

*Welcome to
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
By God's example, St. John's invites and welcomes everyone to
be ignited by the Spirit and to grow in God's love.
May all those seeking love, acceptance and support find it here.*

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost • July 12, 2026 • 9:30am

“Isaac loved Esau because he was fond of game,
but Rebekah loved Jacob.”

Genesis 25:28



God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Our Mission:

Ignited by Spirit, Growing in Love



We strive to be a community that is open to the Spirit of God that moves, changes and inspires us to connect with God and one another, everyday, everywhere.

WELCOME

We are so glad you are here with us this morning. We pray that you will meet God in worship and that your faith will be strengthened as you prepare to go out into the world in the coming week. If you are a guest with us this morning, welcome to the family! We would love to share information with you about St. John's - fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate or sign the guest book in the narthex so we can reach out!

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Leonard Gibeon, David Mounts, Steve Keyser, Andrew Breuninger, Renee Fels, Rebecca Jellen, Richard Ditzler, Alyson Harvey, Marie Wolfe, Mary Eberle, Brandon Blanchard, Elizabeth Brossett and family, Paige Seasock, Tanner Antalosky, Will Morgan, Barry Long, Jim Martin, Mike Wolf, Michael Svanson, Linda Quinque, Marilyn Little-Logan, Ed & Pam Bowlin, Josephine D'Amico, Bob Schanely, Bob Ernst and Bill Hutt.

Names are kept on the prayer list for three weeks unless specifically requested by the family or for those struggling through long-term illness or treatment. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 215-234-4888 or stj.stown@verizon.net.

+ THE GATHERING +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation is invited to observe the prelude time as one of reverent silence.

PRELUDE Song 24 (Lighten the darkness) - Healey Willan

LIGHTING OF THE TRINITY CANDLE

We are a community of faith that is

Ignited by Spirit, Growing in Love.

We begin our worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN ELW 673 God, Whose Almighty Word

GREETING

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

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST Lesson: Genesis 25:19-34

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119: 105-112

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light up-on my path.

**I have sworn and am determined
to keep your righteous judgments.**

I am deeply troubled;
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.

**Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips,
and teach me your judgments.**

My life is always in danger,
yet I do not forget your teaching.

**The wicked have set a trap for me,
but I have not strayed from your commandments.**

Your decrees are my inheritance forever;
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

**I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes
forever and to the end.**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

At the beginning of the reading:

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Rebecca Schanely

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 506 The Word of God Is Source and Seed

APOSTLE'S 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 into hell. 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.



OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition will end with the phrase:

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

As Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray,

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.

Please be seated

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 681 We Plow the Fields and Scatter

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Let tyrants shake their iron rod – setting by Robert J. Powell

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Mark Your Calendar

Monday, July 13	Council meeting, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, July 15	Taizé Worship service, 6:00 PM
Thursday, July 16	Card Club, 10 am Heavenly Helpers Hoagie order pickup, 5-6 pm
Saturday, July 18	Private event, 1-5pm, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, July 19	Worship service at 9:30 am Heavenly Helpers Chicken BBQ event 2-4pm

Heavenly Helpers – Hoagie order pick up Thursday, July 16th in Fellowship Hall 5-6 PM
Next event: July 19th - Kauffman's Chicken BBQ. Cost of the meal, \$15.00. Meals must be pre-order, pick up at the back of the church 2-4 pm.

A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside Pastor Becky's office.

HH is also looking for volunteers to provide dessert items for this event.

Please contact Elaine Kelly elaineakeller@comcast.net with any questions.

First Monday Meal – A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our community meal event a success! Together, we were able to serve 66 guests. We are so grateful for our wonderful volunteers and donors—we couldn't have done it without you!"

The Open Link – The first Saturday of the month food donation drop off 9-11am. If you are not able to stop by on the scheduled time, donations can be left in the church gym. The Food Pantry is urgently in need of the following: shelf-stable milk, peanut butter, jelly, boxed cereals, soups, and tomato products. They also consistently need canned fruits and vegetables, pasta and rice sides, and non-food essentials like diapers, cleaning supplies, and personal care items. Questions, contact Diane Appold

Taizé Prayer Services Reformation Sister congregations Taizé prayer services. Worship is candlelit service of song, scripture, silence and reflection. Join us on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, next service is July 15th. We meet at The Center, 517 Jefferson St., East Greenville at 6:00pm.

