

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.*

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost • August 9, 2026 • 9:30 AM Worship



Joseph experiences the dark depths of family turmoil and betrayal, stripped of his garment and thrown into a pit. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Amid the storms of life—whether from human discord or nature’s fury—we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing waters of baptism, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God’s presence to others.

**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: Bob Moran, 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, Bob Schanely, Michael Svanson, Marilyn Little-Logan, Ed Bowlin, Josephine D'Amico, Bob Ernst, Bill Hunt and JR Yost.

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.

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

A brief suite - Russell Coleman
Carmela Steyaert, flute

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.

HYMN ELW 767 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

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

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

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

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 37:1-4,12-28

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

¹ Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.

² **Sing to the LORD, sing praises,
and speak of all God's marvelous works.**

³ Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴ **Search for the strength of the LORD;
continually seek God's face.**

⁵ Remember the marvels God has done,
the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,

⁶ **O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,
O children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.**

¹⁶ Then God called for a famine in the land
and destroyed the supply of bread.

¹⁷ **The LORD sent a man before them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.**

¹⁸ They bruised his feet in fetters;
his neck they put in an iron collar.

¹⁹ **Until his prediction came to pass,
the word of the LORD tested him.**

²⁰ The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free,

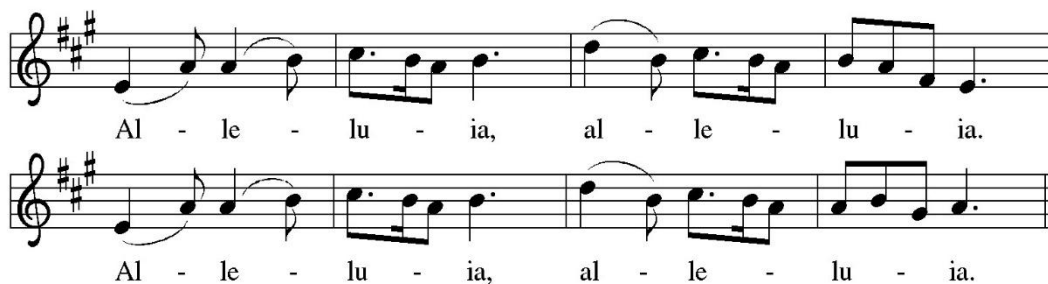
²¹ **setting him as a master over his household,
as a ruler over all his possessions,**

²² to instruct his princes according to his will
and to teach his elders wisdom. ^{45b} Hallelujah!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

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.

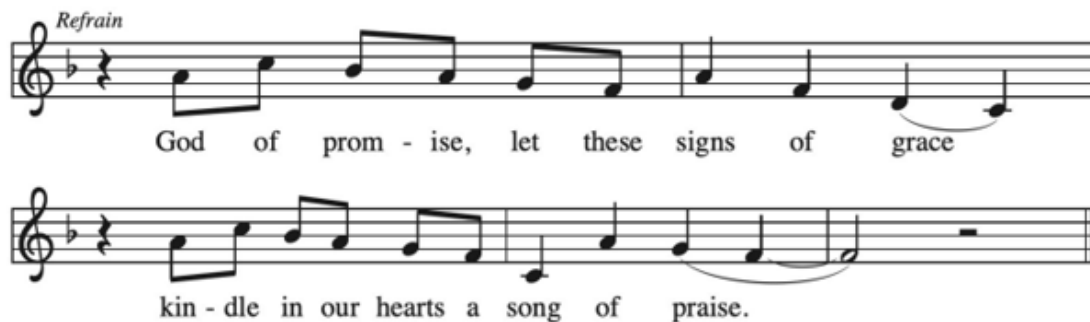
Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Becky Schanely

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM pg. 227

BAPTISM HYMN ACS 959 God of Promise, Let These Signs of Grace



Continued on next page



Life - giv - ing wa - ter soak - ing our dry - ness,
Word of pro - claim - ing, breath on the wa - ter,
Robe of a - dop - tion grow - ing God's fam - 'ly,



drown - ing our sin each day, mak - ing us new—
plant - ing your prom - ise— the voice from a - bove:
wrap - ping our bro - ken - ness in the di - vine—



mer - cy come stream - ing from you.
"This is my child, my be - loved."
love be - come sym - bol and sign.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING Give Thanks - tune by Henry Smith, setting by Joel Raney
Carmela Steyaert, flute

