



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 6, 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.

Called to Love and Reconcile

Jesus teaches us that following Him means taking seriously our calling to love one another, speak truth with grace, and seek reconciliation when relationships are broken. Christian community is not built on avoiding difficult conversations, but on the forgiveness and restoration we have first received from Christ. As we gather in worship today, may the Holy Spirit give us humble hearts, gracious words, and the courage to pursue peace, bearing with one another in love and pointing always to the mercy of our Savior.

Hymn

“Father, We Praise Thee”

LSB 875

- 1 Father, we praise Thee, now the night is over,
Active and watchful, stand we all before Thee;
Singing, we offer prayer and meditation:
Thus we adore Thee.
- 2 Monarch of all things, fit us for Thy mansions;
Banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
Bring us to heaven, where Thy saints united
Joy without ending.
- D 3 All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessed, send us Thy salvation;
Thine is the glory, gleaming and resounding
Through all creation.

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, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, 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. 92:1-4; antiphon: Ps. 92:5

How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, **to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.**

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

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.

How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

Kyrie



C 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 - shipped 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, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-9

"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 13:1-10

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's

servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:1-20

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

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

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

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

Pastor Kempin

Hymn

“My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker”

LSB 820

- 1 My soul, now praise your Maker!
 Let all within me bless His name
 Who makes you full partaker
 Of mercies more than you dare claim.
Forget Him not whose meekness
 Still bears with all your sin,
 Who heals your ev'ry weakness,
 Renews your life within;
 Whose grace and care are endless
 And saved you through the past;
 Who leaves no sufferer friendless
 But rights the wronged at last.
- 2 He offers all His treasure
 Of justice, truth, and righteousness,
 His love beyond all measure,
 His yearning pity o'er distress;
 Nor treats us as we merit
 But sets His anger by.
 The poor and contrite spirit
 Finds His compassion nigh;
 And high as heav'n above us,
 As dawn from close of day,
 So far, since He has loved us,
 He puts our sins away.
- 3 For as a tender father
 Has pity on his children here,
 God in His arms will gather
 All who are His in childlike fear.
 He knows how frail our powers,
 Who but from dust are made.
 We flourish like the flowers,
 And even so we fade;
 The wind but through them passes,
 And all their bloom is o'er.
 We wither like the grasses;
 Our place knows us no more.

- 4 His grace remains forever,
And children's children yet shall prove
That God forsakes them never
Who in true fear shall seek His love.
In heav'n is fixed His dwelling,
His rule is over all;
O hosts with might excelling,
With praise before Him fall.
Praise Him forever reigning,
All you who hear His Word—
Our life and all sustaining.
My soul, O praise the Lord!

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

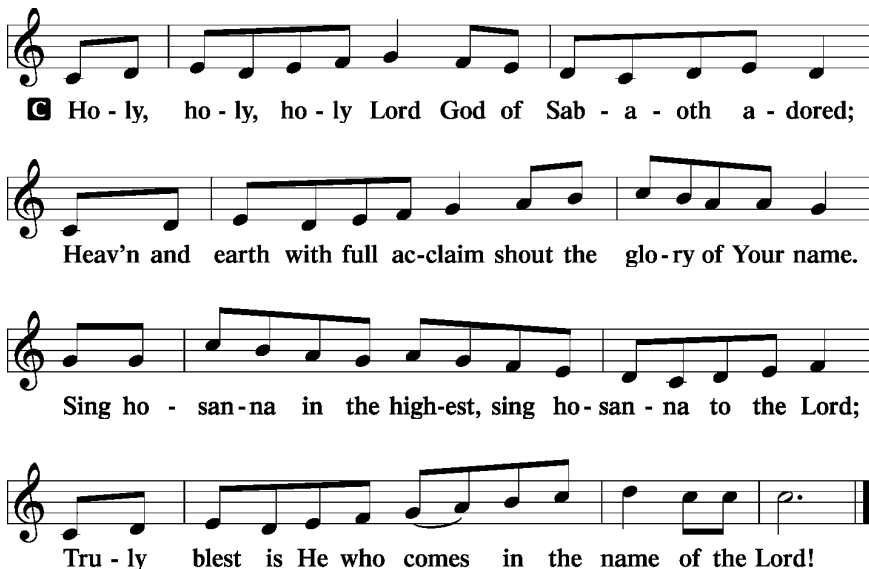
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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.

