

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

MAY 6, 2018 at 8:30 A.M.

Welcome to All

All are invited to to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

✠ Please stand as you are comfortable. **Bold** indicates congregational response.

## GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ SONGS of PRAISE

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee* FWS 2158, vs. 1  
**I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.**

**Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea  
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

*I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me* FWS 2151, vs. 1 & 3

**I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,  
I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.**

**When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,  
when I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,  
when I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.**

✠ CALL to WORSHIP

By faith, we trust that we were created in the image of God.

**By faith, we hope and dream and make plans.**

By faith, we face our fears and insecurities.

**By faith, we till the soil of our lives and plant seeds of love.**

By faith, we follow where God leads.

**By faith, we trust that God is present in our midst.**

**By faith, we gather in this place to worship God together.**

✠ SONG of RESPONSE

*All I Need Is You* FWS 2080, v. 1

**All I need is you, Jesus, all I need is you.  
You are the source of all I need.  
All I need is you.  
(REPEAT)**

## ENGAGING TOGETHER

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.*

*Ushers will pass out folders during the Children's Moment. Please register your attendance. If you have any joys or concerns please fill out a prayer card found in the left pocket of the folder and place it in the offering plate.*

GRADUATION BLESSING

*St. John's United Methodist Women will present a gift to our high school graduates. Following the presentation, all those graduating or celebrating an educational milestone are invited forward for a blessing.*

SCRIPTURE

*Psalm 139:1-18*

This is the Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

A "YOUTHFUL" WITNESS

RESPONSIVE READING

*The Staircase of Discipleship*

**Faith is like taking the first step, even when  
you don't see the whole staircase.**

**Prayer keeps us connected to God and others  
on the staircase of faith.**

**Presence lets others know that we are on the  
staircase together.**

**Gifts allow us to build a handrail on the staircase  
that we can all hold on to.**

**Service allows us to reach down and help others  
up the staircase.**

**Witness shows others where the first step of the staircase  
can be found.**

*Written by St. John's Senior High Sunday School Class  
(First line by Dr. Martin Luther King)*

✠ HYMN of FAITH

*I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry*

FWS 2051

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION

**Good and gracious God,  
we bow our heads before you and confess that we have too  
often forgotten that we are yours.  
Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God  
and we fall short of being a credible witness to You.  
For these things, we ask your forgiveness and we also  
ask for your strength.  
Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness  
to You in our world.  
Remind us to be who You would have us be, regardless  
of what we are doing or who we are with.  
Hold us to You and build our relationship with You  
and with those You have given us on earth.  
Forgive us we pray. Amen.**

*(a time for silent prayers and confession)*

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves  
God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Glory to God. Amen.**

✠ SHARING the LOVE and PEACE of CHRIST

## SHARING OUR THANKS

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

✠ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God,  
all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

UMH 94

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

UMH 15

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we  
praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)  
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*The congregation is seated and the institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we  
offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:*

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

SHARING the BREAD and CUP

- ♦ All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion.
- ♦ Communion will be served using the ancient means of "intinction." When broken bread is placed in your hand you may dip it lightly into the cup and thereby receive both elements at the same time.
- ♦ Gluten-free communion is offered to anyone who desires it; when you come up to the altar, let the server know you would like the gluten-free elements.
- ♦ You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.

PRAYER after RECEIVING

**God of grace,**

**We hear your call to generous living in the way you meet our  
needs each day, and in this holy meal, which we shared with  
Christ and one another. Having received so much, we offer all  
we have, our time, talents, and treasures for your kingdom.  
Direct our lives as we reach out to our neighbors, sharing our  
gifts through worship, witness, and service so that others will  
come to know you and become disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## DEPARTING TO SERVE

INVITATION to CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*We joyfully welcome all those whose wish to become members of St. John's  
and invite you to come forward during the singing of the closing hymn.*

✠ HYMN of DISCIPLESHIP

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

FWS 2173

*During the hymn, we invite you to bring forward The Shepherd's Market grocery bags.*

✠ BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

*After the service, all are invited to stay for refreshments  
in the Family Life Center.*

*The flowers on the altar are given by Liz and Chester McDonald  
in memory of their mothers.*

*Thank you to all of our youth who helped lead and participate in today's services.*

## Welcome to St. John's!

Welcome to worship! We are glad you've joined us and hope you feel at home here. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship. However, if you or your child would prefer, nursery care is available in the Administration Building next door; an usher can escort you. Children's bulletins and sermon sacks are available from an usher.

Our ushers are happy to assist you in any way. Restrooms are in the Narthex.

