St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Family Connecting in Christ

Pastor Kevin Raddatz
Principal David Retzlaff
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Libertyville, IL 60048
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www.StJohnsLib.com

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

To Our Guests

- We pray 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 us!
- 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 "church bags" (with paper, colors, and Bible story books) are available in the Narthex Gathering Area.
- 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

- **Large Print** Service Folders are available from an usher.
- **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

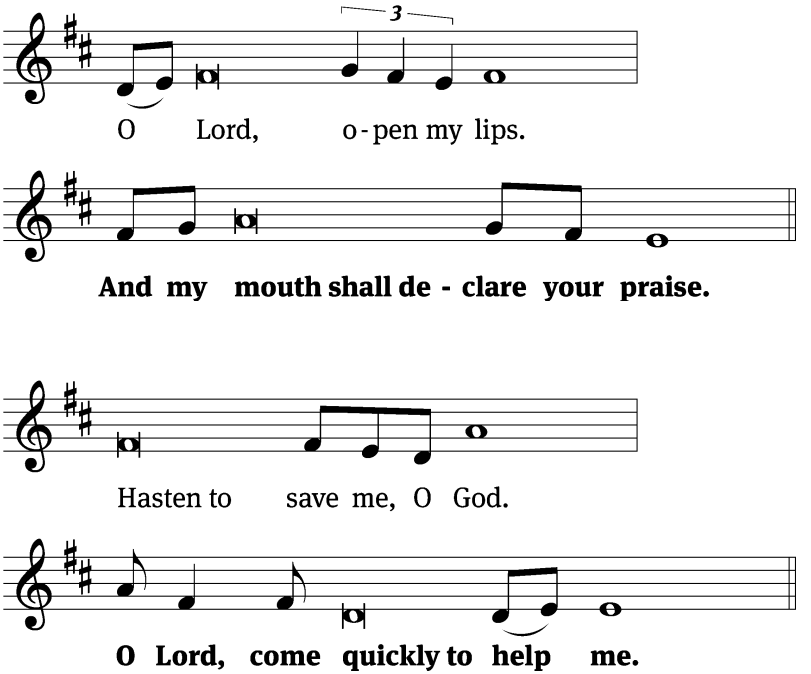
St. John offers an excellent preschool-8th grade school program. We are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) - www.wels.net.

