

Sermon followed by Service

August 18, 2024

Joshua 1:1-9

Have you ever stood at the edge of the Grand Canyon? It's different, isn't it? You stand at the edge, at the overlook, and look out, and what do you see? "Wow!" And maybe: "Wouldn't it be great to run the river, to hike to the bottom and look up at the Grand Canyon walls all around you?" But mostly, what do you see? "Wow!" But if instead of at the edge of the overlook, you're at the edge, at the trail head, what do you see? You see the "wow!" But you also see the warning signs, the danger signs. You hear the stories of people who had to be helped out, saved out. You see the faces of some of those climbing out and you don't see "Wow," you see exhaustion and pain. And now standing at the edge, as you "wow!" you might also be thinking: "Do we have what it takes? Do we have enough? Enough water, enough Cliff Bars? Will I make it? Will I be able to keep up? How far will I get before my knees go bad? Do I have what it takes?" To stand at the edge and just look out ... to stand at the edge before hitting the trail - it's different, isn't it?

Joshua was standing at the edge ... the edge of the Promised Land. He wasn't just at the overlook looking out: "Wow!" He was at the trail head. He had been there before. Forty years before, he had spied out the Promised Land. He had wowed at the land and the rivers, the milk and the honey, the fruit and the plenty - "Look what God has for us!" And he had seen the warning signs, the danger signs - so many people, so many ungodly peoples to overcome. He had seen the warning signs,

the danger signs, and they weren't just out there - Joshua's people liked comfort and convenience; they were easily distracted by the world around; challenges for them were interesting, exciting, until ... they weren't. And then what? How far would they go? Did they have what it takes? Would he have what it takes? Would they make it to what God had for them?

What fears hold you back from serving together with God?

Joshua was standing at the edge - not just the edge of the Promised Land, but the edge of a new life, a new job, new opportunities, new challenges. What was going through his mind? I can't say we know, but we do know what God put in his mind. **“As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. ... Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”**

Joshua was standing at the edge, and God gave him a promise. Today, Dave and Liz are standing at the edge, the edge of a new time of ministry. What's going through their minds? ... through your minds? I don't know for sure. I imagine some “Wow! Look what God has for me!” And I imagine you see some danger signs, some warning signs. As you “wow!,” as you come across danger signs and warning signs, here's what God says to you: **“Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified;**

do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Today, Rose and Charlie and Bobbi are standing at the edge, the edge of a new time of ministry with us. What’s going through their minds? ... your minds? I don’t know for sure. I imagine some “Wow! Look what God has for me!” And I imagine you see some danger signs, some warning signs. As you “wow!,” as you come across the danger and the warning signs, here’s what God says to you: **“Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”**

Today, we’re standing at the edge, the edge of a new time of ministry for us at St. John. What’s going through our minds? I sure hope we have a sense of “Wow! Look what God has for us!” And I imagine we also see some danger signs, some warning signs. We know some of our challenges; we know something of ourselves, don’t we? Here’s what God says to us so we can face our challenges and take hold of his blessings: **“Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”**

As Joshua stood at the edge, God didn’t just give a promise, did he? God gave Joshua something more. God gave Joshua a map, a set of boundaries, a safety net, a tether. And he does the same for us in here [Bible]. Here God gives us his map - showing where he is, showing the way to his blessings. Here he sets some boundaries, shows us some warning signs, some

danger signs - showing us where not to go, what not to do, and just as important, how not to be. Here God gives us a safety net for when we fall; here he gives us a clean-up kit for when we slip into the muck. Here he gives us a tether to keep us close to him. Here God gives us his heart, as here he gives us Jesus.

In our new life, of what can we be sure? Just as in our past, there will be times we go where we shouldn't go. Times we go without God. Times we slip and fall into the muck of sin and guilt. Times we fall or get knocked down. With Jesus, of what can we be sure? In Jesus, not only do you have God's Good Shepherd to lead you and guide you, to feed you and protect you, in Jesus you have the Lamb of God to take away your sin and guilt. Yes, you have Jesus for you. You have his death on the cross covering your faults and your failures; you have his death paying for your sin full and free and forever. And in baptism, you have his life, perfect in every way, covering you right with God.

What does that mean for you? Every morning, as you stand on the edge of a new day with God, you get to hear for yourself our Father's baptism promise: **"You are my son, my daughter whom I love; with you I am well pleased."** With that promise, every morning, you get to hear God speak to you: **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."**

And every night, every night as we share our day's hurts, with Jesus we get to hear his invitation and promise: **"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you**

rest.” Every night, as we share our day’s faults and failures, with Jesus we get to hear his promise: **“Your sins are forgiven you; you are forgiven!”** And when the fault and the failure and the blame really don’t belong with us, but still there’s fault and failure and fear, we get to hear his promise and invitation: **“Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted, I will have my way; I’ll make things right for you.”** Sounds good, doesn’t it? But, at the end of the day, it’s not all bad, is it? Every night with Jesus, as we share our day’s joys and accomplishments, we get to hear his joy and invitation and promise: **“Well done, good and faithful servant. Come and share your master’s happiness.”**

All of that and so much more is found for you in here [Bible] - the tether that keeps you connected with God and his promise.

So how did it all work out for Joshua and his people? God stopped the Jordan River and Joshua and his people crossed into the Promised Land. Then, just as God promised, the walls of Jericho fell. But just as God warned, when the people got distracted by the things of the world, when the people did things their way instead of God’s way, when the people quit because God’s way was too hard, because God’s way cost too much time or effort - then what? Then God’s people found out that God doesn’t bless putting him off to the side for the things of the world, and God doesn’t bless laziness and quitting for the comfortable and convenient; God blesses hard work, hard trusting, and, yes, hard sacrifice.

We get to know - God does bless. One of the things that makes God's Joshua 1:9 promise so special is this - it doesn't just sound good; God makes it good - God is good to his word! We jump from our lesson at the beginning of Joshua to the end of Joshua. Joshua is no longer standing on the edge of the Promised Land; he's standing in the Promised Land on the edge of the better Promised Land. Instead of God promising Joshua, we have Joshua speaking to his people: **"I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed."** As we stand on the edge of something new, what do we get to know? Our God keeps his promises - and this is his promise **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."**

What do you notice about that promise? It's not just a promise for standing at the edge looking out, is it? It's a promise for standing at the edge of the trail head, and then hitting the trail. It's not just a promise for looking out at the future. It's a promise for taking hold of the new life God has for us, and then getting out and living that new life God has for us.

To stand at the edge and just look ... to stand at the edge and then climb in - it's different, isn't it? To stand at the edge of the trail head, and then to hit the trail brings a whole different level of wow, excitement, anticipation ... and then, a whole different level of fulfillment. God is giving us a new time of

ministry. Let's not just look and hope. Let's grab hold of his promise and hit the trail. Amen. *How will you grab hold of God's promise and join him in ministry?*

THE SERVICE

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we often face new challenges and opportunities.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we have our Lord's promise to be with us in the new challenges and opportunities we face.

OPENING HYMN

"With the Lord Begin Your Task"

Hymn 776

With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For his aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise, and, when day is ended,
in his name then close your eyes; be to him commended.

Let each day begin with prayer, praise and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care; he is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
save you from the tempter's might, with his presence cheer you.

With your Savior at your side foes need not alarm you;
in his promises confide and no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose in the mighty Master,
who in wisdom truly knows how to stem disaster.

If your task is thus begun with the Savior's blessing,
safely then your course will run, naught your soul distressing.
Good will follow ev'rywhere while you here must wander;
you at last the joy will share in the mansions yonder.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



A - men.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

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. Amen. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, look with favor on those whom you have called to minister to your people. Fill them and us with faithfulness to your doctrine, and clothe them and us with holiness of life that we all may joyfully serve to the glory of your name and for the benefit of your church; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Joshua 1:1–9

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 62C



1 My soul finds rest in God a-lone, my rock and my sal -
 2 Find rest, my soul, in God a-lone a - mid the world's temp -
 3 I'll set my gaze on God a-lone and trust in him com -



va - tion; a for - tress strong a - gainst my foes, and
 ta - tions; when e - vil seeks to take a hold I'll
 plete - ly; with ev - 'ry day pour out my soul and



I will not be shak - en. Though lips may bless and
 cling to my sal - va - tion. Though rich - es come and
 he will prove his mer - cy. Though life is but a



hearts may curse, and lies like ar - rows pierce me, I'll
 rich - es go, don't set your heart up - on them; the
 fleet - ing breath, a sigh too brief to mea - sure, my



fix my heart on right-eous-ness, I'll look to him who hears me.
 fields of hope in which I sow are har-vest-ed in heav - en.
 King has crushed the curse of death and I am his for - ev - er.

Refrain



O praise him, hal-le - lu - jah, my de-light and my re - ward;



ev - er - last - ing, nev - er fail - ing, my Re - deem - er, my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Peter 2:9

Alleluia! But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:35 – 10:4

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"

Hymn 716

O Christ, who called the Twelve to rise and follow you,
forsaking old, familiar ways for ventures bold and new:
grant us to hear your call to risk security
and, bound in heart and will to you, find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve the truth for ages sealed,
whose words and works awakened faith, the ways of God revealed:
instruct us now, we pray, by your empow'ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve on roads they'd never trod
to serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim the nearer reign of God:
send us on ways where faith transcends timidity,
where love informs and hope sustains both life and ministry.

