

## Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 22:26-34

<sup>26</sup>“With the merciful you show yourself merciful;  
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;  
<sup>27</sup>with the purified you deal purely,  
and with the crooked you make yourself seem torturous.  
<sup>28</sup>You save a humble people,  
but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down.  
<sup>29</sup>For you are my lamp, O LORD,  
and my God lightens my darkness.  
<sup>30</sup>For by you I can run against a troop,  
and by my God I can leap over a wall.  
<sup>31</sup>This God—his way is perfect;  
the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for  
all those who take refuge in him.  
<sup>32</sup>“For who is God, but the LORD?  
And who is a rock, except our God?  
<sup>33</sup>This God is my strong refuge  
and has made my way blameless.  
<sup>34</sup>He made my feet like the feet of a deer  
and set me secure on the heights.”

## GRADUAL Ps. 8:1

O | LORD, our Lord,\*  
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!  
You have set your | glory\*  
above the | heavens.

## DAILY READINGS

**July 29:** 1 Sam. 14:47-15:9; Acts 24:1-23; **30:** 1 Sam. 15:10-35; Acts 24:24-25:12; **31:** 1 Sam. 16:1-23; Acts 25:13-27; **August 1:** 1 Sam. 17:1-19; Acts 26:1-23; **2:** 1 Sam. 17:20-47; Acts 26:24-27:8; **3:** 1 Sam. 17:48-18:9; Acts 27:9-26; **4:** 1 Sam. 18:10-30; Acts 27:27-44.

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## Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

<sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup>nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

## Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

### The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup>And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ <sup>3</sup>And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.”

<sup>10</sup>“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? <sup>13</sup>No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

## St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and School (LCMS)

Est. 1864



Pastors:

Matthew V. Moss and Matthew P. Johnson  
763-496-5350 and 763-772-7315  
pastor.moss@stjlutheran.org pastor.johnson@stjlutheran.org

9141 County Road 101  
Corcoran, MN 55340  
763-420-2426 or FAX 763-420-7198

# † The Ninth Sunday after Trinity †

July 29, 2018

**VERSE:** Alleluia. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments! Alleluia. (Ps. 112:1)

**PRAYER:** O God, You are our only true Lord, in Your mercy teach us to despise all things that would separate us from Your forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Sermon:** "Christian Faith Serves Only One Master" (Luke 16:1-13)

**Preacher & Liturgist:** Pr. Matthew Moss

**Kantor:** Dr. Crystal Rossow

**Prelude:** Dawn Liturgies I. Aurora I; II. Lumen in Christo (Carson Cooman)

**Offering:** Jesus, Priceless Treasure (Paul Manz)

**Postlude:** Jesu, meine Freude (J. S. Bach)

Altar Guild: Theresa Gaffer & Jill Gehl

Worship Assistants: 8:00 am: Greg Christopher  
10:30 am: Jack Wold

Acolytes: 8:00 am: Jake Gangelhoff  
10:30 am: Sophia Beck

Ushers: 8:00 am: Larry Jobes, Rod Priebe, Jack Schalo  
10:30 am: Joel Johnson, Ben Kemna,  
John Meyer, Danny Schilling

Money Counters: John Meyer, Bob Radintz,  
Craig Schutte, Bill Walters

## Those Serving This Week, Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup>:

Worship Assistants: 7:00 pm: Dean Noren

Acolytes: 7:00 pm: Jordan Brustuen

**THIS WEEK:** The congregations in our circuit are praying for St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School, Corcoran, and Pastor Matthew Moss and Pastor Matthew Johnson.

**PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL:** This week we pray for all our Families with School-Aged Children and for our School Administration: Principal Gary Volberding and Admissions & Communication Director Suzanne Haag.

**SCHEDULE FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER:** At the Reformation the Lutheran Churches celebrated the Lord's Supper "every Sunday and on other festivals" (Apology XXIV, 1). We follow this fine custom and so offer the Lord's Supper every Sunday at both morning Divine Services. Individual glasses are used in the 8:00 a.m. Divine Service on the first Sunday in the month and in the 10:30 a.m. Divine Service on the second Sunday in the month. All other celebrations use the chalice.

**TWO LARGE PRINT LSB HYMNALS NOW AVAILABLE:** (4 NOTE-BOOKS) Please ask the ushers about the notebooks that are now available for those who have difficulties with small print hymns.

