

Welcome to
St. John's Lutheran Church



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

September 20, 2026

God's Work/Our Hands

St. John's Lutheran Church

5th and Race Streets (PO Box B)

Mifflinville, PA 18631

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stjohnsmifflin@verizon.net

www.stjohnslutheranmifflinville.com

Rev. Daniel Warntz, pastor

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion
September 20, 2026
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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.

Lord of Light



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Refrain
 Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.

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

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

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GREETING

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

☐ And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



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

All



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 seat-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.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

A reading from Jonah.

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰ When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God had second thoughts about the calamity that God said would be done to them; and God did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."
(cont'd)

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Word of God, word of life.

☛ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (*Ps. 145:8*)

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians.

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

(cont'd)

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For God has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for Christ as well—³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, word of life.

☒ Thanks be to God.

Stand for Gospel Acclamation



GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

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

G Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said:] ¹ “The dominion of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ “When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you , O Christ.

Sit for Sermon

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
- 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
- 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all;



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

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

**[P] Hear us O God,
[C] your mercy is great.**

PEACE

**[P] The peace of Christ be with you always.
[C] 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.

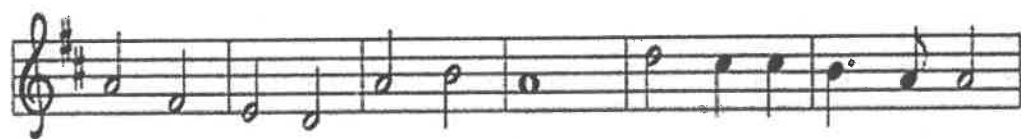
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, 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
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

- ☐ "Alleluia. Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed once for all upon the Cross".
- ☐ **"Therefore, let us keep the Feast. Alleluia".**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

LAMB OF GOD



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



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928

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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.

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
 Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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 701120

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 * Joyce McCarty* 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 20, 2026

Outdoor Greeters : Liz Shotwell & Cole or Clay Shotwell
Greeters & Ushers: Dan Comstock & Bill Hower Jr
Lector: Loreen Comstock
Communion Assistant: Loreen Comstock
Altar Guild: Darlene Turner & Sharon Bachman
Offering Counters: Gail Utt & Angela Traugh
Livestream Videographer: Nate Johnson
Choir Director & Organist: Tenette Bogert

NEXT 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

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Melanie Bove
in loving memory of parents Helen & Vincent Mandzak

Our Sanctuary Lamp this week burns to the Glory of God
by Barbara Bayer
In loving 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

Please have all newsletter items sent to the office no later than **Sunday, September 27th!**

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.

RUNNING TOILETS

Please be sure to check that flushed toilets are not running when you exit the restroom. A toilet was left running for an indeterminate amount of time in our downstairs resulting in an extra 30,000 gallons of water usage on our Aqua bill.

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.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Eucharist: 9:00 AM

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Monday, Sept 21, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Tuesday, Sept 22, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wednesday, Sept 23, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Thursday, Sept 24, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Friday Sept 25, 2026

Office Closed

Saturday, Sept 26, 2026

Office closed

Sunday, Sept 27, 2026

***Eighteenth Sunday after
Pentecost***

CONTACT PERSONS:

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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 : 44

Offering Amount Needed Weekly:

Current: \$2,878.00

Benevolence: \$135.00

New Building: \$401.00

Offering Amounts Received:

Current: \$ 1,915.00

Benevolence: \$231.00

New Building: \$ 323.00

(\$500.00 toward AC repair)

(\$550.00 toward Stairway project)

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

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