

***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.***

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost • July 19, 2026 • 9:30am



It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

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

PRELUDE Allegretto from *Sonata No. 4* - Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND GREETING

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 761 Evening and Morning

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 confess our sin 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

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ THE WORD +

FIRST Lesson: Genesis 28: 10-19a

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

**You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

Where can I go then from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

**If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

**even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.**

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"

**darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.**

Search me out, O God, and know my heart;
try me and know my restless thoughts.
**Look well whether there be any wickedness in me
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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 LBW 477 O God of Jacob



1 O God of Ja - cob, by whose hand your peo - ple still are fed,
2 Our vows, our prayers, we now pre - sent be - fore your throne of grace.
3 Through each per - plex - ing path of life our wan-d'ring foot-steps guide;
4 Oh, grant us your pro - tect - ing care till all our wan-d'rings cease,



who through this wea - ry pil - grim - age a wa - v'ring Is - rael led:
O God of Ja - cob, be the God of their suc - ceed - ing race.
give us this day our dai - ly bread, and shel - ter fit pro - vide.
that to those man - sions kept for us we all may come in peace.

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.

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition ends 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.**

+THE MEAL+

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING If Thou be near – attrib. J.S.Bach

Arr. Bernard Fitzgerald

David Lewis, trumpet

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF COMMUNION - from the floor

Communion will be shared continuously. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. You will receive the bread from the pastor and then be invited to take a pre-filled cup from the tray held by the communion assistant. Wine is in the clear cups and grape juice is in the purple cups. Empty cups can be placed in the bowls at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. All are welcome!

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ELW 658 O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

+ THE SENDING +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

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

SENDING HYMN ELW 414 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Hornpipe from *Water Music* - G.F. Handel

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Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, July 19	Worship service 9:30am Heaven Helper Chicken BBQ meal pick-up 2-4pm
Wednesday, July 22	Food Truck night 5-8pm
Friday, July 24	Red Cross Blood Drive 12-5pm Fire Pit 7pm

Heavenly Helpers –Kauffman's Chicken BBQ. If you have pre-ordered a meal, pick up at the back of the church 2-4 pm today.

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

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. Questions, contact Diane Appold

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!

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 and drinks provided by Wll Crafted Beer Company! 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.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE		
Worship Attendance 07/12/2026 worship service – 56 Zoom - 8		
	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 containers are located in the Parlor & Narthex

- Kit items include:
- Travel size shampoo 3.4 oz or less
 - New wash cloth
 - Travel size toothpaste 3.4 oz or less
 - Bath size bar of soap (in original packaging)
 - Fingernail or toenail clipper (remove packing)
 - Travel size lotion 3.4. oz or less (fragrance free)
 - Travel size deodorant 3.4 oz or less (non aerosol)
 - Sturdy wide-tooth comb 6” minimum teeth (remove packing)

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



SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Tony & Pam Aleide – 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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