

**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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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
"And the Life Everlasting"

5:30PM — November 18, 2017

8:00AM — November 19, 2017



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. Andrea Wendling.....	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band.....	10:30AM
Mr. Todd Zeigler.....	5:30PM Elder on Duty
Tori Budde	5:30PM Acolyte
Mr. Jerry Pruemer	8AM Elder on Duty
Kaiden Kohnert & Jon Perry	8AM Acolytes
Mr. Gayland Bourland	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Evan Pryor	10:30AM Acolyte
Mr. Howard Haake 342-3596	Elder on Duty for Nov. 20-Nov. 24, 2017
Missionaries from Pakistan	Younis Darshan and Raja Shaleem
Missionaries from India	Ajay Paul & Sonne
Sister Congregation	in Blidene, Latvia
Prayer Chain Coordinator, Julie Scott	217-343-3047

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.

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 attitude 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 The darkening days of the world are a time for God's people to be looking toward the light—the light of Christ. Through our worship, we call out to our gracious God to brighten our lives as only He can. With the psalmist we call out, "Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days" (Psalm 90:14). God promises to satisfy us not only for our earthly lives but eternally as well. Looking toward that time of great surprise with confidence and hope, we say with the psalmist, "Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us" (Psalm 90:17a), and we respond to that favor with our heartfelt praise.

RINGING OF THE BELLS
PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ PREPARATION +

HYMN..... “All Hail The Power Of Jesus’ Name”..... [LSB 549, stz 1, 2, 5, 7]

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Revelation 19:1–2, 5–7

Pastor: Praise our God, all you His servants, you who fear Him, small and great.

People: **For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory.**

Pastor: Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

People: **for His judgments are true and just.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As children of the light and well beloved by our gracious God, let us come with confidence before the throne of grace to confess our sins and to receive absolution.

People: **Almighty God, whose compassion never fails, we come before You in penitence. We know that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Grant us Your mercy, and spare us from the just punishment of our sin, which our Lord Jesus Christ has borne for us on the cross. Renew us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may walk in the light of Your love, now and forever.**

Pastor: God has promised to grant His forgiveness to all who repent of their sins and turn to Him for mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May our God keep you in His grace, lead you in ways of faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

+ WORD +

INTROIT Psalm 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: v. 1

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!

People: **Enter not into judgment with Your servant, for no one living is righteous before You.**

Women: *I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done; I ponder the work of Your hands.*

Men: *I stretch out my hands to You; my soul thirsts for You like a parched land.*

Women: *Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God! Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!*

Men: *For Your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In Your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!*

People: **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: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In Your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

HYMN..... "Now Thank we All Our God"..... [LSB 895]

SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness, and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING..... Zephaniah 1:7-16

(The Day of the Lord is coming near.)

⁷ Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.

⁸ And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

⁹ On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.

¹⁰ "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills.

¹¹ Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off.

¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are

complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.'
13 Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."

14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.

15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

(Encouragement at the coming of the Lord.)

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC The Lord My God Be Praised"by Praise & Worship Choir

GRADUAL Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

Pastor: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

People: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Pastor: Blessed are those whose strength is in You,

People: in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

HOLY GOSPEL..... Matthew 25:14-30

(The parable of the use of the talents.)

¹⁴ “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CREED The Second Article

Pastor: In the Second Article, we confess the work of our Savior Jesus Christ, who takes away our sin and rescues us from the snares of the devil. We confess:

People: **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.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

HYMN OF THE DAY *“The Day Is Surely Drawing Near”*[LSB 508, stz 1-4]

SERMON *“Being Good Stewards”* *Matthew 25:14-30*

HYMN..... *“The Day Is Surely Drawing Near”*[LSB 508, stz 5-7]

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *“Create In Me”* (p. 956 in hymnal)

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. We pray for the Church. We bless You, O God, for the gift of the Church, our place of nurture and of refuge. May the Church continue to be faithful in sharing the message of salvation and in distributing the gifts You have for Your people. In mercy, O Lord,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Let us pray for the nations of the world and for our nation and its leaders. We thank You, O God, for the world in which we live and for the human family of which we are a part. May all who are in positions of leadership around the globe find ways that lead to peace and security. May the leaders of our nation, state, and local communities seek to do that which brings blessing to all people and serves the common good. Help us to be bringers of light into places that are darkened, that our lives may be marked by service in the name of Christ, who has served us with love and forgiveness. In mercy, O Lord,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Let us pray for a right view of the world and our places in it. When You created the world, O God, You called it good. We know that sin has darkened and marred much of that original good creation. Direct our ways, O God, toward a respectful use of the earth and all that comprises our world, that we

may be faithful stewards in our time, leaving a legacy for those who come after us until the time of the return of Christ, who will establish a new heaven and a new earth. In mercy, O Lord,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Let us pray regarding the special needs and concerns known to us this day. Lord, You know all things. You know our needs and the needs of others even before we speak of them with words or in our hearts. Hear our petitions for those who are hospitalized or ill, for those who are shut in or find their lives limited in some way, for those whose work is unfulfilling or who have no work at all, for those who are grieving on this day, and for those who seek some special blessing, [*including . . .*], that their lives may know Your presence. In mercy, O Lord,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: In this time of prayer, let us remember all those no longer living on earth, whose witness informs and strengthens us. We thank You, Lord, for all those people whose faith and faithfulness have inspired us. We thank You for the lessons we have learned from them and pray that, as the Holy Spirit works in and through us, we may pass along the light that they kindled in us. May our days and our deeds bring glory to Your name for the sake of Christ, our Savior. In mercy, O Lord,

People: **hear our prayer.**

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

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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..... “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer” [LSB 918]

SILENT PRAYER
GREETING OF PEACE
POSTLUDE

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