

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*A Family Connecting in Christ*



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Principal Jon Woldt  
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[www.StJohnsLib.com](http://www.StJohnsLib.com)

# 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.
- Please join us after Sunday service for fellowship and Family Bible Hour.

## 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.

- Children's worship bulletins and "church bags" (with paper, colors, and Bible story books) are available from an usher.
- 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](http://www.wels.net).

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...** we are suffering the pains of a self-inflicted twisted sense of importance and loss of purpose (like the time of Samuel).

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...** we hear our Lord call to a life of purpose, and that gives us an importance beyond what the world can give!

### OPENING HYMN

*“Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening”*

**Hymn 283**

Speak, O Savior; I am list'ning, As a servant to his lord.  
Let me show respect and honor To your holy, precious Word,  
That each day, my whole life through, I may serve and follow you.  
Let your Word e'er be my pleasure And my heart's most precious treasure.

Oh, what blessing to be near you And to listen to your voice!  
Let me ever love and fear you; Let your Word still be my choice.  
Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at your Word,  
But to all who feel sin's burden You give peace and words of pardon.

Lord, your words are waters living Where I quench my thirsty needs.  
Lord, your words are bread life-giving; On your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, your words will be my light Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unfailing.

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let your words in me take root.  
May your Spirit e'er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.

**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 +

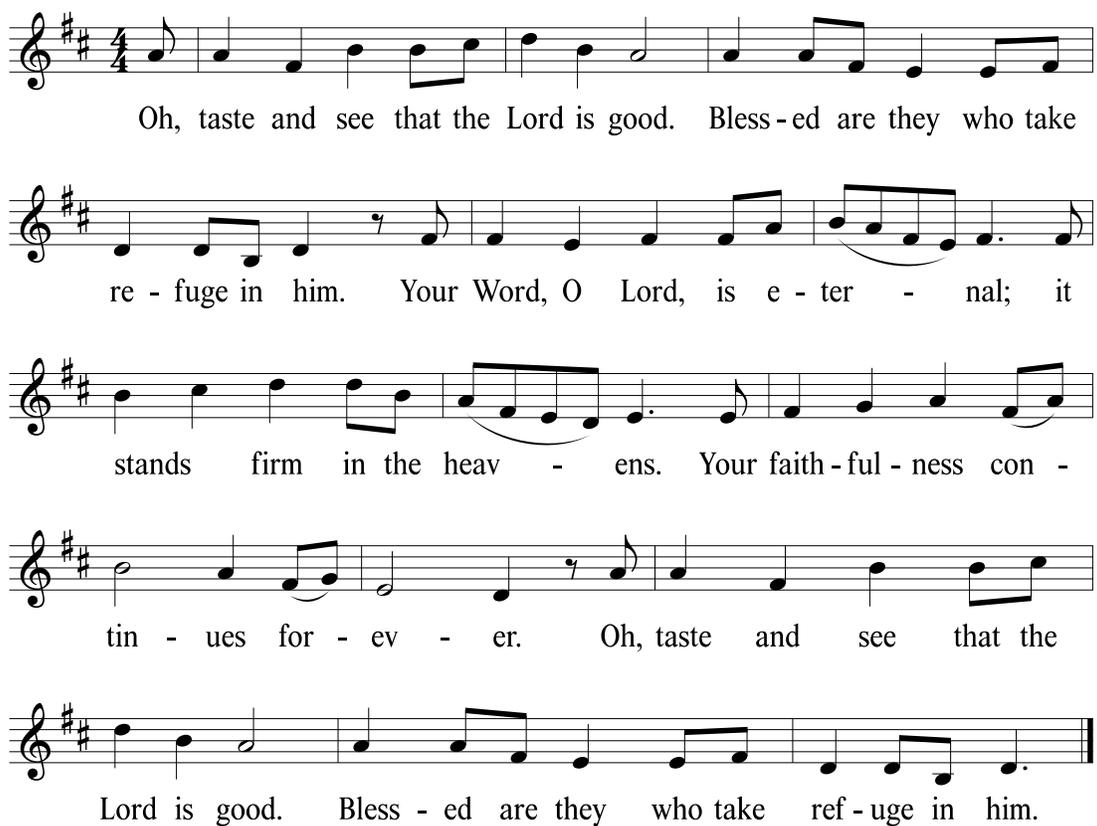
M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless-ed are they who take  
 re - fuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it  
 stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con -  
 tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the  
 Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (SPOKEN TOGETHER)**

