

**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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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
"Growing In Love"

5:30PM — June 16, 2018

8:00AM — June 17, 2018



THOSE WHO SERVE US

Each Member of St. John's	A Minister
Rev. Ted Gall	Senior Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker.....	Preschool Director
Mrs. Jerry Starner	Organist
Ms. Holly Hulskotter	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band.....	10:30AM
Mr. Gayland Bourland	5:30PM Elder on Duty
A. J. Radloff	5:30PM Acolyte
Mr. Jerry Pruemer	8AM Elder on Duty
Andrew Lotz.....	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Todd Zeigler.....	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Ella Niebrugge	10:30AM Acolyte
Mr. Dave Wall 347-0893	Elder on Duty for June 18 – June 22, 2018
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 “Now the green blade rises from the buried grain” is the first line of a well-known Easter carol. The wonder of God’s handiwork can be seen in the smallest things of God’s great creation. Even in a grain of mustard seed there is the promise of new life and fruitfulness. God provides for all of our needs out of love for His creatures. And He rejoices in the growth that occurs. As the “rolling seasons in fruitful order move” (LSB 893:1), we celebrate that in Christ we have a central role in God’s amazing plan as we grow in love.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN..... “Blessed Jesus, At Your Word”[LSB 904]

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 31:1, 14–15a, 16

Pastor: In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;

People: in Your righteousness deliver me!

Pastor: But I trust in You, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.”

People: My times are in Your hand.

Pastor: Make Your face shine on Your servant;

People: save me in Your steadfast love!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 Thessalonians 5:23–24*

Pastor: O God our Father, since You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Forgive us for the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the Means of Grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in Your service, and our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

Pastor: Forgive us that so little of Your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, and unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

People: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

People: Amen.

+ WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 92:12–15; antiphon: v. 1*

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.

People: The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Pastor: They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

People: They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to declare that the LORD is upright;

Pastor: He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

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: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.

HYMN OF PRAISE.....“Alleluia! Let Praises Ring” [vs. 1 LSB 822]

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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..... Ezekiel 17:22–24
(The Lord promises a new planting in Israel.)

²² Thus says the Lord GOD: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 1

Pastor: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,

People: **nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**

Pastor: but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
People: **and on His law he meditates day and night.**

Pastor: He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.
People: **The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

Pastor: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the
congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.
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.**

EPISTLE..... 2 Corinthians 5:1–10 (11–17)
(God promises a house eternal in the heavens.)

5 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2** For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, **3** if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. **4** For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. **5** He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. **6** So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, **7** for we walk by faith, not by sight. **8** Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. **9** So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. **11** Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. **12** We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. **13** For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. **14** For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; **15** and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. **16** 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. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE 2 *Peter 3:18a*

People: **Alleluia. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL **Mark 4:26–34**
(*Jesus teaches the parable of the mustard seed.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

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

²⁶ And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” ³⁰ And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CREED *The Second Article*

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 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 “What A Friend We Have In Jesus”..... [LSB 770]

SERMON The Kingdom Of The Mustard Seed” Mark 4:26-34-by Rev. Gary Fortkamp

OFFERING/OFFERTORY “Take My Life And Let It Be”..... [vs 1, 4, 5 LSB 783]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Jesus Christ and for all people according to their needs. For the whole Church throughout the world, that as people united in faith and active in love we witness to the Good News that is ours in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all nations of the earth, that in those places where strife and discord rule there be times of peace and reconciliation, and for our own nation that it be an ensign of hope, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our families as on this day we honor our fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers, that they be supportive of and caring toward each person, seeing Christ in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the varied situations of daily life in which we are placed, especially in our workplaces and neighborhoods, that we be peace-bringers in all of our actions and words, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the special needs of this day, remembering those who are ill and those who mourn and for all those matters on our hearts this day, [*including . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all those saints who have completed their earthly journeys in faith and have left us a legacy of love, let us thank the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

THEME CELEBRATION "Growing in Love"

Pastor: As the calendar takes us from spring to summer, we see many evidences of growth around us. The growth of crops in the fields and flowers and vegetables in the garden is easily noticed. Not so visually obvious is growth within ourselves, as the Holy Spirit works in us and through us. In this season we look to continue growing in faith, joy, hope, and especially in love.

Paul writes about the great importance of love in 1 Corinthians 13, and Peter encourages us with these words: "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8).

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..... "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"..... [LSB 577]

SILENT PRAYER

GREETING OF PEACE

POSTLUDE

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