

>Welcome

**"GROUNDED"**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**



**ST. JOHN'S**

Lutheran Church

Grounded • Growing • Branching

## **Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church**

Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! It is an honor to have you worshiping with us this morning and we pray that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness!

At St. John's we are pleased to offer two styles of worship services on Sunday morning. In our 8:30 a.m. traditional service, we offer familiar hymns and rich, traditional worship forms in a meaningful and inspirational setting. Our 11:00 a.m. contemporary service includes the same message as our 8:30 a.m. service, but in an informal style, enhanced with contemporary music. We encourage you to try both worship styles! Thank you for worshiping with us; we would love to have you join us again!

*(If you need assistance or need a hearing aid device, please see one of the ushers.)*

---

### **The Lord's Supper**

Though we are eager for all to participate fully in the Lord's Supper, we do not want to compromise any portion of God's Word among us. Because Scripture states that the Lord's Supper can be taken to one's spiritual harm if not properly understood, we ask all visitors to refer to the following statement of belief regarding the Lord's Supper before communing:

*I am truly sorry for the sin in my life. I am struggling to die to my sin and to live in faith in Jesus. I am looking to Jesus to empower me to stop my sinning and to live a new life in Him. I believe when I receive the bread, I am receiving the true body of Christ, and when I receive the wine, I am receiving the true blood of Jesus. I believe that when I receive His true body and blood my sins are forgiven, I am given power over sin, death and the devil, and the gift of eternal life. My faith is completely in the words of Jesus.*

The Lord's Supper offers the two-fold gift of forgiveness and peace with God on the one hand, and unity and oneness among those who commune together on the other hand (Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17). Those who receive the body and the blood of the Lord do so in terms of their relationship with God as well as with their fellow-communicants. Therefore, all baptized believers who understand and agree with the above Lutheran teaching of the Lord's Supper are welcome to attend. As always, we encourage you to speak with Pastor Ray or Pastor Aaron with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Disabled – The pastor and lay minister will gladly commune anyone unable to come to the communion rail. Let the pastor or an usher know before the service begins.

# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

*Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, Branching to Others*

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### WELCOME & GREETING

### OPENING SONG

*Renew Me, O Eternal Light*

*LSB 704*

### INVOCATION

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Gracious Father, wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

**C: We confess, O Lord, that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

L: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**C: Lord, our attempts at change will leave the stain of our previous sins. Cleanse us, O Lord.**

L: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**C: God, You are our only hope. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we follow Your guidance alone.**

L: Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

**C: We come to You, confident of Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Forgive us, O Lord. Amen.**

L: Gathered together as His church, be affirmed and assured that almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. All of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

### **LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

*Old Testament*

*Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9*

<sup>1</sup>“And now, Israel, listen carefully to these decrees and regulations that I am about to teach you. Obey them so that you may live, so you may enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>Do not add to or subtract from these commands I am giving you. Just obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you. <sup>6</sup>Obey them completely, and you will display your wisdom and intelligence among the surrounding nations. When they hear all these decrees, they will exclaim, ‘How wise and prudent are the people of this great nation!’ <sup>7</sup>For what great nation has a god as near to them as the Lord our God is near to us whenever we call on him? <sup>8</sup>And what great nation has decrees and regulations as righteous and fair as this body of instructions that I am giving you today? <sup>9</sup>“But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## NEW TESTAMENT

*Ephesians 6:10-20*

<sup>10</sup> A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. <sup>15</sup> For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. <sup>17</sup> Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. <sup>19</sup> And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. <sup>20</sup> I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

### Holy Gospel

*Mark 7:14-23*

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (*sung*)

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "All of you listen," he said, "and try to understand. <sup>15</sup> It's not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart." <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus went into a house to get away from the crowd, and his disciples asked him what he meant by the parable he had just used. <sup>18</sup> "Don't you

understand either?" he asked. "Can't you see that the food you put into your body cannot defile you? <sup>19</sup> Food doesn't go into your heart, but only passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer." (By saying this, he declared that every kind of food is acceptable in God's eyes.) <sup>20</sup> And then he added, "It is what comes from inside that defiles you. <sup>21</sup> For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. <sup>23</sup> All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you." (NLT)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (*sung*)

## **SERMON**

*"Grounded"*

*Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **NICENE CREED**

## **OFFERING**

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at  
[www.stjohnsdecatour.com/giving](http://www.stjohnsdecatour.com/giving).*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*The Leader will conclude every prayer with: "...let us pray to the Lord."*

***People respond with: "Lord, have mercy."***

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**PREFACE** (*responses sung*)

## **PROPER PREFACE**

**SANCTUS** (*sung*)

## **WORDS OF OUR LORD**

## **PAX DOMINI**

## **AGNUS DEI** (sung)

## **DISTRIBUTION**

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

<i>Lord Jesus, Think on Me</i>	<i>LSB 610</i>
<i>Your Table I Approach</i>	<i>LSB 628</i>
<i>Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing</i>	<i>LSB 691</i>

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

### **SENDING HYMN**

<i>Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go</i>	<i>LSB 920</i>
---	----------------

## **POSTLUDE**

### **Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$5,939.00
Online Giving.....	
Total Giving.....	\$5,939.00

### **Last Week's Attendance**

8:30 a.m. ....	118
11:00 a.m. ....	58
Total.....	176

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*September 1, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.*

**OPENING SONGS**

*Praise*

*There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9*

**SERMON**

*"Grounded"*

*Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

*King of Kings*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

*Who You Say I Am*



## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Reader .....	Jan Bryant
Communion Helper .....	Alan Bishop & Jason Frisby
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Drew Miller 11:00 – Mark Langston
Organist .....	Ted Hesse
Ushers .....	8:30 – David Munson 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Tom Schollenbruch
Computer .....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Zach Hesse
Live Stream .....	8:30 – Matt Cushing
Camera .....	8:30 – Matt Cushing
Sound .....	8:30 – Doug Hicks 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals.....	Melissa Saurmann, Pam Saurmann, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar .....	Wendy Salefski
Piano.....	Angela Cushing

**OUR MISSION** We are restored to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus. As a family of Christians, we are dedicated to the love and forgiveness of Christ as we reach out, preach and teach the truth of God's Word to each other, our community and the world.

