

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 28, 2025

8:00am & 10:45am



St. John Lutheran Church and School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeff Caithamer

revcaithamer - at - gmail.com

School Principal – Cheryl Black

Divine Service IV with Holy Communion

**stand as you are able*

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Prelude – “ <i>Andante Grazioso</i> ”	Dethier	oboe
Hymn <i>Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray</i>		663
*Invocation, Confession, Absolution		203
*Introit		dated insert
*Kyrie		204
*Gloria in Excelsis		204
*Salutation & Collect		205
Old Testament Reading		
Gradual		dated insert
Epistle Reading		
*Alleluia and Verse		205
*Holy Gospel Reading		
*Apostles’ Creed		207
Hymn <i>Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart</i> (8:00 st. 2-choir)		708
Sermon “ <i>Christ Then, Now, and Forever</i> ”	Luke 16:19–31	
*Prayers		207
Gathering of Tithes and Offering		
(8:00) “ <i>Gracious God, You Give Great Blessings</i> ”		Choir
(10:45) “ <i>Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart</i> ”		Karg-Elert
*Service of the Sacrament		208
Communion Hymns – 801, 673, (682), 797		
*Nunc Dimittis		211
*Post-Communion Collect		212
*Benedicamus and Benediction		212
Postlude – “ <i>Praise the Almighty</i> ”		Behnke

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN! We ask members and guests to fill out an attendance card located by the hymnals; indicate your attendance at Holy Communion. Cards may be placed in the offering plate. Note that there are two glasses in the center of each tray with diluted wine.

SERVING TODAY – Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Jeff Caithamer. **Organist:** Keith Williams. **Elders:** 8:00 – Dan, Jim, Bob, Jeremy; 10:45 – Phil, Chuck, Terry, Bryce. **Ushers:** 8:00 – Bill & Lucas; 10:45 – Noah & Nic. **Instrumentalist:** Lou Ann-oboe.

ABOUT THE LORD’S SUPPER: Our congregation is a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a family of congregations who pledge themselves to teach and to believe the same doctrines. We invite those persons who are members in good standing of a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or of a church in fellowship with the LCMS to receive the sacrament. We want to express our sincere welcome to guests and to assure them that it is in their spiritual interest that we practice closed communion. Guests desiring to learn more about our beliefs are asked to make an appointment to speak with our pastor.

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY – The altar flowers are given today by Hendo and Stoney (Hendricks and Haston) in honor of their Popi (Dan) with much love. We also remember the following people in our prayers: *for healing and recovery:* Anne, Joanie, Linda, Shirley, Lee, Chuck, Jim, Janie-sister of Jill, Dale, Barb, Bill, Myla, Kim, Karla, Robin, Danny, Carol, Barbara, Jon, Terry, Kaylianna, Teresa, Barbara, John, Hendricks, Maria, Roy, Todd; *for strength, hope, and peace:* Melvin; *for successful treatments:* Mary Jane, Mark, Earl, Joan, Jeanette; *for those in the military:* AJ, Nick D, Nick F, Andy, Brandon, Zachary David; *for our homebound:* Betty, Herb & Virginia.

For requests for the prayer chain or to be added to the chain:

<http://stjohnmedia.org/church/PrayerList.html>

OUR WEEK AHEAD

Today	<i>16th Sunday after Pentecost</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal; 10:45 Holy Communion; 1:00 New Member Class
Monday	5:30 Finance Board
Tuesday	10:00 Adult Bible Class
Wednesday	8:08 Chapel; 11:30 Reading Buddies; 5:45 Midweek, Lifelight; 6:00 Handbells; 7:15 Holy Communion
Thursday	10:00 Lifelight
Sunday	<i>17th Sunday after Pentecost</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal; 10:45 Holy Communion; 1:00 New Member Class

New Member Class – New Member Class meets at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. This class is intended for those who would like to know more about Lutheranism and are interested in becoming members of St. John. All of our current members are invited and encouraged to attend this class as a refresher course in the Lutheran faith. It also is a blessing to new members to get to meet and know current members. Please email Pastor Caithamer with any questions.