O Christ, th' _apostles' Lord, the martyrs' strength and song,
the crucified and risen King to whom the saints belong:
though generations pass, our tribute still we bring,
our hymns a sacrifice of praise, our lives an offering.

SERMON

Joshua 1:1-9

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 truly 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.

OFFERING

If you prefer to give online, the code at the right will take you to our Online Giving page. We invite our online givers to join in our offering with an "I Give Online" card in the pew racks.



DUET

"Spirit, Lead Me"

Written by Timothy Samelson

Sung by Steve Lemerand and Monica Wintrone

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW TEACHERS

Ms. Elizabeth Kuschel – 5th & 6th Grade Teacher

Mr. David Retzlaff – Principal & Staff Minister

M: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said to his Church: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

A Christian school is one way we carry out our Lord's command as we let children come to him and do not hinder them, but rather nurture them with the life-giving word of God. We do this trusting God's promise: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Exhortation to the Teachers-Elect

M: Dave, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church has called you to serve as Principal and Staff Minister of Outreach. Liz, you have been called to serve with us as a teacher. You have been prepared for these ministries by careful instruction in the Word of God so that you carry out your duties in conformity with that Word.

As ambassadors of Christ you are to teach the pure doctrine of God's Word, to instruct the young in the way of salvation, and always to have in your heart the spiritual welfare of every soul under your care.

You are to devote yourself to the meditation and study of the Scriptures. You are to be examples to others in godliness and Christian living, putting no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that the ministry will not be discredited.

You are to speak the truth in love, as the apostle Peter reminds us: "Love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever."

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your heart to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

The ability to carry out this calling is not in us, but comes alone from God, as St. Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians: "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God."

The Holy Spirit, who himself has called you to this ministry, will be with you.

Promises by our New Called Workers

M: In keeping with the word and will of the Lord, you are about to be installed into your callings at St. John Lutheran Church and School. I ask you, in the presence of God and this congregation:

Are you fully determined to carry out his work according to the grace which God will give?

R: I am.

M: Do you believe that the canonical books of the Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

R: I do.

M: Do you accept the three Ecumenical Creeds—the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian—as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

R: I do.

M: Do you solemnly promise that all your teaching and ministry will conform to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions?

R: I do.

M: Will you give faithful witness to Christ in the world that God's love may be known in all that you do and say?

R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

M: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Exhortation to the Congregation

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, you have heard the solemn promise given by the servants you have called. I urge you, therefore, to receive them with joy and to keep in mind always what the Word of God expects of you as members of this congregation:

Work together with them for our Lord's kingdom so that by your works of service and sharing the Good News of Jesus the Body of Christ might be built up.

Help them by your word and example in teaching the young, remembering how the Scriptures urge you to bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Pray for them continually, that their ministry among you may be greatly blessed and that they may have a cheerful spirit in all their duties.

Provide also for their physical needs, for the Lord says, "The worker deserves his wages."

Honor and love them, as the apostle Peter urges, "Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble."

Promises by the Congregation

M: I now ask you, in the presence of God:

Are you willing to receive them as servants of Christ? Will you show them love and honor, and support them with your gifts and prayer? If so, answer: we will, and we ask God to help us.

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

M: The almighty and merciful God strengthen and assist you always.

M: Students of St. John School, Jesus our Savior has promised eternal life to those who trust in him. Show your love to Jesus by cheerfully obeying your teachers and principal, so that you benefit from their instruction, especially as they teach you God's saving Word. Give them honor and respect, so that their work will be a joy for them and an eternal blessing to you.

Installation

Elizabeth Kuschel, I install you as Teacher at St. John Lutheran School in the name of the Father and of the Υ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

David Retzlaff, I install you as Principal and Staff Minister of Outreach at St. John Lutheran Church and School in the name of the Father and of the Υ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

- M: Eternal God, we thank for providing a gospel minister to work together with us as we reach out into our community with the gospel of forgiveness. Pour out your Spirit on Dave and give *him* the right words to say at the proper time so that *he* may witness to your love boldly and clearly and equip us to do the same. Give us all a heart for the lost and wandering, that we take every opportunity to share with our friends and family the wonderful love of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
- M: Almighty God, fountain of all wisdom, we praise and thank you for your goodness in giving us a Lutheran school. Continue to bless our labors here, so that your Word may dwell richly in us and in our children and that your name may be glorified. Give the Holy Spirit to Liz and Dave, and equip them with heavenly wisdom and strength, that they may lead our children to you, and despite any discouragements faithfully carry out the duties of their calling. Move our students to godliness and obedience and cause them to grow through their instruction in your Word, so that they may serve you throughout their life and finally inherit eternal life. Help us at all times to regard our teachers as those whom you have sent, so that we support them in their ministry and pray and work for the welfare of our school. Hear us for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**
- M: Go, then, take up the work to which you have been called.

