

>Welcome

**"HELP MY UNBELIEF"**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 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.)*

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### **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.

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 15, 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

*I am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus*

*LSB 729*

## INVOCATION

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.*

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

**C: Most merciful God, we confess 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. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

L: 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 ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

*Old Testament*

*Isaiah 50:4-10*

<sup>4</sup> The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup> The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. <sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. <sup>7</sup> But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup> He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. <sup>9</sup> Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. <sup>10</sup> Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **NEW TESTAMENT**

*James 3:1-12*

<sup>1</sup> Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. <sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their

whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup> Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

### **Holy Gospel**

*Mark 9:14-29*

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

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

<sup>14</sup> And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. <sup>16</sup> And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" <sup>17</sup> And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup> And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." <sup>19</sup> And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to

me.”<sup>20</sup> And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.<sup>21</sup> And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.”<sup>22</sup> And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”<sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.”<sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”<sup>25</sup> And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”<sup>26</sup> And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.”<sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.<sup>28</sup> And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”<sup>29</sup> And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.” (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

## **SERMON**

*“Help My Unbelief”*

*Mark 9:14-29*

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

## **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: “Lord in your mercy...”*

***People respond with: “Hear our prayer.”***

## **LORD’S PRAYER**

**PREFACE** (*responses sung*)

**PROPER PREFACE**

**SANCTUS** (*sung*)

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**PAX DOMINI**

**AGNUS DEI** (*sung*)

**DISTRIBUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

*Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense*

*LSB 741*

*Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior*

*LSB 619*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING HYMN**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*LSB 809*

**POSTLUDE**

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**Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$7,870.00
Online Giving .....	\$751.97
Total Giving.....	\$8,621.97

**Last Week's Attendance**

8:30 a.m. ....	121
11:00 a.m. ....	53
Total .....	174
Wednesday Adult Bible Study.....	11

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*September 16, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.*

**OPENING SONGS**

*This Is Our God*

*Trust In God*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Mark 9:14-29*

**SERMON**

*"Help My Unbelief"*

*Mark 9:14-29*

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

*Thank You Jesus For The Blood*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

*Hymn of Heaven*



## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader .....	Karl Albrecht
Communion Helper .....	Brian Cripe/Jerry Pelz
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Steve Craycroft 11:00 – Troy Harrison
Organist .....	Sharon Cripe
Ushers .....	8:30 – Brady Fawcett 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Tom Schollenbruch
Computer .....	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream .....	8:30 – Eric Brown
Camera .....	8:30 – Eric Brown
Sound .....	8:30 – Doug Hicks 11:00 – Doug Hicks
Vocals.....	Melissa Saurmann, Pam Saurmann, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar .....	Nathaniel Stoll
Bass 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!** There will be a class for K-4th and a class for 5th-8th each Sunday from 9:45-10:45am.

**Fall Mums Fundraiser:** Youth are selling Connie's Greenhouse Mums. They are 8 inch for \$10.00 each. **Order forms are on the back table** and the church office. **Deadline is today!** Delivery on Wednesday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. If any questions, contact Beth Tatum.

**Nice shirt!** Show your St. John's love by wearing one of our new shirt designs. You can order a short or long-sleeved t-shirt by filling out the order form in the back of the sanctuary. Give it to Georgia in the church office by October 6.

**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. 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.

**Voter's Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m.

**Fall Festival is fast approaching** 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.

**Fall Festival Insert:** There are several food items needed for the Fall Festival. Please complete the insert and return it to the church office. If you have any questions, please see Wilma Golembeck.

**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!

**LSA ReSale Shop:** The shop will be open on Monday, Sept. 16 with all new fall/winter/holiday merchandise. Volunteers are always needed for restocking. Come anytime. If you have questions, contact the shop at 217-423-0122.

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@spldecatour.org](mailto:Jamie@spldecatour.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 15

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Education Hour (FH)  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service  
12:30 P.M. .... Confirmation Class (FH)

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

6:30 P.M. .... Lay Ministry Meeting  
7:00 P.M. .... Boy Scouts (FH)

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

1:00 P.M. .... Staff Meeting  
1:00 P.M. .... Friendship Circle (FH)

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

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

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

4:30 P.M. .... LWML FALL RALLY (FH)  
5:30 P.M. .... TOPS (Rock)  
7:00 P.M. .... Worship Practice

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

No church activities scheduled.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

No church activities scheduled.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Education Hour (FH)  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service  
12:30 P.M. .... Confirmation Class (FH)  
1:30 P.M. .... 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing