



June 25, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

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*St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA*

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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**Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> 2023**  
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A  
Reverend Maggie Westaby

**WELCOME**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ One God, who greets us in every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Let us trust the love of God and confess our sin, that we might receive grace and find true freedom.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac; God of Hagar and Ishmael,

**We confess we have turned against our neighbors. We fail to be honest and lack courage to speak your truth. We seek our own advantage and turn away from you. Guide us, restore us, and forgive us, that we may become beacons of hope in a weary world.**

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Hear the good news: in Jesus ☩ Christ you are forgiven.

**Amen.**

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

*All*

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator God,

You have the power to make a desert a place of renewal and a cross a sign of redemption. Help us to find your hope that lingers in the most desolate of spaces. May your hope transform our lives, encouraging us to serve you and creation in ways that are life-giving to all. In Christ we pray.

**Amen.**

**READING: Genesis 21:8-21**

<sup>8</sup>The child [Isaac] grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. <sup>9</sup>But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. <sup>10</sup>So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” <sup>11</sup>The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. <sup>12</sup>But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. <sup>13</sup>As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.” <sup>14</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

<sup>15</sup>When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup>Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. <sup>17</sup>And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. <sup>18</sup>Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” <sup>19</sup>Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

<sup>20</sup>God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. <sup>21</sup>He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

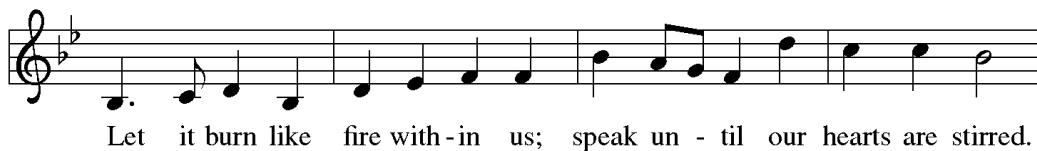
**READING: Romans 6:1b-11**

<sup>1b</sup>Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



### **GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

<sup>36</sup>and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON

## Will You Come and Follow Me *The Summons*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
 4 "Will you love the you hide if I but call  
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't  
 your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 my name. Let me quell the fear in -  
 low

know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?  
 pray'r in you and you in me?  
 mean in you and you in me?  
 sound in you and you in me?  
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

Christ knows every breath we take: each one is a gift from the Spirit. God watches over, protects, and provides for us. Let us present our offerings of thanksgiving for the goodness of the Triune God.

## Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

### *Offering Song*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The final note of the fifth staff is a double bar line.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,

Receive these and all of our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your mission. May all creation be joined together as one in your love. In Christ we pray.

**Amen.**



## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

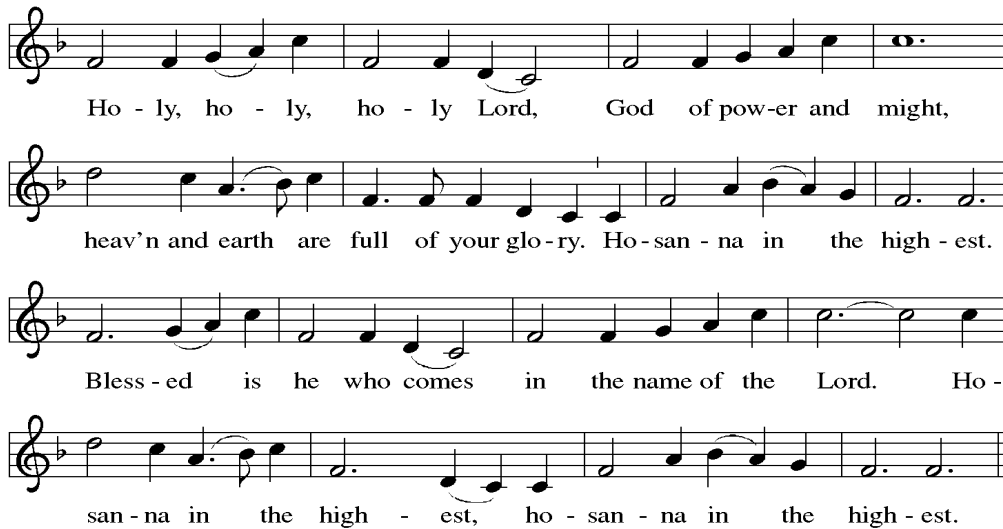
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

