

SERVICE OF THE WORD

In Our World Today ... it is easy to mistake a pursuit of possessions and property and comfort and fun as a life of meaningful purpose. It is easy to build for this life and this world thinking we are building lasting value when whatever we build for this life and this world will come to an end.

In Our Worship Today ... we build on our 75th Anniversary “Blessed On Our Corner” themes, focusing on this lasting Truth - As Living Stones, We are Built Together to Build Together. We have a purpose greater than property and possessions, comfort and fun. We are built together into Christ’s Church to build together - to fill each other up and so build up Christ’s Church in us and around us.

Opening Hymn

“Christ is Our Cornerstone”
Hymn 914

+ Confession of Sins and Absolution +

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

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

O almighty, everlasting God, you have joined together all believers into one spiritual temple in Christ. Come and be present by your Word in this place of worship and instruction. Make it a workshop of your Spirit in which your people, both young and old, will be made wise for salvation and trained for willing service in this life to the glory of your name.

O Lord, we don't just pray for your work in this place; we pray for your work in and through us. Come and be present in our hearts by your Word. Make our hearts and minds to be the workshop of your Spirit so that we are made wise for salvation and trained for willing service in this life to the glory of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Lesson

Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

84E Let Us Go Rejoicing

Refrain



Tone



Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen. *Refrain*

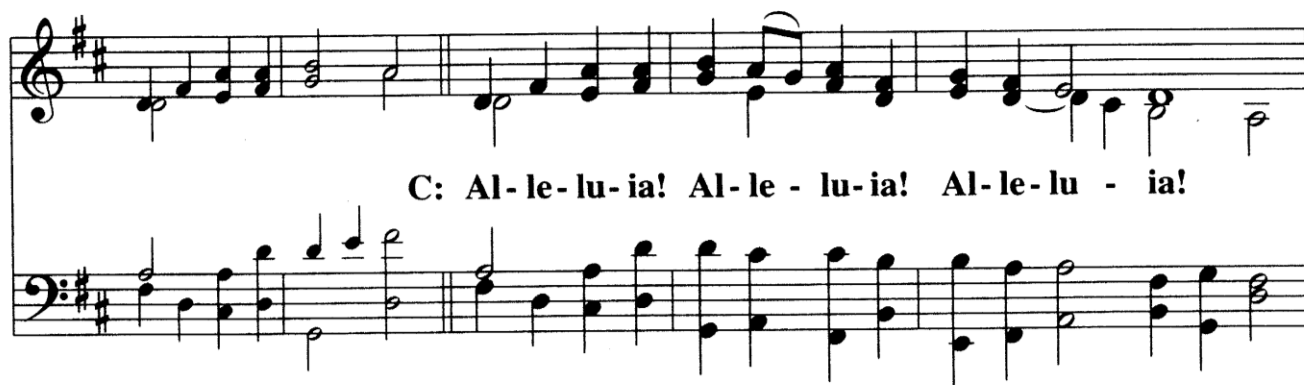
Second Lesson

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

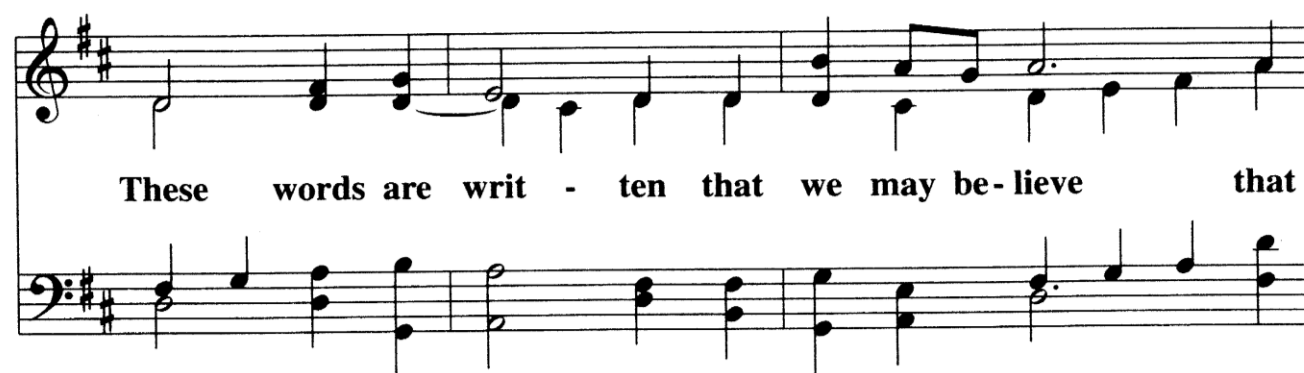
¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Verse of the Day