**PARENTS:** We're happy you've brought your children to worship today. Jesus says, "The kingdom of God belongs to such as these." If you must leave during the service for any reason, please be aware that there are also exits at the front of the sanctuary to the left and right; that you will be able to hear the service over loudspeakers in the entrance area and in the upper room to the left of the sanctuary; and that there is a changing table in the restroom near the elevator.

**THE DIVINE SERVICE** The Divine Service is the time when God serves His people with His forgiving grace in Word and Sacrament. It is not a time to be entertained. To show she is not a sect or cult the Lutheran Church retained the historic liturgy as much as was possible. The liturgical service makes no attempt to meet current cultural norms or personal needs but is the time when God comes in Word and Sacrament to meet our deepest spiritual needs. The Lutheran Church uses an ordered liturgy so that God's holy "priesthood" can participate and "declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). The Augsburg Confession concludes, "It is quite clear that among us nothing in doctrine or ceremonies has been accepted that would contradict either Holy Scripture or the universal Christian Church (AC, Conclusion).

**INTROIT** Ps. 54:1-3, 7; antiphon: Ps. 54:4-5

Behold, God is my | helper;\*

the Lord is the upholder | of my life.

He will return the evil to my | enemies;\*

in your faithfulness put an | end to them.

O God, save me, | by your name,\*

and vindicate me | by your might.

O God, | hear my prayer;\*

give ear to the words | of my mouth.

For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men | seek my life;\*

they do not set God be- | fore themselves.

For he has delivered me from every | trouble,\*

and my eye has looked in triumph on my | enemies.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Behold, God is my | helper;\*

the Lord is the upholder | of my life.

He will return the evil to my | enemies;\*

in your faithfulness put an | end to them.

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# † Ninth Sunday after Trinity †

•Since the Lord's Supper is testimony of our unity in the faith, the Sacrament is reserved for members in good standing of congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

•Visitors from sister LCMS congregations who agree with our doctrine and practice should announce your desire to commune to a pastor before joining us at the Lord's Table.

•Members may prepare by reading Luther's "Questions & Answers for those who intend to go to the Sacrament" (LSB 329 – 330).

**INTRO HYMN:** LSB 536; 1, 3-5

**CONFESSION:** LSB 203

**INTROIT:** (bulletin)

**KYRIE:** LSB 204

**GLORIA:** LSB 204

**SALUTATION:**

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

**COLLECT:** bulletin

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Gradual: bulletin

Responses: LSB 205

**CREED:** LSB 206 (or inside back cover)

**HYMN OF DAY:** LSB 730

**SERMON**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY:** LSB 955 "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

**COMMUNION LIT:** LSB 208ff

**DIST HYMNS:** LSB 743

**CLSG CANTICLE:** LSB 211

("Nunc Dimittis")

**CLOSING HYMN:** LSB 781



**BIRTHDAYS THE WEEK OF**

**July 29 – August 4**

SUNDAY	THURSDAY
Emma Holthus David Huth Brandon Kmecik Mike McFerrin Richard Radintz	Andrew Lieske Christine Wood
MONDAY	FRIDAY
Janna Cummins Jamie Rainey Joy Rau Caleb Schwecke	Julie Christophersen Tammy Eastbourne-Clemens Joy Koosman Arlys Peterson
TUESDAY	SATURDAY
Christie Gordon	Lois Anderson John Barrett Ray Kaiser Gayle Schlueter
WEDNESDAY	
Mari Klesk Joshua Pomeranke Emily Priebe Jack Wicklund	

If you notice an update is needed, kindly advise the church secretary to make sure we have the correct information to publish.

**Ir./Sr. High Youth**

**GET CONNECTED:** Are you in 6th-12th grade? Are you a parent of a youth in 6th-12th grade? If you answered yes to either of those questions, then I want to hear from you! We have many youth group events throughout the year and I want to make sure YOU know about them. Please email me (Jayme Kruse) so that I can put you on the email list and keep you informed throughout the year! - jayme.kruse@gmail.com Also, be sure to request to join the "St. John's Youth Group" private group on FB!



