



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

8 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.

Seventy Times Seven

Today we are reminded of the boundless mercy we have received from God and the call to extend that same mercy to others. Forgiveness is not always easy, but as people who have been forgiven an immeasurable debt through Christ, we are invited to release resentment and reflect His grace in our relationships. As we gather in worship today, may the Holy Spirit soften our hearts, free us from bitterness, and teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven—fully, freely, and from the heart.

Hymn

“Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure”

LSB 533

Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;
Godhead, humanity, union supernal,
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!

Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!
Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.
See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor.
Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God’s thunder!

Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer.
See now the threatening strong one disarmed!
Jesus breaks down all the walls of death’s fortress,
Brings forth the pris’ners triumphant, unharmed.
Satan, you wicked one, own now your master!
Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!

Jesus has come as the King of all glory!
Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow’r,
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;
Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!

Text: © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: 1367966 no. 1367966

Invocation and Exhortation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Confession and Absolution

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Ps. 143:1-2; antiphon: Ps. 143:9

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! I have fled to you for refuge!

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

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.

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! I have fled to you for refuge!

Kyrie



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of

your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse





Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

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

Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Children's Message

Stephanie Davis

Hymn

"Come Down, O Love Divine"

LSB 501

Come down, O Love divine;
Seek Thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with Thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near;
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till worldly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be

And lowliness become mine inner clothing—
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling;
No soul can guess His grace
Till it become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

Hymn

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

LSB 610

Lord Jesus, think on me
And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free
And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be
And taste Your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me
Amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery,
O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me
Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity
Point out Your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me
That, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
And share Your joy at last.

Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

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.

Benediction

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

Hymn

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

LSB 919

Abide, O dearest Jesus,
Among us with Your grace
That Satan may not harm us
Nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer,
Among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter
True peace and joy afford.

Abide with heav’nly brightness
Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us
From error’s gloomy night.

Abide with richest blessings
Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom
Grow daily through Your Word.

Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.

Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

Text: Public domain

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the peace of Christ fill your hearts, free you from the burden of guilt and resentment, and strengthen you to forgive others as you have been forgiven.

C Amen.

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

As we conclude, please feel free to stay for a few minutes if you would like to connect or chat with people Jesus has brought together today. Remember that we are all in this together!

Announcements

JOIN US TODAY, Sunday, Sept. 13, for the SJL “Ministry Fair”

between services from 9:15 to 10:30 am. All members are encouraged to visit centers in the lounge, alcoves, and meeting rooms. Learn about the many opportunities at SJL for **Spiritual Growth, Christian Fellowship, and Service!** Coffee, juice, & pastries will be available in the lounge and the new kitchen floor will be accessible for viewing.

PART IV: PURPOSE *In Ephesians 2:15*, Paul assures us that “we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”. This adds another dimension to our understanding of purpose. We’re not just random products of chance, but masterpieces of divine craftsmanship, created with specific good works in mind. Our purpose isn’t something we need to invent, but something to discover and fulfill.

SJL Athletics The fall season has begun! We have a soccer team for a combined 2nd/3rd grade team. All games will be played at Zion Auburn on Monday and Wednesday evenings. We are also partnering with Zion Auburn

to have an “A” and “B” volleyball team! Our combined team, the Beagles, have games throughout the month of September and beginning of October. Our Home games will be announced via the website, our Facebook page, and entrance monitors. Volunteers are always welcome and needed. If you are interested in being a part of our volunteer team, please email Kate – office@sjlmidland.org

Harvest Dinner Please make all checks, for donations or tickets, payable to

Women of St John’s

4th - 6th Grade Glow Party Game Night: Join us on September 13 from 3:00pm - 4:30pm, for 4th - 6th Grade Glow Party Game Night in the St. John’s gym! Come wearing neon or white and light up under the backlights. These evenings are open to students in 4th through 6th grade for the 2026–2027 school year. Come enjoy a night of games, fun, and fellowship.

Preschool Bible Time: On September 22 from 8:15am - 9:45 am, Parents/caregivers and preschoolers are invited to join us for this new ministry! Once a month, we’ll gather for a fun Bible time filled with a Bible lesson, games, and activities designed especially for preschoolers and their caregivers.



SJL Kids (Sunday School) is officially starting! We cannot wait to begin sharing the gospel with our students. This year our curriculum in The Gospel Project. Students will learn how to see Jesus from Genesis to Revelation. We hope to see you there!



Book Club

Calling all readers! The St. John's Book Club resumes monthly meetings from **6:30-8:00pm in Room 2** this fall. Come every month or stop by when you can — all are welcome! This year's meeting dates and book selections are:

Date	Title	Author
September 14	I See You've Called in Dead	J. Kenney
October 19	My Own Country: A Doctor's Story	A. Verghese
November 9	Home (#2 Gilead)	M. Robinson
January 11	How Green Was My Valley	R. Llewellyn
February 8	Theo of Golden	A. Levi
March 8	Pontius Pilate	P. Maier
April 12	Family of Spies	C. Kuehn
May 10	Becoming Madam Secretary	S. Dray

*Altar flowers are given in celebration of
Matt and Martha Currie's 16th Wedding
Anniversary! (9/11/10)*

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.
Songs used with permission CCLI License #1367966

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



(989) 835-5861
sjlmidland.org
facebook.com/sjlmidland

Church Secretary:

Kate, Carissa, & Kathy (ext. 1203)

Senior Pastor:

Daniel Kempin (ext. 1201)

Associate Pastor:

Joshua Parsons (ext. 1202)

Dir. of Family Life Ministry:

Anna Kruger (ext. 1204)

Dir. of Young Families Ministry:

Stephanie Davis (ext. 1204)

School Secretary:

Sarah Graham (ext. 1301)

School Principal:

Brad Massey (ext. 1300)

Business Executive:

Kris Zastrow

Facilities Manager:

Ian McDonald

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."