

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
A Family Connecting in Christ



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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Masked or Unmasked

We seek to serve God's people whether masked or unmasked. Therefore, we have a "mask only" area at the back of church for those who wish to be masked and together with others who are masked. For those who are fully vaccinated and wish to worship without a mask, we have a "mask optional" area in the front of the church. If you have questions, please ask!

To Our Guests

- We pray that you receive a warm welcome and are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns. If you have questions, please ask!
- Our service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ – forgiveness and peace, help and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven.

Our Communion Practice

We practice close communion, the Biblical and ancient practice of the church.

We invite our congregation members and visitors from sister WELS or ELS congregations to join us, but ask Christians from other denominations to kindly respect our practice.

Further explanation is in the pew racks or from our pastor.

We Care about Your Children

We love to have children with us in worship.

- If your children are crying loudly, our nursery, Gathering Area (back of church), and downstairs Fellowship Hall are audio-equipped for you and your young children. When your children are ready, come back so we can worship together.

We Care about Your Special Needs

- **Hearing Assistance** for those with hearing aids is provided through our Hearing Loop or personal hearing devices available at the "sound table."
- A **wheelchair lift** is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.



Our Facilities

Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.

Our Ministry

St. John offers an excellent preschool-8th grade school program. We are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) - www.wels.net.

June 20, 2021

Service of Word & Sacrament

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we celebrate Father's Day and thank our Father in heaven for the blessings that he gives through fathers.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we see the great importance of the responsibilities that our Father in heaven gives to fathers in this world. May our Father preserve our families from the pain of "Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda" parenting, and bless us with families following the Word of our perfect and loving Father.

OPENING HYMN

"For Christian Homes, O Lord, We Pray"

Hymn 500

For Christian homes, O Lord, we pray,
That you might dwell with us each day.
Make ours a place where you are Lord,
Where all is governed by your Word.

We are the children of you grace;
Our homes are now your dwelling place.
In you we trust and daily live;
Teach us to serve and to forgive.

United in a bond of love,
We lift our eyes to you above.
From you we gain the strength to live,
The wish to share, the joy to give.

Protect us and our loved ones dear
From pain and sorrow, want and fear;
Yet when we must our burdens bear,
"Your will be done" shall be our prayer.

And when you call us all to rest,
Then will we have a home more blest,
See all our care and sorrow cease,
And find with Christ eternal peace.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION +

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called 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.

C: **Amen.**

+ PRAYER AND PRAISE +

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **♪ Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C:  Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo-ri-ous is your name in all the earth.



Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa-ther, you crown our life with your love.



You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it; you make us



pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your on-ly Son,



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord, how glo-ri-ous is your



name in all the earth. O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word



of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known;



you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the



King of glo-ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,



how glo-ri-ous is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we commend to your care all the homes where your people live. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, moderation, patience, and godliness. Bind together in enduring affection those who have become one in marriage. Let children and parents have full respect and affection for one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 2:18-35 (select)

Samuel was ministering before the LORD - a boy wearing a linen ephod. Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD." Then they would go home. And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.

Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. [v.12...Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD.] So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. No, my sons; it is not a good report that I hear spreading among the LORD's people. If a man sins against another man, God may mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the LORD's will to put them to death....

Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: ... Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?"

“Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that your house and your father’s house would minister before me forever.’ But now the LORD declares: ‘Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your father’s house, so that there will not be an old man in your family line and you will see distress in my dwelling. Although good will be done to Israel, in your family line there will never be an old man. Every one of you that I do not cut off from my altar will be spared only to blind your eyes with tears and to grieve your heart, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life.

“And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you - they will both die on the same day. I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his house, and he will minister before my anointed one always....”

And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men [v. 26].

PSALM 38



O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger*
or discipline me in your wrath.

For your arrows have pierced me,*
and your hand has come down upon me.

My guilt has overwhelmed me*
like a burden too heavy to bear. *Refrain*

All my longings lie open before you, O LORD;*
my sighing is not hidden from you.

I wait for you, O LORD;*
you will answer, O Lord my God.

Come quickly to help me,*
O Lord my Savior.

**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. *Refrain***

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 12:7-13

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! Alleluia.
(1 John 3:1)

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:25-33

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Hymn 449

Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in Heaven Such a refuge ne’er was given.

God, His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord, his children sever;
Unto them his grace he showeth, And their sorrows all he knoweth.

Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them, pure and holy.

