

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
**THE FIFTHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025
10:15 AM

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

*The **Bold Print** indicates responses spoken by all.
The ELW hymns are also found in the red hymnal located in the pew.*

THE GATHERING

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and
from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love
you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Brief pause for self-reflection.

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free
ourselves. 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. 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.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

THE GATHERING HYMN

Son of God Eternal Savior

ELW 655



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 2 As - you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant-ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

THE APOSTOLIC 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.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON—AMOS 8:4-7

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat." ⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON—1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

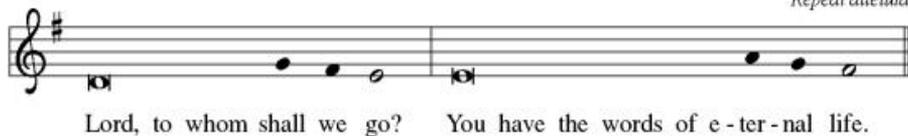
Please stand as you are able.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 102



Repeat alleluia



THE HOLY GOSPEL—LUKE 16:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 16th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

Pastor Carl Schweitzer



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **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 again 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 OF INTERCESSION UPDATE

P Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world,
and all in need.

After each petition, please respond:

P ...God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

P We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus
Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you all.

C And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share a sign of peace with one another.

Please be seated.

THE MEAL

THE OFFERTORY

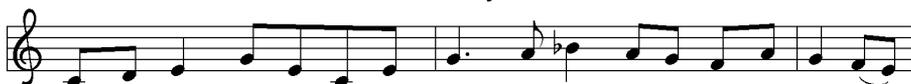
THE ANTHEM Let Us Break Bread Together arr. John Ness Beck

Please stand as you are able.

THE OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 182



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 the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. 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: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C (SUNG) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

P For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live

as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

P To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated.

THE DISTRIBUTION SONG

Lamb of God

[ELW, p. 112—113](#)

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We believe distributing and receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion reflects the unity of the Body of Christ and the dignity and new life of the baptized. Therefore, we practice open communion, where baptized Christians of all faithful expressions are invited to come forward to receive our Lord's Supper.

We receive Holy Communion in the form of intinction, where you dip the wafer into the chalice containing either red wine (contains alcohol) or white grape juice (alcohol-free). Please notify the pastor when you come forward if you prefer a gluten-free wafer or need an individual cup of grape juice due to dietary restrictions.

Please stand as you are able.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace ELW, p. 113



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C **(SUNG) Amen. Amen. Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793



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

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

SERVING OUR PARISH TODAY

Presiding Minister	The Reverend Carl Schweitzer
Organist	Sharon Schrantz
Lector	Cheryl Burke
Acolyte / Bell Ringer	Kylee Truett
Communion Assistants	Ruthann Mantz & Sharon Stehly
Ushers	??? (DIC), Debbie Cunfer, & Ron Humanick
Camera Operator	Dawson Newhard
Altar Guild	Stephanie Beers & Sharon Stehly

COMMEMORATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

The chancel flowers are presented in honor of Barbara Campbell's 80th Birthday by Tom & Jennifer.

The bulletins are presented in memory of David Stehly.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Burlene Balliet, Janice Beck, Csala Beers, Dolly Cunfer, Kathleen Deibert, Janice Dormida, Linda Durback, Donnie George, Cheryl Hower, Tom Kuntz, Carol MacCrindle, Rick Merluzzi, Bartine Mummy, Gary Phillips, Preston Raber, Betsy Rauch, Veronica Redline, Ashley Remaly, Hope Roberts, Doris Snyder, Colson Tkach, and Bill Yelland.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: Church (10:15 A.M.)—46
Sunday School (9:00 A.M.)—30

OFFERING LAST WEEK: \$1,025.85

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES:

Today	9:00 AM—Sunday School / Confirmation 10:15 AM—Holy Communion 8:00 PM—A.A.
Monday	7:00 PM—Church Council FALL BEGINS
Wednesday	10:00 AM—Chair Yoga 1:00 PM—Collate October/November Newsletter 7:00 PM—Choir
Thursday	8:00 AM—Sunday School Clean-up 8:00 PM—A.A.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO: Barbara Campbell, Robert Cunfer, Norman Handwerk, Kyle Krempasky, Dwight Miller, Alan Molitoris, Nathan Schaffer, Haven Sipos, Doris Snyder, Erin Snyder, and Mary Stahler.

