

*The baptism
of John, from
where did it
come?*



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020

Worship Notes regarding Today's Service:

Thank you for attending. We thank God that we are once again able to gather inside the church. For those who are not comfortable entering the church we are also broadcasting as we have for the past several weeks and you are more than welcome to remain in your car. The service, the organ music, and Pastor John's message will be routed through the church's sound system and broadcast on your car radio on FM channel 101.5. Please follow the service in the bulletin.

The Service begins with the first notes of the prelude. Please show your respect with silent meditation at this time.

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:

"You Servants of God"

LBW #252

**You servants of God, your Master proclaim, And publish a-
broad his wonderful name; The name, all-victorious, of
Jesus extol; His kingdom is glorious and rules over all!**

**Our God rules on high, almighty to save; And still he is
nigh, his presence we have. The great congregation his
triumph shall sing, Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King!**

**Salvation to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a-
loud and honor the Son. The praises of Jesus the
angels proclaim, Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore and give him his right, All glory and
pow'r and wisdom and might, All honor and blessing, with
angels above, And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!**

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;

O Almighty and most Merciful God, through your bountiful goodness, keep us from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that you would have us do. Grant this, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the

wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

Responsive Psalm Reading

Psalm 25:1-9

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**²Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

³Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.

**⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

⁵Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

**⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

⁷Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**⁸He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

⁹All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-4 [5-13] 14-18

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being 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 count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. [⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.] ¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent,

children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

GOSPEL VERSE

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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:23-27[28-32]

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

²³When {Jesus} entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. [²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For 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 when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.]"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN:

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

LBW #385

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, When I was sinking down, sinking down, When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I Am, While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for me, And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And through eternity I'll sing on.

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.

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:

“Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

LBW #480

**Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do his will!**

**Order my footsteps by your Word And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.**

**Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget your way, Restore your wand'ring sheep.**

**Make me to walk in your commands, 'Tis a delightful road;
Nor let my head or heart or hands Offend against my God.**

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

Today 9/27	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship
Mon 9/28	Office Closed
Tues 9/29	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
Wed 9/30	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 9:00 a.m. Old Stone Church Meeting
Thurs 10/1	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
Fri 10/2	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
Next Sun	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 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, September 20, 2020

General \$1,369.00 MOM-Lutheran Bible Translators \$120.00, Cemetery \$10.00, Sunday School \$67.00, Youth \$20.00, NALC \$150.00, Building \$110.00, Reno. \$405.00 **Total: \$2,251.00**

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 1st 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.



Old Stone Church

The Old Stone Church meeting is rescheduled for this Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 9:00 AM.

ELECTION 2020

Over 230 years ago, in 1788 and every four years since, an event takes place that has the ability to change the course of our nation. In around two months, on November 3rd, the presidential election will take place. Whether it will result in a second term or the election of a new president, it will definitely bring about a change for our country. No matter which candidate or party one associates with, we each have a responsibility to take part in making our voice heard by voting our conscience.



Mission of the Month of September



Lutheran Bible Translators Mission Statement

LBT is an independent Lutheran mission organization.

Mission: Lutheran Bible Translators makes God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.

Vision: God is transforming the lives of people around the world as they read and use His Word in their heart language.

The work they do is not just translating scripture but also involves language development (creating dictionaries, recording history, documenting culture) health developmentall of this to ensure that after the missionaries leave God's work will continue. In some areas they actually have to teach the people to read first, then teach them the Word so they can't just translate and move on they have to stay till the people can teach their own the way of our Lord.

Over one Billion people in the world still do not have a Bible in their language. An estimated 165 million people do not have a single bible verse of Scripture.

They have translated the Bible in 70 languages and have impacted 20 million people.

For seven straight years they have maintained a four star rating with Charity Navigator. Only 4% of their total budget goes to overhead expenses.

Congratulations to our newest Confirmands at St. John!



Pictured from left to right are:

Top row ~ Scott Motley, Caleb Nagel, Pastor John and Kyle Nagel
Bottom row ~ Grace Redmond, Kendra Redmond, Mackenna Diebel,
Alexis Flessner and Ella Jander



Youth Group News

St. John's Youth Group will be going to the haunted corn maze in Moulton on Saturday, October 24th. Before heading out to the maze, we will meet in the Parish Hall to work on a service project that will be included in care packages for U.S. soldiers. Youth are asked to collect and bring new decks of playing cards on October 24th that we will wrap with "The Deck of Cards Bible Story". These mini presents will go into care packages to be mailed overseas. Sharing this story and card decks will allow our soldiers to practice their Christian faith while deployed to foreign countries where Bibles are not allowed. More details about the trip to follow. Looking forward to a fun evening!

-Doug & Wendy Bishop, St. John Youth Group Sponsors



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

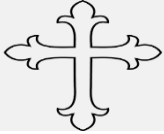


We keep the family of Vivian Grafe, mother of Sandy Gohmert, in our thoughts & prayers. May God comfort her family at this time of loss.

Jimmy & Joie Caskey would like to thank the congregation for their prayers during his surgery & recovery. God Bless you all!



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 toys for the month of September. 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.



Called Congregational Meeting
Issued: September 16, 2020



Members of St. John Lutheran Church,

A called congregation meeting will be held immediately after services today, **September 27, 2020**. This meeting is being called by the church council to get approval for the addition of gravel and crushed limestone to the parking lot and drive-thru section of the church expansion project. The estimated total will exceed the authority given to the council by the constitution. This is the only item on the agenda for this meeting.

Sincerely, Council members of St. John Lutheran Church

CALLED
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

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 September 20, 2020: \$553,210.80



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
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 - 1st 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
Glynn Yurick
Kenny Jacob
Cole Ohrt
Carly Waters
Joy Hoy
Marie Liner
Bill Roeske
Janice Turner
Sarah Cooper
Jimmy Caskey
Britany Jank Tomas

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

Pentecost 17
September 27, 2020



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 21 (Year A)

Humanity has been plagued by our own disobedience since the Garden of Eden. God, on the other hand, is eternally just and good. The psalmist cried to the Lord to teach him God's ways of righteousness and justice so that he might live according to God's covenant. Jesus was the only perfectly faithful human to walk this earth. In his obedience he emptied himself and gave his life for the sake of sinners.