**Almighty God, look with favor on those whom you have called to serve your people. Fill them with faithfulness to your doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life that they may joyfully serve to the glory of your name and for the benefit of your Church: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 17- 4:1

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you

called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

"What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you." So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes."

The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

And Samuel's word came to all Israel. Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek.

PSALM 119A(CW)



Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.



Blessed are they whose ways are `blameless, \*  
who walk according to the law `of the LORD.

Blessed are they who keep his `statutes\*  
and seek him with `all their heart.

You have laid down `precepts\*  
that are to be ful`ly obeyed.

*Refrain*

Oh, that my ways were `steadfast\*  
in obeying `your decrees!

Then I would not be `put to shame\*  
when I consider all `your commands.

I will praise you with an `upright heart  
as I learn your `righteous laws.

**Glory be to the Father and `to the Son\*  
and to the Holy `Spirit.**

**As it was in the be`ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. `Amen.**

*Refrain*

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. Alleluia.  
(Jeremiah 23:28)

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**These words are written that we may believe that**  
**Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 6:7-13

Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff - no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them."

They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

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

**HYMN***“Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying”***Hymn 573**

Hark! the voice of Jesus crying, “Who will go and work today?  
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting; Who will bear the sheaves away?”  
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward he offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I– send me, send me?”

If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus; You can say he died for all.  
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the Judgment’s dread alarms,  
You can lead the little children To the Savior’s waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion’s wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven, Off’ring life and peace to all,  
With your prayers and with your off’rings You can do what God demands;  
You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet’s hands.

Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,”  
While the multitudes are dying, And the Master calls for you.  
Take the task he gives you gladly; Let his work your pleasure be.  
Answer quickly when he calleth, “Here am I– send me, send me!”

**SERMON**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 17- 4:1

Someone calls your name, taps you on the shoulder. They have something to say to you, something for you to do. What do you say? What do you do? It depends, doesn’t it? Who’s the somebody? What do they want to say? What do they want you to do? Do you have time? Does what they want fit what you want? Someone calls your name, taps you on the shoulder. What do you do? It depends, doesn’t it?

*During COVID-time, we had fewer taps on the shoulder. Coming out of COVID-time, coming into a year of celebrating 125 years of God’s grace, what words of wisdom do you have for a) those who are tapping the shoulders, and b) those whose shoulders are tapped?*

What if God were to tap you on the shoulder, call your name? What if God had something to say to you, something for you to do? What would you do? Would it still depend?

Our lesson comes from a sad time. God wasn't calling; he wasn't tapping. We're told, **"in those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions."** In these first books of the Bible, we hear God talk with Adam and Eve, and even Cain after he killed his brother Abel. We hear God talk with Abraham and Jacob, and later talk with Moses. But now, some 300 years after Moses died, when God's people were in God's promised land, we hear: **"the word of the LORD was rare."** God wasn't speaking to his people.

*Which is worse - to be called and tapped for too much? Or to be ignored, skipped over? Why?*

Why not? The book of Judges tells us about those 300 years between Moses and Samuel -- **"another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel."** – We might ask, "Where were the parents, where were the grandparents, if they had sponsors, where were the sponsors? Why didn't their children know?" Or we might ask, "What about the children? Did they think they knew better than their parents? Were they just too lazy, stuck on self?" There was probably enough blame to go both ways, right? But blame's not the point. Look what happened when the people didn't listen to God. **"The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They [lived like the rest of the world.] They provoked the LORD to anger."** And these are the last words of the book of Judges – **"in those days; everyone did as he saw fit."**

So why wasn't God speaking to his people? Because his people didn't bother to listen. God's judgment on sin doesn't always wait until death and hell. Part of God's judgment is that he hands sinners over to the sins of their hearts. For example, if people don't want to listen to him, he doesn't speak to them. And that isn't just an Old Testament judgment kind of thing. When the people of Jerusalem didn't like what Jesus had to say, he left.

