

SEPTEMBER 7



ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the 13th 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

For **Janet Robertson**, a friend of Marianne Daily, recovering from a broken hip that will require extensive rehab

For **Bryan Fowler**, home now

For **Lee Smith**, recovering at home, weak but doing OK

For **Jerrie Ripley**, who underwent another heart procedure last week

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

If you have a prayer request, please reach out to Sue Mason, who will email our church members. She can be reached at: 614-260-1107 or at susiemase3@hotmail.com.



Scripture for today, Sept 7:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1,
Philemon 1:1-21, Luke 14:25-33

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Elliot Dillon	September 6
Danielle Bartos	September 6
Pam Jarvis	September 11
Shirley West	September 20
Joe Dillon	September 24
Sue Mason	October 2



Welcome Amy Lytle

We are delighted to welcome **Amy Lytle** as our new Worship Leader at St. John!

Amy brings with her a strong background in pastoral care and community outreach. With a heart for spiritual leadership, nurturing faith, and helping others recognize God's call to serve and share the good news of Christ, she embodies the qualities most needed in this season of our church's life.

We are excited to have Amy serving among us and look forward to the many ways she will bless our congregation.

Stay tuned—more about Amy will be shared in an upcoming Weekly Update!





THE INSIDE STORY
BY SALLY ACTON



Today's opening hymn, "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" was written in 1986 by Lutheran pastor Rusty Edwards. He initially intended to write a Bible study on Jesus's life but found that his collected notes resembled a hymn. The Holy Spirit then led him to develop these notes into the hymn as a song of praise to Jesus for His liberating light, freeing humanity from sin and darkness by healing, teaching, and providing peace.

Gals & Guys Lunch Bunch will dine at **Tiberio's Pizza Restaurant**, 416 N. Columbus St, Lancaster, on Tuesday, **September 9th**, at noon. Please RSVP, if possible, to Linda Knicely. We will be in their private room and there is street parking available. Looking forward to a robust turnout !!



The altar flowers are given by Jon and Linda Leist to the glory of God and in celebration of their 59th wedding anniversary.



HAPPY
GRANDPARENTS
DAY!

Congratulations to Alan and Bonnie Butterbaugh as they celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on September 6th.



Name Tags for the Next Few Weeks

To help our new Worship Leader, Amy, learn names, we invite everyone to wear a name tag over the next several weeks. Name tags are available on the table in the Narthex.

Sign up for your spot for the next euchre tournament which will be Sunday, **October 19**, immediately after church. Meat, paper products, and drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.



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.



Please place your food donation for the **Food Pantry** in the shopping cart. For the **Embassy of Winchester** nursing home, please place your donated items in the collection box located in the Narthex. Thank you — everything is appreciated.

Sunday, September 7, 2025
13th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people.**
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. We who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✙ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* (ELW 843)

Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light; praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight. Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons with piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand; from
this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place; Jesus
died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

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 (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

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: YOU ARE NAMED

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

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

PSALM: Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water.

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 **Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, With leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

4 **It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING: Philemon 1:1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our^[a] sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your^[b] house:³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you^[c] in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we^[d] share in Christ.^[e] ⁷ I have^[f] indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.^[g] ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

The holy gospel according to Luke, Chapter 14.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them,
²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: COUNTING THE COST**HYMN OF THE DAY *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (ELW 631)**

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy
faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou
art all compassion, pure, unbounded
love thou art; visit us with thy
salvation, enter ev'ry trembling
heart. Breathe, oh, breathe thy
loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled
breast; let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be; end of

faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee! Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

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

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely (*especially*). May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM: I BELIEVE (Ladies of the choir)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is 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 thanks and praise.

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 on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

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 *Let Us Break Bread Together* (ELW 471)

Let us break bread together on our knees; let
us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with
my face to the rising sun, O
Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. Refrain

Let us praise God together on our knees; let us
praise God together on our knees. Refrain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* (ELW 547)

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The

supper is ended. Oh, now be extended the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living, the tasks of our ev'ry-day life we will face-- our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children, the whole human race. With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us; unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

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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