**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:** 8:00 -12:00 Monday through Friday

If you have urgent pastoral needs, please contact Pastor Matthew Moss:  
pastor.moss@stjlutheran.org or 763-496-5350

**Please lock all doors before leaving this building.  
If you unlock to enter, please lock as you leave!**

**† The Ninth Sunday after Trinity †**

**July 29, 2018**

**SPECIAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK:** *no special feast days this week.*

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Members who are sick and in need of healing and comfort**— Rick Bymark (wife Jackie, son Hank), Lynn Slauson, Pam Linton (daughter of LaVerne & Arlene Bagne), Katie Titler (daughter of Joe & Cilla Nadeau), Troy Eder, Kristine Eversman, Bob Malwitz, Ron Conley, and Alvin Cook. Our Lord Jesus, who reached out to heal and comfort the sick and dying, continues to reach out with His healing Word through us. Cards, phone calls, and prayers are always appreciated. If you know of someone who is sick or hospitalized, please inform your pastors.

**Our homebound members** are Linda Bredenberg, Dorothy Cooper, Sue Erickson, Audrey Hansen, Marlys Johnson, Inez Koehler, Steve Orbin, Gerald Oswald, Mark Pruhs, Amy Schalo, Betty Schmiede, and Ilene Shepherd.

**All those serving in our Armed Forces**— Agena Christophersen (Belgium), Nicholas Malikowski (California), Kevin Mazurowski (Idaho), Nathan Mazurowski (Texas), Brian and Veronica Pruhs (Hawaii), Joseph Radintz (home), Marty Schiltz (home), and Andrew Zupfer (home).

**Those who have lost loved ones during the past year**— the family of Caroline Christophersen, Mark Coombs & family (at the loss of his father Paul), Karen MacMillan & family (at the loss of her mother Yvonne Johnson), Scott Gehl & family (at the loss of his father William), the family of Alex Hansen, the family of William Dodds, the family of Caroline Lucht, and the family of Dorothy Schutte.

**And we remember those who have recently lost loved ones**— Paul & Diane Radintz (at the loss of their son Bill), John Malikowski & family (at the loss of his mother Frances), Cindy Cook & family (at the loss of her sister Jackie), the family of William Cahlander, and Kathleen Cooper & family (at the loss of her father John Giguere).

**THE SERVICE OF INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** is available by individual appointment through the summer. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear God's Word of forgiveness spoken to you individually in Jesus' Name. "If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

**EACH QUARTER:** FIVE COPIES OF LARGE PRINT PORTALS OF PRAYER will be available to share with those who need this magazine in larger print.

**"LUTHERAN HOUR"** this week on WCCO 830 AM at 6:00 a.m., WWJO 98.1 FM at 7:30 a.m., and KRWC AM Buffalo at 9:30 a.m.

**SCHEDULING CHURCH AND SCHOOL EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S:**

Please remember to check with the church/school secretary about scheduling any event; all church and school events need to be coordinated through this main calendar. Thank you! 763-420-2426 email: secretary@stjlutheran.org

† Announcements †

**A RENEWED FOCUS-** We have finished our series on the Church of the Holy Spirit (looking back to Pentecost). Having just celebrated the Birth of John the Baptist, our next two series will take up the themes of his preaching- faith and repentance.

**Christian Faith:**

*Serves Only One Master* (July 29)

*Unites (and Divides)* (Aug. 5)

*Justifies the Sinner before God* (Aug. 12)



**SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR MOSS:** In our study of the Book of Exodus, we have reached the Wilderness. It should only have been a short stay at Mount Sinai to receive the Law, but things go wrong through Sin. God who is merciful and just, therefore, institutes a place of worship, The Tabernacle, where He might dwell with His people and forgive their sins.

**This week:** Incense, Anointing, and Ritual Washing (Exodus 30-31)

**Next week:** The Golden Calf Names "Yahweh" (Exodus 32)

**Video Recordings** Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/lutheranbiblestudy>

**THE SUMMER MONDAY NIGHT DIVINE SERVICE:** Every summer we add a Monday night service at 7:00 pm which has the same liturgy, Scripture readings, and sermon as the previous day's Divine Service. The weekly summer evening services will run through Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY:** We study the *Book of Proverbs*, meeting Tuesdays at 9am in the Auxiliary Room. You can also watch live online using Facebook Live; just go to St. John's Facebook page. Join us as we reflect on Jesus Christ, the Wisdom from on High. All knowledge *begins* with the Fear of the Lord and many practical insights flow from that knowledge- the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



**PR. WOKOMA'S MINISTRY:** Concordia Catechetical Academy (CCA) of Peace Lutheran Church in Sussex, Wisconsin publishes a monthly newsletter with highlights of Pr. Wokoma's work in Africa. Printouts of the June/July edition are available on the table in the narthex, or you can sign up at: [lutherancatechesis.org/links](http://lutherancatechesis.org/links) to subscribe and receive these monthly newsletters by email.



