

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

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

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**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
***"God Handles What You Can't Handle"***

**5:30PM — July 29, 2017**

**8:00AM — July 30, 2017**



**THOSE WHO SERVE US**

Each Member of St. John's .....	A Minister
Rev. Ted Gall .....	Senior Pastor
Rev. Earl Brown .....	Assistant Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker .....	Preschool Director
Mr. Dean Manuel .....	5:30PM Organist
Mrs. Jerry Starner .....	8AM Organist
Mrs. Meghan Wahl .....	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band .....	10:30AM
Mr. John Jackson.....	5:30PM Elder on Duty
Coralin Ohnesorge .....	5:30PM Acolyte
Mr. Jerry Pruemer .....	8AM Elder on Duty
Kaiden Kohnert .....	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Todd Zeigler.....	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Jon Perry .....	10:30AM Acolyte
Mr. Gayland Bourland 343-4366 .....	Elder on Duty for July 31 – August 4, 2017
Missionaries from Pakistan .....	Younis Darshan and Raja Shaleem
Missionaries from India .....	Ajay Paul & Sonne
Sister Congregation .....	in Blidene, Latvia
Mrs. Arnetia Osborn .....	(342-2210) 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** “God never gives you more than you can handle.” These words are often used to try to comfort someone who is suffering. These words are often spoken as if this is what the Scriptures teach about suffering. However, these words are not found in the Scriptures. Nor is the idea that you never face more than you can handle. This not-so-helpful idea is loosely based on today’s Epistle, “all things work together for good,” and 1 Corinthians 10:13, that God “will not let you be tempted beyond your ability.” While it’s a well-intended comment, “God never gives you more than you can handle” is simply not true. Life does sometimes give us more than we can handle. If we could handle these things and more, then why would we even need God? Instead of protecting us from more than we can handle, God handles what we can’t handle. Joseph couldn’t handle it when his brothers sold him into slavery. But God handled it as He guided Joseph toward leadership in Egypt. What amazing news it is that no matter what might happen to you in this life, even when you can’t handle it at all and you feel like your life is crumbling to pieces, God can handle it!

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**+ PREPARATION +**

**HYMN**..... **“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**..... **[LSB 657]**

**INVOCATION**

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

**People:** Amen.

## ***OPENING SENTENCES***

Pastor: Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: **Amid trouble, distress, and persecution,**

Pastor: Christ Jesus is interceding for us.

People: **Amid hunger, loneliness, and danger,**

Pastor: Christ Jesus is interceding for us.

People: **Amid violence, powers, heights, and depths,**

Pastor: Christ Jesus is interceding for us.

People: **Amid life and death,**

Pastor: Christ Jesus is interceding for us.

People: **Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from Christ Jesus our Lord.**

## ***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION***

Pastor: Mighty and merciful Lord, with heavy hearts we confess our sin to You.  
O Lord,

People: **we have sinned against You, mighty God, in thought, word, and deed.**

Pastor: When we have lived as though we are separated from Your steadfast love,

People: **we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**

Pastor: When our loneliness has caused us to question Your abiding love,

People: **we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**

Pastor: When we have let others around us live in loneliness, when all they need is a listening ear,

People: **we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**

Pastor: When we have separated ourselves from the Church, from friends, from our families,

People: **we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Bring us to repentance, Lord. Forgive our sins, those of which we are aware and those we do unwittingly. Have mercy on us. Seek us, for You alone can find us and restore us.**

Pastor: Thus says the Lord God, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.**

**+ WORD +**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 105:2–6; antiphon: Psalm 105:1*

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!

People: **Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!**

Pastor: Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

People: **Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!**

Pastor: Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,

People: **O offspring of Abraham, His servant, children of Jacob, His chosen ones! 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.**

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!

**HYMN OF PRAISE....."Great Is Thy Faithfulness".....[LSB 809]**

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. You treasure us, O Lord, and You steadfastly love Your chosen people.

People: **In the midst of even the worst things that can happen to us, we are more than conquerors through the love of Jesus.**

Pastor: Help us to know the peace that Your presence brings in the midst of our troubles,

People: **and guide us toward the kingdom You promised;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** ..... **Deuteronomy 7:6–9**  
*(Chosen to be a treasured possession)*

<sup>6</sup>“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup> but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *Romans 11:33, 36*

Pastor: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

People: **How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!**

Pastor: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

People: **To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

**EPISTLE**..... **Romans 8:28–39**  
*(Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus.)*

<sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or

famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** .....**Matthew 13:44–52**  
*(Parables describing the kingdom of God)*

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup> When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** ..... **“On Eagles’ Wings”** ..... [LSB 727]

**SERMON**..... **“Priceless Treasure”** .....**Matthew 13:44-52**

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY** ..... **“We Give Thee But Thine Own”** [Sts. 1–2: LSB 781]

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: As the Lord’s treasured possession, a people loved and redeemed through our Savior Jesus Christ, let us bring acclamations of praise, cries for justice, pleas for mercy, and requests for peace for all those in need in our lonely and

broken world and for ourselves. Your steadfast love sustains the Church throughout the world. Strengthen the Church wherever two or three are gathered in Your name. Guide the Church into all truth. Empower our proclamation of the Gospel, so that the world may know the joy of Your kingdom. Bless the work of missionaries and church leaders. Enable all congregations of our Synod to be sources of God's love and redemption to the people in the communities in which they live. God of steadfast love,

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

Pastor: You promise that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Guide the rulers of our nation and of all the nations of the world toward justice, wisdom, mercy, and peace. Watch over our military personnel, and make Your comforting presence known to their families. Protect innocent people in war-torn nations. Preserve us from acts of terrorism. Reconcile us with our enemies. God of steadfast love,

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

Pastor: You work all things together for good for those who love You. Let Your love sustain and encourage those who are facing health troubles, [*including . . .*]. Bless those who are in danger, those who are feeling lonely or depressed, and those who feel separated from You. Help them to see that even in the midst of suffering, You are there, and that nothing in all creation can separate them from Your love for us in Christ Jesus. God of steadfast love,

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

Pastor: You faithfully keep Your covenant promise to love us and redeem us. We pray today for those in need who have requested our prayer, [*including . . .*]. God of steadfast love,

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

Pastor: You provide for the needs of our bodies and souls. Bless the labor of all who set their hands to useful tasks—farmers and business owners, construction workers and accountants, homemakers and retail workers, factory workers and executives. Calm the hearts of the unemployed and underemployed. Grant that our land will produce an abundant harvest of goods and services that will bless many. Guide our stewardship of the gifts You entrust to us. God of steadfast love,

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



Pastor: You redeemed us from slavery to sin through our Lord Jesus. Guide us to recognize Your kingdom at work in this world, and help us so to love You, that we serve our neighbors selflessly. God of steadfast love,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: You conquer death and despair. We give You thanks for those who have gone before us and now abide in Your tender arms, [*including . . .*]. We thank You for their life and witness, and how Your grace was shown in some way through them. God of steadfast love,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Christ Jesus, the one who died and rose, is interceding for us. We boldly entrust our prayers to You, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**People: Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **BENEDICTION** *Based on Deuteronomy 7:6; Romans 8:39*

Pastor: You are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession. Nothing in all creation will be able to separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

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.....“How Firm A Foundation”..... [stz 1,3,5 LSB 728]**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

### **GREETING OF PEACE**

### **POSTLUDE**

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