

Welcome to
St. John's Lutheran Church



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

September 27, 2026

God's Work/Our Hands

St. John's Lutheran Church

5th and Race Streets (PO Box B)

Mifflinville, PA 18631

570-752-2289

stjohnsmifflin@verizon.net

www.stjohnslutheranmifflinville.com

Rev. Daniel Warntz, pastor

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion
September 27, 2026
God's Work/Our Hands

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.
Compassionate God,

C we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

C Amen.

P Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C Amen.

God Is Here!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

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GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



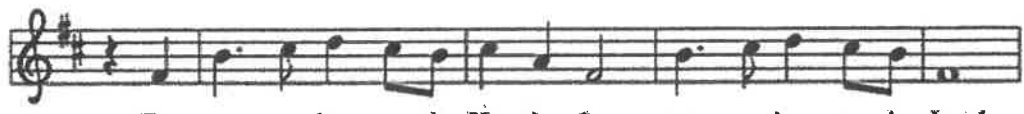
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are scat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel.

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"?

³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the LORD is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

¹ To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted
all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the
sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians.

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹ If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

(cont'd)

⁶ who, although being in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
⁷ but relinquished it all,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness. And being found in human
 form,
⁸ he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death—
 even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God, the Father.
¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me,
 not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence,
 work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is
 God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work
 for God's good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

☐ Thanks be to God.

Stand for Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first Chapter

G Glory to you, O Lord.

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³ When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the dominion of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

P The gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit for the Sermon

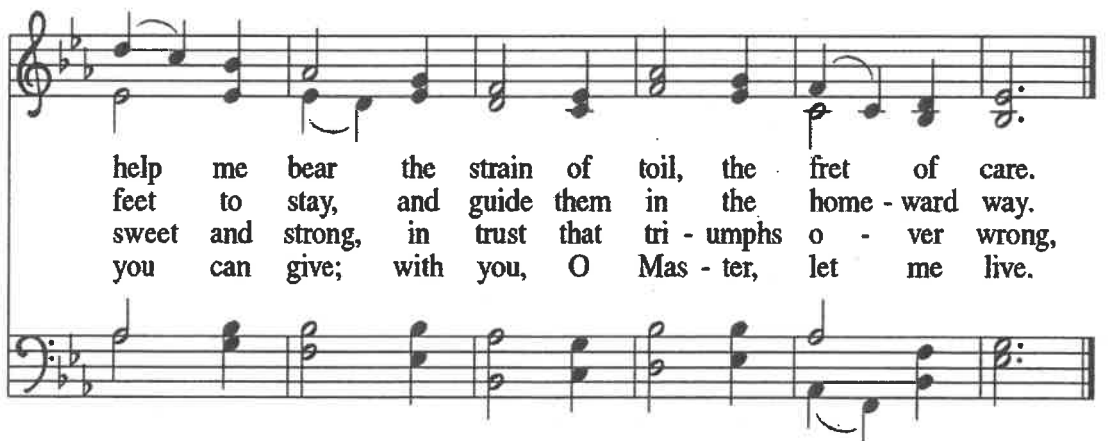
O Master, Let Me Walk with You



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

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APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

**☐ Hear us O God,
☑ your mercy is great.**

PEACE

**☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
☑ And also with you.**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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OFFERING PRAYER

P God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

C Amen.