HAPPY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK TO: Stephen Geiger, Tara Gerstenberg, Susan Jones, Tom Kuntz, Sandy Maurer, and Makayla Nothstein.

THANK YOU to Rev. Carl Schweitzer for leading worship this morning and to Sharon Schrantz for being our organist.

SIGN THE PUZZLE – To illustrate our theme of “Be a Part of the St. John’s Puzzle”, the Sunday School children have assembled a church puzzle in the Fellowship Hall of the different activities and organizations here at St. John’s. If you are a member of any of these groups, please sign the corresponding puzzle piece(s) with the markers provided.

BACKPACK PRAYER – Copies of the “Blessing for my Backpack Prayers” are available on the usher table in the rear of the church. Please feel free to take one.

CALL PROCESS QUESTIONS – There is a form that will be in your bulletins for the month of September that the synod needs completed as part of the call process. Please check what you feel are the top five ministry tasks you are looking for in a new pastor and the gifts for ministry on the reverse side. The answers to the questions will be used in making our ministry site profile. You can place the form in the offering plate, drop off in the church office, or mail it back to the church. Please return the survey form by Tuesday, September 30.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL will meet TOMORROW at 7:00 P.M. in the office.

NEWSLETTER HELPERS will be needed on Wednesday at 1:00 P.M. to collate the October/November newsletter. Please let Sharon know if you can help.

CHRIST IN YOUR HOME booklets for October through December can be picked up on the rear windowsills.

OCTOBER FOOD SALE – The Catering Committee is sponsoring a soup and sandwich sale for October. The order forms are orange and due back by Sunday, October 5. Pick-up will be on Saturday, October 11, from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. Sandwich choices are grilled chicken ranch club and roast beef French dip. Soup choices are: Amish chicken corn chowder, halupki (stuffed cabbage) soup, and seafood bisque. Return order forms to Harrison Williams. You can call your order into the church office at 610-767-6361, Harrison at 610-216-4284, or e-mail him at williamshj2514@msn.com.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN PACKING – Union UCC in Neffs is again going to host MobilePack for Feed My Starving Children. Packing shifts are two hours each and 80 volunteers are needed for each shift. Volunteers are needed to help on the packing dates/times on the forms on the rear radiator. You can register online at unionucc.org or contact them at 610-767-6961. Those who helped last packing event, had a fun, rewarding time.

CHRISTMAS EVE SURVEY – We are planning our Christmas Eve services for 2025. We are looking into alternative times for these services and would like the congregation’s input on this matter. Please indicate your preference for service times. The choices are as follows:

5:00 and 8:00 P.M. 6:00 and 9:00 P.M. 7:00 and 10:00 P.M.

Other suggestions on enhancing the services would be appreciated. Pick up a sheet in the back of the church and select your preference, leave a message with Sharon in the church office (610-767-6361), or email us at stjohnslatington@gmail.com. Please return the survey by Sunday, October 12.

SPONSORS are needed for a couple Sundays in October. Open sponsor dates are:

Bulletin sponsors for October 12, 19, & 26. Bulletins are \$25.00 per date.

Flower sponsors for October 19 & 26. Flowers are \$35.00 per date.

Sign up for any open dates on the sponsor charts outside the church office or call 610-767-6361.

LIVESTREAM NOTICE — Our 10:150 AM service is streamed live online every week on Facebook. The front of the sanctuary, which includes the space for holy communion and children’s messages are included in the video. By being in this space, you may be included in the livestream and/or the recorded video posted on YouTube and our website.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

40 2nd Street, Slatington, Pennsylvania 18080

St. John's Lutheran Church is located in the heart of Slatington, Pennsylvania and has served the Lehigh Valley since 1868.

CHURCH STAFF

Sharon Stehly, *Church Administrator*
Fawn Albert, *Organist and Choir Director*
Harrison Williams, *Sexton*

CONTACT

Phone (610)767-6361
Email stjohnslatington@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 AM

BUILDING HOURS

Weekdays	9 AM to 3 PM
Saturday	9 AM to 3 PM
Sunday	8 AM to 3 PM

Visit us online at stjohnslatington.org
and follow us on **Facebook**

ONLINE GIVING

For your convenience, St. John's Lutheran Church accepts online offerings through Vanco, an online payment processing service.

With Vanco, you can choose to give a one-time offering, or you can create an account to schedule weekly or monthly tithes.



To give today, scan the QR Code above by opening your cell phone's camera. This will direct you to the church's online giving website.

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