/23) – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost, Worship, 10:30 am

**Sunday** (11/12/23) – Following Worship:      Membership – Office

**Attendance:                  60**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$2,490.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,234.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$98,923.00

*(These totals do not include special envelopes.)*

*Prayer Group is looking for New Members !*

*Prayer Group* now meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 11:00 am in the Hospitality Room. – Join Us !!



*Prayer Concerns:* Chuck, Sandy, Adam, James, Kara, Bill, Joe, Christine, Joel, Andrew, Bill, Earl, Danny, Tammy, Carolyn, Diane, Julia, Bill, Donald, Madelyn, Ken, Gene, Judy, Judith, Cliff, Liam, Harold, Arlene, Our Homebound Family and Friends, and the Family and Friends of Sandy Eichlin.

***Crisis in the Middle East . . .***

Due to escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel, a severe humanitarian crisis is rapidly unfolding in the Holy Land.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by disasters in the region.

Donations can be made to:

***Lutheran World Relief  
PO Box 17061  
Baltimore, MD  
21297-1061***

Or visit:

<https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis>

*Volunteer Opportunities* are available from "*ShareCare*", a Bethlehem – Easton Mission District agency who provides free volunteer services to elderly and disabled persons.

**\*\*Information in the Narthex.\*\***



## *All Saints Sunday*

*On this day Christians are called to remember and celebrate all those who have gone before us throughout time.*

*St. John's remembers these Saints from the past year . . .*

**Daniel E. Cressman** - 8/26/1949 – 7/1/2023

**Sandra L. Eichlin** - 8/3/1943 - 10/15/2023

**Hilda Kalapay** - 6/5/1930 – 1/24/2023

**Eileen McNeal** - 7/12/1943– 11/4/2022



Altar Flower are dedicated to all loved ones lost . . .  
May they live in God's promise of eternal life . . .

## **THE GALLERY AT ST. JOHN'S**

**HOLIDAY SHOW OPENS TODAY !!! 12:00-2:00 PM**

**JOIN US . . .**

The Outreach Committee is still collecting donations to purchase Grocery store gift cards to distribute to the local community for Thanksgiving.

Donations can be placed in the offering plate marked "*Thanksgiving*", or sent to the church office. We thank you for your support. - *The Outreach Committee*

