

*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.*

16th Sunday after Pentecost • September 13, 2026 • 9:30 AM Worship



In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the 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, Josephine D'Amico, Bob Schanely, Michael Svanson, Marilyn Little-Logan, Ed Bowlin, Bob Ernst, Bill Hutt and Gordie Moser.

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 Two miniatures - R. Coleman

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's Word declares: "Honor your father and your mother,

so that your days may be long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

God's Word declares: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you."

We thank God for grandparents who "grandly" love, nurture, and lead.

OPENING HYMN ELW 757 All My Hope on God is Founded

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.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. Your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious and loving God, we gather in your presence today with hearts full of gratitude... Unite us across every age and stage of life as one body in Christ, sent out to love and serve the world in his name. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

+ WORD +

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

FIRST READING: Romans 14:1-12

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

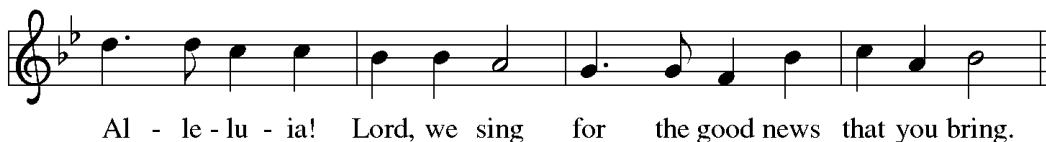
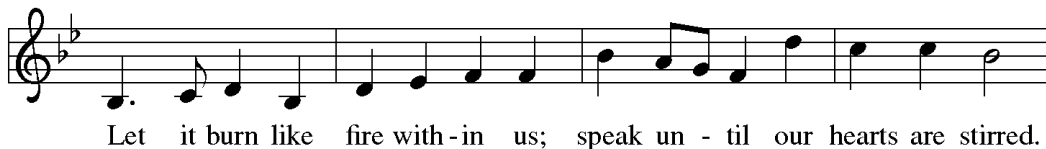
As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Becky Schanely

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM pg. 227

BAPTISM HYMN ELW 455 Crashing Waters at Creation

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING What a Friend we have in Jesus - setting by Gary Lanier
David Lewis, trumpet

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY



Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each prayer petition will end with the phrase:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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

BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW Love Divine, all loves excelling

Charles Wesley

BEECHER
John Zundel



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
2 Breathe, O breathe, Thy lov-ing Spir-it In-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er, Let us all Thy life re-ceive;
4 Fin-ish then Thy new cre-a-tion, Pure and spot-less let us be;

1 Fix in us Thy hum-ble dwell-ing, All Thy faith-ful mer-cies crown.
2 Let us all in Thee in-her-it, Let us find Thy prom-ised rest.
3 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, Nev-er-more Thy tem-ples leave.
4 Let us see Thy great sal-va-tion Per-fect-ly re-stored in Thee.

Continued on next page

1 Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
 2 Take a - way our bent to sin - ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 3 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,
 4 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, 'Til in heaven we take our place,

1 Vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 2 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 3 Pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 4 'Til we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise. A - men.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Come ye sinners, poor and needy - setting by George Shearing

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Baptism This morning, we celebrate with and welcome Carl and Beatrice Rodgers into the family of faith at St. John's through the sacrament of baptism.

Carl and Beatrice's parents are Jeffrey and Allison Rodgers

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE		
Worship Attendance		
08/30/2026 – 9:30 AM – 64 Zoom - 7		
	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>		

Mark Your Calendar

- Sunday, September 13 Worship service 9:30 AM
Grandparent day celebration
- Thursday, September 17 Card Crew 10:00am in Fellowship Hall
Heavenly Helpers Hoagie order pick-up 5 – 6 PM
- Sunday, September 20 Sunday School Kick off 9:00 AM
Worship service returns to 10:15 AM

Grandparent day – Today we come together to celebrate our grandparents during our worship service. Please join us after Worship for light refreshments and an activity for grandparents to do with their grandchildren in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School – will resume next Sunday, Sept. 20th at 9:00 am. Join us for the Sunday kick-off! We look forward to seeing you again for the 2026-2027 session.

Sunday Morning Coffee Bar – is returning Sunday September 20th. Join us at the coffee bar at the back entrance for coffee, hot tea, breakfast treats and conversation starting at 8:30AM. Volunteers are needed to cover the coffee bar each week - which means set up, bring treats to share and clean up. The sign-up sheet is available outside Pastor Becky's office - please sign up to help!

Heavenly Helpers Hoagie order pick-up is scheduled for Thursday 5-6 PM in Fellowship hall. If you have questions; please contact Elaine Keller - elaineakeller@comcast.net
Also, look for information on their next fundraiser, Kauffman Chicken BBQ coming in October. Orders being taken through October 11th. Contact Elaine or a HH team member

Worship Assistance and Counters- As our worship life returns to a two services schedule this fall and scheduling of assistants to support worship begins, we are in need of additional volunteers to serve as ushers, readers and communion assistants. Also, since the pandemic, the responsibility of counting and reconciling the weekly offering has fallen on the shoulders of two members of the church and we are looking to support them by adding additional counting teams. In order to serve as a counter, you need to be an active member of St. John's who is willing to submit to a criminal record check. Individuals will be paired up on teams of two and scheduled to serve as a team. The weekly task takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The schedule is on a rotation basis. All you need is a willingness to try something new.

If you are willing to step into one of these roles, please contact Denise Fox in the church office (215-234-4888 or stj.stown@verizon.net) and we will get you on the schedule and trained to serve!

Family Bathroom The family bathroom project has made significant progress. Fixtures have been installed. Drywall has been installed, spackled and ready for paint. Please stop by. 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!

Card Club is collecting birthday card donations. If you would like to donate, please leave the cards on the serving window counter of the kitchen. Thank you!

American Red Cross the next scheduled blood drive is September 18, 2026 from 12 – 5 PM, St. John's gymnasium. Please visit the Red Cross website to sign up on line. The need for blood continues to in great demand.

Sunday Worship – beginning Sunday September 20th, the worship service will return to 10:15 AM. (the 8:00 am service will return October 18th).

Open Link – The first Saturday of each month from 9-11 AM donations will be accepted at the back of the church. In the event you are not able to stop by at the scheduled event, you can place your donations on the table in the church gym.

Most needed items right now: Canned chicken, canned tuna, condiments, fruit juice, fresh produce (bags of potatoes, apples, oranges, onions), rice side dishes and pasta.



*Ignited by Spirit
Growing in Love*

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Cathy Sweeney, Reader
Joyce Foesig & Andi Swavely, Ushers
Colleen Carlin & Brian Gegan

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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