

Welcome to Worship

at

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



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

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.

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 “Beach Spring” arr. J. Dawlorn

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.
(*silent reflection . . .*) Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 526 *“God Is Here”*

***Greeting**

- page 147

P: 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**

“Glory to God . . .”

- page 148

***Prayer of the Day**

A: Let us pray. O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Children’s Chat

Word

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

First Reading

Jeremiah 11:18-20

¹⁸It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

²⁰But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 54

¹Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

²**Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

⁴**Behold, God is my helper;
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

**⁶I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.**

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

Second Reading

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.

¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** Gospel**

Mark 9:30-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — *The Reverend Mike Button*

***Hymn of the Day** —

ELW # 712 **““Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”**

**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. Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts . . .* Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

*** The Sharing of the Peace**

P: 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 *"We Place Upon Your Table Lord"* (ELW 467)
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

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

***Offertory Hymn** *(following page)*

ELW# 531 ***"The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing"***

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 # 595 ***“Jesus Loves Me!”***

ELW # 613 ***“Thy Holy Wings”***

ELW # 843 ***“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”***

*Table Blessing

*Post Communion Hymn

ELW# 207 *“Thankful Hearts . . .”*



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

*Blessing

P: God all mighty, God most merciful † bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW # 765 *“Lord of All Hopefulness”*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

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

Postlude

Improvisations on *“Slane”*

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant–Joyce Petty

Ushers – Barbara Horinko / Lois Anne Calloway

Reader – Charlie Hanson

Altar Guild – Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

Video Team – David Faulkner

This Week at St. John's September 22nd – September 29th

Today (9/22/24) – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 am

Today (9/22/24) –Meetings Following Worship:
Rachel's Circle – Hospitality Room

Monday (9/23/24) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm - Sanctuary

Friday (9/27/24) – Newsletter Folding, 9:30 am - Gallery

Sunday (9/29/24) – Sunday School / Adult Forum – 9:00 am

Sunday (9/29/24) – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 am

Sunday (9/22/24) – Gallery Show Opening, 12:00 – 3:00 pm

Week 37, 9/15/24 - Attendance: 53

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$1,857.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,126.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$74,848.00
Behind Budget	(\$3,814.00)

Prayer Concerns: Chuck, Clark, Don, Joe, Kara, Christine, Bill, Michael, Shelley, Jan, Carolyn, Lois Anne, John, Donald, Rita, Lenny, Bucky, Jim, Shirley, Jeff, Karla, Debbie, Charlie, Peggy, Tony, Our Homebound Family and Friends, the St. John' s Call Committee, our Future Pastor and the Family and Friends of David Voellinger, Beatrice Fisher, Marion Trach, Janet Heffner and Earl Keyser



ADULT FORM CURRENT TOPIC:

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER: PASTOR, NAZI RESISTER, MARTYR.

JOIN US IN THE SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM AND GET TO KNOW ONE OF THE MOST CONSEQUENTIAL CHRISTIANS OF THE MODERN ERA.
WE MEET EVERY SUNDAY AT 9 A.M. IN THE GALLERY.

The Gallery at St. John's

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New Show begins - September 29th

"Attention to Details" - Diane Horoschock

Open: Sundays 12:00-3:00 pm

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3. "The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing", (ELW #531, Text & Music: Graham Kendrick © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere.)
4. "Thy Holy Wings" (ELW #613, Text: Carolina Berg, sts. 1,3; Gracia Grindal, st. 2; tr. composite; Music: Swedish folk tune; Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent. www.selahpub.com; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.)
5. "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" (ELW #843, Text: Rusty Edwards © 1987 Hope Publishing Company,; Music: J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part 3, 1813.)
6. "Lord of All Hopefulness" (ELW #765, Text: Jan Struther © Oxford University Press 1931; Music: Irish traditional tune "Slane".)

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