

Welcome to
St. John's Lutheran Church



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

July 26, 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

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion
July 26, 2026
God's Work/Our Hands

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,

C **we confess to you all our sins.**

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

P Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

C Amen.

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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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



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone; to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior; you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from 1 Kings.

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰ It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding.
(Ps. 119:130)

- ¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**
¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**
¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**
¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

A reading from Romans.

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us.

Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. ²⁹ For those whom God foreknew God also predestined to be conformed to the image of the Son of God, in order that the Son might be the firstborn within a large family.

(cont'd)

³⁰ And those whom God predestined God also called; and those whom God called God also justified; and those whom God justified God also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² The very Son of God was not withheld, but was given up for all of us; will God not along with the Son also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the one who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

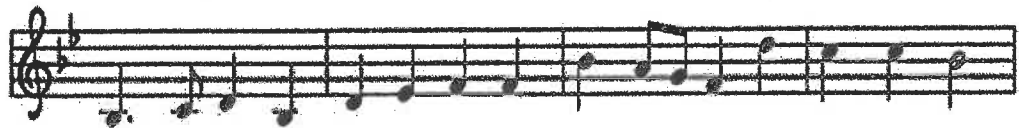
Word of God, word of life.

☐ Thanks be to God.

Stand for Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The dominion of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in a field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ Jesus told them another parable: "The dominion of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The dominion of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the dominion of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the dominion of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

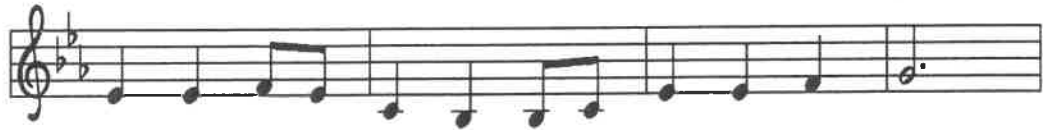
⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the dominion of heaven is like a householder who brings out of the household treasure what is new and what is old."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit for Sermon

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Public Domain

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

- ☐ God of grace,**
- ☑ Hear our prayer.**

PEACE

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

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



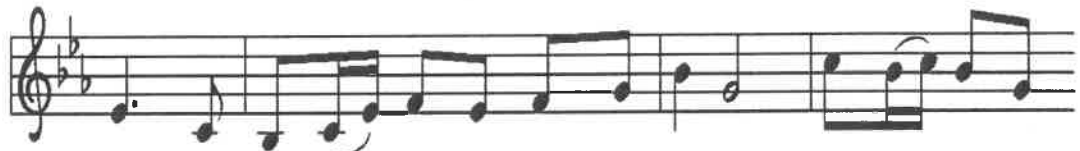
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-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

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

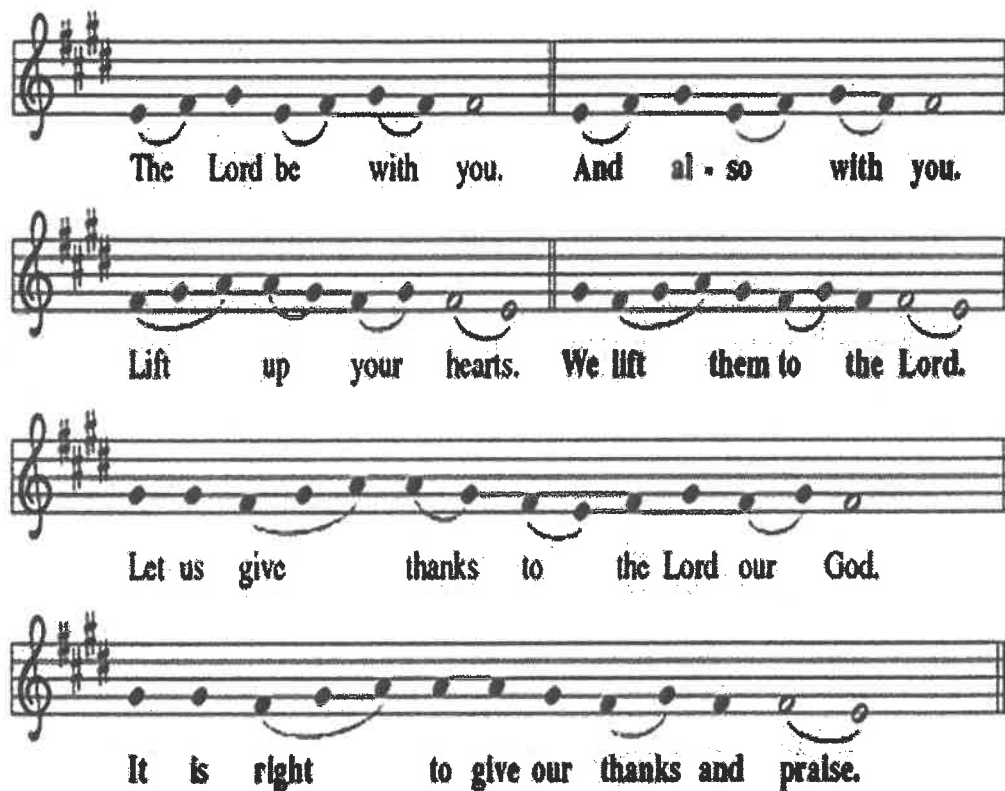
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OFFERING PRAYER

P Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C Amen.

DIALOGUE



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes, which are connected by slurs. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves do not have double bar lines.

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, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus
Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

P When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

C Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!



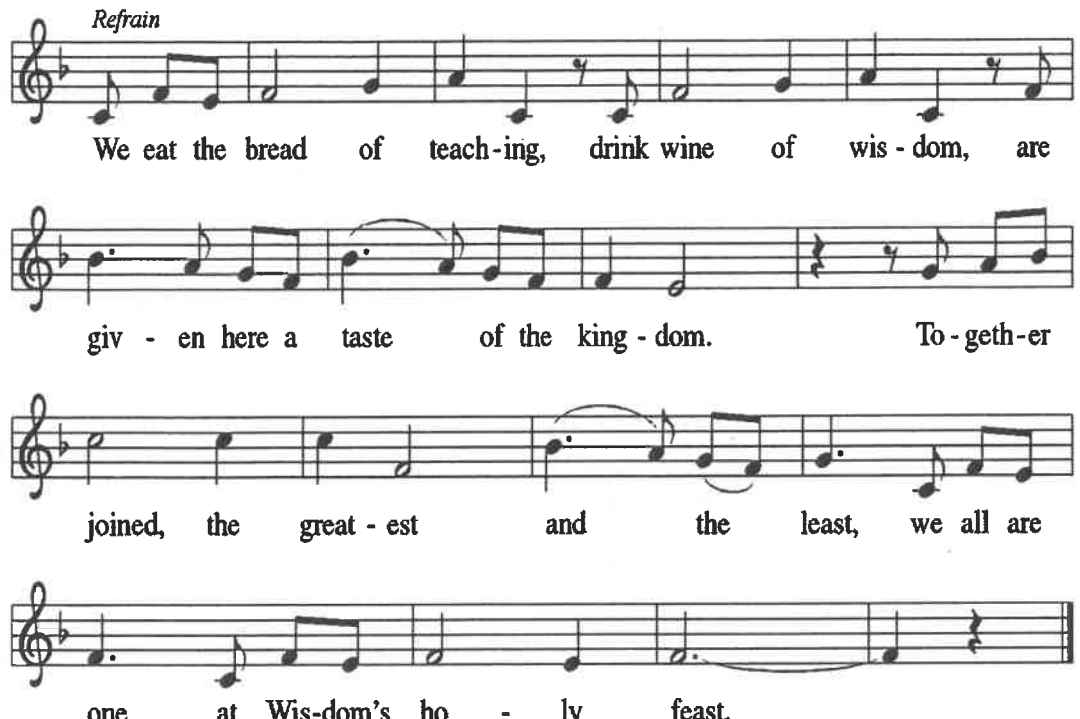
1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

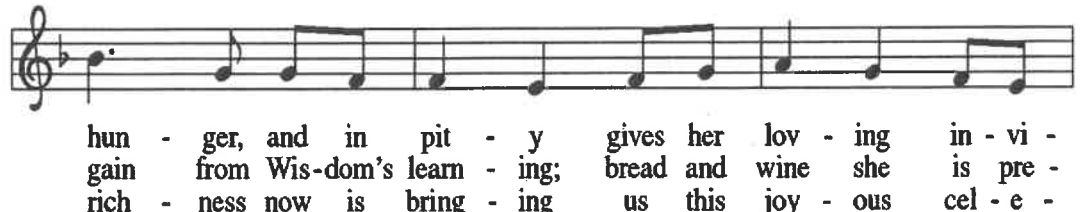
We Eat the Bread of Teaching

Refrain



We eat the bread of teach-ing, drink wine of wis-dom, are
giv-en here a taste of the king-dom. To-gether
joined, the great-est and the least, we all are
one at Wis-dom's ho-ly feast.