We see the same thing in history. When God's people don't listen to him, he doesn't speak to them and he goes elsewhere. For example, Germany was the center of the Reformation; today there are just a handful of congregations that still listen to God's Word as God's Word. And where is Christianity growing the fastest? We might like to think of our country as "God's country," and Americans as "God's people," but the church is growing fastest in Africa. Churches in other countries send their missionaries here because here is where they see an emptiness of God's Word.

*If you had \$23,000,000 (annually) for sending and supporting missionaries, where would you send missionaries?*

If God's word is silenced here in the United States, it won't do us any good to point fingers at other people. We need to ask ourselves -- what is more true for us -- "**Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening?**" or "**everyone did as he saw fit**"? If we look close inside we find we aren't always the best listeners. With busy days and busy families, with family and friends shouting for attention, it's terribly easy to give our attention to the world instead of to the Word.

When God's word sounds too tough, too demanding, when it doesn't make sense or tell us what we want to hear, it's so easy to stop listening and shrug our shoulders, "God doesn't tell me what I need to hear." When we don't like what God has to say, it's so easy to switch from, "**Speak, for your servant is listening**" to "Listen, God, I was thinking and I like my thinking a whole lot better than what you have to say." We have to watch out so it doesn't become true of us and our children and grandchildren -- "**in those days everyone did as he saw fit**" and "**in those days the word of the LORD was rare.**"

*In what areas of your life, or in what areas of the Bible, do you find it most challenging to say: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening"?*

Those words serve as a warning to us; but they also show us just how great God's love is in the rest of our lesson. Even though and even when most of God's

people weren't paying much attention to God; even though and even when most people had turned their backs on God -- even then God showed his love. He spoke up. He gave his Word. And he called Samuel to be his prophet.

Our lesson tells us how. Samuel was a young boy, maybe about 12 years old. He lived in the temple and served God and God's High Priest Eli. One night, very late at night or very early in the morning, the Lord called, "**Samuel.**" Samuel hadn't heard God's voice before; so he figured Eli must have called him and he went to answer Eli. Three times that happened. We might think, three strikes and you're out. If I try to call somebody three times on the phone, and get no answer, I get frustrated. If I have to say something three times in confirmation class, that's not good. But God called three times and three times he got no answer. And yet the LORD was patient.

By this time Eli figured out who was calling, so he gave Samuel this great answer, "**Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.**" Now the fourth time God didn't just call Samuel, he appeared to Samuel. And Samuel answered, "**Speak, for your servant is listening.**"

Did you notice God's love and patience there? Even when his people weren't listening, God spoke up. Even when Samuel didn't know where to turn, the Lord kept calling.

We see God's love and patience even more in the message and work God gave Samuel as his prophet. The Lord's message that late night was no good news. It was news of death and judgment. But in the years to come God used Samuel to point his people toward their Savior Jesus.

Today Jesus calls us and speaks to us. Not in a voice in the middle of the night, but in his Word, which he has written down for us. And what does Jesus say to us? It doesn't matter who you are; it doesn't matter how well you listened in the past, or how much you shut your ears in the past. Today (I don't know about tomorrow), today Jesus is giving you the opportunity to start with a clean slate, a fresh start. The times you argued, the times you ignored, the times you blew God off ... instead of writing you off, he's written them off. Instead of looking to make you pay, he paid. Today, you get to have a clean slate, a fresh

start. Even better, your slate isn't just clean; it's filled in with Jesus - life done, life done right, life done well. With Jesus, God sees you ready and right for life with him. And now Jesus calls you, taps you on the shoulder, and says: "I've got something to say to you."

