

You  
are  
the Christ

# ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Rally Sunday & Backpack Blessing Service Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 23, 2020

### PRELUDE

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

### ANNOUNCEMENTS PRAISES AND CONCERNS

### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen**

L Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

L 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.

L: Most merciful God,

**All: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

L Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen**

HYMN:

*“Have No Fear, Little Flock”*

LBW #476

**Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little  
Flock, for the Father has chosen To  
Give you the Kingdom Have no fear, little flock!**

**Have good cheer, little flock; Have good cheer, little flock,  
For the Father will keep you In  
His love forever; Have good cheer, little flock!**

**Praise the Lord high above; Praise the Lord high above  
For he stoops down to heal you,  
uplift and restore you; Praise the Lord high above!**

**Thankful hearts raise to God; Thankful hearts raise to  
God, For he stays close beside you, In  
All things works with you; thankful hearts raise to God!**

## **GREETING**

L 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.**

## **KYRIE**

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy**

L For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord have mercy**

L For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord have mercy.**

L For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord have mercy.**

L Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen**

L Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

**We worship you, we give you thanks,**

**We praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world'**

**Have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father;**

**Receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,**

**You alone are the Lord, You alone are the**

**Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**In the glory of God the Father. Amen**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray;

**Care for your Church, O Lord, with perpetual mercy. Since we totter and are sure to fall without your grace, remove what will harm us and arrange what will make us whole. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. <sup>3</sup>For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. <sup>4</sup>Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. <sup>5</sup>My

righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. <sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

### **Responsive Psalm Reading**

#### **Psalm 138**

<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**<sup>2</sup>I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name,  
because of your love and faithfulness;**

<sup>3</sup>For you have glorified your name  
and your word above all things.

**<sup>4</sup>When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.**

<sup>5</sup>All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

**<sup>6</sup>They will sing of the ways of the Lord,  
that great is the glory of the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly;  
he perceives the haughty from afar.

**<sup>8</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand shall save me.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord will make good his purpose for me;  
O Lord, your love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

### **Second Reading: Romans 11:33-12:8**

<sup>33</sup>Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! <sup>34</sup>“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” <sup>35</sup>“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” <sup>36</sup>For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup>the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

### **GOSPEL VERSE**

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16:13-20**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.** (sung)

<sup>13</sup>When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.** (sung)

MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN:

*“Children of the Heavenly Father”*

LBW #474

**Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in his bosom gather;  
Nestling bird or 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 then, 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 be knoweth.**

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

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. 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**

**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.**

BACK PACK LITANY

L: A reading from Matthew 18: 20 - Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them.

L: A reading from Colossians 1:8-10; 8 and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit. 9 For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the

knowledge of God's\* will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.

L: And finally a reading from Mark 10:13-16 - People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 14But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 15Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' 16And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

L: Dear Lord Jesus, we want to begin this new school year as we begin each day, by acknowledging your presence among us with your blessing and guidance.

**C: Watch over our students, the owners of these backpacks, as they take the next steps in their education.**

L: Good Shepherd, you call each of these children by name to follow you, both throughout the school year and each day of life by grace through faith in you.

**C: Their backpacks will be filled with books, but fill their lives to overflowing with your countless, daily blessings.**

L: When they feel overcome by the stress and anxiety and our spirits seem low..

**C: We pray that these students find comfort in your Word and knowledge of your constant presence.**

L: Dear Savior, when they encounter sadness or grief, whether at school or at home...

**C: We pray that these students will know that you provide the Spirit of comfort to all who are mourning.**

L: When they are faced with temptation to stray from your righteous path

**C: Remind them that you offer both guidance and forgiveness for those who call upon your name.**

L: Dear Teacher, keep their hearts and minds pure and their actions a reflection of your love for them...

**C: Bless them, we pray, to see your face in the face of friends, teachers, parents and others who gather with them this year.**

L: Dear Messiah, When they encounter persecution or bullying, particularly when they are standing up for what is right and holy...

**C: Make your presence known, we pray, so that each child here is reminded of your promise to not leave us desolate or alone.**

L: We gather here with these children in your name, Lord Jesus, welcoming you to the circle of love and togetherness that binds us in your name.

**C: We pray that their faith in your saving power and promises is strengthened and that their behavior and faith shines as an example to others of what it means to be children in Your family.**

L: With confident hope in God's watchful care, I bless these backpacks and their owners in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May all of us, young and old be strong in faith and filled with the Spirit that we might be a blessing to all in your World.

**C: Almighty God, hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always,  
**And also with you**

**Offering** – If you wish to give an offering it will be received as you leave.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a  
Right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your  
Presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from' me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
And uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

**Lord, listen to Your children praying, Lord, send Your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to Your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace!**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus  
Christ our Lord

**Amen**

**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.**

P 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.