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in C major. The treble staff begins with a C4 quarter note, followed by a half note G4, and then a half note F#4. The bass staff begins with a C3 half note, followed by a half note G2, and then a half note F#2. The lyrics "C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" are centered between the staves.



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

The second system continues the melody. The treble staff has a half note G4, a half note F#4, a half note E4, a half note D4, a half note C4, a half note B3, a half note A3, and a half note G3. The bass staff has a half note G2, a half note F#2, a half note E2, a half note D2, a half note C2, a half note B1, a half note A1, and a half note G1. The lyrics "These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that" are centered between the staves.



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

The third system continues the melody. The treble staff has a half note G3, a half note F#3, a half note E3, a half note D3, a half note C3, a half note B2, a half note A2, and a half note G2. The bass staff has a half note G1, a half note F#1, a half note E1, a half note D1, a half note C1, a half note B0, a half note A0, and a half note G0. The lyrics "Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God." are centered between the staves.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The fourth system concludes the hymn. The treble staff has a half note G3, a half note F#3, a half note E3, a half note D3, a half note C3, a half note B2, a half note A2, and a half note G2. The bass staff has a half note G1, a half note F#1, a half note E1, a half note D1, a half note C1, a half note B0, a half note A0, and a half note G0. The lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" are centered between the staves.

Gospel Lesson

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.

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 of the Day

"Built on the Rock"

Hymn 856

(vs. 1, 3, 4, 5)

Sermon

Ephesians 2 and 4

Hymn

"Lord, You Call Us as Your People"

Hymn 736

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.



Choir Sings

"Ten Thousand Reasons"

Hymn 607

Prayer of the Church

- M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.
- C: **We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**
- M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.
- C: **We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**
- M: Heavenly father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.
- C: **Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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

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.



Closing Hymn

“Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly”
Hymn 748

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Open Forum- 75th Anniversary Brainstorming

September 13, 2026, 10:30am

1. Opening (10:30am)

- a. Present (19): Ray, Sheryl, Lee, Holly, Charles, Donna, Eloise, Sheila, Marilyn, Matthew, Charlie, Gail, Steve, Pastor, Lisa, Jeanne, Tim S, Dave R, Nancy

2. 75 years on our corner suggestions

- a. Marilyn: Invest in the future (possibly the school). The school is Marilyn's favorite which is the future of St. John
- b. Sheryl: We should celebrate our 130th anniversary of our congregation over the 75th on our corner. Have a special celebration with food trucks and invitations to the community. Do a special community service project (ex: but bullet proof vests for the Libertyville police)
- c. Ray: Keep service projects going for the whole year (not a one-and-done event)
- d. Charlie: Adopt a highway.
- e. Gayle: Have a sign in front that mentions our 75th anniversary.
- f. Sheryl: Lake County Haven– provide meals (approx. 10 women and children)
- g. Tim S: Christmas carol sing-a-long. Play/sing at various long-term care facilities
- h. Lee: Do a church T-shirt to wear during community events
- i. Tim S: Have a T-shirt with "Ask me why I'm happy"
- j. Lee: Have an outdoor service and picnic at Independence Grove
- k. Marilyn: Every quarter we donate to missions (we already do this twice a year)
- l. Pastor: Who should be our guest preacher for a special service?
- m. Holly: Organ concert(s) – Kevin Bode, Charles Bonow
- n. Charlie: Do something to the Church/school that could have a significant impact on our ability to serve better: Talk to teachers to see what they'd like. I'd like to see us use the funds that we were blessed with to improve our ability to accomplish our ministry and mission.
- o. Holly: Build a fund, to pay for a member ministry coordinator
- p. Holly: Create a long-term strategic plan. This is not a Ministry Council thing, but an entire congregation thing.
- q. Marilyn: If there is someone who wants to send their children to our school and can't afford it? We have a tuition assistance fund and tuition grant fund.
- r. Gayle: Plant a tree on our property or somewhere in Libertyville.