DIALOGUE

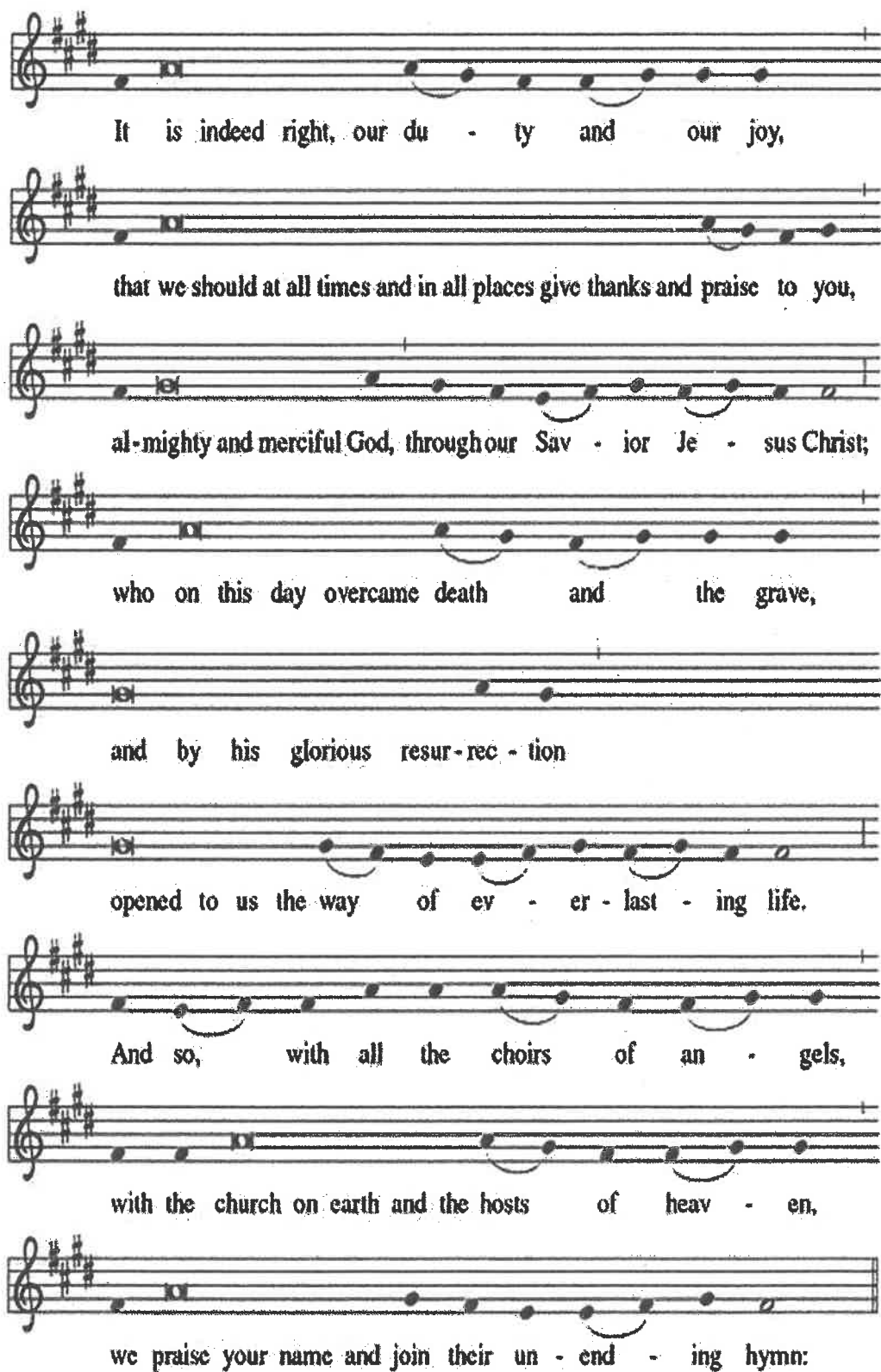
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE PASTOR ONLY



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resur-rec - tion
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God,
creator of heaven and earth.
You rescued your covenant people,
led them on all their journeys,
and taught them by the prophets.
You so loved the world
that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup
is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

As often as we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit
in this meal,
and make us one
in this community of faith
and with your people
throughout the world.

(cont'd)

Glory and praise to you, O God,
Author of life,
Word made flesh,
Power of the Most High,
now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

THE FRACTION

- ☐** When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.
- ☑** Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me *O Christ, Surround Me*



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho-ly, great cloud of wit-ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash-ing of light-ning,
4 Walk-ing be-hind to hem my jour-ney, go-ing a-head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up-hold me:
es-en-fold; proph-ets, a-pos-tles, an-gels wit-ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan-et:
light my way, and from be-neath, a-bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967

Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

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POST COMMUNION DISMISSAL

P Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen.

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev'-ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and bear Christ's ho-ly name.



Send us with your prom-is-es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

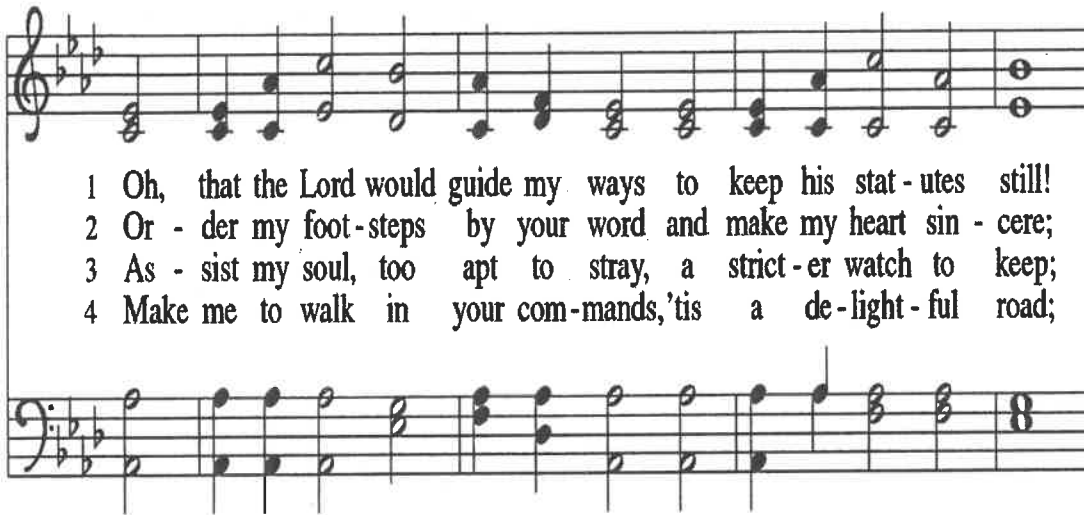
P The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

C Amen.

