

Kyrie Eleison



Persistence in Prayer

Pre-Worship Meditation: Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

10/19/2025

**Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
St. John United Church of Christ**

Ringling of the Bell

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

One: As we begin our Prelude, let us focus our hearts on worshipping our loving God.

(Please use this time to end our conversations, as we enter a time of worship and respect and openness.)

Prelude

Welcome and Brief Announcements

*** Hymn: #50, Great is the Lord**

Call to Worship (Psalm 121)

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

Many: My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

One: The Lord will not let your foot be moved, nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

Many: Behold the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

One: The Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

Many: The sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

One: The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

Many: The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time now and forever.

**** Prayer of Invocation (Praying Together)***

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Special Time with Youth

God's Word

First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

During the night Jacob rose and crossed the Jabbok River at the crossing. He took his two wives, his two slave girls and his 11 sons with him. ²³ He sent his family and everything he had across the river. ²⁴ But Jacob stayed behind alone. And a man came and wrestled with him until the sun came up. ²⁵ The man saw that he could not defeat Jacob. So he struck Jacob's hip and put it out of joint. ²⁶ Then the man said to Jacob, "Let me go. The sun is coming up."

But Jacob said, "I will let you go if you will bless me."

²⁷ The man said to him, "What is your name?"

And he answered, "Jacob."

²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob. Your name will now be Israel, because you have wrestled with God and with men. And you have won."

²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name."

But the man said, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed Jacob there.

³⁰ So Jacob named that place Peniel. He said, "I have seen God face to face. But my life was saved." ³¹ Then the sun rose as he was leaving that place. Jacob was limping because of his leg.

First Pastoral Reflection: Transformations

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:3:14 – 4:5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Second Pastoral Reflection: Staying True to the Word

Joyful Musical Interlude

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Third Pastoral Reflection: Lord Have Mercy!

Hymn: #96, O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord’s Prayer

OFFERING / Offertory,

Leader: We stand, singing the Doxology, as our Offerings are presented.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him, all creatures here below

Praise Him above the Heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

All: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: As we prepare to end our worship today, we offer one more prayer – a prayer for our new settled pastor. Please pray with me. **O Great Divine, we trust and believe that you have already identified who this kind and caring person will be. Our new shepherd, who will journey with this congregation for the years ahead. As we wait for you to reveal that person to us, provide us patience, understanding, and a willingness to become extravagantly welcoming. In your great name we pray. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: #118, Lord of the Dance

****Benediction***

Leader: May the God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, bless you now and forever.

All: Our Worship has ended... Now let our service begin. Thanks be to God. Amen!

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor David Kohls
Musicians	Ebenezer – Elaine Hessil
	St. John – Gary Bieck
Reader	Ebenezer – Stephanie
	St. John – Carol
Usher	Ebenezer – Karen
	St. John – Donna

Announcements

A Loving Welcome: A loving welcome to all who are here today. If you are a guest or visitor, please feel free to sign our guest book located in the back of the church and help yourself to our information. And please remember that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Evening Bible Study: *No Bible Study this evening.*

Bible Study: Wednesday, October 22 at 10:00 a.m. in the St. John lounge.

Articles Due: Newsletter articles are due Thursday, October 23.

All Saints Sunday: On Sunday, November 2nd, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday. This will be a special service remembering those who have passed away over the last year. In a special way, we will remember all those who have returned home to our Savior and now rest in the arms of the Holy. Please feel free to invite friends and family members to this special service of remembrance. This is also our regular communion Sunday, however, our communion will be individual and received at the Altar in a continuous fashion. Also during communion time, we will have a service of healing, where I will offer a special prayer for you and/or loved ones. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

At St. John:

Our Prayers go out to Kelly Sippel and family on the recent loss of his father, Leroy Sippel.

Drive-Thru Brat Fry: Will be held on Sunday, October 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thank you!

Food Drive: The Women's Fellowship is again doing their Food Drive which will run from October till November. Sheets with a list of the most needed items are available in the narthex along with a table for collecting donations. Thank you for your generosity!

Special Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, November 9. Mark your calendars to attend this important meeting (an agenda will be forthcoming.)

Sign-Ups: If you are interested in signing up for the Outreach Committee, the Security Ministry Team, Narcan training or the Our Future Is Now Planning Team sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

At Ebenezer:

Thank You Event: We would like to invite you all to a "THANK YOU ELAINE" Open House next Sunday, October 26th from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at Lakehouse located at 1706 Hoover Street in New Holstein (most direct to enter off of Jordan Street). We are so very grateful for her talent and gift she brought to us here at Ebenezer.

Local Events:

Ham Dinner: Dine-In & Carry-Out at St. James UCC, 13312 Pioneer Rd, Newton today, October 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Special Presentation: Officer Adam Meyers, founder of "Stop the Threat – Stop the Stigma" will be giving a presentation about mental health support, particularly for those in law enforcement and emergency response, on Monday, October 20 from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Kiel Community Center (510 3rd Street, Kiel). This event is free, sponsored by Bethlehem UCC.

Prayers of Joys and Concerns*

David ~ Jan ~ Maci ~ Penny ~ Ruth ~ Susan

**Contact the office to add or remove from this prayer list*

St. John Council Members

President: Jim Sommers (920) 894-2350
(2-year term starting 2025)

Secretary: Lynn Kind (920) 378-2173
(2nd 2-year term starting 2025)

Treasurer & Congregational President:
Derek Beyer (920) 979-2017
(2nd 2-year term starting 2024)

Vice-President: Garry Preder (920) 838-0714
(2-year term starting 2025)

Trustee: Penny Geiger (920) 266-6324
(2nd 2-year term starting 2024)

**If anyone would like something put on the St. John website, please contact Phil Vergowe at pjvergowe@outlook.com*

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