



*17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020*

St John Cemetery, 2507 Engle Road

ST JOHN EV LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR VISION:

We envision a world fed and led by God

OUR MISSION:

Fed and Led by God, we live as a neighbor - in the West Central community, the city of Fort Wayne, and all the world.

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Pastor
Rev. Paul Offhaus

Director of Music
Jay Heare

Organist
Martin P. Gigler

Caring Ministries
Tony Shelton

AS WE GATHER

We are pleased to welcome you to the cemetery of St. John Lutheran Church. At St. John we envision a world fed and led by God. As we gather around Word and Sacrament to worship God, our gracious God comes to meet and bless us, so that we might be a blessing to others!

God's blessings as you worship today. God's peace as you leave this place. God's strength as you live and serve our Lord this week.

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY & FRIDAY
IN OFFICE 8:00 AM-3:00 PM
TUESDAY-THURSDAY (REMOTELY)
8:00 AM-3:00 PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 (10:00 AM)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please stand as you are able)

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Faithful God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

“Change My Heart, O God”

Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God. May I be like you.
You are the potter, I am the clay;
mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God. May I be like you.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. As a called and ordained minister . . . in the name of the †Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

***WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

(Please remain in place and maintain physical distancing while you greet those around you in the name of Christ.)

***OPENING SONG**

“Gather Us In”

Vs 1 Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Vs 2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Vs 3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Vs 4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away--
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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***GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

(please be seated)

FIRST READING..... *Philippians 2:1-13*

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM READING *Psalms 148*

A: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

C: **Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

A: Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

C: **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

A: Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

C: who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

A: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

C: fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

A: mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

C: wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

A: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

C: young men and maidens, old and young together.

A: Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

C: The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,

A: the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Worship Book - Setting 10 Page 205
"Alleluia"



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

THE HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:23-32*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'

²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard

John as a prophet.”²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Paul Offhaus

SONG OF THE DAY “*Fairest with Fairest Lord Jesus*”

Leader Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Oh, thou of God and man the Son;
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows; fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Chorus

You are fairer than the fairest of ten thousand,
lovelier than all I've ever seen;
you are brighter than the brightest star in heaven;
Jesus, you're everything to me;
Jesus, you're everything to me.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer than all the angels heav'n can boast. *Chorus*

Chorus

Beautiful Savior, Lord of all nations,
Son of God and Son of Man.
Glory and honor, praise, adoration
now and forevermore be thine.

Author: Joseph Seiss & Glenn Packiam, arr. by Richard S. Willis & Dan Galbraith
Copyright: © 2004 Vertical Worship Songs

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

St. John is excited to welcome these new members: Alexis Ortega, Kristen Fisher, Robert McClam and Sara Zuber

APOSTLES' CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

P: People of God, do you promise to support these brothers and sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Let us rejoice with these brothers and sisters in Christ.

C: **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(after each petition, please respond as follows):*

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: ...through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

HYMN “*Let All Things Now Living*”

Vs 1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, his light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

Vs 2 His law he enforces,
the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980
(c) 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated as we review the contents of a time capsule St. John school students assembled back in 1999.

Plus: A Scavenger Hunt following!

Those who brought an offering may place it in the Joy Box at the back of the tent.

Here in This Place

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 His law he en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim him di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, his light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS (9/27)

Presiding Minister & PreacherRev. Paul Offhaus
Assisting Minister Deb Waybright
Worship Leader Jay Heare
Keyboardist Martin P. Gigler, Jay Heare
Greeters Brett Fisher, Lori Healy-Fisher
DeaconPete Newcomb
Ushers Cindy & Catie Witters
Altar Guild Lois Sharp, Dorothy Epple
Media/Sound Jay Heare, Mike McGahey, Pete Newcomb, Lori Paul

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS (10/4)

Presiding Minister & PreacherRev. Paul Offhaus
Assisting MinistersPete Newcomb
Worship Leader Jay Heare
Organist Martin P. Gigler
Greeters Nancy Henninger, Hannah Starrick
Deacon Chris Walda
Ushers Mike & Lisa Burris
Altar Guild Bonnie Shurboff
Media/Sound Mike McGahey, Pete Newcomb, Lori Paul

St. John Still Selling Their Famous Johnny Appleseed Apple Pies!



Even though the Johnny Appleseed Festival is not being held this year, St. John Lutheran Church's Johnny Appleseed apple pies are still being offered.

The last day to pre-order is September 27th!

You can pre-order your pies:

- by visiting West Central Coffee, 1006 Broadway, daily from 7 AM - 3 PM
- by calling Tony at 260.385.5244, Monday - Friday 8 AM - 3 PM
- or at www.WestCentralCoffee.com.

Both frozen and pre-baked pies are available. Order one to eat today, one for Thanksgiving dinner, and one for Christmas dinner!

The cost is only \$10 per pie.

Pies will be ready for pick up at West Central Coffee during normal business hours (7 AM – 3 PM) from Sunday, October 11th through Sunday, October 18th.

In addition, on October 11th, from Noon until 6 PM, you may pick up your pies at a contact-free drive-through at the St. John Church parking lot (729 W. Washington) where we can just put them in your trunk for you.

A limited quantity of pies **MAY** be available for those who missed pre-ordering -
e-mail pies@stjohnluth.com for availability.

Looking for more information or have a question?
E-mail pies@stjohnluth.com.