The Lord bless you and make you a blessing to many, that you may bear fruit, and that your fruit may remain to eternal life.

HYMN

"Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit"

Hymn 898

Send, O Lord, your Holy Spirit on your servants now, we pray;
let them all be faithful shepherds that no lamb is led astray.
Your pure teaching to proclaim, to adore your holy name,
and to feed your lambs, dear Savior, make their aim and sole endeavor.

You, O Lord, yourself have called them for your precious lambs to care;
but to prosper in their calling, they the Spirit's gifts must share.
Grant them wisdom from above, fill their hearts with holy love;
in their weakness, Lord, be near them,
in their prayers, Good Shepherd, hear them.

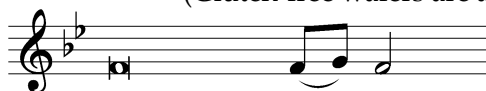
Help, Lord Jesus, help them nourish our dear children with your Word,
that in constant love they serve you till in heav'n their song is heard.
Boundless blessings, Lord, bestow on your servants' work below
till by grace to them is given their reward, the crown of heaven.

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.)
(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)



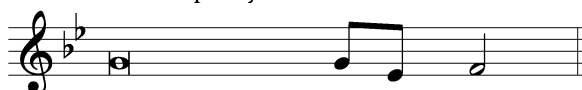
The Lord be with you.



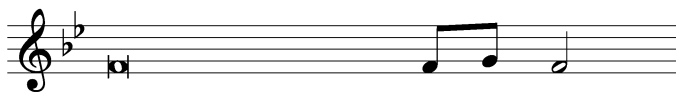
And al - so with you.



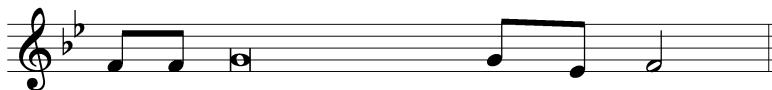
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SUNG)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 T 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 T 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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD (SUNG)

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your
peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord”

Hymn 661

Draw near and take the body of your Lord,
and drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Saved by his body and his holy blood,
with souls refreshed we give our thanks to God.

Christ our Redeemer, God’s eternal Son,
has by his cross and blood the vict’ry won.
He gave his life for greatest and for least,
himself the off’ring and himself the priest.

Let us approach with faithful hearts sincere
and take the pledges of salvation here.
Christ, who in this life all the saints defends,
gives all believers life that never ends.

With heav’nly bread he makes the hungry whole,
gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
Lord of the nations, to whom all must bow,
in this great feast of love be with us now.

CLOSING PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Hymn 932

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his dwelling take leave. The supper is ended;
O be now extended the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us;
his love shall unite us to work for God’s kingdom and answer his call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring, embracing his children of each tribe and race.
One bread that has fed us, one light that has led us
unite us as one in his life that we share. Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

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ABOUT OUR NEW TEACHER

5th & 6th Grade Teacher

Elizabeth (Liz) Kuschel is excited to begin her first year here at St. John for the 2024-2025 school year as the 5th and 6th grade teacher. Liz has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN. Liz has been teaching since 2001. While teaching mainly 3rd grade for 15 years, she has spent over 6 years teaching 5th-8th graders, especially in the areas of Reading and Language. She enjoys guiding and watching students at this age learn to become more responsible and accountable for their choices. She loves the fact that she can do these things in the light of God's Word.



Liz enjoys watching and participating in all kinds of sports and is a big Packers and Milwaukee Brewer fan. She enjoys reading, going to ball games, and spending time with friends.

“Teaching is a tremendous responsibility and gift. It is truly rewarding to be able to watch so many students grow in not only their understanding of content areas but also their love for their Savior each and every year. It is so amazing to be able to add to my “family” each and every year of my ministry.”

ABOUT OUR NEW PRINCIPAL

David Retzlaff graduated from Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. In 2016, he completed a Master's Degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis on leadership. He has taught combinations of 4th through 8th grade and served as a principal for nearly 40 years. He had previously served in Eau Claire, Michigan, for 9 years, Madison, Wisconsin, for 15 years, and Burnsville, Minnesota, for 14 years. He moved to Grayslake this summer and is starting his first year at St. John as Principal and Staff Minister of Outreach.



David and his wife, Bobbi, have one son, Jacob, who attends Marquette University in Milwaukee. David and Bobbi enjoy taking their dog, Reba, for walks and exploring new areas around northeastern Illinois. In his free time, David also enjoys casual bike riding, golfing, and watching Wisconsin sports teams. Go Packers!

“My favorite Bible verse for ministry is John 15:5, ‘I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.’ As I carry out the work God has placed before me at St. John, this verse is a great reminder of how important it is to stay connected to Jesus through his word. My goal is to not only do this personally but also provide help for others to do the same.”