

St. Johns Lutheran Church

One thing I do know...



I was blind, now I see.”

AS WE GATHER

Some of the central people in the Gospel narratives we get to know by name; others we do not. Although the man born blind is a major person in John 9, we never learn what his name might be. We meet his parents and his neighbors and we meet the Pharisees to whom he tells the story of the miraculous restoration of his sight.

Although we do not learn his name, Jesus said of the man born blind that the works of God were displayed in him. As the One brightening our lives with the light of salvation, Jesus brings a new vision to our lives—an eternal vision of life with God that never ends. God knows our names. He directs the cross currents of our daily lives. In His light we see light—and that is what matters!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME GUESTS

We're glad you are here! Make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. Please take time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering. Please consider liking us on Facebook (St. Johns Lutheran Church – St. Louis City) and checking out our website (<https://stjohnslutheranstlouis.org/>).

PREPARATION

HYMN I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light *LSB 411*

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

**In Him there is no darkness at all,
The night and the day are both alike.
The lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain***

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 119:33–35, 40–41*

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

Behold, I long for Your precepts; in Your righteousness give me life! Let Your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to Your promise.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us make confession of our sins to God, our gracious, heavenly Father.

Eternal God, we confess that we all have sinned and need forgiveness. By nature, we are sinful from the very beginnings of our lives. Through our thoughts, words, and deeds, we continually sin against You. We have lived for ourselves in

many ways, breaking Your commands that direct us not to lie, steal, or transgress Your holy will. We have walked in the darkness of bad choices and have left unfulfilled opportunities to do good and be blessings to others. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and free us from selfishness and indifference, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and direct us in ways of compassion and love.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ is given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

WORD

KYRIE *LSB 152*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MEMORIZED WORD

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me. Psalm 86:5-7

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 42:14–21*

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.” ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Hebrews 12:2*

**[O come, let us fix our eyes on] * Jesus,
the founder and perfecter * of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,
despise * ing the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the * throne of God.**

EPISTLE *Ephesians 5:8–14*

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Psalm 36:9*

With You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 9:1–41*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these

things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God Loved the World So That He Gave” *LSB 571*

**God loved the world so that He gave
 His only Son the lost to save,
 That all who would in Him believe
 Should everlasting life receive.**

**Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.**

**God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.**

**Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.**

**If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.**

Stand

**Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!**

SERMON

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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

OFFERING *Lead Me Lord sung by the Choir*

OFFERTORY

LSB 159

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now
in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *LSB, p. 215*

Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, **our Father in heaven**, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that **Your holy name be hallowed** by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned.

Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [*name(s)*] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times:

Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us

so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

And lastly, O heavenly Father, **deliver us from all evil** of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and ☩ give us peace.

Amen.

HYMN Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness *LSB 849*

**Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands
With the very Bread of peace.**

**Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With the piercing two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**Let us praise the Word incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.**

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Tristan Pilot
Lector	<i>(Gospel only)</i> Pastor Michael Tanney
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	Cameron Hampel, John Benwell, Patrick Benwell, Jayvon Evers, Joan Potvin, William Gebhart, and Roger Schmidt
Children's Message	Pastor Michael Tanney
Acolytes/Screen	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Bible Class	Pastor Michael Tanney

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Announcements

Saved to Share Called to Care

Our Response to God's Love Last Week
Attendance Sunday/Communion: 44/38
Nepalese Attendance: 31
Lent Attendance: 27
Offering: \$2,344.00

LENT MIDWEEK 4 (3/22/23) Join us for our Amazing Grace Lenten series based on the beloved song that celebrates its 250th anniversary this year. In this week's service, we listen to Jesus teach a woman at the well of his amazing grace poured out for us abundantly, which satisfies our thirsting souls for all eternity. Taste and see that the Lord is good. The service will be at 6pm with a soup supper at 5:15pm.

LUTHERAN DAY AT THE BALLPARK Baseball fever is in the air, and it's time to get your tickets to Lutheran Day at the Ballpark! Join us for an interleague matchup between the Cardinals and the Detroit Tigers on Sunday, May 7 at 1:15 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each in the left field pavilion and include a jumbo hot dog and soda. They can be picked up at Lutheran South beginning May 1. Stick around to watch the Lutheran South Lancers battle the Lutheran North Crusaders following the Cardinal game. Tickets are available for purchase at LSlancers.org/events

SUBSTITUTE LUNCH COOK WOL has an in-house lunch program. We are looking for someone with cooking experience who would be willing to be a substitute cook on Mondays and Wednesdays should our daily cook be out sick. Please contact the school office at 314-832-1244 if you might have an interest and ability in helping WOL in this way.

