

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD
ST. JOHN'S EAGLE'S NEST PRESCHOOL**

MISSION STATEMENT
**Fellowship of Hope, Teaching, Serving and
Proclaiming!**

901 West Jefferson Avenue

Phone: (217) 342-4334

E-mail: saintjohnslcms@gmail.com

PRESCHOOL WEBSITE: eaglesnestpreschool.com

Effingham, Illinois 62401

Fax: (217) 342-6599

WEBSITE: stjohnslcms.net

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

"My Lord and My God"

5:30PM — April 7, 2018

8:00AM — April 8, 2018



THOSE WHO SERVE US

Each Member of St. John's	A Minister
Rev. Ted Gall	Senior Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker.....	Preschool Director
Mr. Dean Manuel	Organist
Mrs. Erin Wendling & Mrs. Melissa Goldstein.....	Song Leaders
St. John's Praise Band.....	10:30AM
Mr. Todd Zeigler.....	5:30PM Elder on Duty
Sophia Jansen	5:30PM Acolyte
Mr. Jeff Stremming.....	8AM Elder on Duty
Makenna Duckwitz.....	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Dave Wall	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Evan Pryor & Aiden Hanks.....	10:30AM Acolytes
Mr. Jeff Stremming 857-3891	Elder on Duty for April 9-April 13, 2018
Missionaries from Pakistan	Younis Darshan and Raja Shaleem
Missionaries from India	Ajay Paul & Sonne
Sister Congregation	in Blidene, Latvia
Mrs. Julie Scott	(343-3047) Prayer Chain Coordinator

WELCOME To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to the stranger, we extend our sincere greeting. If you are a visitor, please understand that you are our guest and we want you to feel welcome and comfortable. We are happy you chose to be with us in this service, and pray you have been blessed by our Lord today as He has blessed us by your presence.

CHRIST is important to us

- in our worship
- in our study
- in our fellowship
- in our lives.

YOU are important to us

- in our worship
- in our study
- in our fellowship
- in our lives.

HOLY COMMUNION – When the members of St. John’s Lutheran Church, (LCMS) celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we confess the Real Presence of Christ’s Body and Blood in the Bread and Wine, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. (*1 Cor 10:16 & 1 Cor 11:23-26*) We believe that Christ’s Body and Blood are present “in, with and under” the elements of the Holy Supper. (*Luther’s Small Catechism*) Members should register their intent to commune on the pew card. If you are visiting with us and you desire to join with us in communion fellowship in agreement with these beliefs, please speak to one of the Pastors or the elder on duty before the service.

HIS VISION FOR US:

St. John’s will be known for being involved in our changing community, for providing leadership in our changing world, and for serving others in Christian love.

We will welcome our diverse guests with open arms. Our friendly, loving and accepting people will engage our guests, mentor them in the faith, and inspire many to become members.

Our members will be motivated by the cross to be actively engaged in ministry, showing love and care to others. We will encourage one another, nurture one another, and enthusiastically serve our God together!

HIS GOAL FOR US:

We will pray and work with singleness of purpose to expand the impact of our ministry to God’s children of all ages, with special emphasis on young families, by developing new ways to strengthen the relationship between St. John’s, our members and our community, providing the facilities and resources to involve more people in ministry and outreach.

WELCOME CENTER Greeters are present at the Welcome Center in the atrium adjacent to our sanctuary before and after the service to answer any questions you may have, provide directions to restrooms, classrooms, etc. If you are a first time guest, we also have a gift for you. If you live in our community or surrounding area and you do not have a church home, we welcome your consideration. We offer true fellowship with a living Savior and membership in His Church.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER Kindly fill out a registration card (welcome side) located in the pew rack. Our guests are also asked to complete the address and phone number portion. Please pass your card to the center aisle to be gathered during the offering.

CELL PHONES Please turn your cell phones off before the service begins.