**DEACON APPOINTMENT:** Dan Kappel has resigned from the council of Deacons for personal reasons, and the Deacons have appointed Phil Schutte to fill the remainder of Dan's term.



**SAVE THE DATE:** The Fall Congregational Assembly will be held on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



**ORGAN CONCERT:** Our member, Katie Moss, will be performing at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis **TODAY** Sunday, July 29th at 2:00 PM. Admission is free. The Basilica is located at 88 North 17th St in Minneapolis.

**DAY CAMP:** North Star Boys' Choir is offering a day camp for boys ages 5-12 at Immanuel Methodist Church, 10025 Brockton Ln. N, Corcoran. Join them for singing, games, crafts, archery, and swimming. All of this and a T-shirt is only \$45. Camp runs Aug. 20-24, 9:00-2:00 for 5-7 yr. olds, 9:00-3:00 for 8-12 yr. olds. Register your son at [www.northstarboyschoir.org](http://www.northstarboyschoir.org) or come early the first day. It's a great way to try out the Boys' Choir experience.

**This Week at St. John's Lutheran**

<b>TODAY</b>	8:00 am:	Divine Service with Lord's Supper
	9:30 am:	Bible Study
	10:30 am:	Divine Service with Lord's Supper
<b>MON:</b>	9:30 am:	Boys Summer Basketball
	7:00 pm:	Divine Service with Lord's Supper
<b>TUES:</b>	9:00 am:	Adult Bible Study (Auxiliary Rm)
<b>WED:</b>	9:30 am:	Boys Summer Basketball
<b>THUR:</b>	7:00 pm:	Adult Instruction Class (Auxiliary Rm)
<b>FRI:</b>		
<b>SAT:</b>	4:00 pm:	Wedding
<b>SUN:</b>	8:00 am:	Divine Service with Lord's Supper
	9:30 am:	Bible Study
	10:30 am:	Divine Service with Lord's Supper

**Those Serving Next Week, Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>:**

Altar Guild:		Jan Stieg and Lois Anderson
Worship Assistants:	8:00 am:	Dan Kolander
	10:30 am:	Barron Cate
Acolytes:	8:00 am:	acolyte needed
	10:30 am:	Carson Dufault
Ushers:	8:00 am:	Dana Christophersen, Tom Gardner, Ray Kaiser, Don Kalk, Davey Kulberg
	10:30 am:	Mike DeSplinter, Russ Reznecheck, Craig Schutte
Money Counters:		Mike DeSplinter, Paul Dolan, Scott Kulberg, Russ Reznecheck

**Those Serving Next Week, Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup>:**

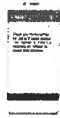
Worship Assistants:	7:00 pm:	Joe Koehler
Acolytes:	7:00 pm:	Jada Clifford

# Ways to Give ~~~



## In Person...

Place checks or cash in an offering envelope and drop it in the offering plate as it goes by.



## Text... St. John's New "Text to Give" # 763-225-2689

Set up a one time or recurring donation by texting the amount you wish to give.



## Giving App...

Download the 'GivePlus Church' app to set up one-time or recurring donations. You can also manage and view your giving from the convenience of your smartphone!



## Online...

Visit [www.stjlutheran.org](http://www.stjlutheran.org) to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

### ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>: 8:00 am: CT: 133 CM: 112  
 10:30 am: CT: 95 CM: 76  
 Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>: 7:00 pm: CT: 54 CM: 38



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

*Last Week*  
07/22/18

*Year-to-date*  
since 07/01/18

Total General Fund Receipts	\$ 7,763	\$ 53,138
Amount Needed	\$ 20,709	\$ 218,938
Amount Ahead (Behind)	\$ (12,946)	\$ (165,799)
% Ahead (-Behind)		-76%
Current Building Mortgage Balance (June 30)	\$ 620,052	



### Important Notes:

Amount Needed above includes the prior years cumulative deficit budget of \$136,101 as of June 30, 2018, plus the pro-rated portion of the \$53,217 Congregation-approved deficit for the current budget year beginning July 1, 2018.

Please contact Board of Admin Deacons Mike Gaffer ([mtgaff@comcast.net](mailto:mtgaff@comcast.net)) or Tom Eversman ([Theversman@gmail.com](mailto:Theversman@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.



**ALTAR GUILD:** Ever wondered who washed that communion cup that you used or who changed the paraments on the altar? The Altar Guild is the answer, and we would like to encourage everyone to come find out more about us. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 16th at 7 pm.

