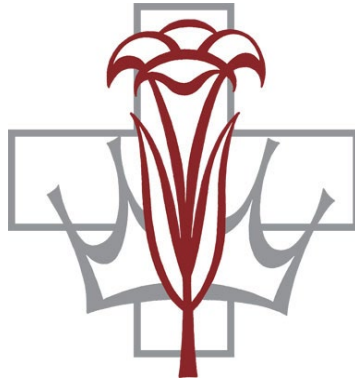




# St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

**Confirmation Sunday**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 3, 2026**  
**10:45 a.m. Worship**



**TO VIEW THE SERVICE WHILE IT IS GOING ON LIVE ...** go to our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/sjlmidland/>. Since this is a PUBLIC PAGE, you do not need to have a personal Facebook account in order to view the livestream.

*The video of the service will be available for viewing on Facebook following the service so others can view it later.*

## Living into New Life

*We rejoice that Christ's victory over death opens our hearts to new life in Him, guiding us to bear fruit that lasts. As we gather for Confirmation Sunday, we celebrate the Spirit's transforming presence in and through those affirming faith, inviting all of us to renewed commitment, joyous welcome, and shared mission in God's redeeming love. May we be strengthened to live as witnesses of hope, grace, and peace in the world God loves.*

### ♪ “Build My Life”

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Words and Music by Brett younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kaple, Matt Redman, and Pat Barrett  
©2016 Kaple Music | Capitol CMG Genesis | Housefires Sounds | Said And Done Music | sixsteps Music |  
Thankyou music | Vamos Publishing | worshiptogether.com songs | Martin, Karl Andrew | Bethel Music Publishing

- 1,4**     Worthy of every song we could ever sing.  
          Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.  
          Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe.  
          We live for You.
- 2,5**     Jesus the name above every other name.  
          Jesus the only one who could ever save.  
          Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe.  
          We live for You. We live for You.
- 3,6,8**    Holy, there is no one like You, there is none besides You.  
          Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are and fill me  
          With Your heart and lead me in Your love to those around me.
- 7,9**     I will build my life upon Your love; it is a firm foundation.  
          I will put my trust in You alone, and I will not be shaken.

### Invocation

- P**     In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C**     **Amen.**

### Confession and Absolution

- P**     Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.  
**C**     **Gracious God, we confess that we have fallen short of Your holy love. We have spoken and acted in ways that hurt others, neglected our duties to You and our neighbors, and relied on our own strength rather than Your grace. We hold on to fears, distractions, and pride that cloud our sight of Your truth. In Your mercy, cleanse us, renew our hearts, and teach us to walk in the light of Christ.**

P Hear the good news: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners and to bring us back to God. By His life, death, and resurrection, our sins are forgiven, and we are reconciled to God. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Rejoice in God's mercy, and live as beloved children, now and always.

C **Amen.**

## **Introit**

*Ps. 30:1-5; antiphon: Ps. 149:1*

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!

**I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

**O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

**For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.**

**Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!

## **Collect of the Day**

P Let us pray:

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## **First Reading**

*Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60*

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer

and to the ministry of the word.” And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen...And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran...“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always... resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*1 Peter 2:2-10*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock

of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **Holy Gospel**

*John 14:1-14*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified, who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Children's Message

Anna Kruger

### ♪ "I Will Not Be Shaken"

Words and Music by Jacob Park and Tommy Walker  
©2008 McKinney Music, Inc. | JP Music Music

1. & 4. He is my rock, my shield, my fortress.  
He's my salvation and my strength.  
The cords of death, they were surrounding me,  
But He heard my cry for help.
2. He is my refuge, my high tower.  
He's my deliverer so strong.

The snares of death,  
They were confronting me,  
But He heard my cry for help.

3. & 5. So I'll stand and trust, I'll stand in faith.  
I will not be shaken.  
So I'll stand and trust, I'll stand in faith.  
I will not be shaken.
6. Our God will not be moved.  
Our God will never change.  
Our God will reign forevermore. (repeat 3 times)
7. & 9. So I'll stand and trust, I'll stand in faith.  
I will not be shaken.  
So I'll stand and trust, I'll stand in faith.  
I will not be shaken.
8. Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.  
Early in the morning  
My song shall rise to Thee.  
Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty;  
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity.

## **Sermon**

## **Offering**

## **The Rite of Confirmation**

Adalena Kathleen Allen	Psalm 27:1
Ashley Brown	John 14:6
Sophia Wasson	Psalm 139:14
Regan Martin	Philippians 4:12-13
Hannah Lewis	John 14:8
Ian Quoss	Acts 16:31
Raiden Peacock	Joshua 1:9
Charlie Abbate	Jeremiah 30:8-9

## **Prayer of the Church**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**C 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 Preparation**

**P** Let us pray.

**C Gracious Lord, as we approach Your table, we come with humble  
hearts and grateful spirits. Search us, know us, and reveal any way  
in us that needs Your mercy. Remove our fear, judgment, and  
pride, and fill us with compassion, gratitude, and faith. May this  
bread and cup point us to the daily bread of Your presence and the  
living water of Your grace. Bind us together in love as one body,  
forgiven and nourished by Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## **The Words of Institution**

### **♪ “Come Unto Jesus”**

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Words and Music by Matt Merker, Laura Story and Jordan Kauflin  
©2023 Getty Music Publishing | Matthew Merker Music | Jordan Kauflin Music | Getty Music Hymns and Songs |  
Laura's Stories and Songs (Admin by music Services)

Come unto Jesus, all you who are weary.  
Come to the mercy seat; fervently kneel.  
Here, bring your wounded hearts, broken and needy.  
Come unto Jesus, mighty to heal.