**C Amen**

HYMN:

*"This Little Light of Mine"*

<sup>1</sup>**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.**

<sup>2</sup>**Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.**

<sup>3</sup>**Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.**

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

**THE DOXOLOGY**

Hymn #565 LBW

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

<b>Today 8/23</b>	<b>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Rally Sunday</b> 10:15 a.m. Worship ~ <b>Backpack Blessing</b>
<b>Mon 8/24</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Tues 8/25</b>	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
<b>Wed 8/26</b>	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
<b>Thurs 8/27</b>	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
<b>Fri 8/28</b>	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
<b>Next Sun</b>	<b>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship



*Welcome Visitors! We would like to extend a special welcome to all visitors. If you are looking for a church home, we pray you would consider St. John's.*

*Prayer request cards are available in the pews and can be filled out and handed to an usher during the first hymn for your request to be included in the day's prayer. If you have a private prayer request please fill out the appropriate side and give to the pastor.*

### **Sunday, August 16, 2020**

General \$3,534.00, MOM-House of Palms \$155.00, NALC \$75.00, Youth \$20.00, Reno. \$500.00

**Total: \$4,284.00**

## UPDATE - Worship Team Notes - UPDATE



We will be having church in the sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. from now on, unless something changes. Communion will be by stations on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday until further notice. Please note there are certain guidelines that have to be followed. A letter with these specific guidelines has been mailed out, emailed, and is posted on our website & FaceBook page. The service will still be broadcasted on the radio station FM 101.5 for those who wish to stay in their vehicles. The service will also be videoed & posted to the church website on Sundays, after noon sometime. Please continue to check the church website & FaceBook page for updates.

### New Office Hours for Pastor

Pastor John will have new weekly office hours at the Parish Hall every Tuesday & Thursday. The hours are as follows:

Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Thursdays 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

\*Please note: Pastor's NEW email: [jboor25@yahoo.com](mailto:jboor25@yahoo.com)



### Cheerful House Order

If you would like to order something from Cheerful House, the catalog will be on the kitchen counter in the parish hall. Orders will need to be placed by this Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Please write your order on the order form provided & make checks payable to: St. John Ev. Lutheran Church. Place payment in the envelope provided. Thank you!



## Mission of the Month of August



### House of Palms Mission Statement

The House of Palms is a Scholarship Program for homeless women and their children.

The heart of the program is to embrace and strengthen their potential equipping them for a better future. Each resident will be provided with a room and living space for them (and their children if they have children), food, on-site day care and on-site guidance 24/7. They will participate in an Intern Program learning marketable skills that will allow them to become self-sufficient. The home will be a Christ-centered home of second chances, promoting self-sufficiency, emphasizing teamwork in a compassionate, caring, positive and encouraging environment. Women will be able to sustain themselves based on improved skills and technical skills taught at House of Palms. They will learn honor and a healthy self-respect to maximize personal growth and save children from a life of dependency, crime, poverty and hopelessness.

The home will be able to house 13 to 15 women, and have two paid staff members.

House of Palms is a 501C3 organized under the leadership of Faith Family Church in Victoria.

Col. Mike Petrich is the Administrator (not paid)

### “Breaking News” concerning The House of Palms

#### From: Barbara Breazeale

It is with grateful hearts that we announce the hiring of JoLynn Meadows as our Executive Director of Victoria House of Palms, a residential home for pregnant women.

JoLynn Meadows, a native of Victoria, has dedicated twenty- eight years of love and service to young girls and women in their childbearing years at a crisis pregnancy center in Mobile, Alabama. She has returned to Victoria to join with the VHOP Board and Pastors Jim and Tamara Graff to provide programs of excellence to Teen Moms to achieve the goals of a high school diploma and beyond. All of this will be achieved in a loving, Christian, confidential and non- judgmental environment.

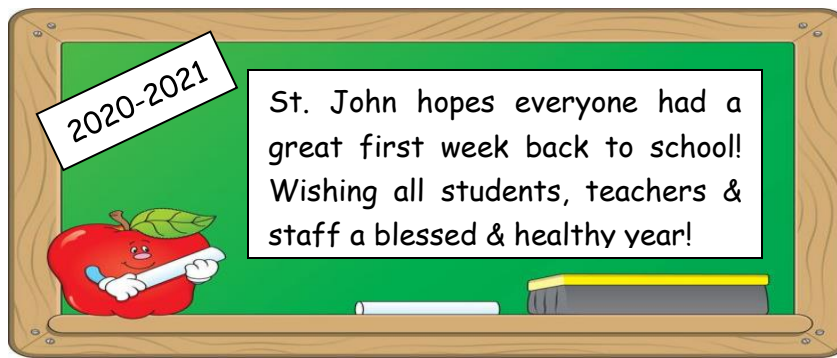
This process has been very long and at times we were so disheartened. It seemed that the devil himself was keeping us from opening this much needed home for pregnant teens.

First a hurricane, then we had the home done, furnished by the Streiff family of Ashley’s Furniture. We only had to hire an Executive Director and on the surface it seemed so easy. But as they say that was not the end of the story.

The State of Texas is very vigilant and strict when it comes to underage children. Their job description was almost impossible for us to find the right person. We tried and kept failing. We came up with an idea that was a bit different and we found success in JoLynn Meadows. We decided to take teens who were 18 and older so that these young women were looked upon as adults, not minors. The mountain of state requirements we had to climb suddenly became attainable.