SERMON

1 Samuel 2:11-36

Like Father, like son. You’ve seen it in baby pictures, haven’t you? Father and son baby pictures can look so much alike. You’ve heard it on the phone and wondered: “Who am I talking with - father or son?” With father and son, sounds, looks, mannerisms can be so much alike. Like Father, like son. That’s what “our Father who art in heaven” hoped for. That’s what “our Father who art in heaven” worked for. How? He showed what love is, what love does. He loved and cared for his wife even when she was difficult. He loved and cared for his children even when they were difficult. He was there for them, watching out for them, ready to listen to them. He cared for them, taking care of their needs. He forgave them when they needed forgiving, defended them when they needed defending. He guided and gave direction. He set boundaries and - sometimes with a light hand, sometimes with a heavy hand - he enforced those boundaries. And when the time was right, “our Father” set his son, Eli, up in the family business, taught him, trained him, set him up to be the CEO, to be the face of the family business. And when Eli had two sons of his own, as a family man, the Father set those sons up in the family business with their dad.

In the ways listed above that “Our Father who art in heaven” shows love to his children, which are the most important for us to emulate? Which are the easiest for us to emulate?

As a Father, God had big hopes for his son, big hopes for his son’s sons. Big hopes that went like this - like Father, like son. But something went wrong in the family tree. Someone, everyone in the family tree thought he knew better than our Father. Our

Father still loved; he still cared, still listened, still forgave. He didn't give up on his family, didn't write them off; and he didn't give up on being a Father - he still drew the line on right and wrong. And through it all he still hoped - like Father, like son.

But what do we see? His son, Eli, gave up on being a father. Oh, Eli still went through some of the motions; he still said some of the words. But he took the easy way out. He chose ease and comfort over being the father his sons needed. And what did it get him? What did it get them?

Oh, for a while it got them good meat and sweet treats. When people brought an offering and sacrifice to the LORD, those in the family business were entitled to some of the meat. But Hophni and Phinehas weren't content with what God and his people had for them. They wanted more; they wanted better. So they bullied their way in and took what they wanted. And Eli? Well, Eli liked more meat and better meat too, so instead of being the father his boys needed, he settled for ease and comfort and meat. But that wasn't all that Eli let slide. His sons were in the family business of God; they were supposed to be like God, pure, holy, caring, trustworthy. Instead they seduced, or did they bully their way with the women who served at God's house. Either way, Eli let it slide. He said something, but he didn't do what needed to be done to put a stop to their wicked godlessness. And because Eli wouldn't put a stop to it, that meant God would have to put his stop to what they were doing. The day was coming when Eli and his sons would meet their Maker and Judge, all on the same day.

Eli and his sons took advantage and abused their positions and people. How do God's people today take advantage and abuse their positions and people today?

In 1 Samuel chapters 2 and 3, we hear the warnings; in chapter 4 we see the result. What happened to Eli and his sons?

Doesn't sound good, does it? I wouldn't be surprised if many of us aren't hearing voices right now, questioning voices, arguing voices, excusing voices. "But didn't Eli try to say something?" Too little, too late. "But weren't Hophni and Phinehas adults?" True, but Eli wasn't just their dad, he was their boss in the family business, he was responsible for what they did; and what he did and what he said was too little, too late.

*What questions, arguments, excuses do you hear?
What are God's answers?*

What question, arguments, and excuse did I not mention in the sermon? (1 Samuel 2:25) Why doesn't this get Eli "off the hook"?

When was the last time you talked with your children (or other family members) about your faith life and their faith life?

Do you have someone in your family who is in danger of “too little, too late”? Let me put it a bit differently - do you have someone in your family who is rejecting God’s plan, but they are hearing “too little, too late”?

Why was Eli “too little, too late”? It doesn’t seem to be a grace thing or a patience thing. It wasn’t Eli trying to be a good dad with grace and patience and in that very real struggle he missed the mark. No, the problem was that he chose his sons over God; he chose getting along with his sons over getting along with God; he chose comfort and ease in his family over the blessings of God’s family. And it cost both him and them.

I won’t tell you that it is an easy thing to balance grace and patience with “saying what needs to be said.” In fact, sometimes trying to balance grace and patience on the one hand, and “saying what needs to be said” on the other, leaves our grace and patience and our “saying what needs to be said” so muddled, muddled beyond recognition it doesn’t mean a thing. So instead of saying we try to balance grace and patience with “saying what needs to be said,” I should say we juggle, now this, now that. But if you try to watch someone juggling, what sometimes happens? We lose track of what’s what.

As we struggle to balance or juggle or _____ “grace and patience” with “saying what needs to be said,” what traps or dangers might we face?

