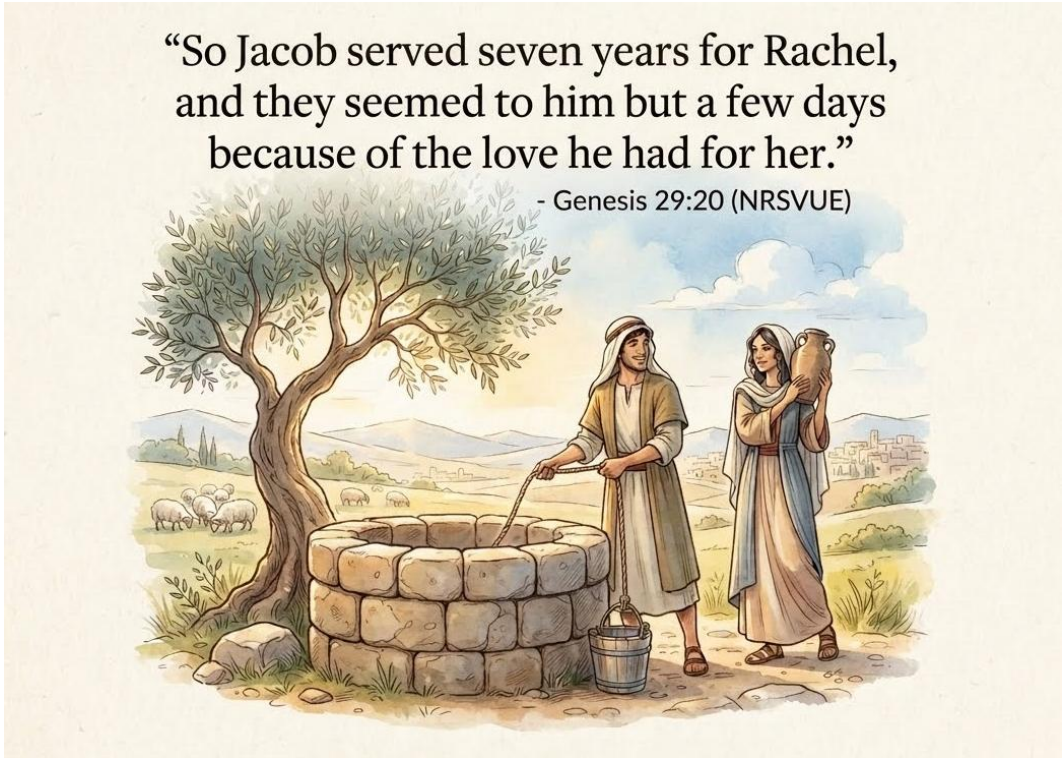


Welcome to
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
*By God's example, St. John's invites and welcomes everyone to
be ignited by the Spirit and to grow in God's love.
May all those seeking love, acceptance and support find it here.*

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost • July 26, 2026 • 9:30am

**“So Jacob served seven years for Rachel,
and they seemed to him but a few days
because of the love he had for her.”**

- Genesis 29:20 (NRSVUE)



As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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, 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, Marilyn Little-Logan, Ed 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.

+ 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 Werde Munter – setting by Percy Whitlock

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 870 We Praise You, O God

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

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

+ WORD +

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

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 29:15-28

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.

**Sing to the LORD, sing praises,
and speak of all God's marvelous works.**

Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

**Search for the strength of the LORD;
continually seek God's face.**

Remember the marvels God has done,
the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,

**O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,
O children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.**

The LORD is our God,
whose judgments prevail in all the world,
**who has always been mindful of the covenant,
the promise made for a thousand generations:**
the covenant made with Abraham,
the oath sworn to Isaac,
**which God established as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel,**

saying, “To you will I give the land of Canaan
to be your allotted inheritance.” Hallelujah!
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

At the beginning of the reading:
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