St. John Girls Basketball – First Home Game – Come out tomorrow night for the first home game of the season. The SJ Rams will take on the Eagles from St. John's, Buckley. Tip off is at 6:00pm. Go Rams.

Reading Buddies is Back – Just a reminder, Reading Buddies with our kindergarten and first grade students will start on Wednesday, October 1st at 11:30am for those who volunteered. Please check in at the school office. We look forward to seeing you.

Lifelight has begun. Join us for John: Part 1, a 9-week Bible study. John is a unique book, with much material not found in other Gospels. We'll see how John and the other Gospels fit together, fleshing out our picture of Jesus as True God and True Man. You can join us Wednesday evenings at 5:45pm or Thursday mornings at 10:00am. If you are interested or have questions, contact Matt, Donna or Bill.

7th Annual St. John Arts & Crafts Fair & 4th Annual St. John Car Show - Save the date for Saturday, October 18th, 9:00am-2:00pm. Shop from hundreds of items from local artisans or bring your car and enjoy a wonderful fall day with other car enthusiasts. There is something for everyone. Vendor applications for the Arts & Crafts Fair are available on the school website and from the school office. Help us spread the word by sharing the information on your social media and telling your friends and co-workers. Contact the office for images and flyers to share. Also visit Facebook and Instagram.

Save the Date – The Trunk or Treat will be held October 19th from 3:00-4:30pm. Donation tags and sign up sheets are available on the bulletin board next to the Fellowship Hall. Look out for more information to follow in the upcoming newsletter and bulletins.

EDUCATION HOUR TODAY

Adult Bible Class – led by Pastor Caithamer in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School – Kindergarten through High School will meet in the Sanctuary for opening, and then go to their respective classrooms. Preschool will meet in their own classroom for opening.

3/4yrs	Room 4C	4 th -5 th	Deaconess Office
K-1 st	Room 4A	6 th -8 th	Conference Room
2 nd -3 rd	Room 4B	High School	School Library

Celebrating St. John 170th Anniversary – To celebrate this special occasion, come and attend the meal, at no charge. In preparation for this event, beginning Sunday, Oct 5th, and the following two Sundays, as well as the Wednesday night services, there will be sign-up sheets for the anniversary meal. The sign-up sheets will be available for you to sign as you enter the sanctuary. You may also call the church office (217-359-1123) to inform them as to how many of you will be attending. Remembering our mission to serve and how we are blessed, let's donate to the Salvation Army food bank by bringing non-perishable food items on the anniversary Sunday. Boxes will be placed in the entry way of the church for this special collection.

Christmas Program Help – The Parish Ed board is looking for someone who would like to help run the Sunday School Christmas program, which will be on December 14th between services. If you are interested, please contact Sara

LWML is collecting School Supplies this year for Orphan Grain Train. The school supplies are sent where needed around the world, but school supplies do not need to be packed in backpacks. A list of supplies needed can be found on the narthex table. Please put your School Supplies in the LWML box in the coatroom by October 20, 2025. Great time to get school supplies with the school supply sales going. Questions contact: Donna E, or Jan. Thanks for helping children here and around the world. St. John LWML.

Congratulations, Little Lamb Preschool – We are pleased to announce that Little Lamb Preschool has been recognized in The News-Gazette People's Choice contest as one of the area's choice preschools. This recognition highlights the love, dedication, and Christ-centered care our teachers and staff provide each day. We are deeply thankful for the families in our community who place their trust in Little Lamb Preschool for their children's early education. Above all, we give glory to God for His continued blessings on this ministry. Please join us in celebrating our preschool staff on this wonderful accomplishment.

Promises of God Series – Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to teachings on God's promises for you with Pastor Will Weedon of "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever." You'll find the entire series at issuesetc.org/promisesofgod.

LEARN BY HEART
THE FAMILY ALTAR

The families of St. John are encouraged to learn these words from the Small Catechism by heart this week:

The Creed – The First Article

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Bible Passage: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

Hymn: 568 *If Your Beloved Son, O God* (sts. 3-4)

Psalm 23

Bible Readings for the Week:

Isaac Is Born and Ishmael Is Cast Out – Genesis 21:1–21

The Sacrifice of Isaac – Abraham’s Faith Is Revealed –

Genesis 22:1–19