So what does our Father do? I won’t say that it doesn’t get muddled in our muddling minds. As a loving Father, he shows us what he has for us, how he wants to surround us and fill us with goodness and love. In his Word, he starts off by showing his creation for us, perfect, full of life and everything we could ever need. Even today, in his creation, look at the flowers and trees, the blue skies and blue waters; the smile of a baby, the smile when someone you love smiles back; listen to the birds chirping with cheer; listen to the words: “I love you; I forgive you; I’m here for you.” And you get a taste of what your Father wants for you, what he has for you.

In God’s Word, what is your favorite taste of what God has for you?

In God’s creation, what is your favorite taste of what God has for you?

But what else does he show us? In his Word, he shows us what sin and Satan have done to us and our world. He doesn’t muddle his words; he says it plainly and clearly - **“the wages of sin is death.”** In us and around us we see and feel how sin and Satan destroy. And in us and around us we see and feel our Father teaching us the

consequences of Satan and the ways of his world. As a loving Father he doesn't leave us in the dark; he teaches us the consequences, what we are in for if we choose sin. In us and around us, sometimes with a light hand, sometimes with a heavy hand, he shows us the consequences of choosing the life of the world instead of life with him.

*Where in our world do we see the consequences of a world living without God?
Which troubles in our world today are the work of Satan out to fight against and destroy what God has for us, and which troubles are the work of God showing us the consequences of sin and Satan?*

And then what? Maybe you are a victim of "too little, too late" and you feel a wicked streak running wild inside you. Maybe you are a victim of "too much, too soon" and you feel yourself running and hiding and fighting against God. Maybe you are a perpetrator of "too little, too late" or a perpetrator of "too much, too soon" and you see the damage you have done, and the guilt eats at you.

*In our lesson we see "too little, too late." Where in Scripture do we see examples of or warnings against "too much, too soon"?
Which is the greater challenge? Which is the greater danger?*

When we recognize the consequences of what we have done, when we feel and fear the curse of God, when we feel and fear the wickedness of this world, the death of this world, and we want to be free, what do we do? The world in us and around us wants to blame God and fight God, and run further and further away from God. But the Father has his Spirit at work in your heart to see and hear Jesus. Jesus always knew what to say and do, how to say and do. In a world running wild with "too little, too late," in world fighting back against "too much, too soon" Jesus always got it right. We wish we could get it right like Jesus, don't we? Well, even when we don't, with Jesus, God sees you and hears you getting it right. And for those times when we haven't, for the damage we've done with "too little, too late," for the damage we've done with "too much, too soon," for our wild streaks and our fighting fits, God sees Jesus taking your guilt and my guilt, the guilt of the world, and on the cross paying the price for it all. We don't have to live driven by guilt or fear; we don't have to live and die chasing or just settling for the life of this world. With Jesus, we get to live life here and forever with the Father, his heart and his arms wide open: "I love you; I forgive you; I've got you; and I'm here for you."

And then what? As you soak in that more and more, your family and friends will see it more and more in you - like Father, like son; like Father, like daughter. May our Father bless you to live with him and like him. Amen.

*What is your favorite picture or attribute of your Father in heaven?
How do you see to emulate your Father?*

HYMN

“Oh, Blest the House, What'er Befall”

Hymn 506

Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly his -- How sad and poor and dark it is!

Oh, blest that house where faith you find
And all within have set their mind
To trust their God and serve him still And do in all his holy will.

Oh, blest the parents who give heed Unto their children's foremost need
And weary not of care or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!

Blest such a house; it prospers well. In peace and joy the parents dwell,
And in their children's lives is shown How richly God can bless his own.

Then here will I and mine today A solemn promise make and say:
Though all the world forsake his Word,
I and my house will serve the Lord!

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)
(Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

M: The Lord be with you.



And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In perfect unity with his Son and the Holy Spirit, he is the source, guide, and goal of our lives now and always. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - - men.

BEFORE COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

AFTER COMMUNION PRAYER

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Bless Our Loved Ones, Holy Father”

Hymn 504

Bless our loved ones, Holy Father; Hear our anxious prayer;
By your mercy keep them always In your care.

Jesus, Savior, let your presence Be their light and guide;
Keep, oh, keep them in their weakness At your side.

When in sorrow, when in danger, When in loneliness,
In your love look down and comfort Their distress.

May the joy of your salvation Be their strength and stay!
May they love and may they praise you Day by day!

Holy Spirit, let your teaching Sanctify their life;
Send your grace that they may conquer In the strife.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God forever true,
Bless them, guide them, save them, keep them Close to you.

OFFERING

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