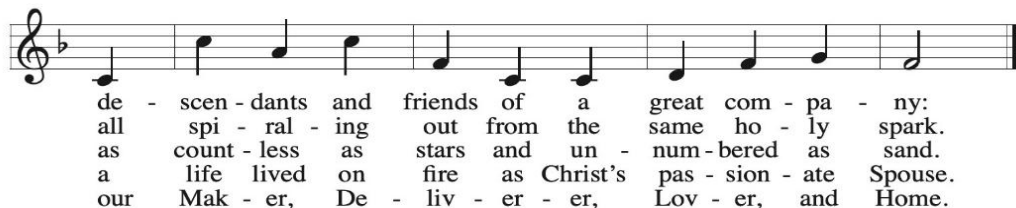
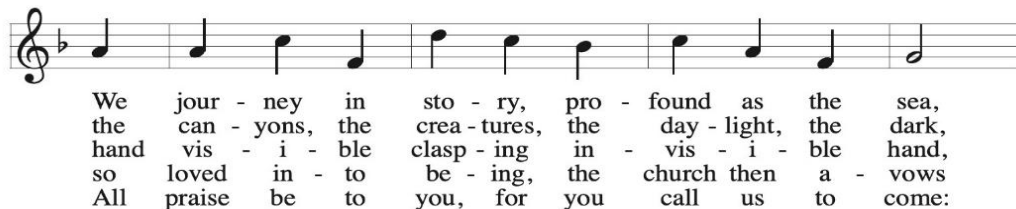
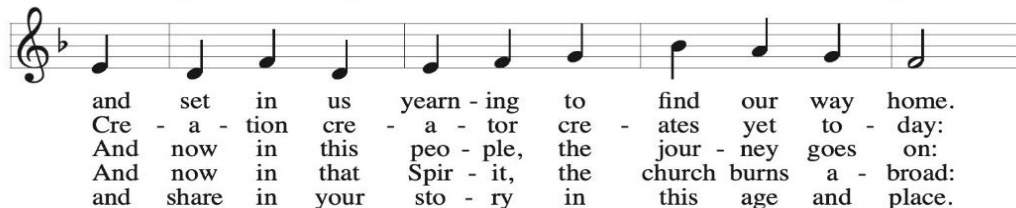
At the conclusion of the reading:
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Alison Clark

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY We Sing the One God



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

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING You are Precious, Lord, to me – Douglass Nolan &
Jimbo Stevens, Caroline Pinkstone soprano & Liam Pinkstone baritone

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY



Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

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.**

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.

+ 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 820 O Savior, Precious Savior

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Jerusalem – setting by James Welch

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Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, July 26	Worship service at 9:30 am
Saturday, August 1	Food donation drop off 9-11am
Sunday, August 9	Hoagie orders are due.
Wednesday, August 19	Taizé worship service at 6:00pm
Thursday, August 20	Hoagie order pick-up 5-6pm Fellowship Hall
Friday, August 28 th	Firepit 7pm Iron Pigs -Faith night gates open 5pm

Heavenly Helpers – A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Kauffman Chicken BBQ! Whether you purchased a meal, helped prepare the food, or assisted with distribution, your time and support made this event a wonderful success.

August Hoagie sale order form is posted on the bulletin outside of Pastor Becky's office. Order due by August 9th, order pick-up August 20th.

Mark your calendar for Oct 24th, the next Kauffman's Chicken BBQ event!

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

Thank you to all who came out and gave blood on July 24th. The need is so great, your donations mean so much to those in need.

The Open Link – Saturday, August 1st food donation drop off 9-11am, back of the church. If you are not able to stop by on the scheduled day & time, donations can be left in the church gym. Urgent needs: shelf-stable milk, peanut butter, jelly, boxed cereals, soups, and tomato products. Questions, contact Diane Appold

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!

Card Club The Card Club is collecting birthday card donations. If you’d like to contribute, please place your cards on the kitchen serving-window counter. Thank you for your support!

Reformation Sister churches IRON Pigs game Faith Night. Participants come from across the Reformation Sister Churches, all are welcome. Gates Open at 5pm, game starts at 6:46pm. Cost \$13 per person (includes \$2 credit for food or merchandise. Checks payable to Friedens UCC, ticket pick-up at the office or after Sunday worship. Questions: call 215.234.4941

Worship in the Park 3rd annual Reformation Sister churches worship service at the New Goshenhoppen Church Park, Sunday, September 6 at 10:30am. The Red Hill Band brass section will accompany the service. All are welcome to stay and share in fellowship while enjoying a potluck picnic lunch. See weekly email for additional details.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE		
Worship Attendance 07/19/2026 worship service – 47 Zoom - 6		
	Total received between 07/05/2026 – 07/19//2026 \$4774.00	Amount Needed per 2 weeks in 2026 \$11,656
Weekly average is based on the 2026 budget. The above numbers include electronic giving. Mint duty is being done every other week.		

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.



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



SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Colleen Carlin & Brian Gegan – 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

3104 Main Street, Green Lane, PA 18054

215-234-4888 (phone) 215-234-0825 (fax)