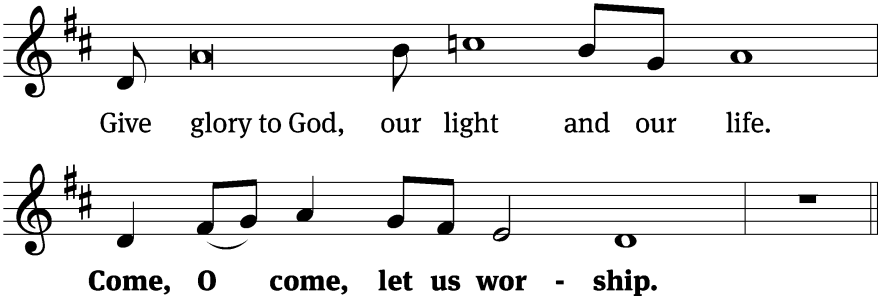
The Service

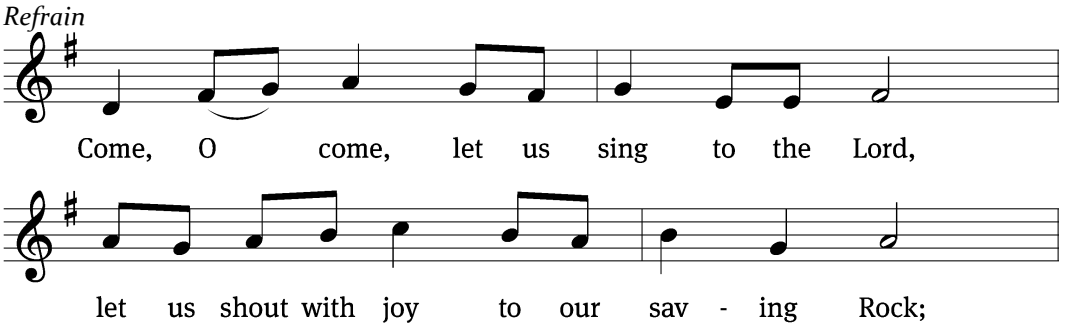
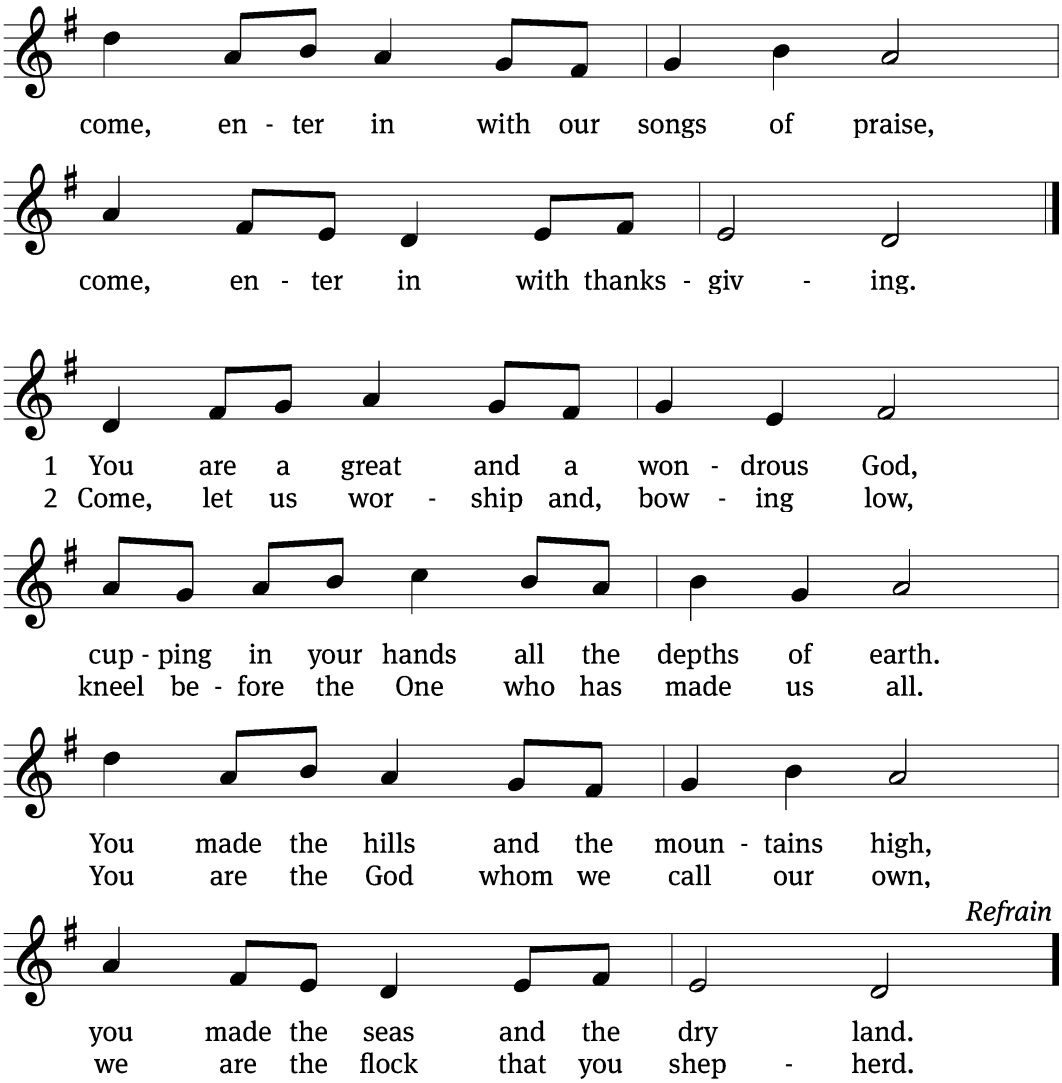
In Our World Today ... we face so many troubles that can leave us feeling without peace.

