

## 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.

### THOSE WHO SERVE US

Each Member of St. John's .....	A Minister
Rev. Mike Burdick.....	Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp.....	Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker .....	Preschool Director
Mr. Jamie Lotz .....	Organist
Mrs. Melissa Goldstein .....	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band.....	10:30AM Music
Mr. Jeff Weis .....	5:30PM Elder on Duty
Mr. Jeff Stremming .....	8AM Elder on Duty
Andrew Lotz .....	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Jake Wendling .....	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Aiden Hanks.....	10:30AM Acolyte
Mr. Howard Janis 217-821-6728 .....	Elder on Duty for Feb. 17 – Feb. 21, 2020
Sister Congregation.....	in Blidene, Latvia
Chatelain School & Baja School.....	Our Schools for feeding in Haiti
Mrs. Julie Scott .....	(217-343-3047) Prayer Partner Coordinator
State, National & International Missions.....	through our District and Synod

**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.

### 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 the 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

We consider today all of the division and conflict that exists in the world, in our church, and in our lives. Jesus cares deeply about reconciliation, about people coming together and forgiving one another. It is even part of the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Whatever grudges you are holding can be overcome with the peace of Christ.

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Reconciliation and Peace

## CALL TO WORSHIP – BELLS

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HYMN** "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

**#843**

## INVOCATION

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

**People:** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

**Pastor:** Blessed are those whose way is blameless,

**People:** who walk in the law of the Lord.

**Pastor:** Blessed are the peacemakers,

**People:** for they shall be called sons of God.

**Pastor:** The Lord has made known His salvation.

**People:** He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God calls on us to be blameless, to live in peace with one another, to not hold grudges or be angry with anyone. But we have failed to live as God has instructed. We have created division and discord. We have refused to be reconciled with others. We come before our heavenly Father to ask for His forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we confess that we have not always walked in Your ways. We confess that we have ignored and avoided conflict rather than seek reconciliation. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins. Bring Your reconciliation and peace that surpasses all understanding into our lives.**

Pastor: Even though we have held on to our anger and resentment of others, our heavenly Father sent Jesus to be our reconciliation and peace. By the blood of Jesus, we are reconciled to God and can approach Him in all confidence. By the blood of Jesus, we are reconciled with one another. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. We are reconciled and at peace with God. We are forgiven in Christ.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** “Joy to the World” #387, (Sts.2, 4)

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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

*Deuteronomy 30:15–20*

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR** (8:00 & 10:30)

“We Believe”

Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?

*1 Corinthians 15:55*

**GRADUAL**

*Psalms 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Pastor: Praise the LORD, all nations!

People: **Extol Him, all peoples!**

Pastor: For great is His steadfast love toward us,

People: **and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

People: **bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

**EPISTLE**

*1 Corinthians 3:1–9*

<sup>1</sup>But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

<sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**VERSE**

*Ephesians 5:2*

Pastor: Alleluia. Walk in love, as Christ loved us

People: **and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 5:21–37*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

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

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus said:] “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

<sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

<sup>31</sup>“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup>“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

## CREED

*Apostles Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”

#698

## CATECHISM

*The 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment & Meaning*

pg. 321

**SERMON**            “God’s Word Brings Blessings”

*Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Cor. 3:1-9;  
Matt. 5:21-27*

**OFFERING**

**HYMN**            “Take My Life and Let It Be”

**#783**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:**        Dear heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to reconcile the world to Yourself and to make peace by the blood of His cross. Give us courage to seek forgiveness and reconciliation with one another, that Your peace that surpasses all understanding rule our hearts and minds. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**        **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:**        Lord, there are many divisions in Your Church. Too often we have identified ourselves as those who follow earthly leaders, rather than as those who follow Christ. Bring unity where there is division, peace where there is discord, and reconciliation where there is conflict. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**        **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:**        Lord, comfort all those who are suffering in grief, [*especially . . .*]. Console them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal peace and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**        **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:**        Lord, strengthen all marriages, encourage those who are single, and help us to recognize the value of each person, for all have been redeemed by Christ, the Crucified and Risen One. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**        **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:**        Lord, bless all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they plant and water good seed in Your kingdom. We humbly ask You to provide growth where and when You will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**        **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:**        Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**        **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:**        Lord, we commend all of these things to Your infinite mercies, which are new every morning. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**        **hear our prayer. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:**     **Our Father who art in heaven,  
                  hallowed be Thy name,  
                  Thy kingdom come,  
                  Thy will be done on earth  
                  as it is in heaven;  
                  give us this day our daily bread;  
                  and forgive us our trespasses  
                  as we forgive those  
                  who trespass against us;  
                  and lead us not into temptation,  
                  but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
                  and the power and the glory  
                  forever and ever. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

**HYMN**             “When Peace, like a River”

**#763**

## POSTLUDE

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