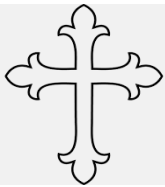
JoLynn has been on the job a month and we look forward to hearing great things from her. She is making the right connections and we will keep you in the loop.

Once more, thank you for supporting us through all of this. You were there with prayers, monetary support and understanding. We cannot wait to have our first teen walk through those doors!



**NALC Warehouse and  
Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes**

We will be collecting for these charities all year. Each month we will feature items to be donated. We will be collecting towels for the month of August. Please bring colored towels only. Thank you.



**ALTAR GUILD OPPORTUNITY/PLEA**

One of our faithful Altar Guild teams is no longer able to serve. Therefore, the Altar Guild is urgently asking for each of you to prayerfully and seriously consider being a part of a team to serve on the Altar Guild. Please contact Carol Ann Sagebiel or any Altar Guild member for more information, etc. Thank You.



Quilters Service Project needs any unwanted sheets. Please put them on the table on the stage in the Parish Hall. Thank you.

**Special Prayers for Cole  
~NEW UPDATE~**

Cole is at home doing well surrounded by the love and support of all his family. He continues to have therapy on a daily basis at his home and will soon also be doing therapy in Victoria. God continues to be with Cole each and every day strengthening his faith, patience, and courage as he travels down this long and difficult journey. We thank each and every one again for all your prayers, concerns, and support for Cole and his family. We ask for you to continue praying for Cole's healing and for strength and patience for him and his family. Thank you and God Bless.

**+Please pray at 12:00 PM daily for Cole+**

**At his request, these are the prayers he has on his list:**

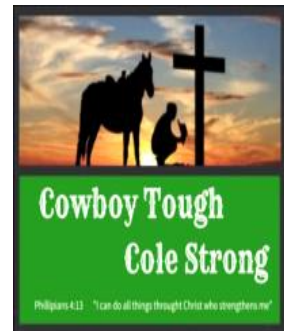
*Healing- physical, emotional & spiritual*

*To help family stay strong*

*Patience*

*Stay positive*

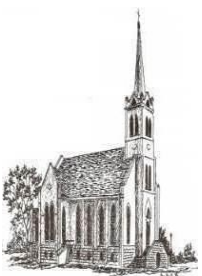
*The drive to keep trying (perseverance)*



**Church Renovation Update**

Remaining items for the construction progress are to complete the canopy and final grade the site. After completion, a final walk through will be held to address any items that need to be touched-up. The estimated costs for construction, change orders, materials testing, architect, and incidentals is \$599,553. We are required to pay as construction progresses so the bills are coming in on a regular basis. This project received almost unanimous support so we ask that you prayerfully consider giving generously to this project.

GOAL: \$599,553      RECEIVED AS OF August 16, 2020: \$550,430.80



**PRAYER REQUESTS:** If you have a prayer request please contact Evelyn Diebel (361-275-5979) Or Linda Ruschhaupt (361-275-4990) or the Pastor. We ask that you would update the prayer request regularly. If we do not have an update, in an effort to keep our list current and up to date, we will presume the situation has improved and remove the request after 30 days. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you wish to receive the Prayer Chain requests, please contact Evelyn Diebel at (361)275-5979.

**Our Military and their families:**

Jeff Zengerle - U.S. Army NG, Egypt  
Russell Copeland - U.S. Army Reserves  
Jonathon Albrecht - U.S. Army, Kentucky  
Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy  
Austin Schroeder - U.S. Navy  
Jennifer Cornett - U.S. Air Force  
Lee Magruder - U.S. Army, 2-4 CaB, Charlie Company, Black Hawk Medevac Pilot, Fort Carson, Colorado  
Katrina Moritz - U.S. Air Force  
Michael Petrash II - 1<sup>st</sup> LT, United States Army  
Andrew Washington, L CPL - USMC, Pensacola, FL  
Jacob Redmond - USMC, San Diego, CA  
Koltyn Mayhall - USMC, San Diego, CA



**Please Pray for:** Adam Womble  
Nate Boehl  
Hunter Jacob  
Kenny Jacob  
Cole Ohrt  
Carly Waters  
Joy Hoy  
Marie Liner  
Bill Roeske  
Janice Turner

**Nursing Home:** Elmcroft-Victoria ~ Bette Jo Haun  
Stevens Healthcare of Yoakum ~ Marjorie Ideus  
Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Alfred Rangnow



Keep up with St. John online  
St. John Meyersville  
<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville>  
Or visit our website at: [stjohnmeyersville.org](http://stjohnmeyersville.org)

**Pentecost 12**

**August 23, 2020**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 16 (Year A)**



Peter's confession of Jesus' true identity is a confession of his faith. As followers of Christ, we, too, are called to make public confession of our faith. St. Paul asserts that faith is manifested in a transformation of our old selves into people with a mission and purpose in the Body of Christ. He encourages us to stand firm in the face of pressure to conform to the ways of the world, even as the Spirit enables us to serve. We are followers of the Son of the Living God!