The Altar Guild is a committee that fosters a better understanding of our Lutheran worship practices and is dedicated to the care of the altar linens and paraments, communion wear, and furnishings of the sanctuary. We decorate the sanctuary at Christmas and Easter, participate in the Easter holy week services of stripping and redressing the altar and may also be involved in purchasing new paraments, banners, or other items. On a more regular basis, we clean and maintain the chancel area, including washing the communion wear. We encourage anyone who would like to find out more about the Altar Guild to attend our next meeting.

**YOUR GENEROSITY IS APPRECIATED:** Pr. Briel has been asked to return to Nigeria this coming September to teach several more classes at the Jonathan Ekong Lutheran Seminary in Uyo, Nigeria. Contributions toward his travel expenses and necessary text books for the classes he will be teaching would be greatly appreciated. God continue to bless his and all other missionary activities in our church as we seek to train indigenous pastors to bring the gospel to the nations. ...donations for this special trip should be made payable to St. John's, and designated as "Briel Nigeria Trip". Thank you for your generosity and continued support!



**CROSS...FOOD NEEDS:** Each month CROSS collects food items to be donated to the needy. Items desired from STJL during the month of **JULY** are: Jello/Pudding and Cleaners (Toilet Cleaner, All-Purpose, etc.). Thank you for helping when you can; your contributions placed in the narthex area are greatly appreciated.



*Donations given to CROSS in July will be proportionally matched by Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless (OYH) Foundation to help end hunger and address housing instability for families and individuals living in Maple Grove, Rogers, Osseo, Dayton, Champlin, Corcoran, as well as those families without a home.*

**THANK YOU** to Pastor Moss and Pastor Johnson for their many visits during my hospital and nursing home stay. Thank you also, for all the prayers and good wishes from the congregation.  
 ~ Bruce O'Hern



**GOLF TOURNAMENT:** It's time to register for the fifth annual St. John's Lutheran Golf Tournament! This fun event will take place at the beautiful Rush Creek Golf Club on Saturday, September 15th. Put together a team and register now -- or sign up as an individual and we'll find you a team. Simply go to <https://tinyurl.com/StJohnsGolf2018> or fill out a paper form. Sponsorships are also available. Event proceeds go toward tuition assistance and roof repairs for the church and school. Contact Stu Glock with questions [lizzystu@aol.com](mailto:lizzystu@aol.com), 612-309-5861.

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Items received by midnight Wednesday will be included in the Sunday bulletin. Kindly please submit your request timely to ensure your announcement gets published as needed. email: [secretary2@stjlutheran.org](mailto:secretary2@stjlutheran.org)



## FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

As announced after services on July 15 and 16, the "Financial Update" section in the weekly Sunday Bulletin has been revised and changed effective as of the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1. All St. John's General Fund revenue sources are now included in the "Total General Fund Receipts" line of the Update, including Church Offerings, School Tuition, "3<sup>rd</sup> Source" income such as fundraisers and Other Income. The biggest change to the Update is the inclusion of both the prior year cumulative deficit (\$136,101) as well as the prorated current year budget deficit (\$53,217) in the "Amount Needed" line of the Update. A deficit is defined simply as spending more than you receive. The deficits have been caused by flat revenues combined with slowly rising costs over the last several years.

So what does the General Fund pay for? The vast majority (81%) of the approximately \$1.5 million total fiscal 2018-19 budget is for our people—Pastors, Teachers, Principal, Aides, Custodians, Organist, Secretaries—ALL the people who do the invaluable work of God's Kingdom in this place. 9% of the budget goes for maintenance, utilities and insurance, 7% for the building mortgage and 3% for supplies.

To date, St. John's has funded the deficits by borrowing from internal dollars set aside for long-term programs, primarily for the School. In a sense we are robbing from our future to pay for the present. This is not sustainable. St. John's must grow current operating revenues (i.e. Offerings, School Tuition and 3<sup>rd</sup> Source funding) and eliminate deficit budgets, otherwise we will deplete our long-term cash reserves, jeopardize long-term initiatives and be forced to borrow from the outside, cut expenses, or likely both.

Please monitor the Financial Updates you see in the weekly Sunday bulletin and pray for the mission and work of St. John's Lutheran Church and School. Also evaluate, on an ongoing basis, your financial commitment to St. John's and the great work it does in bringing Christ to our children and our community. Finally, please give generously as you have been blessed both in your life and by St. John's. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!