1 Wis-dom calls through-out the cit-y, knows our
2 Sim-ple ones whose hearts are yearn-ing, come and
3 En-ter with de-light and sing-ing, for her



hun-ger, and in pit-y gives her lov-ing in-vi-
gain from Wis-dom's learn-ing; bread and wine she is pre-
rich-ness now is bring-ing us this joy-ous cel-e-

Refrain



ta-tion to the ban-quet of sal-va-tion.
par-ing, know her lov-ing in the shar-ing.
bra-tion; eat and drink in ju-bi-la-tion.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997

Music: WISDOM'S FEAST, Jerry Ray Brubaker, b. 1946

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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 Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

C Amen.

In Thee Is Gladness



1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
2 Je-sus is ours! . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ing to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

DISMISSAL

☐ Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

☐ **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 Jerry Avery* Michelle Bahlavooni* Derl Crawford *David Ferro* Carl Frank *Mary Faith Fisher* *Adam Gajkowski * Jerry Hess* Jim Hess *Arthur Johnson* Jo Ann Johnson * Marlene Karchner * *Dave Madara * Joyce McCarty* Vinnie Moroney* Steve Novak* Henry Reinsburrow *Sheri Renner* Ray & Sandy Sterner* Roger Surratt* Tom Termini* Mark Troup *Marlene Trotman* Ron Utt* Melissa Waltman* Pastor Daniel Warntz* *Sadie Whitmoyer* Ron Wolfe *
Family and friends of Cary Quintrell*

THIS SUNDAY: JULY 26, 2026

Outdoor Greeters : Dan Comstock & Carolyn Bahlavooni

Greeters & Ushers: Mark & Diane Young

Lector: Emily Johnson

Communion Assistant: Emily Johnson

Altar Guild: Diane Young & Cindy Powlus

Offering Counters: Tina Baucher & Valerie Lynn

Choir Director & Organist: Tenette Bogert

NEXT SUNDAY: AUGUST 2, 2026

Outdoor Greeters : Paul & Wendy Zajac

Greeters & Ushers: Linda Chapin & Bill Hower Jr

Lector: Cindy Powlus

Communion Assistant: Cindy Powlus

Altar Guild: Carolyn Bahlavooni & Vinniedee Hippensteel

Offering Counters: Gail Utt & Angela Traugh

Choir Director & Organist: Tenette Bogert

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Paul Zajac
in honor of Andrea's birthday

Our Sanctuary Lamp this week burns to the Glory of God
by Eva Moyer
in memory of Tim Moyer Sr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting **today, immediately following worship**. We will be discussing the reconstruction of the outside stairway to the basement. All voting members are encouraged to attend. A voting member is a confirmed member of the congregation who has both communed and has a record of contribution for the current or preceding year.

WELCOME TABLE

Upcoming meals will be held on August 8th and September 12th from 10:30am – Noon.

Sign-up sheets for The Welcome Table are in the rear of the sanctuary, or you can call Lydia (570-204-2516) to volunteer. **Please Note:** Drop off times for donations **will be announced on Sunday mornings**. Other drop off times will be during regular office hours and Saturday, the morning of after 9:00 AM for other times please contact Lydia.

FILL THE SHELVES

Our next Fill the Shelves will take place on **Sunday, August 2nd**. Please be mindful of expiration dates. CCVIM is very grateful for your support.

GATHERING TIME

Our next Gathering Time will take place on **Sunday, August 9th**. Please consider sponsoring . Sign up sheets are on the table in the sanctuary.

SENIOR LUNCHEON

Our next Senior Luncheon will take place on **Wednesday, August 19th at 12:00 PM at Morris Restaurant**. Please contact Jan Peifer by **Tuesday, August 18th** if you plan to attend. She can be reached at **570-204-7531**.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next Blood Drive will take place on **Monday, August 17th from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**. If you haven't already signed up, please do so. Also, ask others you may know to join you.

RAISE RIGHT ORDERS

Our next Raise Right order will be due on **Sunday, August 9th**.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Eucharist: 9:00 AM

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Monday, July 27, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Friday July 31, 2026

Office Closed

Saturday, Aug 1, 2026

Office closed

Sunday, Aug 2, 2026

Tenth Sunday after

Pentecost

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 : 33

Offering Amount Needed Weekly:

Current: \$2,878.00

Benevolence: \$135.00

New Building: \$401.00

Offering Amounts Received:

Current: \$ 2,627.00

Benevolence: \$227.00

New Building: \$ 289.00

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

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