

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.*

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



The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering 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, 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, Bill Hunt and Serena Sellers.

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 I love Thee my Lord - George Shearing

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 667 Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

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

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 3:1-15

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 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.**

Israel came into Egypt,
and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.

**The LORD made the people of Israel very fruitful,
more numerous than their enemies,**

whose hearts God turned, so that they hated God's people,
and dealt unjustly with the servants of God.

**O LORD, you sent Moses your servant,
and Aaron, your chosen one. Hallelujah!**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 16:21-28

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 Our God, You Called to Moses

Sung to the tune of ELW 244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Our God, you called to Moses to set your people free.

What wrongly some suppose is: he answered easily.

"I'm not the one you're seeking!" he seemed instead to say.

"My strength is not in speaking; God, find another way!"

And yet, O Lord, you told him to trust in what you said.
Your strength would surely hold him through all those days ahead
Though many would oppose him, by your own name he'd know:
You were the one who chose him to help your people go.

You call each congregation to serve those lost and poor.
We doubt our own vocation; we ask, "Lord, are you sure?"
Yet you give gifts for sharing, you show us what to say.
Your Spirit gives us daring to serve Christ every day.

BLESSING OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING Worthy is the Lamb - Darlene Zschech
Mike Wolf, tenor

Please rise in body or spirit.

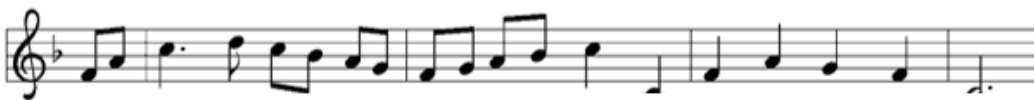
OFFERTORY



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

Holy God, you call ordinary people from unexpected places and send them into hard and holy work. As you met Moses in the fire that did not consume, and as you met Peter on the road of costly discipleship, meet us now in these gifts we bring. Shape us by your presence, not by fear; by service, not by power; by love that risks itself for the sake of others. Receive our offering as a sign that we trust your “I AM” to go with us and that we are willing to follow Christ, even when the way is demanding. Use what we give to bring freedom, healing, and hope to your world.

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 880 O God beyond All Praising

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Trumpet tune in F Major - Scott M. Hyslop

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OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE		
Worship Attendance		
08/16/2026 – 9:30 Am 56 Zoom - 5		
	Total received between 08/09/2026 – 08/23/2026 \$7077.00	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 gift received from Janet Keyser in memory of husband Steve.</i>		

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, August 30	Worship 9:30 AM, Zoom available
Monday, August 31	Budget kickoff for Council & Committees 7 PM
Sunday, September 6	Worship service St Mark's 9 AM in person and online from their website: https://www.stmarkspennsburg.com/ Worship in the Park, New Goshenhoppen Park 10:30 AM

Welcome to the worship service this morning. If you are visiting with us today, please fill out a visitor card located in the pew rack and drop it into the offering plate.

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

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. Non-food items, tooth paste, diapers, soap/body wash, men and woman's deoderant, shampoo and bandaids.

Questions, contact Diane Appold

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.

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.

Heavenly Helpers final hoagie sale for 2026 is here. Orders due September 6th.

A sign-up sheet is available outside Pastor Becky's office. Hoagie order pick up is scheduled for September 17th- 5-6 PM in Fellowship Hall.

St. John's Summer Service Project - Today, August 30 is the deadline to drop off kits or items for the kits! 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.

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!

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!



Worship in the Park is next Sunday, September 6 at 10:30am, at the New Goshenhoppen Park, located on 3rd street in East Greenville.

The Red Hill Band brass section will accompany the service. Following the worship service there is a potluck picnic. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Main course is provided by New Goshenhoppen UCC.

At 1:00 PM the entire Red Hill Band will be assembled for a concert.

NOTE: if you do not want to attend the outside worship service, there will be a service with communion at St Mark's church, Main Street, Pennsburg at 9 AM -online viewing is available. The Reverend Compton will preach. Please join us following the 10:30 AM service at the park for the picnic and a time of fellowship!

If inclement weather the service and picnic will be moved to New Goshenhoppen church.

American Red Cross St John's blood drive is Sept 18th in the church gym from 12- 5 PM. If you have type O, B or A consider making a Power Red Donation. Please go on line or call the Red Cross to schedule your appointment. 1.800.733.2767 or RedCrossBlood.org

Family Bathroom The family bathroom project has made significant progress. Drywall and spackling are completed. There is still work to be done.

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 also be made online through St. John's website!

Community Days Saturday, September 12th, 10 AM – 4 PM located on Main Street (Route 29) from the intersection of 663 & 29 through Pennsburg, ending at Bank Street East Greenville. The street is filled with local businesses, vendors, community organizations, churches, food, entertainment, and much more. Come out and enjoy our community.

Sunday Worship service beginning Sunday September 20th we will return to worshipping at 10:15 AM. (NOTE: the 8:00 AM service will return October 18th.)



SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Erika Haldeman & David Ramil

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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