

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.*

20th Sunday after Pentecost • October 11, 2026 • 10:15 AM



In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

**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 GREETING

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

PRELUDE Wedding March No. 1 – Ernest Bloch

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.

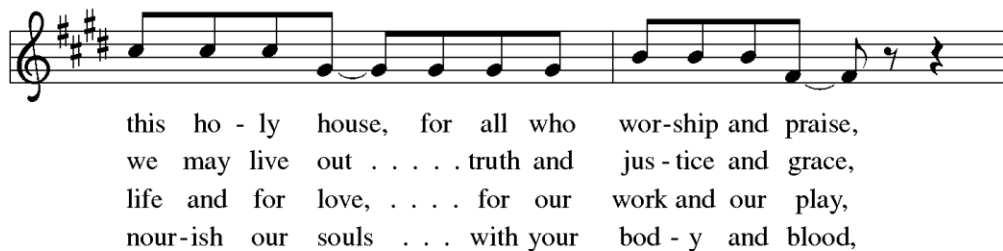
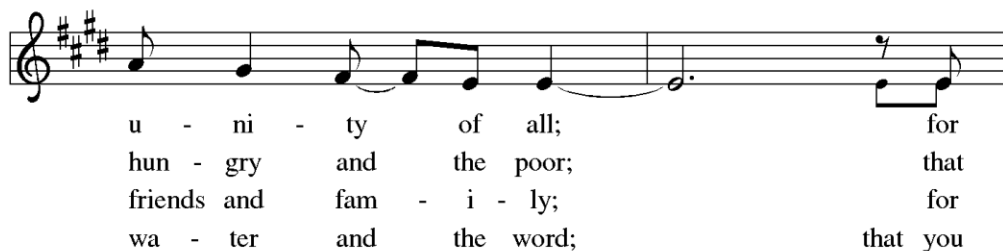
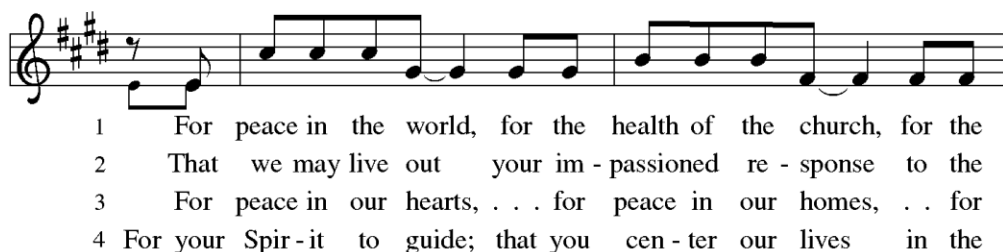
Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. Your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN ELW 625 Come, We That Love the Lord

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

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

FIRST LESSON: Philippians 4:1-9

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23



¹ The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³ You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

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 22:1-14

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

The Rev. Marcia Bell

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 462 Now We Join in Celebration

APOSTLE'S CREED

Together with people of faith in all times and places, we profess our faith with the words of the creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING The King of Love my Shepherd is - setting by Dan Forrest
Kevin Schanely, tenor

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.

OFFERTORY 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:

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

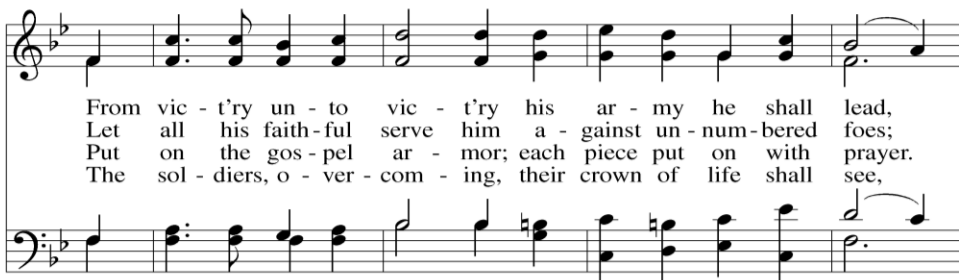
SENDING HYMN LBW 389 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus



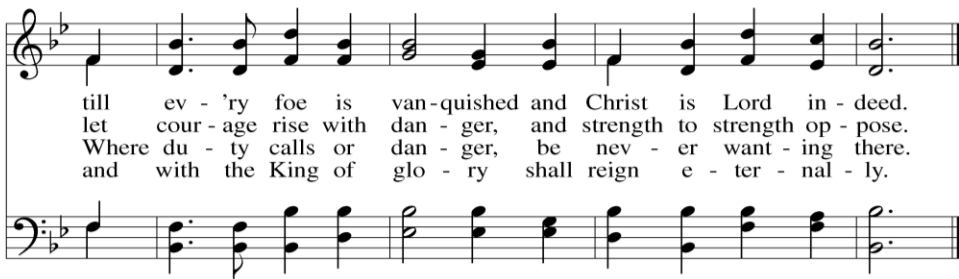
1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, as sol - diers of the cross,
 2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; the trum - pet call o - bey;
 3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, stand in his strength a - lone;
 4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, the strife will not be long;



lift high his roy - al ban - ner; it must not suf - fer loss.
 stand forth in might - y con - flict in this his glo - rious day.
 the arm of flesh will fail you, you dare not trust your own.
 this day the din of bat - tle, the next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry his ar - my he shall lead,
 Let all his faith - ful serve him a - gainst un - num - bered foes;
 Put on the gos - pel ar - mor; each piece put on with prayer.
 The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, their crown of life shall see,



till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished and Christ is Lord in - deed.
 let cour - age rise with dan - ger, and strength to strength op - pose.
 Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, be nev - er want - ing there.
 and with the King of glo - ry shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Rejoice in the Lord Always - Jeff Enns

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OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE		
Worship Attendance		
10/4/2026 – 10:15 am 46, 5 dogs		
	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 12	Soup & Study 5:30 PM Council meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, October 14	3 rd Yr. Confirmation 7:00 PM
Thursday, October 15	Card Crew 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:30 – 3:30 PM St. Mark's church
Friday, October 16	New Adventures 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM Gym
Saturday, October 17	Private event – FH 11 AM – 2:30 PM
Sunday, October 18	Harvest Home Sunday Worship 8:00 AM resumes Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM w/Zoom on-line Fall Fling/Trunk or Treat 2-4 PM

Welcome: we welcome The Rev. Marcia Bell to lead us in worship today! Be sure to stop by after the service and say Hello.

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. Kauffman Chicken BBQ Pre-orders must be received TODAY– please contact Elaine Keller at 215.262.5366 OR elainekeller@comcast.net OR sign-up outside Pastor Becky’s office. Meal pickup is scheduled for Saturday, October 24 from 12 pm to 2 pm in the back parking lot of St. John’s church. Thank you to all who have supported this cause!

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!

Fall Newsletter: Committees, Articles for the newsletter are due today. Please be sure to submit your article(s) into the office so we may begin to assemble the issue.

Worship Assistance and Counters- Please consider volunteering to assist with Sunday worship services. The scheduled is on a rotating basis, you may only serve 1x a month. You may sign-up for more than 1 position. See insert, or contact the church office 215.234.4888 or email stj.stown@verizon.net.

NOTE: Counters must be a member of St. John’s and willing to submit a criminal record background check. You will be paired up and be scheduled as a team.
Thank you for considering these opportunities.

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. Sign-up by Sunday, November 15 to reserve your seat!



Fall Fling: Sunday, October 18. This is a Free event featuring, hayrides, food, crafts and treats. Wear your favorite custom and join us for a haunting good time! Don't forget a canned food item, to donated to The Open Link food pantry.

Donations of candy are also being accepted, place your donation in a bin located in the Narthex and the Parlor.

Do you have a trunk you would like to decorate for this event, a link to register a trunk is located in the weekly email. If you do not receive the email, please contact the church office to register.

Volunteers are also 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, please contact Paul Barndt - pbarndt@barndtagency.com. We look forward to seeing you there!



HARVEST HOME

SHOPPING LIST FOR OPEN LINK



Donations can be brought to St. John's and added to the windowsills or altar display now thru October 18

Thanksgiving Basket Items

Fall Most Needed Items

● \$20 or \$25 gift cards	Hot Cereals
● <u>Weis, Redner's or Walmart</u>	Canned Tomatoes
● Instant Mashed Potatoes	Granola Bars
● Canned Green Beans	Cooking Oil
● Boxed Stuffing Mix	Canned Pastas
● Cranberry Sauce	Pancake Mix/Syrup
● Canned Pumpkin	Fruit Juice
● Baking Mixes	Canned Mixed Vegetables
● Turkey Gravy	Rice & Pasta Sides
● Canned Corn	Soup Broth
● Canned Fruit	Feminine Hygiene Products
● Canned Sweet Potatoes	Shampoo/Conditioner
● Applesauce	

Please make sure all items are within a good expiration date!





*Ignited by Spirit
Growing in Love*

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING TODAY

Elaine Keller, Reader
Dean & Susan Heller, Ushers
Colleen Carlin & Brian Gegan, 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

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