

***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.***

Creation in Christ Sunday • October 4, 2026 •
10:15 AM Outdoor Worship/Blessing of Animals



In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

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

PRELUDE His Eye Is On The Sparrow - arr. Eklund

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our hope, our heart, our home. **Amen.**

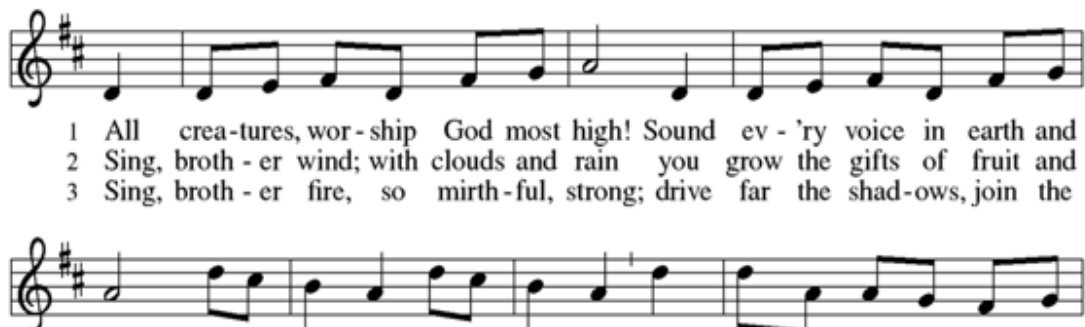
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,
we confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate oppression and injustice. We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves. We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will. Amen.

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you: God knows you, forgives you Jesus and frees you to love the world as you have been loved. Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more. When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure. Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN ELW 835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the

sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in

Continued on next page

bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

Continued on next page

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.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 2:4b-25

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 148



- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD¹ from the heavens;
praise God¹ in the heights.
- ² **Praise the LORD,¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you¹ hosts of heaven.**
- ³ Praise the LORD,¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you¹ shining stars.
- ⁴ **Praise the LORD, heav-¹ en of heavens,
and you waters a-¹ bove the heavens.**
- ⁵ Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they¹ were created,
- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forev-¹ er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not¹ pass away.**
- ⁷ Praise the LORD¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters¹ and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail,¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do-¹ ing God's will;**
- ⁹ mountains¹ and all hills,
fruit trees¹ and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and¹ flying birds;**
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers¹ of the world;
- ¹² **young¹ men and maidens,
old and¹ young together.**
- ¹³ Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over¹ earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all¹ faithful
servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.¹ Hallelujah!**

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: John 1:1-5

At the beginning of the reading:
The Holy Gospel according to John.
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

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 1049 Before the Waters Nourished Earth



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God, the source of all life, who creates and continuously sustains the universe. We rejoice that God is not distant, but intimately present in, with, and under all created things, holding the Earth and all it contains in love and declaring it good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, through whom all things were made. In His life, death, and resurrection, God acts by grace to redeem not only humanity, but the entire cosmos. Through Christ, God is actively reconciling and restoring a broken creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who breathes life into the world, sustaining ecosystems and renewing the face of the earth. The Spirit convicts us of our failures and frees us to act with courage, guiding the Church to be a public voice for eco-justice and systemic reform.

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves, a brokenness that manifests in the exploitation of the Earth and its resources, which harms the vulnerable and our global neighbors. We believe that we are justified by grace through faith, liberated by God's love to love our neighbors and care for the earth and we embrace our calling to live interdependently, serving as co-creators and caretakers dedicated to sufficiency, sustainability, and solidarity with all creatures.

Grounded in God's absolute faithfulness, we live with hope. We look forward to the fulfillment of God's promises for the healing of creation, committing our daily lives, our worship, and our advocacy to the flourishing of the Earth. Amen

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

All Things Bright and Beautiful, All Creatures Great and Small - arr. Sue Handbell Quartet

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY



OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each prayer petition will end with the phrase:

Hear us, O God...:

Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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.

+ SENDING +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God our Parent root you deep in grace.

God our Neighbor stand with you in strength.

God our Nourishment sustain you in hope
and bless you unto evergreen life.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 765 Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Flourish with creation.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE All Creatures of Our God and King - arr. Labenske

INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL BLESSINGS

During the postlude, feel free to move to the front where Pastor Becky is for individual laying on of hands and blessing of your pet.

