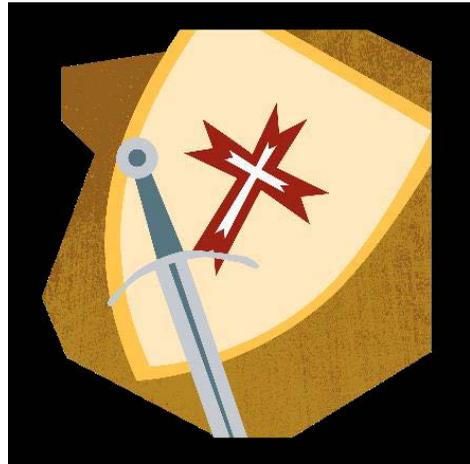


Sunday Worship  
Bulletin  
**Fifteenth Sunday  
After  
Pentecost**

10:00 a.m.

September 2, A.D. 2018



## Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

(413)568-1417

Rev. David Riley, Pastor

125 Glenwood Drive, Westfield, MA 01085

**Cell phone # 870-814-4828**

Website: <http://stjohnswestfield.org> E-mail: [info@stjohnswestfield.org](mailto:info@stjohnswestfield.org)

Music Ministry Site: [stjohnsmusic.org](http://stjohnsmusic.org)

**Radio Broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN 560 AM**

### **WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD**

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

***Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."***

*John 13:34-35*



## AS WE GATHER

It has been said, "The Church is never more than one generation away from extinction." This bold statement perhaps finds support in the admonition found in today's Old Testament Reading. There Moses writes this concerning the works of the Lord, "Make them known to your children and your children's children" (Deuteronomy 4:9). Each generation has the responsibility, and privilege, of passing on the works of God to the next generation. While much of this teaching happens in the setting of a local congregation, the Christian instruction that happens in the home, in our own family, is key. This teaching is always centered in Jesus Christ, the one through whom our Lord has worked the mightiest work of all—our salvation. That same Savior promises that even the gates of hell will not prevail against His Church!

### ✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ OPENING HYMN NO. **661**: *"The Son of God Goes Forth to War"*

### ✠ INVOCATION, CONFESSION, and ABSOLUTION

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

L: Therefore, take up the whole armor of God,

**C: that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,**

L: and having done all,

**C: to stand firm.**

L: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

**C: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

L: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

L: Because of God's mercy and grace, salvation has come to you! You are forgiven in your Father's eyes, washed spotless by the washing of water with the Word. You are united to Christ, so rejoice and be glad!

**C: Amen.**

‡ SALUTATION and COLLECT

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray. O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent, that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Be Seated)*

‡ OLD TESTAMENT READING: Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

*(“Listen to the statutes and just decrees that I am teaching you.”)*

“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.

Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children—

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

‡ EPISTLE: Ephesians 6:10-20 *(“Put on the whole armor of God.”)*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**(Stand)**

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:14–23

(Jesus rebukes those who reject God's commands in order to establish their own traditions.)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: Apostles 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.**

**(Be Seated)**

✠ HYMN of the DAY NO. **662**: *"Onward Christian Soldiers"*

✠ SERMON: *"Going to War"* Ephesians 6:10-20

**Offering**

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

**(Please Stand)**

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

L: We come before our Lord in prayer, saying along with the psalmist, "Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is Your way with those who love Your name." O Lord, You spoke through Your servant Moses, instructing us to teach Your Word to future generations. Grant us diligence in sharing Christ with our children and our children's children, that they may know Him as their Savior. Turn to me and be gracious to me,

**C: as is Your way with those who love Your name.**

L: O Lord, the apostle Paul warns us of Satan and his schemes. We thank You that You do not leave us defenseless but give us Your armor to guard and defend us. Turn to me and be gracious to me,

**C: as is Your way with those who love Your name.**

L: O Lord, You have the power to heal and to restore, and so we humbly ask that You look with favor upon the sick and hurting in body, mind, or spirit. Give to them strength and restoration according to Your perfect will. Turn to me and be gracious to me,

**C: as is Your way with those who love Your name.**

L: O Lord, we thank You for those who serve on behalf of others, including teachers, first responders, and those in the armed forces of our land. Watch over and bless these individuals as they fulfill these vocations with selflessness and honor. Turn to me and be gracious to me,

**C: as is Your way with those who love Your name.**

L: O Lord, give us faithful hearts with which to receive Your Son's body and blood at Your Table. Grant that it strengthen and sustain us in the one true faith. Turn to me and be gracious to me,

**C: as is Your way with those who love Your name.**

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy.

**C: Amen.**

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ BENEDICTION

L: The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

✠ CLOSING HYMN NO. **660**: *"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"*

✠ SILENT PRAYER

## † POSTLUDE

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SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Lay Assistants – Tom McClure & William  
Schneeloch

Lay Reader – Robin Greenspan

Acolyte – Daniel Provost

Music Director – Jeffrey Windoloski

Altar Care – Jane McClure

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Brud Skidmore from the Slozak Family.

### **REFLECTION for the WEEK**

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9 - Ephesians 6:10–20 - Mark 7:14–23

#### ***We Are Cleansed and Sustained by the Word of God***

Wickedness and evil come “*from within, out of the heart,*” and that is what defiles a person (Mark 7:21–23). Hence, we cannot save ourselves, because we are sinful and unclean from the inside out. But, as the Lord Jesus “*declared all foods clean*” (Mark 7:19), so He cleanses us by His Word, by the preaching of repentance and forgiveness of sins. Therefore, “*listen to the statutes and the rules*” of the Lord, “*and do them, that you may live*” (Deuteronomy 4:1). For His Word is righteous, and to live according to it is “*your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples*” (Deuteronomy 4:6). Cling to His Word, and also teach it “*to your children and your children’s children*” (Deuteronomy 4:9). Put on this “*armor of God*” by hearing and heeding what He speaks to you, that you may “*stand firm*” in the evil day (Ephesians 6:11–13). Gird yourself with the righteousness of Christ, by faith in the “*gospel of peace,*” and take up “*the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God,*” by confessing Christ Jesus and “*praying at all times in the Spirit*” (Ephesians 6:14–18).

**RADIO MINISTRY:** There are many Sundays coming up that are available for sponsorship. Please help in the continuing outreach mission project of our Radio Broadcast of Sunday morning Worship. Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN (560 AM). The cost for the program is now \$125 per week. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast (or a part of a broadcast) in memory of or in honor of anyone please call the church or sign up on the sheet outside the office door. Donations of any amount are welcome.

**ALTAR CARE:** A sign-up sheet is located in the foyer for those who are willing to volunteer to clean our church altar during the month of October or December. Please consider helping. If you are unable to do a full month, two weeks would be fine. All are encouraged to help with the task. Training will be provided if needed.

### **NEW BIBLE STUDY**

Pastor Riley is beginning a Midweek Bible Study open to all St. John’s members and the surrounding communities. The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. The study will last about 1 hour. Come to know the person and the works of Jesus better through the unique eyes of this Gospel writer. Mark witnesses for us Christ’s life from birth to death and resurrection. He also gives us insights into all the miracles – great and small – which were a part of His life here on earth.

*“How from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” – 2 Timothy 3:15*