*Thank you for being here.*

### OUR CURRENT SERMON SERIES CONCLUDES

#### "Engage: Walking the Discipleship Pathway"

Our Engage sermon series has focused on the five membership "vows" in The United Methodist Church: Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness. Our Confirmation Classes are preparing to take these vows (or renew these vows) on Confirmation Sunday, May 20. We must Engage in order to connect and grow with the body of Christ. Today concludes with a "Witness" by our youth, as they lead our services.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dates for Vacation Bible School have been set - **Monday, June 25 through Friday, June 29** from 9 a.m. -11:30 a.m. VBS is for ages 4 through those children who finished 5th grade this school year (with a nursery available for the infants and toddlers of VBS volunteers). Registration information and forms will be available soon, but mark your calendars for this special time in the lives of our children.



### CONFIRMATION CLASSES DRAW TO A CLOSE

Please continue to encourage our youth confirmands on this part of their faith journey by writing them a note and placing it in their mailbox located in the narthex. Confirmands are Olivia Caputo, Devin Dickson, Grace Idikwu, Carissa Murray, Lydia Rahkawi, Kaylie Williams, and adult helper and confirmand, Christina Sasse. This afternoon will be the final class for both adult and youth. Confirmation Sunday will be **Sunday, May 20**.

### UMW MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

The UMW Mary Martha Circle will enjoy their annual potluck supper on **Tuesday, May 8** at 7 p.m. at the home of Mary May, 537 Rue de la Place. All women of the church are welcome. Bring your favorite dish, enjoy delicious food, and wonderful fellowship. Please plan to attend!

### YOUTH MISSION SPONSOR BOARD

The sponsor board for the youth and adults who will be participating in the ASP Mission trip will be available TODAY, **Sunday, May 6** in the narthex prior to the 8:30 a.m. service and before and after the 11 a.m. service and in the FLC during coffee time. Sponsorships are \$10 per slot, each participant having 2 slots per day. Checks should be made out to St. John's UMC with ASP in the memo line. Each sponsor will receive a note from the person they sponsor. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Lively at 225-229-6675.

### SUMMER MINISTRY INTERN

St. John's is pleased to announce a part time, 13-week summer ministry internship designed for young adults who are exploring a vocation in ministry. The internship seeks to prepare young people to hear God's call to ordained ministry by placing them in the context of a ministry setting and allowing them to shadow a clergy person. Deadline to apply is May 7, 2018. All who might be interested in the position should send an inquiry cover letter, resume, and references to jobs@stjohnsbr.org. For more information go to our website, www.stjohnsbr.org/announced.

### GROCERY BAG SUNDAY

TODAY, **Sunday, May 6**, is Grocery Bag Sunday when we "fill the bags to fill the shelves" in The Shepherd's Market. We hope you were able to bring your yellow grocery bag back today. However, if you were unable to bring your grocery bag today, we accept donations during the week, Monday - Thursday. Many, many thanks for your generosity.

### PRIME TIMERS BREAKFAST

The Prime Timers are meeting at the Essen Lane Piccadilly on **Saturday, May 12** at 8:15 a.m. Every one is invited (in your prime or not) to join us for this Dutch-treat buffet or short-order grill.

### MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

We will have our annual Mother's Day Special Offering in support of Louisiana Methodist Children and Family Services on **Sunday, May 13**. Checks should be made payable to LUMCFS and placed in the offering plate. Once we have all checks, we will mail them to Family Services in Ruston.

## HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

### Sunday, May 6

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY  
8:00 a.m. Praise Team, *Sanctuary*  
8:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Worship Service, *Sanctuary*  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*  
11:00 a.m. Youth Sunday Worship Service, *Sanctuary*  
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class-Youth, *Parlor*  
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class-Adults, *Library*  
5:00 p.m. Youth, *FLC*  
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

### Monday, May 7

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies Bible Study, *Parlor*  
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*  
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

### Tuesday, May 8

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*  
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*  
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Library*  
7:00 p.m. UMW Mary Martha Circle, *Mary May's Home*

### Wednesday, May 9

5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*  
5:30 p.m. Heavenly Hash, *FLC*  
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*  
6:30 a.m. Chancel Choir, *Choir Room*

### Thursday, May 10

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*  
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*  
10:00 a.m. Companions in Christ, *Library*  
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, *Library*  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

### Friday, May 11

OFFICE CLOSED  
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*  
8:30 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, *FLC*

### Saturday, May 12

8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, *Essen Lane Piccadilly*  
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: *St. John's Youth*  
Host: *Kathy King*

### CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Lane Cotton Winn**  
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Remember to pray for **The Walk**.  
"...for we walk by faith, not  
by sight." - 2 Corinthians 5:7  
(NRSV) #sjthewalk



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# ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*

Engage  
through your  
Witness

Walking the  
Discipleship  
Pathway

Youth Sunday

May 6, 2018

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

*We are a Christian community called to share our gifts through worship, witness and service so that others will know God and become disciples of Jesus Christ.*