3. Pastor's summary

- a. I'm hearing that it would be great to have a worship/fellowship event every quarter
- b. On Oct 18th we'll be using the 1941 hymnal
- c. Guest preachers: i. Jeff Samelson; ii. Matt Schoell; iii. Treptow? Arranged as bullet points:
 - Create endowment fund celebrating anniversary Also celebrate our 130th year Create yearlong community service projects in honor of anniversary (Lake County Haven meals, Free community garage sale)
 - Adopt a highway in the area
 - Ensure sign refers to 75 th anniversary often
 - Christmas Caroling event at church to invite others to
 - Create anniversary T-shirt
 - Outdoor services and picnic (Independence Grove?)
 - Organ concert (Bode?/Bonow?)
 - Special fund for school need
 - Create fund for member ministry coordinator position
 - Build a long-term strategic growth plan
 - Plant a commemorative tree
 - Invite former members for special service/meal
 - Promote Tuition Grant Fund as opportunity to contribute

**75 Years on Our Corner –
Let's Celebrate Together, Grow Together, Serve Together**

Churches Celebrate with Worship

Join our 75-Year Worship Team - we heard suggestions to have 3-4 special anniversary worship service in our anniversary year. Let's work together to plan and deliver!

Churches Celebrate with Fellowship

Join our 75-Year Fellowship Event Team - we heard suggestions to have 3-4 special fellowship events (and a growing fellowship life!). Let's work together to plan and deliver!

Churches Celebrate by Remembering the Past

Help us treasure our past by writing, displaying, showing the blessings of our past.

Churches Celebrate Ministry Anniversaries with Renewed Ministry

Join our School Strategic Growth Team. We have a BluePrint for Strategic Growth and renewed school ministry. Let's work together to deliver!

Join our Congregation Fellowship Life Team. Help us to be a Family Connecting In Christ!

Join our Community Connection Team. Let's work together to expand our Ministry beyond our corner, to bring Jesus' mission and ministry to our communities here in the heart of Lake County.

Join Our Long-Range Planning Team. We have challenges ahead of us, opportunities around us, and a Proven Path to build on. We are Built Together to Build Together - let's do it!

Churches Celebrate Building Anniversaries with Facilities Renewed for Ministry.

Join our 75-Year Facility Renewal/Expansion Team. What Facility Improvements would best serve our Ministry moving forward? Let's work together to plan and deliver!

75 Years on Our Corner - A Look Back; A Look Ahead

As we get closer to our St. John Lutheran Church's 75th anniversary, we are hoping to start active planning for a year-long series of anniversary events. Our goal is to:

- thank God for blessing us on our corner for 75 years
- thank God for working through us to share his blessings from our corner
- look ahead to our future mission and ministry here on our corner
- look ahead to how we can best serve and share God's love here in the heart of Lake County.

At our Open Forum regarding our coming anniversary we had a LOT of good ideas on activities/events/ministry actions to consider to thank our God for our ministry here and to demonstrate our continuing commitment to ministry to our community. At our Open Forum we had many great ideas on WHAT we want to do for this coming anniversary year. What we need now is to determine WHO is willing to participate in small groups to make some of these goals go from ideas to reality!

If you are interested in participating in any of these proposed activities, talk to your St. John family (old friends and new) and see who would also be interested. Then once you have a small group, let your church leadership know how you and your team would like to get involved. St John's greatest attributes are the God-given talents, intelligence, and creativity of its members and our collective willingness to step up when a need is seen.

You may already be engaged in other areas of our shared ministry. If so, THANK YOU! For the coming anniversary year, you will likely find another area or two where you feel you can make an impact, especially if you finally decide to ask others to join you in the new endeavor. If you haven't found a place within our ministry yet where you feel you have a niche, NOW is an excellent time to change that and give yourself the opportunity to know the joy of being impactful in ministry. You won't be sorry!

If you have questions about how you might be able to be part of making our anniversary year meaningful with thanksgiving and new ministry, talk with others in our St. John family and see what you can do together. Or feel free to contact me directly! And I look forward to working with each of you in some aspect this coming anniversary year!

- Steve Lemerand, Congregation President