



ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the 16th 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 **Alan Fisher** and family, for the loss of Alan's sister Debbie this past Sunday after an illness
 For **Jerrie Ripley**, as she continues cardiac testing and rehabilitation
 For **Brian Fowler**, as he recovers from West Nile Virus
 For **Karma Wisecarver**, as she continues her cancer treatments
 For **Maria Canini**, sister of Jerry Canini, recovering at home after undergoing back surgery this week
 For **Janet Robertson**, a friend of Marianne Daily, recovering from a broken hip that will require extensive rehab
 Continued prayers for **Lee Smith, Jon and Linda Leist, Pastor Joe, Bill Meyer, Jim Fogle, 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 28:

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 , Psalm 146,
 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

You're Invited! Historical Chat & Tour - Sept 30th

We're excited to welcome back Scott, the current owner of the **cabin across the street**, as our guest speaker. During his first visit, Scott shared fascinating insights about the history of the structure, and since then, he's continued his restoration work and uncovered even more. He's also eager to hear from those of us who have lived here and might have stories or memories to contribute — a real two-way exchange of local history.

Whether you missed his first presentation or are eager for an update, plan to join us on **Tuesday, September 30 at 4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall**. Scott will share the latest discoveries and details about his progress, and then we'll walk over together for a firsthand look at the cabin.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Joe Dillon	September 24
Sue Mason	October 2
Jerrie Ripley	October 3
Karen Fowler	October 8
Sally Acton	October 12



THE INSIDE STORY
BY SALLY ACTON



Today’s gathering song, “**God of Grace and God of Glory**” was written by Harry Emerson Fosdick in 1930 for the dedication of the Riverside Church in New York City, a time when the nation was facing the immense challenges of the Great Depression. He was a prominent minister and advocate for the special gospel, aimed the hymn as a prank, a call to action for the church to overcome societal evils and work for justice and peace. The hymn calls for God’s grace and wisdom to free people from their struggles and internal conflicts and inspire courage to fight for good and serve God and humanity.

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.

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After the tour, we’ll return to the church for dinner. Others from the community will be joining us and bringing food to share. Hornbecks will be providing sandwiches, drinks, and paper products, so just bring your curiosity—and maybe a dish to pass if you’d like!

We hope to see you there!



SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING NOTES SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

ATTENDEES: Sally Acton, Bonnie Butterbaugh, Deb Canini, Jonette Christy, Mike Drodofsky, Jon Leist, Amy Lytle, Sue Mason, Charlotte Meyer, and Ruby Wolcott.

MIKE DRODOFSKY chaired the meeting in Alan’s absence.

CHURCH FINANCES were discussed. It’s nice to know that the loan for our sanctuary ceiling is now paid in full.

DISCUSSIONS ABOUT OUR FINANCES were raised. We covered our need to return to giving from our MEF fund. Also, it was decided we would support three families this Christmas, limiting the amount our members should contribute, rounding it out with the MEF fund.

DO WE DO “TRUNK OR TREAT” this year? That still has to be decided..

THE PARKING LOT REPAIR was discussed. This is an expensive project so we need to decide if it should be fully restored or “repaired.” Some believe it should be fully restored and others think repairing it would be the way to go. Several suggested we procure a loan to restore it completely, and hopefully, to be able to enjoy it fully for more years.

AMY’S COMPENSATION FOR EXTRA DUTIES will be worked out as she takes on more tasks. This will be worked out on an individual basis with Council as we move forward.

We closed with the Lord’s prayer.

Submitted by Ruby Wolcott

Sunday, September 28, 2025

16th Sunday after Pentecost

ELW Service of the Word

Introduction to the day

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

PRELUDE & ANTHEM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 *God of Grace and God of Glory* (ELW 705)

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

3 Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
let we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

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, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

^{1a} **Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.**

⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,
⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,
⁶ who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146

¹ Hallelujah!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
³ Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.
⁴ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**
⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those
who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.
⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who
are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment,
⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.
⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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 16:19-31

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the

tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.’²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Jesus, the Very Thought of You* (ELW 754)

1 Jesus, the very thought of you
fills us with sweet delight;
but sweeter far your face to view
and rest within your light.

2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than your blest name,
O Savior of us all!

3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,
O joy of all the meek,
how kind you are to those who fall!
How good to those who seek!

4 O Jesus, be our joy today;
help us to prize your love;
grant us at last to hear you say:
"Come, share my home above."

THE APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 217)

**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.**

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.

We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for people in any need (*especially*). Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. 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.

WE SHARE THE PEACE

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

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; 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 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (ELW 803)

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my 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.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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