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OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE		
Worship Attendance		
09/27/2026 – 10:15 am 65, Zoom - 9		
	Total received between 09/20/2026 – 09/27/2026 \$6,037.75	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

Monday October 5	Fall Soup & Study 5:30 pm
Wednesday, October 7	3 rd year Confirmation class 7:00 pm
Thursday, October 8	Bible Study 1:30 – 3:30 pm, St Mark's church
Friday, October 9	New Adventures 9-30 am – 2:30 pm Gym
Saturday, October 10	Confirmation Retreat Oct 10 thru 12 Bear Creek
Sunday, October 11	Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am, Zoom available Fall Newsletter article submission deadline

Welcome to worship 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.

The Open Link food donations: Food donation collection day is the first Saturday of each month from 9 to 11 am. If you are not able to stop by on the scheduled day and time, donations can be left in the church gym. Please visit The Open Link website for the updated needs list.

Fall Craft Social: Reminder for those of you who have signed up for this event, it is today at 3:00 pm in Fellowship hall. We look forward to a wonderful afternoon of crafting and fellowship, followed by a soup supper!

Christ in Our Home: Devotional edition for October, November and December are now available. You may pick up your copy in the Narthex or Parlor. Large print booklets are available too. The devotional resource encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day that follows the Revised Common Lectionary.

Fall Bible Workshop: For 2nd graders or any other student in grades 3-5 who has not previously received a bible from the church. Please register your student to participate in this workshop. Held on Sunday, October 18 from 8:45 am – 10:15 am. A parent or guardian is required to attend the workshop with each student. Students will receive their Bibles during the worship service at 10:15 am on Sunday, October 25.

Return of the 8:00 am worship service: Sunday, October 18 we will return to two worship services, 8:00 am and 10:15 am.

Heavenly Helpers: Final fundraiser for the roof repair. Heavenly Helpers will be traveling to Mississippi to replace a roof for a single mom/grandmother/great-grandmother who has been struggling for many years. If we can fix her roof, it will not leak and holes will not be created so the critters will stay outside. Thank you to all who have supported this cause! Sign-up Sheet is located on the bulletin board outside Pastor Becky's office. Pre-orders must be received by October 11th – please contact Elaine Keller at 215.262.5366 OR elainekeller@comcast.net. Meal pick up is scheduled for Saturday, October 24 from 12 pm to 2 pm in the back parking lot of St. John's church.

Fall Newsletter: It's time already to be thinking about the fall newsletter. We are asking that you submit your articles to the office by Sunday, October 11 to allow time to prepare the newsletter.

Family Bathroom The family bathroom project has made significant progress. Drywall and spackling are completed. Fixtures and door have been installed. Stop by and check out the progress of the project you have made possible with your donations! We are not done yet. Donations can be given by an envelope; write on "Family Bathroom" place in the collection plate *OR made online through St. John's website! Thank you!*

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!

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!

Fall Fling: Sunday, October 18 the Fall Fling is happening along with our annual Trunk or Treat event. This Free event includes, hayrides, food, crafts and treats. Wear your favorite custom and join us for a haunting good time! Great Family event!! Also, don't forget a canned food item, to donated to The Open Link. Donations of candy are also being collected for this event, place your donation in a bin located in the Narthex and the Parlor. Thank You!

Do you have a trunk you would like to decorate for this event, please see the weekly email for the link, "Register to decorate a trunk" button and complete the registration form to sign up.

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, prepare snacks and man the tables for this event. *Many hands make light work*, if you are able to help with this event, please contact Paul Barndt - pbarndt@barndtagency.com

A Halloween-themed poster for a 'Trunk or Treat Fall Fling' event. The background is dark purple with a large orange full moon and silhouettes of a haunted house and bare trees. In the foreground, there are three glowing jack-o'-lanterns and two white ghost figures. The title 'TRUNK OR TREAT FALL FLING' is written in large, bold, white and orange letters at the top. Below the title, the date and time 'Sun. October 18 2:00 - 4:00 PM' are listed on the left, and the location 'ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 3104 Main Street, Green Lane' is on the right. A central banner lists the activities: 'TRUNKS WITH TREATS', 'HAYRIDES', and 'FREE FOOD & CRAFT'. At the bottom, a white box contains the text 'FREE EVENT - ALL WELCOME!' and 'CANNED FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE OPEN LINK'.



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Mike Herm, Reader

Bob Ernst & Erika Haldeman, Ushers

Zoom is not available for this worship service

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)