



AUGUST 17, 2025

# ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE WEEKLY UPDATE

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the 10th Sunday after Pentecost.** We are delighted to have you worship with us. If you'd like to connect with us, share a prayer request, or learn more about St. John, please complete a yellow communication card located on the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**When we pray for each other, we demonstrate Christ's love for each of us**

Continued prayers for Jon & Linda Leist, Pastor Joe, Bill Meyer, Jim Fogle, Jay Bartos, Ruth Mott, Karma Wisecarver, Freda Rutter, Linda Miller, Shirley & Larry West, and Steve Acton.

## ST JOHN ADOPTS THE EMBASSY OF WINCHESTER

We have adopted **The Embassy of Winchester** nursing home in Canal Winchester as a new outreach ministry. We are currently collecting donations of various items to bless the residents. A full list of suggested donations is available on the table in the narthex. Please place your donated items in the collection box located in the narthex. Thank you for helping us share Christ's love in a tangible way through your generosity and support !!



### Scripture for today, August 17:

Jeremiah 23:23-29, Psalm 82, Hebrews 11:29–12:2, Luke 12:49-56, Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Evan Bartos	August 16
Shirley Evans	August 21
Roger Ripley	August 24
Bonnie Butterbaugh	August 24
Bradley Anderson	August 29
Charlotte Meyer	September 1

Pastor Joe's last presiding service will be Aug. 31st; however, we as a congregation, along with his family and friends, will be gathering to recognize his nearly 18 years of commitment and dedication to St. John's on **Sunday, Aug. 24th** with a meal immediately following the service. The main dish, drinks, table service and a cake will be provided. Please plan to bring a side dish or additional dessert and attend to share your well-wishes and thanks for his faithful servanthood.

The altar flowers are given by Alan and Bonnie Butterbaugh to the glory of God and in celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary.





## THE INSIDE STORY BY SALLY ACTON



Today's opening hymn, "Here is Bread", was written by Graham Kendrick and is a contemporary worship song that celebrates the simplicity and significance of the Communion ritual. It was written in 1991 and focuses on the idea that in the bread and wine, Christ is present with us, offering healing and life.

## FOOD PANTRY



Please place your food donation for the **Food Pantry** in the shopping cart. Everything is appreciated.

## GOSPEL CONCERT AT ST JOHN LAST WEEK



Contact Sue Mason if you would like to be on the email prayer chain, need to update your contact information, or if you need assistance accessing the mobile Church Directory application.

The altar flower chart is in the Narthex where you may sign up to place flowers on the altar. Flowers are \$35. You may leave the money in the envelope under the chart for Linda Leist. Please be sure to indicate if the flowers are for a special occasion.

ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten Sunday, August 17, 2025

**GATHERING**  
**PRELUDE**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,  
**you free us to love others,**  
**but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**  
**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,**  
**but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**  
**You surround us with patience, kindness,**  
**and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right.**  
**In your mercy, forgive us.**  
**Do not give up on us.**  
**Heal us, break our bonds,**  
**and show us the path of life. Amen.**

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You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of ✝ Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG *Here Is Bread* (ELW 483)****GREETING (ELW p. 203)**

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 (ELW p. 203)**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.  
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.  
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204)**

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

**Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
 Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
 Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
 For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 205)**

*Let us pray.*

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **FIRST READING (VISUALWORD): Jeremiah 23:23-29**

*23 Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? 24 Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. 25 I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" 26 How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? 27 They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. 28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. 29 Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?*

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 82**

- 1 God stands to charge the divine council assembled,  
 giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
- 2 **"How long will you judge unjustly,**

**and show favor to the wicked?**

3 Save the weak and the orphan;  
defend the humble and needy;

4 **rescue the weak and the poor;  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

5 They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

6 **Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,  
and all of you children of the Most High;**

7 nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,  
and fall like any prince.’ ”

8 **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,  
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2**

*A reading from Hebrews.*

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented of whom the world was

not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)**

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.**

**Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.**

**Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

### **GOSPEL (VISUALWORD): Luke 12:49-56**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup> "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided:*

*father against son*

*and son against father,*

*mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."*

*54 He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. 55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. 56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"*

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY *How Firm a Foundation* (ELW 796)**

1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;



and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

### **CREED (ELW p. 206)**

**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 to the dead.\*  
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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for  
God is near.

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound (*especially*). Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. Amen.

### **PEACE (ELW p. 206)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### **VISUALWORD**

### **DIALOGUE (ELW p. 206)**

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 our thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE (ELW p. 207)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 207)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 207)**

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.

**LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 208)**

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.**

## **COMMUNION**

### **COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 208)**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.  
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.  
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

### **SONG AFTER COMMUNION *As the Grains of Wheat* (ELW 465)**

#### **Refrain**

**As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
were gathered into one to become our bread;  
so may all your people from all the ends of earth  
be gathered into one in you.**

**1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,  
may we share the presence of your love. Refrain**

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come  
when all creation shares this feast with you. Refrain

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Mothering God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit  
✠ bless you and give you peace. Amen.

## **SENDING SONG *Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult* (ELW 696)**

1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice sounding,  
saying, "Christian, follow me":

2 As of old Saint Andrew heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

3 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."

4 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."

5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy,  
Savior, may we hear your call,  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING:**

God be with you 'til we meet again, By his counsel's guide, uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you, God be with you 'til we meet again.  
Amen.

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