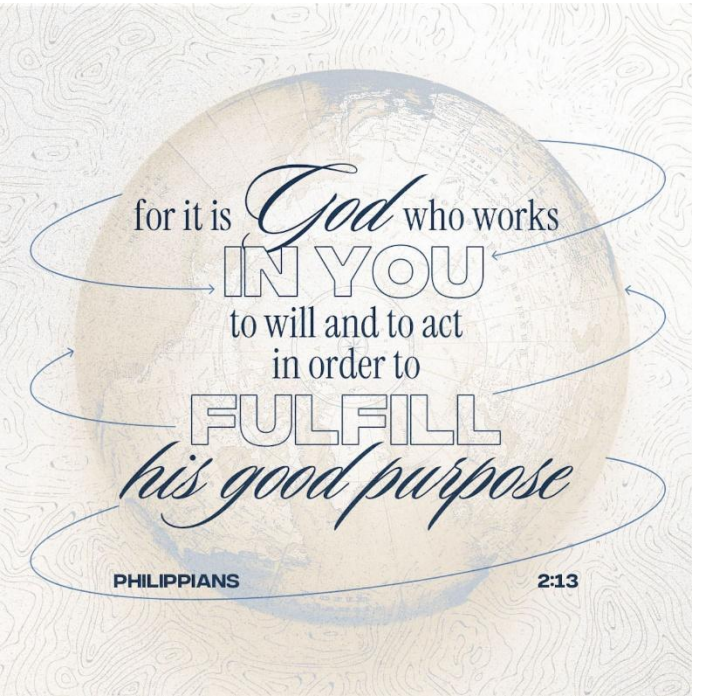
Welcome to
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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.

18th Sunday after Pentecost • September 27, 2026 • 10:15am worship- Baptism



Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy 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 Hutt, Gordie Moser, Serena Sellers, Sal Aleide, Brian Bealer and Tom Cooney.

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 AND GREETINGS

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

PRELUDE Adagio in a minor - J.S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE TRINITY CANDLE
St. John's is a community 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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.
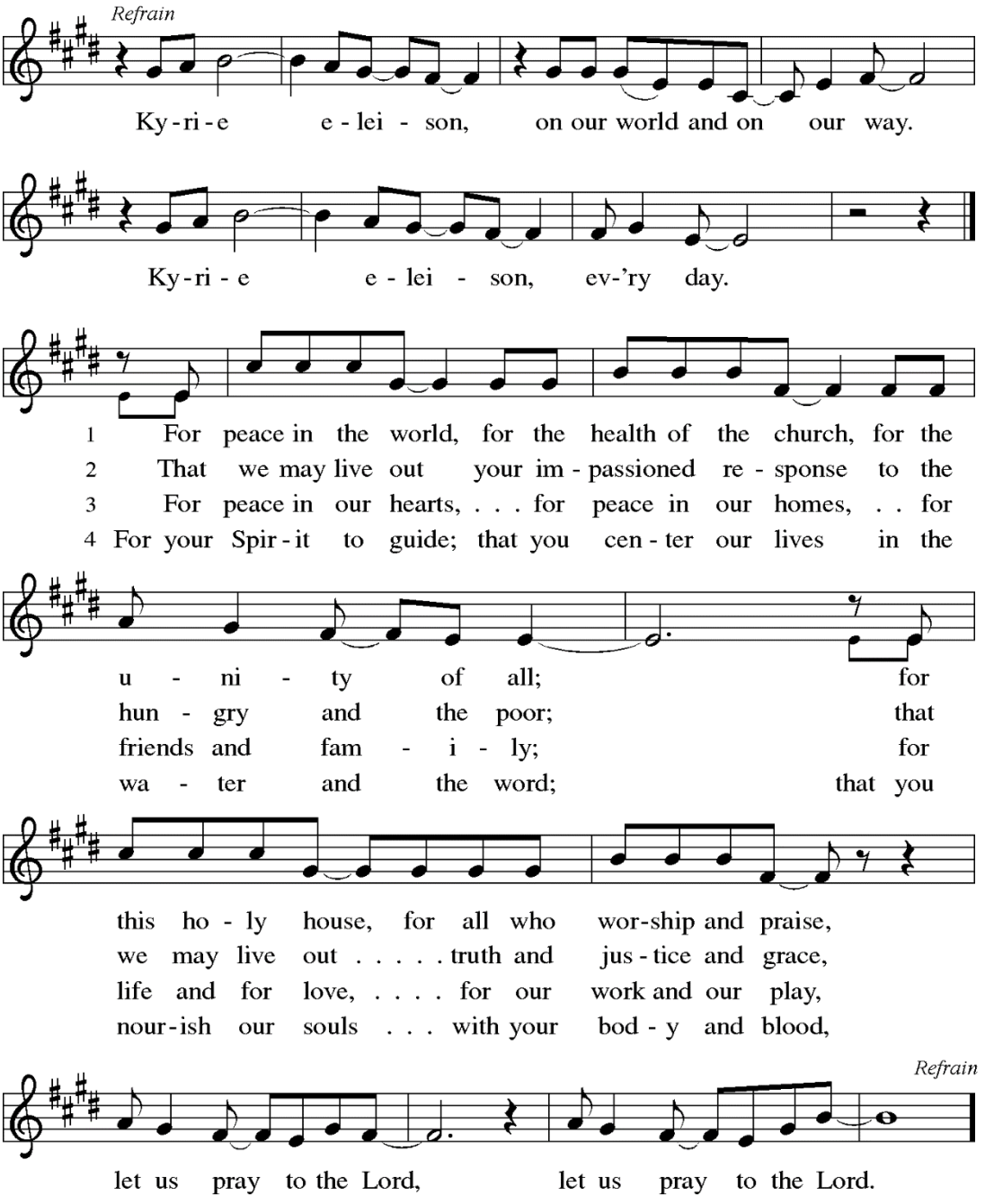
Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts 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.**

OPENING HYMN ELW 596 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

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

KYRIE


Refrain
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.
1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the
u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you
this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out . . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, ... for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,
Refrain
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**
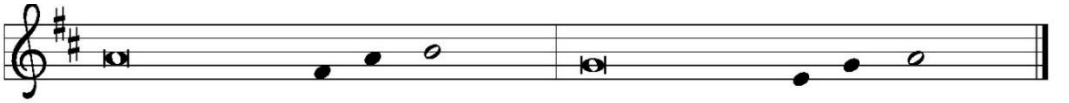
+ WORD +

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

FIRST READING: Philippians 2:1-13

At the conclusion of the reading:
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

PSALM: 25:1-9



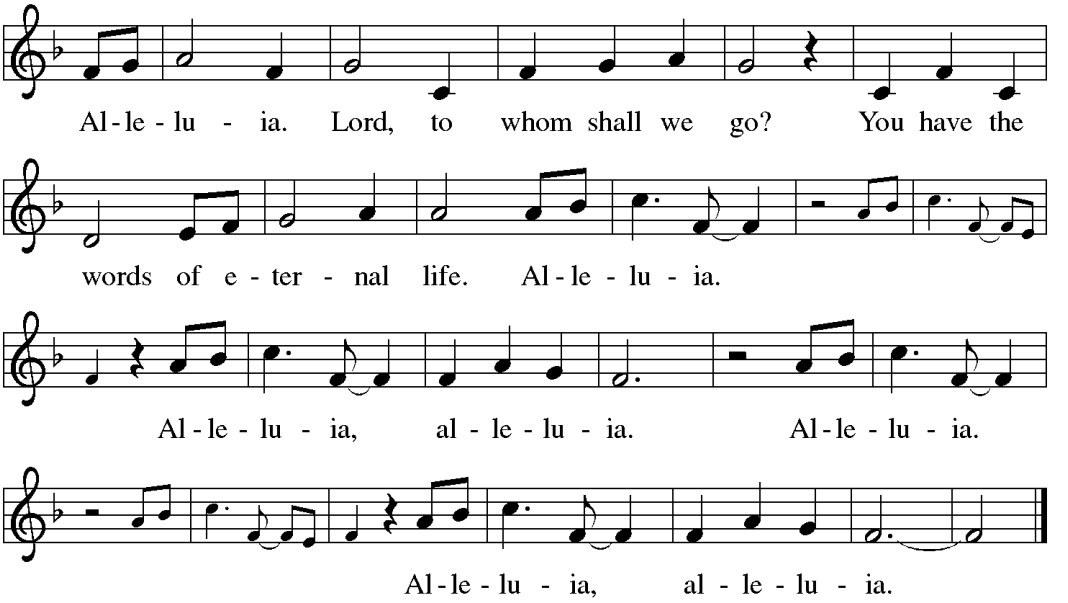
[1] To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.
[2] **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,**
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
[3] Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
[4] **Show me your | ways, O LORD,**
and teach | me your paths.
[5] Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
[6] **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,**
for they are from | everlasting.
[7] Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

Continue on next page

[8] **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;**
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
[9] You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