WORD OF LIFE RESTAURANT NIGHT will be at Chipotle on Hampton on March 21st from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm. The flyer will be needed for in person orders. For online orders, the online order code is: LDJDWAQ

PRODIGAL'S JOURNEY BY BALLET MAGNIFICAT! Will be held on March 17th, 2023 @ 7pm. CMP will host The Grace Center of Festus' presentation of *Prodigal's Journey* by Ballet Magnificat! Tickets are available online only. See CMPShows.org for details. Ballet Magnificat! Is an arts organization dedicated to presenting the good news of Jesus Christ through ballet. If you have any additional questions or require assistance with ticketing, please call 314-278-5664 or email makayleemiller8@gmail.com

LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER NEEDED WOL is seeking a long term substitute teacher for Mrs. Pierce while she is on maternity leave. She teaches in the Preschool 3/4 classroom at the St. Lucas campus. We are expecting coverage to be needed at the end of March through the end of the school year. Qualified applicants can contact Principal, Melissa Bergholt at 314-832-1244 or mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net.

CFNA TRIVIA AND SILENT AUCTION EVENT Please consider registering, sponsoring a round, and/or donating an item, service, or gift certificate for our sixteenth annual Trivia and Silent Auction to benefit CFNA. This event helps fund the many programs CFNA offers to assist refugees and immigrants in the St. Louis area including After School Tutoring, ESL, Driver's Education, Sewing Classes, Employment Support, Friend a Family Support Groups, and more. **When:** Saturday, April 1, 2023
Doors open 5:45 pm, Trivia begins at 6:30 pm **Where:** Lutheran Church of Webster Gardens 8749 Watson Rd, Webster Groves, MO
Cost: \$30 per person, \$200 for a table of 8
Bring snacks and non-alcoholic drinks!
Contact Kerry Pozaric at kpozaric@cfna-stl.org with questions or for more information.

TEACHER OPENINGS 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

WOL is seeking to fill two full time positions for next school year. One is for our Preschool 3/4 year old classroom at the St. Lucas campus and the other is for Middle School Mathematics. Applicants should have a Bachelor's degree in education and be a licensed teacher. Resumes can be sent to mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net.

LUTHERAN SOUTH SUMMER CAMP INFO Does your child enjoy shooting hoops? Love being on stage? Want to learn a new sport like football or field hockey?

LuSo Summer Camp offers a variety of athletic and enrichment activities for students who have completed K-8th grade. New activities this year include strength and conditioning, hiking, and woodworking. Your campers will have fun while learning a new skill! With more than 20 morning and afternoon activities available, there's a camp for every future Lancer! Registration is now open at LSlancers.org/summer.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL will have a meeting next Sunday, March 26th at 11:30am in the Sanctuary, after Bible Study is finished.

Prayers

Special Prayer Petitions – **Carmen Hobson** who is enduring pain, stability, and weakness with no surgery in sight; **Bobbie** who is suffering with mental issues; **Jerry Schmaltz** gives thanks for his good health; **Confirmation Class** for the Lord to help them finish what they have begun; **Our Vicars** as they continue to take classes at the Seminary; **Our Field-Workers** Tristan (and family), Alvaro, and Isaac (as he begins his urban mission track);
Shut Ins – Bobbie Kepford, Jerry Schmaltz, Steve Bain, Carmen Hobson

Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week March 19 – March 26

Sunday	9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Study/Nepali Worship 12:30pm African Worship
Monday	8am-12pm Office Open <u>NO</u> Compass / <u>NO</u> Ladies Exercise
Tuesday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>NO</u> Compass 6pm Seminary Students
Wednesday	8am-12pm Office Open <u>NO</u> Compass / <u>NO</u> Compass Chapel 5:15pm Soup Supper / 6pm Lent Service
Thursday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>2pm</u> Ridgewood Bible Study <u>NO</u> Compass / <u>6:30pm</u> Adult Confirmation
Friday	8am-12pm Office Open 8am Bible Study 1pm Nepali Mother's Prayer Service <u>NO</u> Compass / <u>NO</u> Faith Oakville Small Group
Saturday	<u>8:30am</u> Food Pantry / <u>9am</u> Confirmation 2pm Vicar Meeting 5:30pm-7:30pm Young Adult Bible Study
Next Sunday	9:00am Joint Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study 11:30am Executive Council Meeting 12:30pm African Worship