What do you say? What do we say? **"Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."** When Jesus calls you out, when Jesus in here [Bible], when Jesus in a Christian brother or sister speaks up and points out your sin ... what do we say? **"Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."** When God's Word doesn't make sense to us, what do we say? When God's forgiveness seems improbable, when his promises – "God will make all things work out for your good" – when his promises seem impossible, what do we say? **"Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."**

And what does he do? He opens our ears to hear and he opens our minds to understand. And even if he we don't understand, he opens our hearts to believe – to believe he's right even when we don't understand it, to believe his love, even when we can't see it; to believe his promise, just because he says so.

And when he nudges our hearts, calls our name, taps us on the shoulder .... Oh, how does he nudge our hearts, call our name, tap us on the shoulder? In here [Bible], by showing us a need in here or out there, through God's people here calling us to action. When he nudges our hearts, calls our name, taps us on the shoulder, what do we do? We don't settle for "it depends," do we? We find a way to say, "Yes, Lord."

*How does God call us and tap us on the shoulders today?*

*Is it ever alright to answer God with an "it depends," to decline his call, to shrug off his tap on your shoulder? Explain your answer.*

Why? Some days we might have to tell our old self: "Because he's God, and we're not; so stop acting like you're God and he's not." Other days we get to remind ourselves: "Look at Jesus and what he's done for me. Look out and about at all that he's doing for me. Look up to heaven and what he has for me." Then

when he calls, gathers, taps, and nudges, we won't pretend not to hear; we won't pretend we know better; we won't pretend that what we have to say and do is more important than what he has for us to say and do. NO, when he calls, gathers, nudges, taps, we'll answer like Samuel: **"Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."** Amen.

*When God gives you an "unwelcome" call or tap on the shoulder, what do you tell yourself? What do you tell him?*

**HYMN (See page 11)**

*"Church of God, Elect and Glorious"*  
**Hymn 774**

**INSTALLATION**

<b>Congregation President</b>	Steve Lemerand
<b>Outreach Elder</b>	Nic Holter
<b>Worship Elder</b>	Tim Kalter
<b>School Board Chairman</b>	Joe Lofsness
<b>School Outreach/Promotion</b>	Peter Kolch
<b>Congregation Treasurer</b>	Jim Thies

**THE 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.**

**M:** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, 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

*“We All Are One in Mission”*

Hymn 566

We all are one in mission; We all are one in call,  
Our varied gifts united By Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single great commission Compels us from above  
To plan and work together That all may know Christ’s love.

We all are called to service, To witness in God’s name.  
Our ministries are diff’rent; Our purpose is the same:  
To touch the lives of others With God’s surprising grace,  
So ev’ry folk and nation May feel God’s warm embrace.

Now let us be united, And let our song be heard;  
Now let us be a vessel For God’s redeeming Word.  
We all are one in mission; We all are one in call,  
Our varied gifts united By Christ, the Lord of all.

## OFFERING

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1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious,  
 2 God has called you out of dark - ness  
 3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple,  
 4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly,



Ho - ly na - tion, cho - sen race;  
 In - to his most mar - v'lous light,  
 Stran - gers to God's heart of love;  
 Be - the peo - ple he in - tends;



Called as God's own spe - cial peo - ple,  
 Brought his truth to life with - in you,  
 But he brought you home in mer - cy,  
 Strong in faith and swift to an - swer



Roy - al priests and heirs of grace:  
 Turned your blind - ness in - to sight.  
 Cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.  
 Each com - mand your mas - ter sends:



Know the pur - pose of your call - ing.  
 Let your light so shine a - round you  
 Let his love flow out to oth - ers;  
 Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing



Show to all his might - y deeds;  
 That God's name is glo - ri - fied  
 Let them feel a Fa - ther's care;  
 Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer;



Tell of love that knows no lim - its,  
 And all find fresh hope and pur - pose  
 That they too may know his wel - come  
 Give your lives in joy - ful ser - vice—



Grace that meets all hu - man needs.  
 In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.  
 And his count - less bless - ings share.  
 Sing his praise, his love de - clare.