

**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  
Effingham, Illinois 62401  
Phone: (217) 342-4334  
Fax: (217) 342-6599

E-mail: [saintjohnslcms@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnslcms@gmail.com)  
WEBSITE: [stjohnslcms.net](http://stjohnslcms.net)  
PRESCHOOL WEBSITE: [eaglesnestpreschool.com](http://eaglesnestpreschool.com)

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
*"New Life Today"*



**5:30PM — March 30, 2019**  
**8:00AM — March 31, 2019**

**THOSE WHO SERVE US**

Each Member of St. John's .....	A Minister
Rev. Ted Gall .....	Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp.....	Worship Leader
Mrs. Sandy Esker.....	Preschool Director
Mr. Jamie Lotz .....	Organist
Mrs. Amy Kohnert .....	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band.....	10:30AM
Mr. Chris Niebrugge .....	5:30PM Elder on Duty
A. J. Radloff .....	5:30PM Acolyte
Mr. Jeff Stremming.....	8AM Elder on Duty
Andrew Lotz.....	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Howard Janis.....	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Ella & Elena Niebrugge.....	10:30AM Acolyte
Mr. Dave Wall .....	Elder on Duty for April 1 – 6, 2019
Missionaries from Pakistan .....	Younis Darshan and Raja Shaleem
Missionaries from India .....	Ajay Paul & Sonne
Sister Congregation .....	in Blidene, Latvia
Adopted Chatelain School.....	Haiti
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** “Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift; that’s why we call it the present.” This short statement speaks volumes about our new life in Christ. Yesterday is history—in Christ, all our sins have been paid for, forgiven, and cast away as far as the east is from the west. Tomorrow is a mystery—not only do we not know the day or hour of Christ’s glorious return, but we also have no guarantees about what will happen in our lives mere moments from now. Today is a gift—the present time is indeed a gift, a present, from our gracious Father. He mercifully comes running to His prodigal children and embraces us in His arms. His love picks us up and places us into the nail-scarred hands of His Son, Jesus Christ, who puts to death our old lives, which were once lived without Him, and freely gives to us our new lives, which are now fully lived in and through Him.

**+ PREPARATION +**

**HYMN**..... *“Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing”*..... **[LSB 686]**

**OPENING VERSICLES**

**Pastor:** Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid;

**People:** **for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

**INVOCATION**

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

**People:** **Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**People:** **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

**Pastor:** That we may receive the blessing of Christ’s forgiveness, let us draw near to God, confessing the brokenness of our sin and receiving the fullness of our Father’s mercy. Together, we pray:

**People:** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;  
People: **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: In Holy Baptism, almighty God, our merciful Father has declared you to be His children and has gathered you into His family, the Church, in which He daily and richly forgives all your sins and the sins of all believers. This new life is yours today! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: **Amen!**

Pastor: Steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.  
People: **Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

**+ WORD +**

***INTROIT Psalm 51:2–6; antiphon: v. 1***

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.  
People: **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

Pastor: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.  
People: **Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

Pastor: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.  
People: **Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

***KYRIE .....*** (p. 186 in hymnal)

***SALUTATION***

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning. Though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul.

**People:** **Grant that we may daily receive Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and live as those You have made new; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING..... Isaiah 12:1–6**  
*(The Lord God has become my salvation.)*

You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. <sup>2</sup>“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL Hebrews 12:2**

**Pastor:** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

**People:** **the Founder and Perfecter of our faith,**

**Pastor:** who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,

**People:** **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**EPISTLE..... 2 Corinthians 5:16–21**  
*(In Christ, the old has passed away, and the new has come.)*

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not

counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Luke 15:22a, 24a*

Pastor: The father said to his servants, “This my son was dead, and is alive again;

**People: he was lost, and is found.”**

**HOLY GOSPEL** .....**Luke 15:1–3, 11–32**

*(The father embraces his prodigal son.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

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

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup> And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

***APOSTLES’ CREED*** .....(as found on the back page in the hymnal)

***HYMN OF THE DAY*** ..... ***“Salvation Unto Us Has Come”***..... (LSB 555)

***SERMON***.....***“A Loving And Forgiving Father”***..... ***Luke 15:1-3, 11-32***  
***Rev. Gary Fortkamp***

***OFFERING & OFFERTORY***.....***“Create In Me”***.....(LSB 956)

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH***.....***Psalm 32:7***

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For the blessing of all creation, that our loving and creating Father would preserve and defend all that He has made, working all things together for the good of those who love Him, especially working in the hearts and minds of those who have wandered from His house, that through repentance and faith sinners turn to Him and take refuge in His fatherly care, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **You are a hiding place for me!**

Pastor: For the blessing of the Church of Jesus, that our gracious Savior guide the hearts, minds, and ministries of all who love Him and seek to make His Gospel known, that we would be defended from our adversaries, strengthened in our discipleship, and emboldened in our witness to a lost and dying world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **You preserve me from trouble!**

Pastor: For those who struggle in heart, body, mind, and relationship, that healing would come to those for whom we pray, [*including . . .*], that the Holy Spirit would bind up the brokenhearted, mend the hurting, heal the sick, strengthen the weak, and grant perfect peace to all who belong to Him, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: You surround me with shouts of deliverance!**

Pastor: For these and all other prayers we bring before the Father's throne of grace, that through the intercession of His perfect Son and in the company of the eternal Spirit, we take confidence in knowing that our prayers are heard and answered by Him who knows all things and directs all things according to His gracious will, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

Pastor: We pray all these things in the precious name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

### ***LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9–13***

#### ***BENEDICTION Isaiah 12:2***

Pastor: Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid;

**People: for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

Pastor: Confident of our salvation, let us go forth in the name of the Lord. 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..... "Oh, For A Thousand Tongues To Sing"..... [LSB 528]***

#### ***SILENT PRAYER***

#### ***GREETING OF PEACE***

#### ***POSTLUDE***

### **We Exit to Serve!**

***If this service has moved you spiritually and you have questions regarding your spiritual life, please feel free to visit with Pastor after the service.***