

*Welcome to Worship*

at

# *St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**a reconciling in Christ congregation**



## *Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost*

September 10<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.

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**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.*

## Announcements – Welcome of Pastor Mike Button

**Prelude**            *“Praise to God, Who Draws Us Here”*  
by Lee Sejisca

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, +Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: You have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. Led us back to you and set us on the right path, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God’s justice stretches beyond all understanding. God’s compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are always and always forgiven.

**C: Amen.**

## \*Gathering Hymn

ACS #979 *“Making Their Way”*

*Please follow along in your hymnals as the service continues with Setting 4 on page 147.*

## \*Greeting

- page 147

## \*Kyrie

- page 147

## \*Canticle of Praise

*“This is the Feast . . .”*

- page 149

## \*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

# Word

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

## First Reading

**Ezekiel 33:7-11**

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Reading:

**Psalm 119:33-40**

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;  
give me life in your way.

<sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
which is for those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
because your judgments are good.

<sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for your commandments;  
by your righteousness enliven me.**

## *Second Reading*

## **Romans 13:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus

Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

**\* Gospel**      **Matthew 18:15-20**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sermon - The Reverend Mike Button*

**\*Hymn of the Day –**

ELW #603 ***“God, When Human Bonds Are Broken”***

***Apostles’ Creed***

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

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

**A: Let us pray. Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care to all. Merciful God,**

**C: Receive our prayer.**



A: Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment including Pastor Mike Button who we welcome today. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,

A: Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Remember us as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**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**    *“Blest Be The Tie That Binds”* by Johann Nægeli

**\*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 power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, so that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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

**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 Hymn's**

ELW #464 ***“Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal”***

ELW #482 ***“I Come with Joy”***

ELW #483 ***“Here Is Bread”***

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

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

# Sending

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

## **\*Blessing**

P: The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

## **\*Sending Hymn**

ELW #864 *“Praise, My Soul, The God of Heaven”*

## **\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

**Worship Assistant**– Jim Heck  
**Ushers** – Barbara Horinko / Panama Crozier  
**Reader** – Chuck Lewis  
**Altar Guild** – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

**This Week at St. John's: September 10<sup>th</sup> – September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (9/10/23) – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost, Worship, 10:30 am

**Today** (9/10/23) – “Plaid Show” Gallery Opening,  
following Worship

**Monday** (9/11/23) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

**Monday** (9/11/23) – Bible Study, 5:30 pm, Hospitality Room

**Wednesday** (9/13/23) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am (new day & time)

**Saturday** (9/16/23) – Clothing Closet Open, 9-11:00 am

**Sunday** (9/17/23) – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost, Worship 10:30 am

**Sunday** (9/17/23) – Following Worship:  
Membership / Outreach Mtgs.

**Sunday** (9/17/23) – Following Worship:  
Pastor Button - Meet and Greet, Gallery

*Altar Flowers today are sponsored. In loving memory  
of Bob, Norma, and Bobby Faulkner & Barbara  
Robinson by Carol and David Faulkner*



**Attendance: 52**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,626.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,234.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$83,178.00

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

*Prayer Concerns:* Chuck, Deanna, Marcia, Sandy, Adam, James, Christopher, Kara, Colleen, David, Renee and Family, Paul, Danny, Lorraine, Tammy, Carolyn, Julia, Eleanor, Madelyn, Harper, Terry, Arlene, Tom, Ryan, Our Homebound Family and Friends, and the Family and Friends of Walter Kichline, Marian Simmons, and Julian Reed

Sunday – September 17<sup>th</sup>, please join us following worship in Welcoming Pastor Mike Button, a light reception will be held in the gallery following worship.



PLEASE NOTE: THE CHURCH WILL NOT BE COLLECTING CANDY FOR THE MIRACLE LEAGUE HALLOWEEN. THEY ARE NOT IN NEED THIS YEAR. SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

The Gallery at St John's

Our famous Plaid show opens TODAY . . .  
Join us – Following Worship!!

# ... Sunday School has Resumed ...



Sunday school children are welcomed back at 9:00 am  
upstairs for classes and fun!

Adult Forum will meet in the Gallery ...

*News: You may have seen a new face around the church lately, - meet Howard Graf ... Howard has been hired to help around the church in a variety of different ways ... Please note, he is not serving in the same capacity as Michelle did, so please be considerate when asking for his help. We wish Howard well ...*

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