In Our Worship Today ... we celebrate Christian Education Sunday, and in this year's school theme verse - John 16:33 - we find peace in Jesus!

Hymn: With the Lord Begin Your Task *CW 776*

Opening Sentences

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.
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.

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.
Amen.

Come, O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord



come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.
1 You are a great and a won - drous God,
2 Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,
cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.
You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,
Refrain
you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

2026-2027 Theme Verse *John 16:33*

33"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

School Children Sing (Saturday) *"In This World"*

Words and music by: Timothy Samelson

In this world,
you will have trouble.
Troubles follow ev'ry day of your life.
You will battle,
against that world;
you'll be bloodied by the constant strife;
you'll be bloodied by the constant strife.

But my Shepherd has overcome all the world
and He rules for me.
Not the world, not the Devil, not this sinful selfish Me,
but my Savior has overcome.

All your life,
you will be tempted;
Those attacks can come from anywhere.
And the struggles
will make you stronger;
they will not exceed what you can bear;
they will not exceed what you can bear.

For my Shepherd has overcome all the world
and He rules for me.
Not the world, not the Devil, not this sinful selfish Me,
but my Savior has overcome.

Why put us through so much pain?
To build up trust, to humble us.
To kill our love of sin and self;
to work His plan to fin'lly take you home.

Life is full of
great pain and sorrow;
You may wonder if your God is there.
But take comfort,
the Cross and Easter,
is the proof you need that Jesus cares;
is the proof you need that Jesus cares.

For my Shepherd has overcome all the world
and He rules for me.
Not the world, not the Devil, not this sinful selfish Me,
but my Savior has overcome.

829 Take Heart: Take Heart *CW 829*

1 Take heart, O servants of the Lord,
amid the cloudy journey;
though shadows seem to shade his Word,
they cannot hide his mercy.
When providence is manifest
in tempests of affliction,
behind the storm is Jesus Christ,
the sun of our salvation.

2 Serve not the dark desires within,
nor wicked foes, nor tempters;
their subtle lies would lure us in,
but Christ our King will conquer.
We firmly stand in Jesus' might
against enticing evil:
he dresses us in radiant light—
the armor of his gospel.

3 We walk by faith and not by sight
while living in this darkness,
but grief will change into delight
when Christ returns in brightness.
Let us take heart until we see
the risen Lamb of suff'ring;
then we before his throne will be
like him, forever shining!

First Reading

2 Timothy 3:14–17

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced
of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you
have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for
teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant
of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading *Romans 15:4–6*

4For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that
through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they
provide we might have hope.
5May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same
attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6so that with one mind
and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Proverbs 2:6*

Alleluia! For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 7:24–29*

24"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into
practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25The rain came down,
the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not
fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26But everyone who hears these
words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built
his house on sand. 27The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew
and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."
28When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his
teaching, 29because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers
of the law.

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

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: How Firm a Foundation *CW 800*

Sermon *John 16:33*

Hymn: Speak, O Lord *CW 633*

Offering

You heard our school children sing today. Tuition Grant Fund envelopes are available in the pew rack to support affordable tuition for our school.

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.

Prayer

Eternal Father, your Word is a lamp for our feet and a light to our path. You inspired the Scriptures for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
Lead us to love your Word more and more and to receive your message with great eagerness.

You have given us your Word that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in his name. Enable us to see the wonders of your love in Christ from the beginning to the end of your holy book.
Help us to see Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith.

Work in all your people, especially in parents, the resolve and patience to teach children the simple truths about the Savior who loves them. Walk with us as we take our children to the manger, the cross, and the empty tomb. Help them see Jesus in our Bible lessons, songs, and prayers.
Move us to bring up our children in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Provide wisdom and commitment to teachers who train our young people in our school, in Sunday Schools, and youth Bible classes. Deepen their knowledge of your Word as they prepare and share the lessons they teach. Move them to model a sincere devotion to the Scriptures.
Lead us to plan for and support the Christian training of children.

We thank you for enabling our congregation to provide elementary (and high school) education for our children. We know our schools are your special blessing, and we pray for the resolve to establish and maintain standards of excellence in all aspects of education. Move us to be generous in our offerings so that teachers may teach and students may learn in fitting surroundings.
Lead us to provide Christian schools that reflect the immensity of your love.