**IN NEED OF PRAYER:** If you would like to be added to the prayer list or the prayer chain, please contact the church office. Please call the prayer chain with an update of your prayer request.

**IN THE MILITARY:** Laura Byers, Bryon Chaney, Kimberly Chaney, Kristel Chaney, Travis Chaney, Dan Cheney, Tristin Comer, Randy Edwards, Caleb Goodson, Austin Highcock, Braden Highcock, Destiny Little, Noah Lung, Nathan Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Goodson, Tyler Salefski, Jacob Thornell

## CONGREGATION NEWS

**Sunday School is Back!** All children grades K-8 are invited to join us for Sunday School hour beginning **next Sunday**, September 8th. There will be a class for K-4th and a class for 5th-8th each Sunday from 9:45-10:45am. Our Discipleship Team has prepared engaging lessons and activities that will help our children grow in their faith while having fun!

**Ladies Friendship Circle** will kick off a new year at 1:00 on Tuesday, September 17. We will meet in the fellowship hall for devotions, a brief meeting, refreshments, and some "trivial" mixer activities. Prizes just may be involved! Come and bring a friend, if you wish. Please arrive at 12:30 if you want to make favors for the homebound members of St. John's.

**All women of St. John's!** We are hosting the LWML Decatur Zone Fall Rally on Thurs., Sept. 19th. We will provide a meal and listen to speaker Dr. Gerald Perschbacher of the Orphan Grain Train. Doors open at 4:30, dinner at 5:00. Cost is 10.00 per person. Please bring a non-perishable item for NECF. Contact Brenda Salogga at 217-429-9183 or email [dnbsal@comcast.net](mailto:dnbsal@comcast.net) or the church office if you plan to attend. Deadline to sign up is September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**4th Annual St. John's Golf Scramble Fun-Raiser** to be held September 22, at 1:30 at the Moweaqua Golf Course. The cost is \$400 per team. Includes golf, prizes, and dinner afterwards. Proceeds go back to the church through various needs and governed by Lay Ministry Board. Sign-up sheets will be available on the back table of the sanctuary or in the church office. Deadline is September 6<sup>th</sup>!

**Transfer the Blessing:** Do you have a Lifetime Plan for Giving? Would you like to have one? Or do you have one you'd like to revisit and reconsider? Join us on Wednesday, September 25th at 10am for a presentation from Rev. Charles Olander and Scott Radden of the LCMS Foundation as they provide information and materials to help you develop a "Lifetime Plan for Giving." Topics will include how wills, beneficiary designations, charitable trusts and gift annuities might be used to help you better

provide for yourself, your family and your church. This presentation comes at no cost to you. We hope to see you there!

**Mark your calendars for our first Fall Festival** on Sunday October 6th from 4-6 p.m. Come play some games, decorate a pumpkin and engage in some good ole' Fall Festival fun! This event will be great for families of all ages and will be an easy opportunity to invite friends or neighbors that you are seeking to build relationships within our community. Contact Pastor Aaron with any questions.

**LSA ReSale Shop:** September brings our semi-annual 10¢ sale along with restocking and reopening with all new merchandise. Thursday, September 12 is the 10¢ sale from 9:00 AM – Noon. The shop will be closed Friday & Saturday, Sept. 13 & 14 for restocking. Volunteers are needed for restocking. Come anytime those days. If you have questions, contact the shop at 217-423-0122. The shop will re-open on Monday, Sept. 16 with all new fall/winter/holiday merchandise.

The **LWML CID Fall Retreat at Camp Cilca** is October 4th -5th. Registration packets are at the back of sanctuary; due September 23rd.

**St. Paul's Early Learning Center** has immediate openings in the three and four-year-old rooms. Please call or email Jamie Stanzione to set up a tour. [Jamie@spldecat.org](mailto:Jamie@spldecat.org) 217-424-9183.

**NECF Farm to Fund Event:** Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Purchase your tickets now at [northeastcommunityfund.org](http://northeastcommunityfund.org)

**WSOY Community Food Drive** is Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Take a grocery sack from the back of the sanctuary, fill it up with non-perishable food items, and take to Kroger's on Route 36. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the foyer.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Education Hour (FH)  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 – LABOR DAY

Church Office Closed

7:00 P.M. .... Boy Scouts (FH)

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

1:00 P.M. .... Staff Meeting  
5:30 P.M. .... Outreach Meeting (FH)  
6:00 P.M. .... Discipleship Meeting (Rock)

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

10:00 A.M. .... Adult Bible Study (FH)  
6:30 P.M. .... Youth Group Hangout (Hesse House)

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

5:30 P.M. .... TOPS (FH)  
7:00 P.M. .... Worship Practice

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

No church activities scheduled.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

No church activities scheduled.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Education Hour (FH)  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service