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

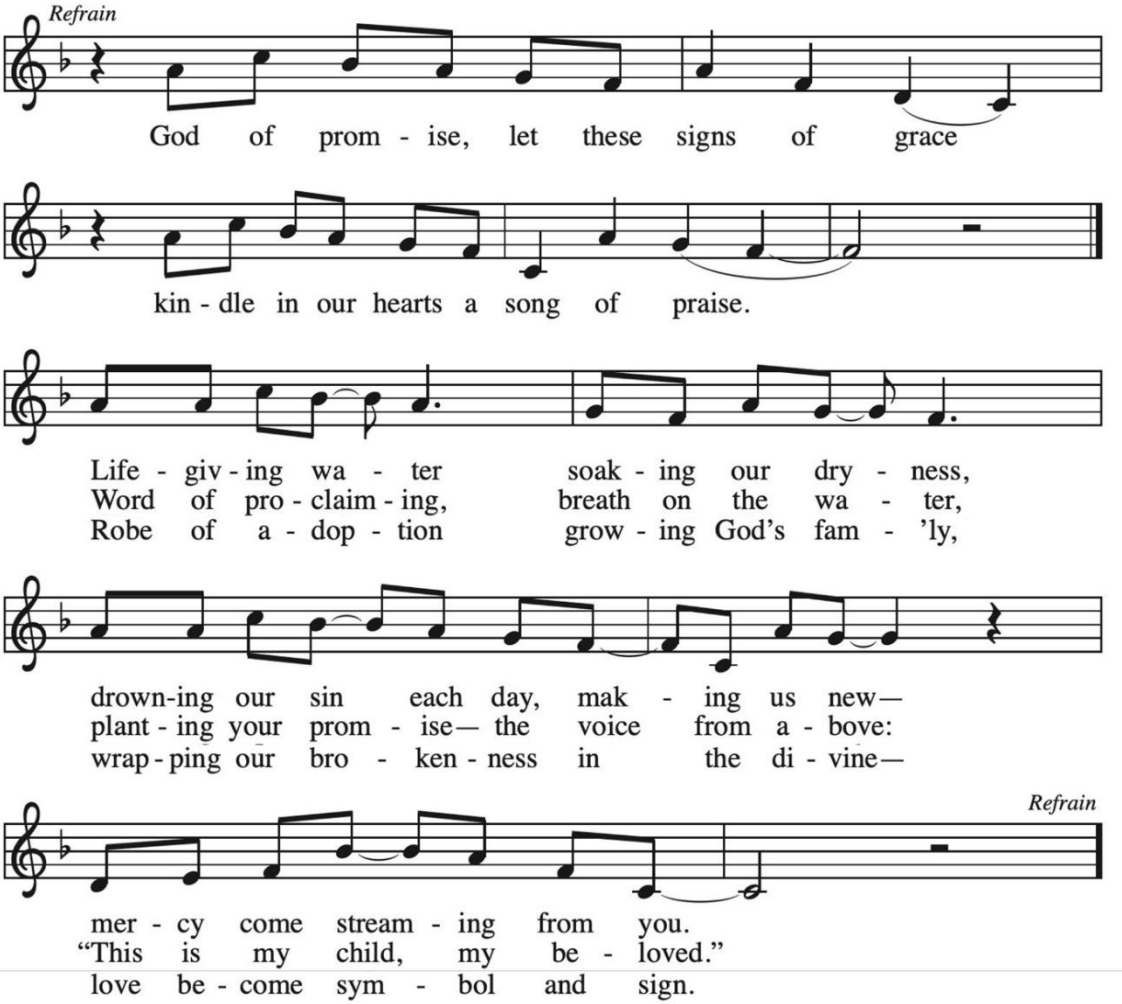
At the conclusion of the reading:
This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON Pastor Becky Schanely

