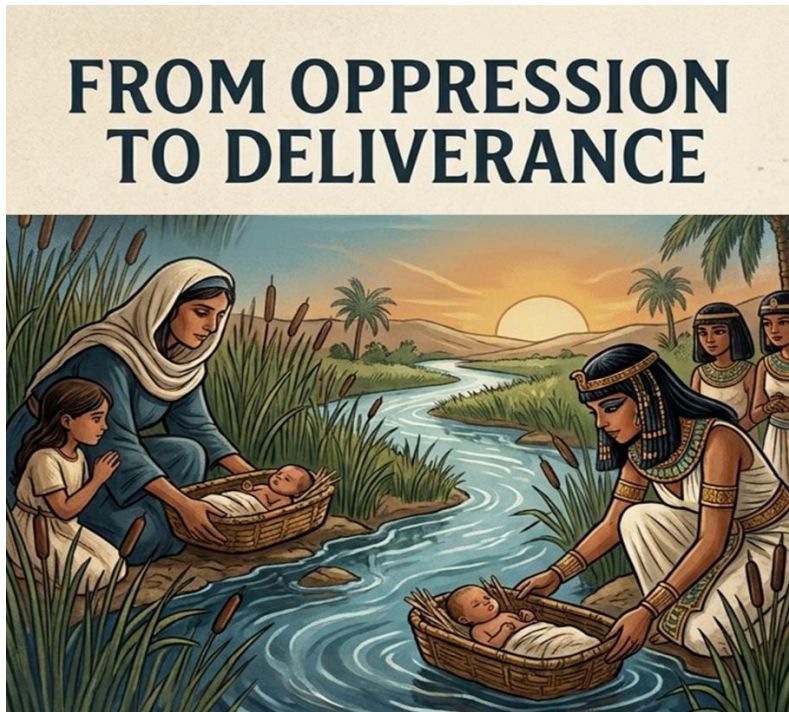


*Welcome to
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*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.*

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost • August 23, 2026 • 9:30 AM Worship



In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

**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, Renee Fels, Rebecca Jellen, Richard Ditzler, Alyson Harvey, Marie Wolfe, Mary Eberle, Brandon Blanchard, Elizabeth Brossett and family, Paige Seasock, Will Morgan, Barry Long, Jim Martin, Mike Wolf, Bob Schanely, Michael Svanson, Marilyn Little-Logan, Ed Bowlin, Josephine D'Amico, Bob Ernst and Bill Hunt.

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 Holy Ground - arr. Conyers

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 623 Rock of Ages

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, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

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

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 1:8-2:10

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 124

If the LORD had not been on our side,

let Israel now say;

if the LORD had not been on our side,

when enemies rose up against us,

then would they have swallowed us up alive

in their fierce anger toward us;

then would the waters have overwhelmed us

and the torrent gone over us;

then would the raging waters

have gone right over us.

Blessed be the LORD

who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;

the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

the maker of heaven and earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 16:13-20

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

Pastor Becky Schanely

HYMN OF THE DAY There Came a Time in Egypt

Sung to the tune of ELW 654 The Church's One Foundation

There came a time in Egypt when Joseph wasn't known —
when people had forgotten the seeds of help he'd sown.
With immigrants increasing, the leaders lived in fear.
That fear turned into murmuring: "We do not want them here!"

The rulers told the midwives, "Don't let their numbers grow."
But Shiphrah said, with Puah, a quiet, faithful, "No!"
When they were tasked with killing, they saved the baby boys.
God, may we, too, be willing to challenge what destroys.

O God, you sent us Jesus who said, "Take up your cross!"
He taught that faithful living will often have a cost.
He taught us to be daring, creative, wise and strong —
to make the world more caring, to challenge what is wrong.

When immigrants are struggling, when children live in fear,
when forces of destruction are threatening people here,
God, make us like those women, and may we seek to be
the ones who usher life in, till all are whole and free.

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

MUSICAL OFFERING Breath of God - arr. Krug
Handbell Ensemble

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY



The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way. O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son, teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done."

In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

OFFERING PRAYER

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 796 How Firm a Foundation

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Foundation - Bernard Wayne Sanders

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Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 24	Outreach meeting 7 PM
Friday, August 28	Firepit 7:00 PM
Sunday, August 30	Worship service w/zoom 9:30 AM Back to School Blessing Newsletter article deadline
Monday, August 31	Budget kickoff for Council & Committees 7 PM

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.

The Open Link food donations: Our next food collection, Saturday September 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

Reformation Sister Churches Faith night at the Iron Pig's game, Friday, August 28th. Reminder if you purchased tickets Gates open at 5pm – game starts at 6:46 PM.

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

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.. If you would like to receive a booklet by mail or know someone who would enjoy receiving a booklet, please contact the church office, leave a message with full name and address.

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!

Back to School Blessing 9:30 AM Worship service we will gather within worship to bless our young people returning to school, but also all the adults who work within the school system. Join us as we cover this new school year in prayer.

St John’s Program Newsletter – Articles for the upcoming newsletter are due August 30th. Please submit your article(s) as we begin to prepare to assemble the issue.

The Open Link back to school supplies needed and can be dropped of the week of August 24th at the Penn Street office, 452 Penn Street Pennsburg. Daytime – Mon – Fri 8 AM to 4 PM, Tuesday, extend hours until 7 PM.
Items: New backpacks, 3 ring binders(1” and 2”), pocket folders, colored markers(washable), colored pencils, crayons, dry erase markers, highlighters, scissors, glue sticks, spiral notebook, composition book, loose-leaf paper, pens (black or blue), #2 pencils, block and pencil top easers, hand sanitizer, gift cards (Walmart, Target, Amazon)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE		
Worship Attendance		
08/16/2026 – 9:30 Am 52 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>		

Grandparent Sunday worship bring your grandparents or grandparents, bring your grandchildren to worship September 13th, 9:30 AM as we will give thanks and bless our grandparents. Light refreshments and an activity will follow the service. We hope you will join us.

Sunday School Join us Sunday September 20th at 9:00 AM for Sunday school kick-off. It’s the first day of the new Sunday school year. We look forward to seeing you!

Sunday Worship service beginning Sunday September 20th the worship service will return to 10:15 AM. (NOTE: the 8:00 AM service will return in October.)

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. St John's next blood drive is Sept 18th

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!*

Heavenly Helpers hoagie sale for September; Orders due September 6th. A sign-up sheet is available outside Pastor Becky's office. Order pick up is scheduled for September 17th-5-6 PM in Fellowship Hall.

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.

NOTE: if you do not want to attend the outside worship service, there will be a service with communion at St Mark's church 9:00 AM. Rev'd Compton will preach. Join us for the picnic and fellowship!

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. **Sunday, August 30 is the deadline to drop off kits or items for the kits!**

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

Joyce Foesig & Shannon Renninger, 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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