P The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

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DISMISSAL

P Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

DEAR FRIENDS & MEMBERS, In an effort to have our prayer list as current and as accurate as possible, please indicate whether or not you would like to have a name continue to be included. Thank you!

Eric Alber * Michelle Bahlavooni* Lori Bucci* Derl Crawford *David Ferro* Carl Frank **Adam Gajkowski * Jerry Hess* Jim Hess *Arthur Johnson* Jo Ann Johnson * Marlene Karchner * *Dave Madara * Vinnie Moroney* Steve Novak* Henry Reinsburrow *Sheri Renner* Ray & Sandy Sterner* Tom Termini* Mark Troup *Marlene Trotman* Melissa Waltman* Pastor Daniel Warntz* *Sadie Whitmoyer* Ron Wolfe *

THIS SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Outdoor Greeters : Dan Comstock & Bill Hower Jr.
Greeters & Ushers: Mark & Diane Young
Lector: Emily Johnson
Communion Assistant: Emily Johnson
Altar Guild: Diane Young & Cindy Powlus
Offering Counters: Tina Baucher & Valerie Lynn
Livestream Videographer: Tina Baucher
Choir Director & Organist: Tenette Bogert

NEXT SUNDAY: OCTOBER 4th, 2026

Outdoor Greeters : David & Karen Bird
Greeters & Ushers: Carolyn Bahlavooni & Emily Johnson
Lector: Cindy Powlus
Communion Assistant: Cindy Powlus
Altar Guild: Darlene Turner & Sharon Bachman
Offering Counters: Emily Johnson & Eva Moyer
Livestream Videographer: Eva Moyer
Choir Director & Organist: Tenette Bogert

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Mark & Diane Young
In memory of loved ones

Our Sanctuary Lamp this week burns to the Glory of God
by Mark & Diane Young
In memory of loved ones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIME & VOCAL CHOIR

Chime Choir & Vocal Choir will start on **Thursdays, at 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM respectively**. All are welcome to join. No experience is required. Fun is always had by all!

BIBLE/MOVIE STUDY

Bible study and movie time has resumed. We will be meeting **Thursdays, 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM respectively**.

BLANKET SUNDAY

Blanket Sunday sponsored by the Women of the ELCA and the Upper Susquehanna Synod will be observed on **October 4th**. Envelopes will be provided for monetary donations and can be placed in the collection. **Please make all checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church**. Also, Thanks so much for your donations to the shoe collection.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Newsletter items are due today!

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We are hoping to form a new **Fundraising Committee** to come up with new ideas on how we can raise money toward our various projects. If you are interested in joining and want to share ideas, please **contact Don Bogert or Janet Gibney, our Council Representative**.

BLESSING OF PETS

The Blessing of Pets will take place on **Sunday, October 4th at 2:00 PM at the Pavillion** across the street from the church. All pets must be leashed or crated and a short service with the blessing will be observed.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

If you wish to give directly towards the **Outer Stairway Project** or the **New AC Unit**, please notate that on your envelope or in the memo line of your check.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next Blood Drive will take place on **Wednesday, October 14th from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**. Please sign up to donate and invite your friends as well.

RAISE RIGHT

With the holidays coming, **beginning in October** we will be ordering on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** of the month. Make your holiday shopping easier while helping St. John's!

CALENDARS FOR CCVIM

This is the time of the year that people (organizations) send free calendars for next year. If you have no need for those that you receive, please bring them with your food donations for CCVIM. They would be happy to receive them.

GRIEF SUPPORT

The Grief Support Group will meet **on Wednesday, October 21st at 7:00 PM**. Anyone who has experienced grief due to the recent or past death of a loved one is welcome to attend. This is an informal group whose purpose is to talk about any issues group members may be experiencing related to loss. Refreshments will be served.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Eucharist: 9:00 AM

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Monday, Sept 28, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Tuesday, Sept 29, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wednesday, Sept 30, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Thursday, Oct 1, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Friday Oct 2, 2026

Office Closed

Saturday, Oct 3, 2026

Office closed

Sunday, Oct 4, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after

Pentecost

Fill the Shelves

Pet Blessing

2:00 PM

CONTACT PERSONS:

Don Bogert, Council President:

Email: bogertcontract@epix.net

Phone: 570-441-3449

Tina Baucher, Council

Vice-President:

Email: t-baucher@hotmail.com

Phone: 570-441-5245

Dave Ferro, Council Secretary:

Email: jdavidferro@gmail.com

Phone: 570-204-3616

Wendy Zajac, Treasurer:

Email: wzajac61@gmail.com

Phone: 570-336-7023

Pastor: Reverend Daniel Warntz

Email: theorgandude30@gmail.com

Phone: 570-752-2289 (office)

Cell: 814-360-4602

Last Sunday Attendance : 49

Offering Amount Needed Weekly:

Current: \$2,878.00

Benevolence: \$135.00

New Building: \$401.00

Offering Amounts Received:

Current: \$ 1,155.00

Benevolence: \$96.00

New Building: \$ 127.00

St. John's Website: www.stjohnslutheranmifflinville.com

Join St. John's Lutheran Church, Mifflinville, PA