AS WE GATHER Thomas is seldom remembered for anything other than his doubt. In our quest to find relatable biblical characters, we often leave Thomas as a man who needed evidence—proof. We may miss his bold confession: “My Lord and my God!” While the other ten disciples had seen Jesus eight days earlier, none of them confessed as Thomas did. None of them believed until Jesus appeared to them and spoke His Word to them. Focus today not on Thomas’s doubt but rather on his confession of faith.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ PREPARATION +

HYMN..... **“He’s Risen, He’s Risen”**..... **[LSB 480]**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: He brings us light

People: **that shines in our darkness.**

Pastor: He brings us life

People: **that death cannot overcome**

Pastor: God is light.

People: **In Him there is no darkness at all.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION 1 John 1:8, 9; 2:1–2

Pastor: In the Epistle, John writes, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” Let us consider our sins so that we do not deceive ourselves with false righteousness. Heavenly Father,

People: we have chosen darkness instead of light. We have chosen death instead of life. Forgive us. Let Your light and life come to us again.

Pastor: John also writes, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Having heard your confession, and trusting in God’s Word and promises, I announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of the risen Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. “We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

+ **WORD** +

INTROIT - PSALM 148

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

People: ² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

Pastor: ³ Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

People: ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Pastor: ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.

People: ⁶ And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

Pastor: ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

People: ⁸ fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!

Pastor: ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

People: ¹⁰ Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

Pastor: ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

People: ¹² Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

Pastor: ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

People: ¹⁴ **He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!**

KYRIE (p. 152 in hymnal)

HYMN OF PRAISE..... *“This Is the Feast”*(p. 155 in hymnal)

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING..... **Acts 4:32–35**

(Great unity filled the Early Church as the apostles gave testimony to the resurrection of Jesus.)

³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE..... 1 John 1:1–2:2
(*God has come near to us with His light and life.*)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. **2** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 20:29b*

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL..... John 20:19–31
(*Jesus appears to a troubled Thomas.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again,

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” ²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

HYMN OF THE DAY “The Strife Is O’er, The Battle is Done” [LSB 464]

SERMON..... “Do You See Jesus?”..... John 20:19-31 by Rev. Gary Fortkamp

OFFERING/OFFERTORY “Take My Life And Let It Be” [stz 1,4,6 LSB 783]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Heavenly Father, we live in a world of darkness where many are plagued by shame, abuse, neglect, and hatred. Shine Your light into the dark corners of our hearts that we always walk in fellowship with You. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, we live in a world of death where threats of war, terrorism, disease, and disasters constantly abound. But You are the God of life. In the midst of all this death, bring the hope and comfort of Christ’s resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, there are many who do not know the joy of Your light and life and many who refuse to believe the power of Your resurrection unless they can see or experience something profound. Lead them to confess alongside Thomas, "My Lord and my God!" Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, send healing and care to all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Strengthen them with Your healing hand, and bring them the joy of fellowship we have in the communion of saints. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, many grieve and mourn the death of loved ones. [*Today we remember the families and friends of . . .*]. Comfort them with the hope of resurrection life, which is ours in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, every good and perfect gift comes from You. We thank You for the blessings You have poured out upon us. We rejoice with those who rejoice, [*especially . . .*]. Grant that our rejoicing draw us back to the Good News of Your light and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, at one time Your Church was united so that the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul. Unite Your Church once again so that we enjoy fellowship rather than fractured division. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

People: Amen.

+ SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. Most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying, He has destroyed death, and by His rising again, He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS ***(p. 161 in hymnal)***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI..... (p. 163 in hymnal)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” [LSB 461]
“Lord Of Glory, You Have Bought Us” [LSB 851]

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE “Thank The Lord” (p. 164 in hymnal)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the Light and life to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith so that we may always be prepared to confess You as Lord and God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

HYMN..... “When Peace Like A River” [LSB 763]

SILENT PRAYER

GREETING OF PEACE

POSTLUDE