Work in us that we may find the lasting value of growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Lead us to be faithful in our own personal study of the Scriptures and in participating in regular Bible classes. Rid us of all thoughts that Christian education ends in our youth. Make us life-long students of your precious Word.
Lead us to believe that at every age your Word remains a lamp for our feet and a light to our path. Bless us, Lord, in your Word. Amen.

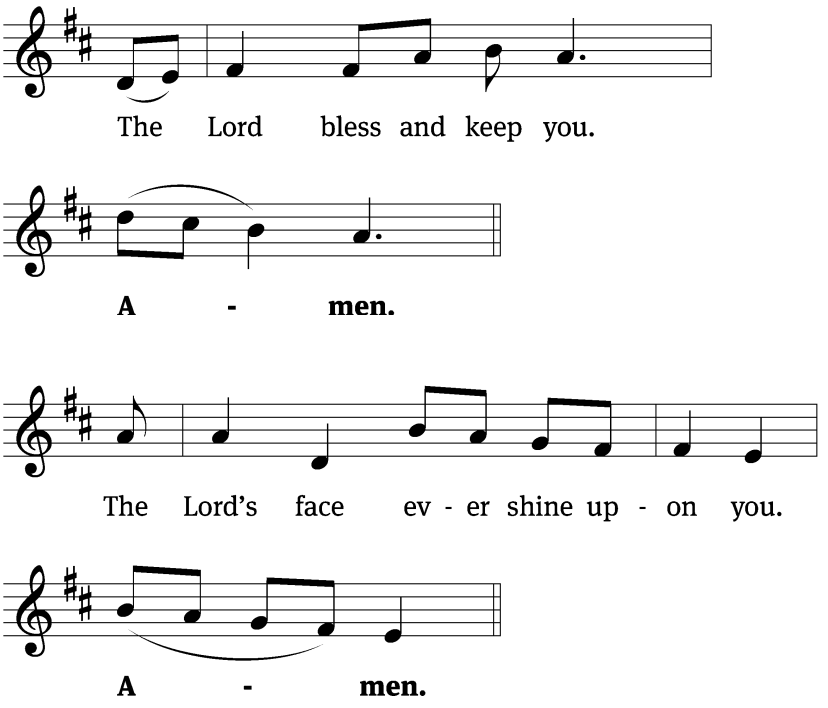
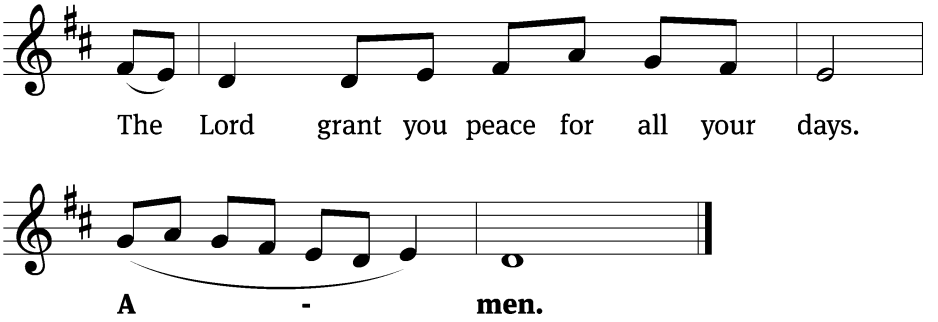
Lord's Prayer

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.

Prayer for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing



Hymn: May the Peace of God *CW 929*

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YOU ARE INVITED TO
LWMS Lakeshore Circuit
FALL Rally
— 10 OCTOBER 2026 —
REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST AT 8:30AM
RALLY BEGINS AT 9:00AM
BREAKFAST, LUNCH,
& CHILDCARE COMPLIMENTARY
GUEST SPEAKER
- MR. MARK SCHULZ-
WELS Board for World Missions
Water of Life Lutheran Church
South Campus
2921 Olive Street
Racine, WI
Please RSVP by October 1st