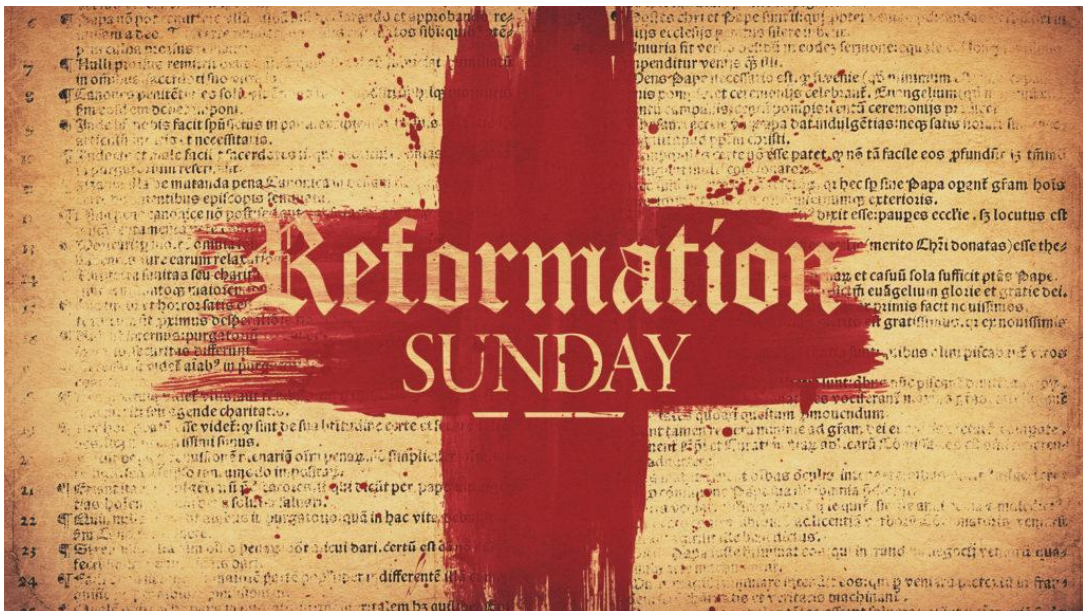


Welcome to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

*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.*

Reformation Sunday • October 25, 2026 • 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM



Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

**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 +

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE Fugue in D Major – J. S. Bach

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Just as the world continues to revolve and evolve, the church is called to move in new directions. Yet we do what we can to place brakes on change and silence newness. The winds of the Holy Spirit are still blowing in our direction, nudging us to move forward, but we have chosen to close doors, shut windows, and ignore its urging.

Forgive us when we limit you, God, and when we place you and your ideas into boxes. Open our souls to the expansiveness of faith. May we incorporate the new winds and bold ideas even when we are set in our old ways and content with our monotonous routines. Amen.

No matter how many times we have slammed the door on God, God continues to knock and wants us to answer. We are grateful for the saturating grace that God continues to pour over us.

Thanks be to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

OPENING HYMN ELW 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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





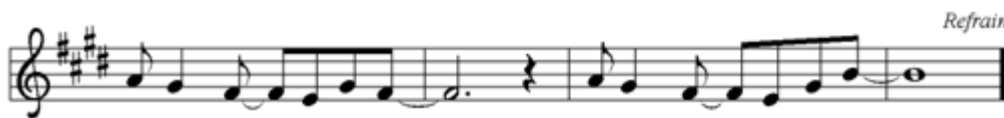
1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



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,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46



- ¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
- ³ though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,**
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
- ⁶ **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.
- ⁷ The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- ⁸ **Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,**
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
- ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;**
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”
- ¹¹ The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 22:34-46

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 and PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

SERMON

Pastor Rebecca Schanely

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 1048 Founded on Faith



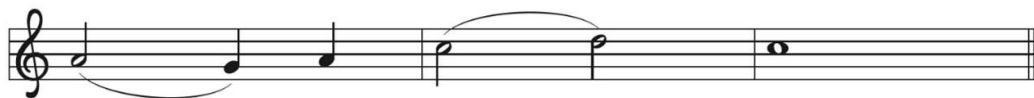
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
 2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
 3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
 4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
 5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow' red to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
 Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
 Em - pow' red to serve with gifts, both great and small,
 we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
 we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
 Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
 we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
 a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
 Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM pg. 234

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each prayer petition will end with the phrase:

Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ THE MEAL +

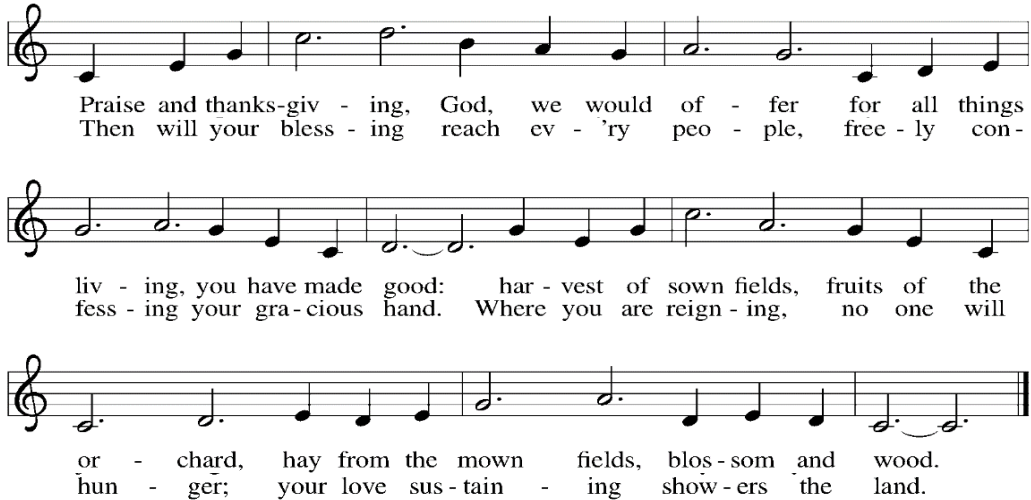
OFFERING

MUSICAL

Fantasia italiana – Hans-André Stamm
Curry Moyer and David Lewis, trumpets

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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

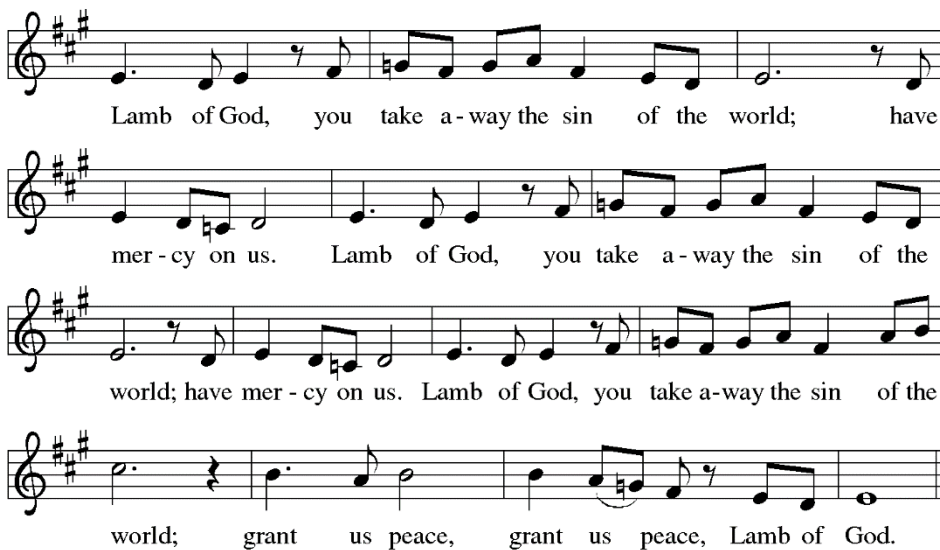
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

As Jesus taught us, we are bold 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.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

Communion will be shared continuously. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. You will receive the bread from the pastor and then be invited to take a pre-filled cup from the tray held by the communion assistant. Wine is in the clear cups and grape juice is in the purple cups. Empty cups can be placed in the bowls at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. All are welcome!

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ELW 490 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen

+ SENDING +

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 514 O Word of God Incarnate

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE A Mighty Fortress is our God – J.N. Hanff

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OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE		
Worship Attendance 10/18/2026 – 8:00 AM 19, and 10:15 am 67, Zoom - 10		
	Total received between 10/04/2026 – 10/11/2026 \$6,617.14	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>		



Welcome Samuel Dean Seymore, as you are baptized in new life in Christ and his everlasting love throughout your life. Proud parents are Michael Seymore and Amanda Miller.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 26	Soup & Study 5:30 PM Executive meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, October 28	Confirmation – Mentor night 7-8 PM
Friday, October 30	New Adventures 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM Gym
Sunday, November 1	Worship 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM w/zoom All Saints Day

Confirmation Sunday – today we celebrate with our confirmands as they have completed their classes on their journey in faith. Please join us after the 10:15 worship service in Fellowship Hall for light refreshments and to congratulate; Owen Keller, Keaton Leach, Zaydah Rodriguez and Charlotte Yost for reaching this milestone.

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. All are welcome!

Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Sunday, November 22 at St John's. Worship service is 4 PM dinner to follow. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside Pastor Becky's office. Donations of desserts are requested.



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING THIS SUNDAY

8:00 AM – Abby Thomas, Reader
Jeff Faust, Ushers
Jeff Faust, Communion

10:15 AM – Cathy Sweeney, Reader
Sheila & Matt Hereck Ushers
Joyce Foesig & Shannon Renninger, A/V team
Caleb & Jen Yost, Paul Barndt - Communion

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

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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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