Joy of the comfortless, light for the straying,  
Hope of the penitent, peace in our strife;  
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,  
“My yoke is easy, my burden is light.”

Chorus: Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus.  
Lay down your burdens; He is enough.  
Come unto Jesus; rest in His love.

Come taste the Bread of Life, broken for sinners;  
Drink from the cup of His promise made sure.  
Feast at His table as sons and as daughters.  
Grace overflowing is yours evermore. (*Chorus*)

Come now and follow Him, this life forsaking.  
All that was gain, count as nothing but loss.

Trade all this world for His kingdom unfading.  
Come unto Jesus; take up your cross.

Come unto Jesus; take up your cross.  
Life everlasting He offers to us!

Chorus: Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus.  
Lay down your burdens; He is enough.  
Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus.  
Lay down your burdens; He is enough.  
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.

Chorus: Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus.  
Lay down your burdens; He is enough.  
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.  
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.

## “Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest)”

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Words and Music by Jean Sibelius, Kathrina Amalia von Schlegel, Kari Jobe and Jason Ingram  
©2013 Worship Together Music | Open Hands Music | So Essential Tunes

Be still, my soul, the Lord is on thy side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide.  
In every change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul, thy best, thy heavenly friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still my soul, thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake.  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul, the waves and winds still know  
His voice, who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Chorus: In You I rest; in You I found my hope.  
In You I trust; You never let me go.  
I place my life within Your hands alone.  
Be still, my soul.

Be still my soul, the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord.  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past;

All safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last. (*Chorus 2x*)

Ending: Be still, my soul. Be still, my soul.

## **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless thee and keep thee.  
The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious to thee.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.

**C** **Amen.**

## **“As For Me And My House”**

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Word and Music by Michael Cochren, Bryan Fowler, Keith Getty and Kristyn Getty  
©2024 Getty Music Publishing | Remaining portion is unaffiliated

Oh, choose you this day whom you will serve:  
The kingdom of heaven or the powers of earth.  
Has He not spoken? Have you not heard?  
There is but one true God.

The God of our fathers set us free.  
His Son paid the price for our covenant peace.  
Through generations His mercy speaks.  
We trust in one true God.

Chorus: As for me and my house,  
We will serve, serve the Lord.  
As for me and my house,  
We will serve the Lord our God.

This house is the Lord's and all within.  
May it be pleasing and holy to Him.  
Joined by His Spirit, His people sing,  
“Great is the one true God. Oh, great is the living God.” (*Chorus*)

Bridge (2x): Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
Praise the Spirit now in us.  
Let every heart and every tongue  
Praise the one true God.

Chorus (2x): As for me and my house,  
We will serve, serve the Lord.  
As for me and my house,  
We will serve the Lord our God.

## Announcements

### Blessing and Dismissal

P May the risen Christ meet you in every moment of your week, filling you with hope, courage, and peace. May the Holy Spirit seal God's promises on your heart and guide your steps in love.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Announcements

### National Day of Prayer –Thursday, May 7th, 2026

*“Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations”*

1 Chronicles 16:24

Every year thousands of people gather across our country to pray for our Communities, our State and our Nation. This year our St. John's prayer team invites you to join us as we pray with our community seeking our Lord's guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us.

*2 Chronicles 7:14 “if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

Our prayer team invites you to join us by praying with us for “30 Days of Prayer.” Also, we invite you to come with us on Thursday, May 7th to the local prayer event held at noon outside the Midland County Courthouse. Mark your calendars, more specific information will be shared as plans are finalized.

**Women of St. John's** will be meeting on Monday, May 11 at 12:30pm in Room 2. This will be our last meeting until September. Please join us if you are able.

## Confirmation Class 2026

### Adalena Kathleen Allen

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

*Baptized: November 23, 2011*

### Ashley Brown

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me." John 14:6

*Baptized: October 2, 2011*

**Sophia Wasson**

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." Psalm 139:14

*Baptized: June 9, 2012*

**Regan Martin**

"I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:12-13

*Baptized: June 3rd, 2012*

**Hannah Lewis**

"Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.'" John 14:8

*Baptized: April 15, 2012*

**Ian Quoss**

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Acts 16:31

*Baptized: February 24, 2013*

**Raiden Peacock**

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

*Baptized: January 13, 2013*

**Charlie Abbate**

"And it shall come to pass in that day, declares the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and I will burst your bonds, and foreigners shall no more make a servant of him. But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them."

Jeremiah 30:8-9

*Baptized: March 10, 2013*

***Altar flowers are given in celebration of  
Teacher Appreciation Week!***

*Courtesy of the SJL Board of Education*

## Acknowledgments

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St. John's Lutheran Church & School  
Website QRC:



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**Church Secretary:** Kate, Carissa,  
Kathy  
(ext. 1203)

**Senior Pastor:** Daniel Kempin  
(ext. 1201)

**Associate Pastor:** Joshua Parsons  
(ext. 1202)

**Dir. of Family Life:** Anna Kruger  
(ext. 1204)

**School Secretary:** Sarah Graham  
(ext. 1301)

**School Principal:** Brad Massey  
(ext. 1300)

**Business Manager:** Kris Zastrow  
(ext. 1206)

**Dir. of Worship Music:** Karen Kempin  
(ext. 1205)

### Our Mission Statement

"We are here to share the good news of salvation and make disciples of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Scriptures (Matt. 28:18-20) and with the help of the Holy Spirit. This mission begins with our St. John's family and extends to the Midland Community and the world."