



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 6, 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.

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.

“Your Love Awakens Me”

Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Chris Quilala

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There were walls between us.
By the cross You came and broke them down,
You broke them down.
And there were chains around us.
By Your grace we are no longer bound,
No longer bound.

You called me out of the grave.
You called me into the light.
You called my name and then, my heart came alive.
Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me. *(repeat)*

Feel the darkness shaking,
All the dead are coming back to life.
I'm back to life.
Hear the song awaken
All creation singing, “We're alive
'Cause You're alive!”

You called me out of the grave.
You called me into the light.
You called my name and then, my heart came alive.
Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me. *(repeat)*

(3x) And what a love we've found.
Death can't hold us down.
We shout it out:
“We're alive 'cause You're alive!”

(4x) Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.

Your love awakens me.
Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.

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 **Merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have failed to love You with our whole heart and have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have allowed pride, impatience, anger, and selfishness to shape our words and actions. We have neglected opportunities to show grace, extend forgiveness, and live in peace with others. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our salvation. Renew our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, and lead us to live each day in the forgiveness, love, and grace You have so freely given us.**
P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon you and has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise again for the forgiveness of your sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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!

Collect of the Day

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.**

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

♪ “Speak O Lord”

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness.
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail, let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your
plans for us. Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down
through eternity. And by grace we'll stand on Your promises and by faith
we'll walk as You walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and
the earth is filled with Your glory.

Sermon

Offering

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 Father, as we come to Your Holy Table, prepare our
hearts to receive the gifts of Your Son, Jesus Christ, with humble
repentance, faith, and thanksgiving. Forgive our sins and cleanse us
from all that keeps us from fully trusting You. Through the true
body and blood of Christ, strengthen our faith, renew our hope,

and fill us with Your peace. Unite us in the love of Christ, that we may leave this Table renewed in grace and ready to love and serve our neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Words of Institution

“Great Are You Lord”

Words and Music by Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan and David Leonard

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- 1, 3: You give life You are love.
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope. You restore ev'ry heart that is broken.
And great are You Lord.
- 2, 4, 5, 7, 8: It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise,
We pour out our praise.
It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise to You only.
- 6: And all the earth will shout Your praise.
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing,
Great are You Lord. (repeat 2x)

“New Wine”

Words and Music by Brooke Ligertwood

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In the crushing, in the pressing You are making new wine.
In the soil I now surrender, You are breaking new ground.

So, I yield to You and to Your careful hand
When I trust You I don't need to understand

Make me Your vessel, Make me an offering
Make me whatever You want me to be
I came here with nothing
But all You have given me
Jesus bring new wine out of me

In the crushing, in the pressing You are making new wine.
In the soil I now surrender, You are breaking new ground.
You are breaking new ground.

So, make me Your vessel Make me an offering
Make me whatever You want me to be
I came here with nothing
But all You have given me
Jesus bring new wine out of me
Jesus bring new wine out of me
Jesus bring new wine out of me

Instrumental Section

So, make me Your vessel Make me an offering
Make me whatever You want me to be
God, I came here with nothing
But all You have given me
Jesus bring new wine out of me

Jesus bring new wine out of me
Jesus bring new wine out of me

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.

“Your Grace Is Enough”

Words and Music by Matt Maher
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Great is Your faithfulness, O God;
You wrestle with the sinner's heart.
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart.

So remember Your people, remember Your children,
Remember Your promise, O God.

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me.

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob;
You use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of Your salvation
And all Your people sing along.

So remember Your people, remember Your children,
Remember Your promise, O God.

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough.
Your grace is enough for me.
Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough.
Your grace is enough for me.

Remember Your people, remember Your children,
Remember Your promise, O God.

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough.
Your grace is enough for me.

Yeah, Your grace is enough; heaven reaches out to us.
Your grace is enough for me. God, I sing,
Your grace is enough; I'm covered in Your love.
Your grace is enough for me, for me.

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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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."