



ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

2025

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the 14th 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
Continued prayers for **Jerrie Ripley, Bryan Fowler, Lee Smith, 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 14:

Exodus 32:7-14, Psalm 51:1-10,
1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Pam Jarvis	September 11
Shirley West	September 20
Joe Dillon	September 24
Sue Mason	October 2
Jerrie Ripley	October 3
Karen Fowler	October 8

Someone You Ought to Know by Pam Jarvis

Let's cut to the chase! It is football season, right? **Amy Lytle** was born in Michigan and raised in Ohio. Her parents were graduates of the University of Wisconsin, so she has an allegiance to the OSU Buckeyes, with a sneaking respect for the Wisconsin Badgers and Michigan State Spartans, definitely not Michigan! Now that we have that covered, read on to learn about our new "minister", Amy Lytle.

When Amy was five, her family moved to Pittsburgh, and by age ten, they had settled in northwest Columbus. Her father worked on the railroad. Amy grew up in what she describes as a "funny family," and used humor as her defense mechanism while navigating life with a younger brother and sister. Amy graduated from Whetstone High School and Bowling Green University, where she majored in history, English, and education. Amy jokingly described Bowling Green as a place where you can "open your coat and sail across the ice!" Teaching wasn't in the cards for Amy, as she taught high school only one year in Bettsville, a rural Ohio community, before moving on.

After earning her Master's Degree in Business, Amy worked at OCLC, the largest data base of library content and owner of the Dewey Decimal System. As a sales engineer, she presented how the software would work in college and university libraries. This role allowed her the opportunity to travel. Between her job and family travels, Amy has been to Europe and every state except Montana, Delaware, and Alaska. Amy recently retired after 25 years at OCLC.





THE INSIDE STORY

BY SALLY ACTON



The hymn of the day, “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” was written by Dorothy Ann Thrupp from London. It involves its initial publication in a children’s hymnal around 1836. The hymn draws heavily on the imagery of Psalm 23, where the Lord is described as a shepherd who leads and cares for His sheep.

Continued from page 1 ...

So how did Amy get into ministry? In her Sunday School class, she often spoke up, despite being an introvert at heart. This passion led her pastor to mutter frequently, “go to seminary.” After hearing this multiple times from her pastor, she asked him if he wanted her to shut up, because she was talking too much. His answer changed her life. He said it was obvious she had a calling. Many seminary classes later, Amy became a Synod Authorized Minister, also known as a SAM. She has thought a lot about what to be called in her role, and “worship leader” feels like the best fit.

Steve, her husband of 37 years, remains active at Advent Lutheran in Upper Arlington. Steve retired from the flooring industry, and was a volunteer photographer for heavyweight boxer, Buster Douglas! Amy had a front row seat at one of Buster’s fights, in which management had oversold. Wanting her seat, they offered her anything she wanted. She negotiated to receive \$100 to go shopping, taxi fare and to be back in time for the afterparty. Their son, David, lives in Denver, conveniently 1/4 mile from Amy’s sister. He is single and a manager at Lowe’s. A rescue cat is also part of the family. Her name, Addie Pi, comes from Amy’s sorority. She was on the way home from a sorority meeting when this feral kitty crawled out from under a car. Seven years later, this seven pound cat is affectionally described as “part vampire.” Ask Amy to share her scars!

Hobbies include flower gardening, needlepoint, and reading. Recently she has focused on biographies, from FDR to Elvis to Sinatra. Amy recommends her favorite authors: Louisa May Alcott, C.S. Lewis, Elizabeth Goudge, and J.R. Tolkien. These authors write examples of living faithful lives, without the heavy Christian jargon. Amy loves to cook almost as much as she loves to eat, and claims her best dishes are her beef stew and fried chicken. One thing she doesn’t love is Hallmark movies stating they are nothing like real life.

Steve and Amy love traveling together. One of Steve’s passions is visiting lighthouses, and Amy’s personal favorite is Pt. Betsie in Frankfort, Michigan.

Welcome, Amy, to our St. John family!

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.



Saved by Grace.

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.



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.

Gals & Guys Lunch Bunch dined at **Tiberio's Pizza Restaurant** on Tuesday, September 9th. The guys ate ham, er were the hams, for a photo:



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.



Name Tags for the Next Few Weeks

To help Amy, our new Worship Leader, 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.

Welcome Reception for Amy

Just a reminder that we will have an informal welcome reception for Amy today immediately following the church service. Please stop by and say hello to her!



A FRIEND

I have an old Friend, who I love so dear,
A person I can talk to and yet never be near.
One who knows and understands my woes,
Who is with me and guides me wherever I go.

I talk to Him through my heart and my lips,
But He's one who doesn't like jokes or quips.
He walks with me and listens to what I say,
And pays close attention when I kneel and pray.

You also should make Him your Friend,
He is no fraud.
For the Friend I talk about,
Is no one but God!

Duane Behrens
(brother of Bonnie Butterbaugh)



Sunday, September 14, 2025

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CHOIR ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who creates us and forms us,
who redeems us and calls us,
who unites us and sends us.

Amen.

Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Mighty and loving God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ.
In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.
Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts,
and everything that we do
be filled with faith, hope, and love.
Amen.

Hear the voice of Jesus:
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
to proclaim release to the captives."
In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,
I proclaim to you
that your sins are forgiven and you are released.
The joy of the Lord is your strength,
and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (ELW 807)

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

GREETING (ELW p. 213)

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 213)

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)

Let us pray.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people and boldly asks for mercy for them.

A reading from Exodus.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-10

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

A reading from 1 Timothy.

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service,
¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full

acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than

over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

SERMON: LOST AND FOUND

HYMN OF THE DAY *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us* (ELW 789)

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.

2 We are yours; in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.

3 You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.

4 Early let us seek your favor,
early let us do your will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.

A STATEMENT OF FAITH

Let us proclaim together our statement of faith.

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

READER 1: Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

READER 2: Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

READER 3: Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

READER 4: Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain (*especially*). Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

READER 5: Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life.
Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection.

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine
our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light
we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring
all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory
forever.

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.**

BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (ELW 779)

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I
once was lost but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come; 'tis
grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures; he will
my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

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.**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.