St. Luke's Grief Support – Berevement support groups are facilitated by a St Luke's grief counselors. Provides a safe and collaborative space to process your grief journey. Tomorrow afternoon, July 13th the group meets at Zwingli, UCC Church, 350 Wile Ave. Souderton 1-2:30 pm. Flyers are posted on the bulletin boards with list of other support opportunities.

Blood Drive – July blood drive is scheduled for July 24th 12 to 5 pm. Online sign-up to schedule an appointment available online, visit RedCrossBlood.org, enter StJohnSumneytown to scheduled your appointment. OR Call 800.733.2767.

Family Bathroom The family bathroom project has started. The fixtures were ordered and have arrived. If you would like to donate, please write "Family Bathroom" on an envelope to designate the funds to the family bathroom project or you may donate online through St. John's website!

Also, the new 2 sink variety has been installed in the restroom across from the Pastor’s office. Thank you to the congregation for their on going support.

Food Truck – July 22nd from 5-8 pm enjoy an evening of food, live music and fun. Food by Pig ‘N’ Out food truck, sweet treats will be available for dessert from Cream & Ice! Live music by Stephen Kurtz. Bring a friend, all are welcome!

Friday at the Firepit is July 24th, come out for an evening of fellowship. Relax and enjoy some sweet treats. Water and s’mores ingredients are provided. Don’t forget your lawn chairs and any snacks or beverage of choice.



Thank you to Frieden’s UCC for welcoming St John’s congregation to share in worship this past Sunday, due to our church not having power from the weekend storms.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE		
Worship Attendance at Frieden’s UCC 07/05/2026 worship service – 72 Zoom - 0		
	Total received between 06/07/2026 – 06/14/2026 \$6029.72	Amount Needed per 2 weeks in 2026 \$11,656
<i>Weekly average is based on the 2026 budget. The above numbers include electronic giving. Mint duty is being done every other week.</i>		

St. John's Summer Service Project -During the summer months, St. John's will be collecting the items needed for hygiene kits that are used by Lutheran Disaster Response. Each hygiene kit fits in a one-gallon resealable plastic bag and contains 8 items. You can drop off any of the items needed for the kits – OR drop of a fully complete kit. Collection container is located in the Parlor.

Kits will be delivered in early September to LDR to support local relief efforts.



LDR HYGIENE KIT

Each kit should be packaged in a gallon size, resealable plastic bag and must contain the following items:



New Washcloth



Fingernail or toenail
clipper
(remove packaging)



Travel Size
Shampoo
3.4 oz or less



Travel Size Lotion
3.4 oz or less
fragrance free



Travel Size
Toothpaste
3.4 oz or less



Travel Size Deodorant
3.4 oz or less
non aerosol



Bath Sized
Bar of Soap
in original packaging



Sturdy wide-tooth comb
6" minimum teeth
remove packaging

Completed hygiene kits - or individual items for the kits -
can be left in the collection bins in the narthex and parlor



*Ignited by Spirit
Growing in Love*

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Erika Haldeman & David Ramil – A/V team

COUNCIL MEMBERS

David Ramil, Council President

Shannon Renninger, Council Vice-President

Robyn Schramm, Council Secretary

Mike Herm, Council Treasurer

Tony Aleide, Finance

Brandon Bolton, Property

Joyce Foesig, Staff

Sheila Hercek, Outreach

Travis Hobson, Marketing and Communications

John Hovanec, Faith Formation

Nate Schramm, Youth Representative

Mike Wolf, Worship and Music

STAFF

Rev. Rebecca L. Schanely, Pastor

(pastorbecky74@gmail.com)

Denise Fox, Office Administrator (stj.stown@verizon.net)

Ben Modica, Director of Music (ben@patriciakeith.com)

Michele Peart, Bookkeeper

Jamie Nonkovic, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

Bob Ernst, Facilities Manager

Michael Herm, Treasurer

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