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY



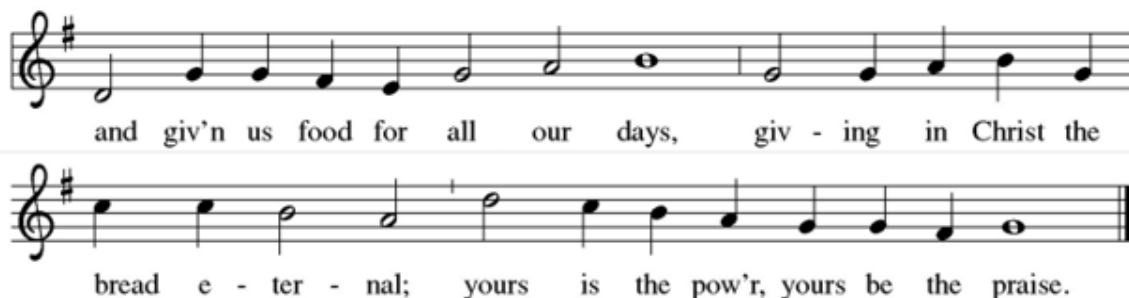
1 Fa - ther, we thank you that you plant - ed your ho - ly name with -



in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus your



Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have made all for your plea - sure,



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Faithful God, we lift our voices and our gifts in grateful memory of your saving work. You call us to sing of your goodness and to remember your wonders, even when the way forward is hidden from view. As Joseph was used for life in a time of scarcity, so use these offerings for hope and healing in a hungry world. Make us instruments of your purpose—seeds of justice, salt of compassion, and signs of your steadfast love. Receive what we bring as praise made tangible, and send us out as a people who remember, who trust, and who sing of your deliverance in every season. **In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each prayer petition will end with the phrase:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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 774 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Allegretto Giocoso, from *Water Music* - G.F. Handel, arr. Carl McKinley

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Baptism This morning, we celebrate with and welcome Nathaniel Stephan Van Dyke into the family of faith at St. John's through the sacrament of baptism. Nathaniel's parents are Kevin Van Dyke and Margaret Sherick-Calcagni.



Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, August 9	Worship service w/zoom 9:30 AM Heavenly Helpers Hoagie orders due today
Monday, August 10	Executive Committee meeting, 7:30 PM
Wednesday, August 12	Private event Fellowship Hall – 7:00 PM
Sunday, August 16	Worship at 9:30 AM

Taizé Prayer Service Reformation Sister congregations will meet again on August 19th for a candlelit service of song, scripture, silence and reflection. All are welcome regardless of church background or faith tradition.

The Open Link: Our next food collection will be on Saturday Sept 5th, 9 to 11 am. 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

Friday at the Firepit August 28th, join us 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.

Reformation Sister Churches Faith night at the Iron Pig's game, Friday, August 28th. Tickets available at Frieden's office or after worship. Cost \$13 per person. (includes a \$2 credit for food or merchandise) Gates open at 5pm – game starts at 6:46 PM. All are welcome!

Program Newsletter August is here already, which means it's time to start planning the upcoming program newsletter. Please submit your article(s) by Sunday, August 30th so we can begin assembling the issue. Thank you

Worship in the Park Sunday, September 6 at 10:30am, hosted by the Reformation Sister Churches. 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.

Family Bathroom The family bathroom project has started. If you feel it in your heart, we have a designated fund for donations. Just write “Family Bathroom” on an envelope. Thank you!
Family bathroom donations can now be made online through St. John’s website!

Christ in Our Home Daily Devotional Booklets for the summer months (July, August, and September) are now available. You can pick up your copy in the Narthex or Parlor. Both small and large print copies are available.

American Red Cross has declared only the second national blood crisis in its history as blood donations have fallen to a four-year summer low, worsening this summer’s emergency shortage. If you are able to donate, please access their website:
<https://www.redcrossblood.org>, enter your zip code and a list of locations will display.

Card Club is collecting birthday card donations. If you’d like to contribute, please place your cards on the table outside the kitchen. Thank you for your support!

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE		
Worship Attendance		
08/02/2026 – 9:30 Am 40 Zoom - 10		
	Total received between 7/26/2026 – 08/02/2026 \$4695.00	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>		
<i>Memorial Donations</i> in memory of Audrey Sell from Hope Long in memory of Miranda Lambeth from Patty Didio		

St. John's Summer Service Project -As summer is quickly coming to a close, please be sure to drop off your donations for the LDR Hygiene kits. Each 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 off a fully completed kit. Collection tubs are located in the Narthex and 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

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 Admin (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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