



Whoever
is faithful in
a very little
is faithful
also in much

LUKE 16:10

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 2025

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville

5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road

Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937

Church 740-574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



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September 21, 2025
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and to serve where the Spirit leads us.

Prelude

+ Confession and Forgiveness

Stand The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

+ Apostolic Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

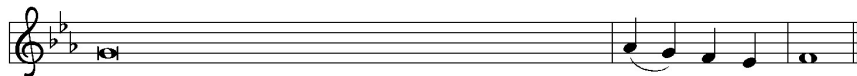
C And also with you.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



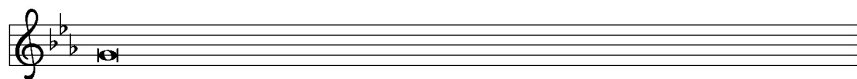
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



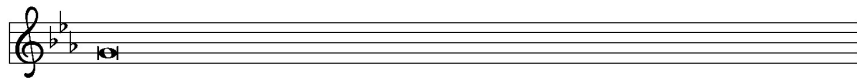
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

+Hymn of Praise

Glory to God Luke 2:14, John 1:29 & Rev. 15:4

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

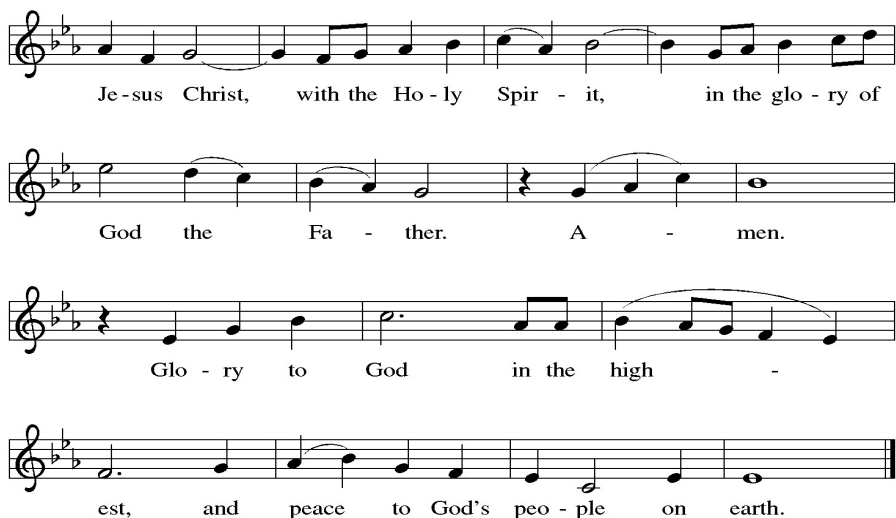
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



+ Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. . . **God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Sermon

Children will be dismissed to Children's Church following the Children's Sermon

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
 and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over
 so that we may sell grain,
 and the Sabbath,
 so that we may offer wheat for sale?
 We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
 and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver
 and the needy for a pair of sandals
 and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
 Surely I will never forget any of their deeds

Psalm: 113

P ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

C ² **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**

P ³ From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.

C ⁴ **The LORD is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.**

P ⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,

C ⁶ **but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?**

P ⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

C ⁸ **enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**

P ⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

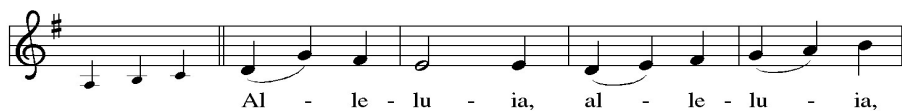
¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

+ Alleluia Verse

John 6:68



Repeat alleluia



+ The Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 16th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Pastor Francis

Silence For Reflection



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3 Hearts still are bruised and dead, and homes are bare and cold,
 4 To com - fort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first-fruits give.
 and lambs for whom the Shep - herd bled are stray - ing from the fold.
 to tend those lost in lone - li - ness, is an - gels' work be - low.

5 The captive to release,
 the lost to God to bring,
 to teach the way of life and peace—
 it is a Christlike thing.

6 And we believe thy word,
 though dim our faith may be:
 whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
 we do it unto thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HILATH. Mason and Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Let us pray.

P Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

P Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

P Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

P Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones (*especially*). May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace

C receive our prayer.

P God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P “Raise up and send to us our next pastor (deacon). We pray for our call committee, that your wisdom will rest upon them, that they may know and recognize the person you are sending. Grant us patience and faith as we wait. Amen”

“We pray for the our call committee as they continue their work, that they may know your will, and have the faith and courage to follow your leading.”

“Grant that your Holy Spirit may rest upon our call committee as they listen for your will. Grant us patience and hope that comes by faith in you.” God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

P Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints (*especially Matthew and all*) who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

P We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C Amen.

+ The Peace

[shared among the congregation]

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you

R

Peace be with you.