The Words of Institution

Pax Domini

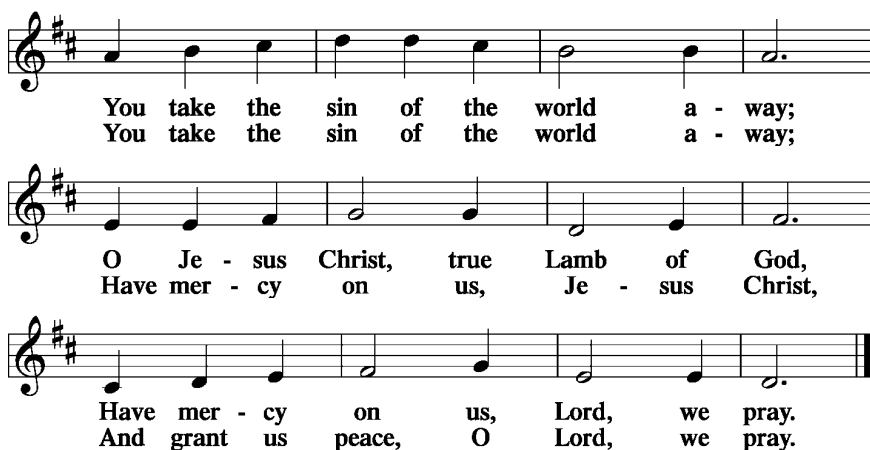
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



Distribution Hymns

“O Lord, We Praise Thee”

LSB 617

- 1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
 In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
 Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
 Our weak souls that they may flourish:
 O Lord, have mercy!
 May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
 That our sins and sorrows did carry,
 And Thy blood for us plead
 In all trial, fear, and need:
 O Lord, have mercy!
- 2 Thy holy body into death was given,
 Life to win for us in heaven.
 No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
 May this feast thereof remind us!
 O Lord, have mercy!
 Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
 That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
 All our debt Thou hast paid;
 Peace with God once more is made:
 O Lord, have mercy!
- 3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
 That we follow Christ our Savior
 And live together here in love and union

Nor despise this blest Communion!
O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:
O Lord, have mercy!

“Your Table I Approach”

LSB 628

- 1 Your table I approach;
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart
Prove hurtful to me there.
- 2 Lord, I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at Your hands.
- 3 Your body and Your blood,
Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord,
In blest reality.
- 4 Search not how this takes place,
This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more
Than what we think could be.
- 5 O grant, most blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Nunc Dimittis



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

- 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

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

LSB 924

- 1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.
- 2 Thanks we give and adoration
For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Your truth may we be found.
- 3 Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

- P May the peace of Christ fill your hearts, strengthen your faith, and empower you to walk in His love and grace each day.
- 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

SAVE THE DATE: SJL is hosting a “Ministry Fair” on Sunday, September 13 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 III: SERVICE *In Galatians 5:13*, the apostle’s instruction to “serve one another humbly in love” places service within the context of Christian freedom, where we are called to voluntarily serve others. Yet in Colossians 3:23-24, the motivation for our service is noted “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord”. This perspective transforms even mundane tasks into sacred service, because ultimately, we’re serving Christ.

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.

LifeClinic would like to thank St. John's Church and School for their generous donations through the Baby Bottle Fundraiser. The church donated \$2,149.81, and the school donated \$1,018.78 for a grand total of \$3,168.59. There is great need in our community right now, and this money will help LifeClinic continue to provide for moms and babies through their various programs.

*Altar flowers are given in celebration of
Loren and Bev Krenzke’s 70th Anniversary!*

Acknowledgments

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St. John's Lutheran Church & School
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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."