St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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.

Ready for the Bridegroom

On this Sunday, Jesus' parable of the ten virgins reminds us that His return is certain, even though we do not know the day or hour. The wise virgins were prepared and waiting for the bridegroom, while the others were caught unprepared. As we gather in worship today, may the Holy Spirit keep us watchful and steadfast in faith, trusting in Christ's promises and living each day in joyful expectation of His return.

"Better Is One Day"

Words and Music by Matt Redman
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How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied, within Your presence,
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Chorus: Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts, than thousands elsewhere.
Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts, than thousands elsewhere.
(Than thousands elsewhere.)

One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.
One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells. *(Chorus)*

Bridge: My heart and flesh cry out for You, the living God.
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen. Come once again to me.
I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You, to You.

Bridge 2: Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day
Than thousands elsewhere.
Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day
Than thousands elsewhere.

Chorus

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 not always lived as people who are waiting for Your Son. We have allowed the distractions and concerns of this world to take our eyes off Christ and have grown careless in our faith. We have neglected Your Word, prayer, and opportunities to love and serve others. We have trusted in our own strength rather than remaining watchful for Your coming. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for our salvation. Renew our faith, keep us steadfast in Your Word, and make us ready to meet our Savior with joy.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise again so that your sins might be forgiven and you might have eternal life. For His sake, He forgives you all 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. 84:1, 9-12; antiphon: Ps. 84:3

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O LORD of hosts, blessèd is the one who trusts in 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.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus

Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Amos 5:18-24*

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:1-13*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed,

they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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 T **everlasting. Amen.**

Preschool Choir

"Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"
"My God Is So Great, So Strong and So Mighty"
"Jesus' Love is Bubbling Over"

Children's Message

Jan Sleight

♪ "Living Hope"

Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Brian Johnson
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How great the chasm that lay between us.
How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night.
Then through the darkness Your loving kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven.
The King of kings calls me His own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain. There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope. (*Repeat*)

Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me.
Jesus, Yours is the victory!

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain. There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope. (*Repeat*)

Jesus Christ, my living hope.
O God, You are my living hope.

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.**

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.

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the Holy Spirit keep your faith burning brightly, strengthen you in hope, and preserve you in Christ until the day your Savior comes again in glory.

C Amen.

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

♪ "Only King Forever"

Words and Music by Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Wade Joye and Mack Brock
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Our God and firm foundation,
Our Rock the only solid ground,
The nations rise and fall.

Kingdoms once strong now shaken,
We trust forever in Your name,
The name of Jesus.
We trust the name of Jesus.

Chorus (2x): You are the only King forever
Almighty God we lift You higher
You are the only King forever
Forevermore You are victorious

Unmatched in all Your wisdom,
In love and justice You will reign,
And every knee will bow.
We bring our expectations.
Our hope is anchored in Your name,
The name of Jesus.
We trust the name of Jesus. *(Chorus)*

Instrumental

We lift our banner high;
We lift the name of Jesus.
From age to age You reign;
Your kingdom has no end. (Repeat and Chorus)

Announcements

St. John's Lutheran School Board has begun the Call process to select a K-8 School Principal beginning July 1, 2027. We sincerely ask for your prayers that the Lord will guide us in this important process. The Board is also asking our congregation for help. If you know of a principal who is an excellent leader and think they would be interested, please send info to Darlene Jones, Board Chair, at darlene141516@gmail.com (1) Their name (2) Where they are serving

Poinsettia Sale The 7/8 grade students at St. John's will once again be selling Poinsettias from Boehler's Greenhouse. Sales will start at the Holiday Bazaar and run the month of November. Please contact a 7/8 grader for details or after church services starting in November.

Young Adult Meet Ups Monthly meet ups for mid-20s to mid-30s young adults continue this fall! Join us at Nord Social TODAY for a Detroit Lions watch party. Fliers are available in the Lounge with full details. Please consider those in your life who might be blessed by these events and share an invite with them!

Toddler Bible Time Parents/caregivers of toddlers (5 and under) 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 toddlers and their caregivers.

4th-6th Grade Escape Room Join us on November 15 from 3:00-4:40 for a 4th - 6th Escape Room in the St. John's gym! Come and try to break the code before time runs out. 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. **Please register by scanning the QR code.**

Advent Wreath Workshop Join us on Sunday, November 22 following the 10:45am worship service for an Advent wreath workshop. Families (of all ages and stages!) are invited to work together to create a wreath for their home to be used during devotional time throughout the season. Candles, wreath forms, greens, and devotional material provided. Please bring pruners or heavy scissors. Preregister in the Lounge or by scanning the QR code.

Midland Community Christmas Dinner Help us keep Christ in Christmas by sharing your time and talents! The Midland Community Christmas Dinner, hosted at St. John's on Christmas Day from **11 a.m.–3 p.m.**, provides a free meal to those in our community. Beginning **Saturday, November 14**, sign-up sheets will be available in **Alcove C (C is for Christmas!)**. Volunteers are needed on **December 23 and 25**, and food donations such as turkeys, potatoes, and salads are greatly appreciated. Last year, God provided 400 guests to share in this special meal. Will you help us answer the call to serve and share Christ's love with our community?

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Herman and Viola Glawe by their family.

Acknowledgments

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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."