Parish Announcements

Offering

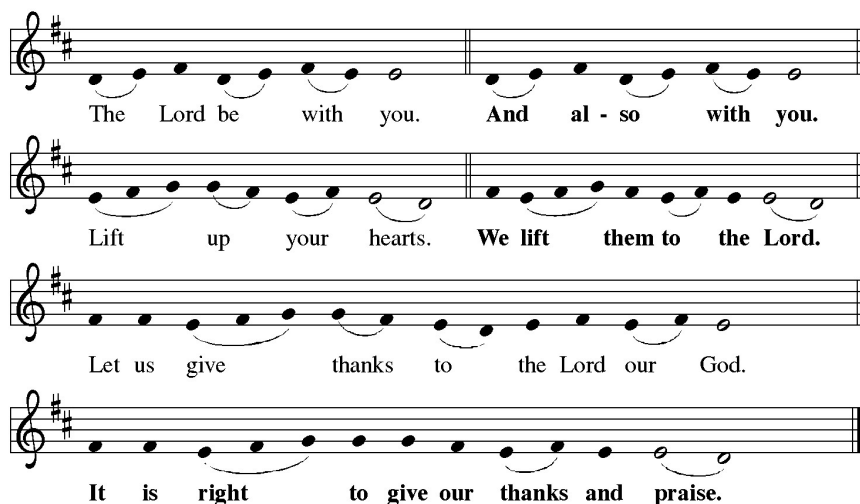
+ Offertory *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord*
1 Corinthians 10:16 & John 6:35

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

+ The Prayer

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—
our selves , our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious
love. Receive them for the sake of him who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+ The Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

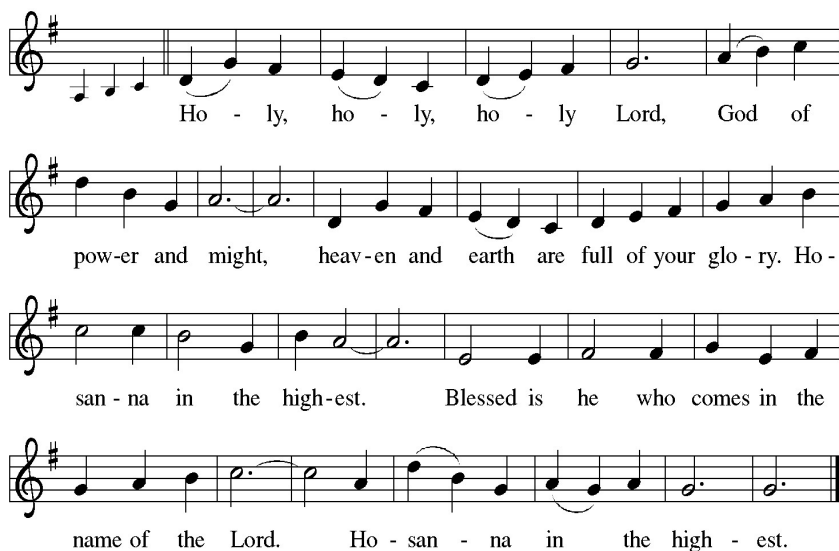
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose beyond the bounds of death and, [on this day,] as he had promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Isaiah 6:3 & Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Matthew 26:26-28, Luke 22:17-20
Mark 14:22-24, 1Corinthians 11:23-26

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish, but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

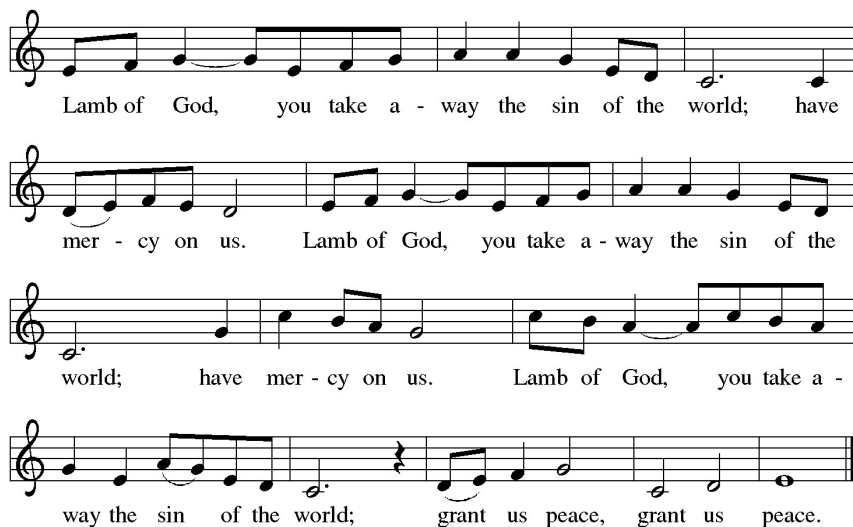
P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

+The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C **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**



The Holy Communion

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

Music during the Communion:

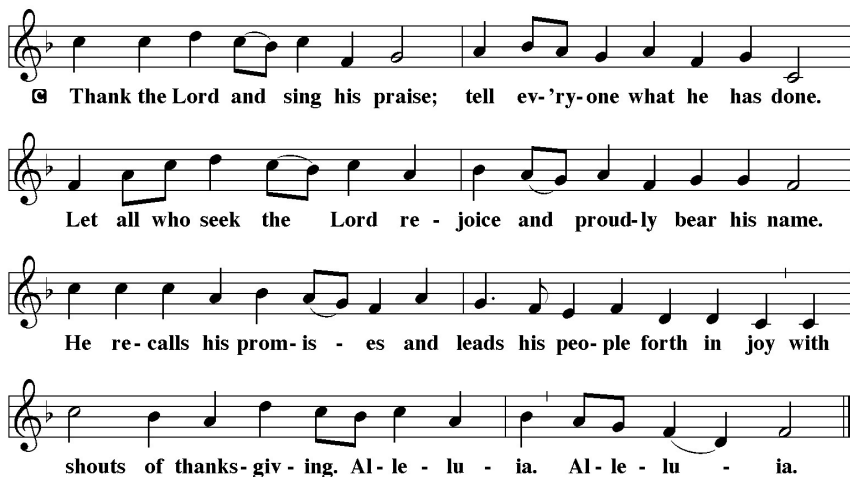
Stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

+ Post-Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord




C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

 Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.

 He re- calls his prom- is - es and leads his peo- ple forth in joy with

 shouts of thanks- giv - ing. Al- le - lu - ia. Al- le - lu - ia.

+ Post Communion Prayer

Romans 5:5

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

+ The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
 +In the of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
 May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
 let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der-ness.
 Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.
 May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
 Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

+ Dismissal

P	Go in peace.
Children	Serve the Lord.
C	Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Stand as you are able

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SERVING TODAY

Organist
Worship Assistant
Lay Reader
Prayer Leader
Greeter
Altar Committee
Council President

Leigh Ann Henry
Vivian Riffle
James Hayman

Ashley Salyers
Amy Fraulini, Kelly Skipworth
Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign our guest book in the entrance area. We hope you will join us again very soon.

THIS MORNING WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION. St John observes open communion. Christians of all Churches and all denominations are invited and encouraged to join us at our Lord's table. You may drink from either the Common Cup or individual cups. Grape juice is offered as an alternative for those who wish it. Young children who have not yet gone through Preparation for Communion may be brought forward for a blessing.

These are the words of Martin Luther from The Small Catechism.

The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words, **given and shed for you for the remission of sins.** The words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words, **given and shed for you for the remission of sins.** These words, along with eating and drinking, are the main thing in the sacrament. And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Rosemarie Becker, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Paul Means, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Barb Coakley, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Barbara Redmond, Brian & Carol Hicks, Tim Coldiron, Danica Clarkson, Bill Murphy, Frank Dodd, Michael Copeland, Linda Martin, Jane Bussler, Rena McIntyre, Bill Culver, Brenda Moore, Melaine Hawk, Don Moeser, Mike Mucha, Patty Poole, Kent Gifford, Nicholas Young, Jason Pierce, Beth Miller, Jane Staker, The Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts

PLEASE PRAY FOR the Call Committee and Church Council as we search for a new pastor. May God bless and guide them in this journey.

IF YOU CAN USE scissors, tie a knot, or just want to join us for some fellowship come on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. as we work on our blanket projects. Everyone is welcome.

CHOIR PRACTICE on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

WE ARE restarting the visitation team. A two person team will visit shut-ins, the hospitalized or those in nursing homes. Also, we are starting an outreach program by sending a card from our church family to recognize birthdays, provide encouragement during illness or loss. Cards and postage will be provided. If you are interested, please see Cindy Oakes.

AS PART OF our celebration of our church's 150th anniversary, we are collecting family history/stories of how your family came to this country. We will be creating a booklet to share for Heritage Sunday in November. If you have a story, please see Cindy Oakes.

This Week at St. John

Today—*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
10:00 a.m. **Worship**—*Holy Communion*

Tuesday
10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Next Sunday—*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
10:00 a.m. **Worship**

Attendance

2025 Average	62
2024 Average:	62

Serving Next Sunday, September 28

<i>Organist</i>	<i>Leigh Ann Henry</i>
<i>Lay Reader</i>	<i>Sherry Mullins</i>
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	
<i>Greeter</i>	
<i>Altar Committee</i>	<i>Amy Fraulini, Kelly Skipworth</i>
<i>Council President</i>	<i>Rick Williams</i>

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Crean Hansen, Kelly Skipworth, Leigh Ann Henry, John Mullins, Quinn Parish

BAPTISMS: Hannah Slowey, Aubreigh Williams, Jordan Williams, Patty Staker, Dan Gleim, Emily Gambill, Elizabeth Gleim, Colton Stafford, Olivia Stafford

ANNIVERSARIES:

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

Coming Events

Tuesday, September 23 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, September 28 at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Dennis King preaching
Reception following worship.

Tuesday, September 30 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, October 5 at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Janet Hatch preaching
Reception following worship.

Tuesday, October 7 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday, October 8 at 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, October 11 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Sunday, October 14 at 10:00 a.m. Honoring Our 1st Responders

Tuesday, October 7 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, November 16 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 21 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Tuesday, October 7 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, November 2 at 10:00 a.m. Veterans Sunday

Wednesday, November 5 at 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, November 9 at 10:00 a.m. St. John's 150th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, November 9 at 11:00 a.m. Potluck/carry-in dinner