

Welcome to Worship

at

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



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 18, 2024

9:30 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.

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

***Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

L: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin . . . God, our provider,

C: Help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

L: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✚ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 542 *“O Living Bread from Heaven”*

***Greeting**

- page 147

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie**

- page 147

***Canticle of Praise**

“This is the Feast . . .”

- page 149

***Prayer of the Day**

A: Let us pray. Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Word

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

First Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6

¹Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.

²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table.

³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,

⁴“You that are simple, turn in here!” To those without sense she says,

⁵“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 34:9-14

⁹Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,
for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.

¹⁰The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.

¹¹Come, children, and listen to me;
I will teach you reverence for the Lord.

¹²Who among you takes pleasure in life
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?

¹³Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying words.

¹⁴Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise,
¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do
not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not
get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the
Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among
yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts,
²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in
the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia”

- page 151

*** Gospel**

John 6:51-58

L: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵¹“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever
eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for

the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — *The Reverend Mike Button*

***Hymn of the Day** —

(following page)

ACS # 971 “*Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom*”



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who



earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
 mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
 seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,



for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
 full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
 bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -



path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
 root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
 come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

*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. Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation. Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurt at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

C: Amen.

*** The Sharing of the Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

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

***Presentation of Gifts** *(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)*

*Offertory Hymn

ELW# 185

“Create in me . . .”

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

*Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving** - page 152

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

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

***Thanksgiving at the Table** (*Leader continues . . .*)

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

***Lamb of God** - page 154

***Invitation to Communion** - 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 Hymns

ELW # 515 *“Break Now the Bread of Life”*

ELW # 496 *“One Bread, One Body”*

ELW # 477 *“I Received the Living God”*

*Table Blessing

*Post Communion Hymn *“Now Lord . . .”* - Page 113



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

***Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

***Blessing**

L: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

ELW # 537 *“On Our Way Rejoicing”*

*Dismissal

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Jim Heck

Ushers – Nancy Ducey / Connie Garr

Reader – Lynn Kutch

Altar Guild – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

Video Team – Brad Thomas

This Week at St. John's August 18th - August 25th

Today (8/18/24) – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 am

Today (8/18/24) – Following Worship: Property – Office
Outreach – Chapel
Spiritual Life – Pastor's Office

Today (8/18/24) – Gallery Open – 11:00 -2:00 pm

Tuesday (8/20/24) – Bible Study, 11:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

Friday (8/23/24) – Newsletter Folding, 9:30 am - Gallery

Sunday (8/25/24) – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 am
Church Picnic – Penn Pump Park

Sunday (8/18/24) – Gallery Open, 12:00 – 2:00 pm



Attention: A special congregational meeting will be held – September 8th, following worship.

This meeting will pertain to the Repair of the Elevator and the Porch Restoration at 320 Ferry Street (The Project of Easton office building.)

Please make it a priority to attend.