## 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see God's love.

## COMMUNION HYMNS



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

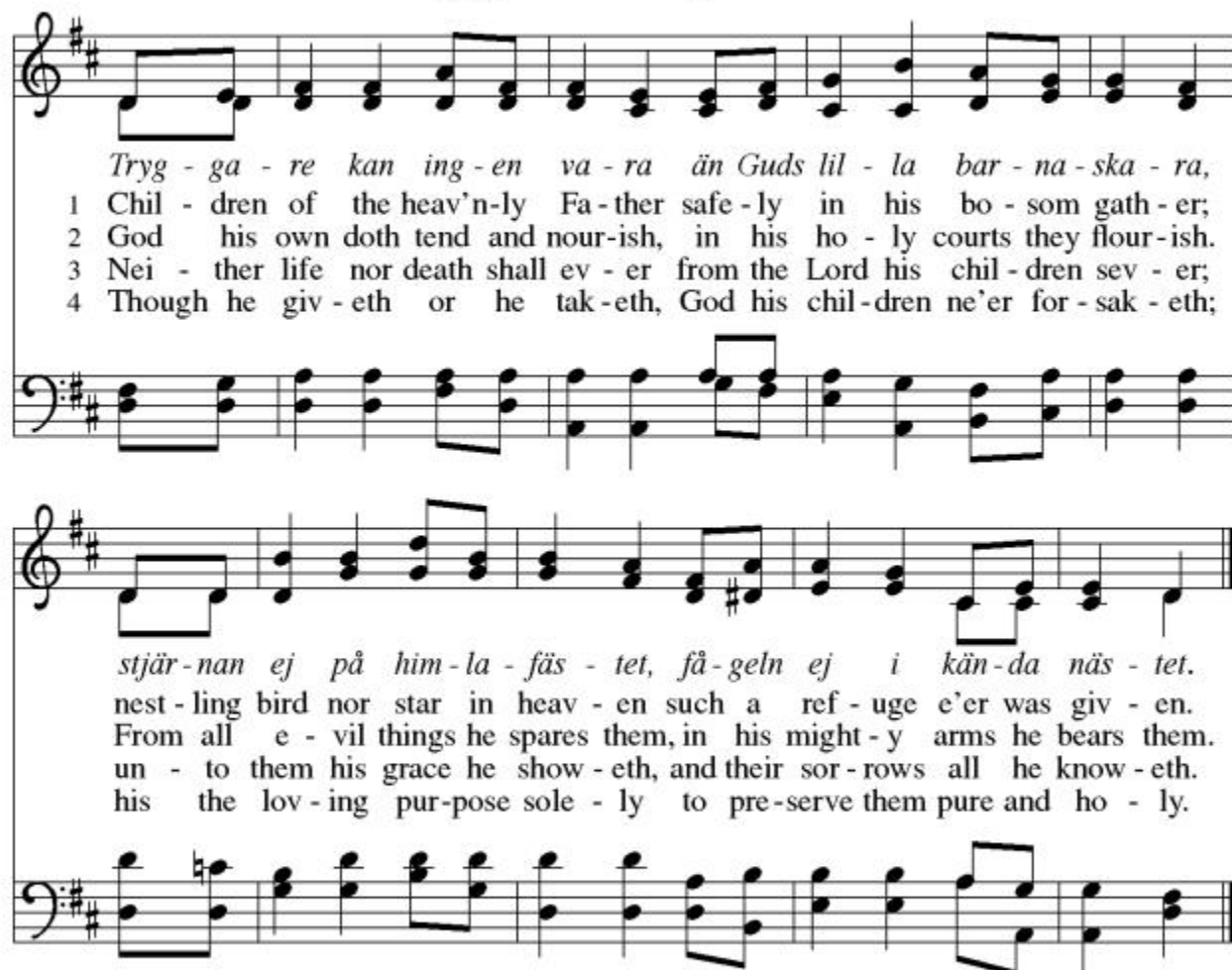


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMNS CONTINUED

# Children of the Heavenly Father

## *Tryggare kan ingen vara*



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,  
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.  
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.  
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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## Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise,  
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.  
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee,

While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love,

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.  
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.  
 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,

We thank you for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

May the majesty of the Creator be the light by which you walk,

May the compassion of Christ be the love by which you walk,

May the presence of the Spirit be the power by which you walk,

And may the peace of the Triune ✝ God bring serenity to your path.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

## The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
 joy like seed and, all our days, to  
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
 share a dream and help the blind to see.  
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Welcome to all!** Welcome to worship and Christian fellowship this summer morning! May we learn what Jesus truly means by calling us to “take up the cross and follow [him]” (Matthew 10:38, NRSV).

On this first official weekend of summer in the northern hemisphere, I thank you, Creator God, for warmth, sunshine, growth, rest and rejuvenation.

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

**To those who are visiting:** Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

**Reminder!** If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John's at (715) 675-6950

**Holy Communion** is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us.

**Food Basket.** Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.

### **2024 YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS**

**July 16-20, 2024, National Youth Gathering!** Registration for this event will take place **Sept. 15–Nov. 1, 2023**. This is for all youth that will be in 8<sup>th</sup> to 12th grade at the time of registration (fall 2023). Please let Pastor Maggie know if you are interested so we can start planning and fundraising.

**July 16-20, 2024, National Young Adult Youth Gathering!** Due to the cancellation of the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering, this gathering will be open to individuals who will be 18-35 at the time of the event! Registration for this event will take place **Sept. 15–Nov. 1, 2023**. Please let Pastor Maggie know if you are interested.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**June 25 – June 29 St. John Vacation Bible School.** This year's "STELLAR: Shine Jesus' Light" VBS will be 'Out of this world!' Sunday, June 25th through Thursday, June 29th. 5:30pm - 8pm with dinner served each night from 5:30-6pm. Come join the fun! Register your kids and their friends online <https://stjohnwausau.org/education/vbs/>

**Monday, July 31 at 6:30 p.m.** Pastor Maggie's Book Club will be discussing *Peace Like A River* by Leif Enger.

**Exciting news!** Pictures that were taken for the new church directory are here and can be picked up in the fellowship hall. Pictures are located on the table and in the box. We are also excited to have our new directories soon, stay tuned.

**St. John Parking Lot.** During the May council meeting, a discussion was had about St. John's Parking lot, as the asphalt needs to be replaced. There are many cracks, crevasses, and areas where the base layer is no longer good and as time goes on would only grow worse. The area to be replaced starts at the corner of the building going out to the road.

***A meeting will be held at a later date for the congregation to discuss options.***

A discussion is noted in the meeting minutes for May, please contact a council member if you have concerns.

**Live Streaming and Photography Notice.** When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

**Coming This Week @ St. John June 25– July 2**

**Today**

9:00 a.m. Worship

**June 26**

5:30 p.m. VBS!

**June 27**

5:30 p.m. VBS!

**June 28**

5:30 p.m. VBS!

**June 29**

5:30 p.m. VBS!

**July 02**

9:00 a.m. Worship