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM pg. 227

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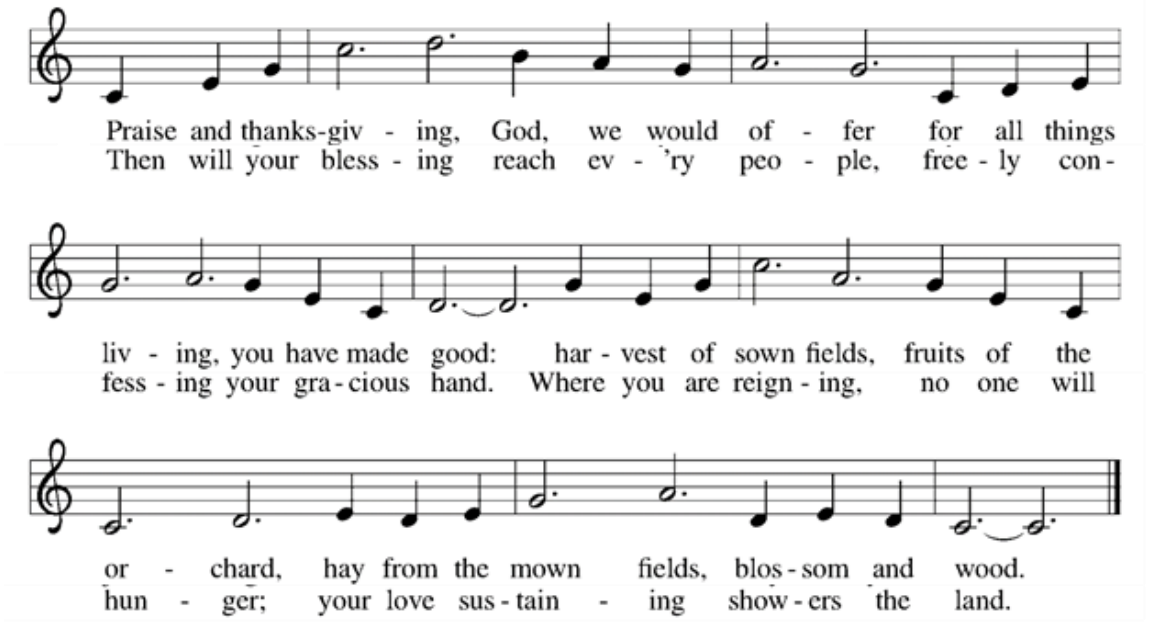


OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING How can I keep from Singing? - setting by Michael Burkhardt
St. John's choir

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY



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 Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 785 When Peace like a River

DISMISSAL
Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Voluntary in D Flat Major - David N. Johnson

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BAPTISM: This morning, we celebrate and welcome Leah Claire Meitzler into the family of faith at St. John's through the sacrament of baptism. Claire's parents are Tyler J. and Kristen S (Hutt) Meitzler.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE		
Worship Attendance 09/20/2026 – 10:15 – 75 Zoom - 2		
	Total received between 08/30/2026 – 09/13/2026 $9,648	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.		

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 28	Executive Meeting 7:30 pm
Wednesday, September 30	Confirmation Class-Mentor night 7-8 pm
Sunday, October 4	Outdoor Worship 10:15 am, blessing of pets

Sunday Morning Coffee Bar - Join us at the coffee bar at the back entrance for coffee, hot tea, breakfast treats and conversation starting at 8:30AM. If you would like to sign-up for set-up, provide treats, clean-up, please see the sign-up sheet outside the Pastor's office.

October 4 – Outdoor Worship at 10:15 AM Worship this week will focus in on the season of creation and gift of all that God made. We will worship outdoor and the service will include a blessing of pets so bring your beloved animals for worship and a special blessing.

Heavenly Helpers would like to thank you all for your support for this years hoagies sales. Next event is October 24th – Kauffman's BBQ chicken meal. Meals must be pre-order by October 11th, sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside Pastor Becky's office. Meal pick-up is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th 12-2pm. This is the final fundraiser for the roof repair.

Food Donations for The Open Link: Collection is held the first Saturday of each month from 9 to 11 am. If you are unable to drop of at the scheduled time, you may drop off at other times at the church gym.

Fall Soup and Study: Soup and Study returns this fall as we dig into the book It All Counts: Finding God Everywhere They Told You Not to Look by Natalia Terfa. Books are available for purchase in the church office for $16. Beginning Monday, September 28 at 5:30 PM thru November 2nd. Soup and Study is a shared ministry event with Friedens UCC and takes place in the Fellowship Hall here at St. John's.

Trunk or Treat Fall Fling: Sunday, October 18th, 2-4pm. Free event food, crafts, treats, and hayrides. All are welcome! Also we will be collecting canned food for The Open Link.

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, we are looking for volunteers for 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.
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!

Gospel of Mark: The Reformation Sister congregations are hosting a weekly Bible study digging into the Gospel of Mark, A Beginner's Guide to the Good News. The session will begin Thursday, October 1 thru November 5 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm at St Mark's Church in Pennsburg. The book we're using is available for purchase in the church office, cost, $12. Each meeting will be led by one of the Pastors of the Reformation Sister Churches of Upper Perkiomen Valley.

Ignited by Spirit
Growing in Love

THANK YOU FOR SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Lisa Cooney Reader
Andi Swavely & Mary Ann Clemmer, Ushers
Erika Haleman & David Ramil , 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

3104 Main Street, Green Lane, PA 18054
215-234-4888 (phone) 215-234-0825 (fax)