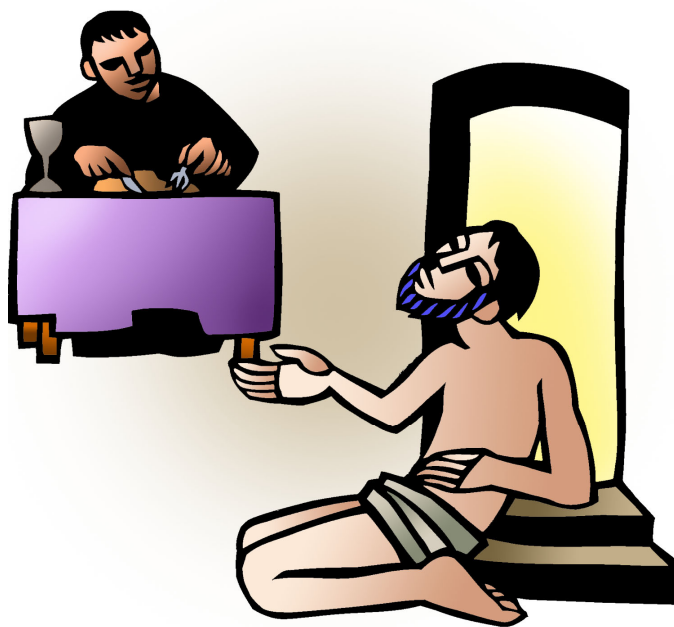


St. John's Lutheran Church
Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center
9am Worship Service
WELCA Sunday
The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 28, 2025



Welcome to Worship!

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

Welcome to our worship!

PRE-GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. It is through God's grace we have been saved and our sins forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

Amen.

OPENING SONG: *"All to Jesus, I Surrender"*

All to Jesus I surrender,
all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
in his presence daily live.

Refrain

I surrender all, I surrender all,
all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender,
humbly at his feet I bow;
worldly pleasures all forsaken,
take me, Jesus, take me now. *Refrain*

All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power,
let thy blessings fall on me. *Refrain*

Text: Judson W. Van DeVenter, 1855-1939

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

Leader: 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.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

YOUTH MESSAGE

Adriana McMurphy

THE FIRST READING

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria. ⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall, ⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music, ⁶ who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! ⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Psalm 146— *Read Responsively*

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³ Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those
who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion,
throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**



THE SECOND READING

1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment,
⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of
it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But
those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many
senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and
destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in
their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and
pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness,
godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the
faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which
you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the
presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in
his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge
you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the
manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the
right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings
and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in
unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be
honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be
haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on
God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They
are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share,
¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the
future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

THE VERSE



Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:19-31

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE MESSAGE

Cathy Plowden

SONG OF RESPONSE: *“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”*

All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate and was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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 OF THE CHURCH

After each petition— God of grace, receive our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

THE OFFERING

*Our gifts and offerings are gathered for the mission of the church.
Plates are passed by the ushers.*

THE OFFERTORY SONG "Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I
am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has
done for us. Give thanks! Give thanks!

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.
Praise and thanks to you, holy God,
for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness,
called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel
to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile,
wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,
you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross,
life to those entombed by death,
the way of your self-giving love.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God;
rekindle your gifts within us:
renew our faith,
increase our hope, and deepen our love,
for the sake of a world in need.
Faithful to your Word, O God,
draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

WELCA PRESENTATIONS

MISSION TRIP GODSPEED

Adriana McMurphy

THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, bless us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *“God Be With You”*

God be with you. God be with you.
In the morning when you wake, and with ev’ry breath you take,
God be with you.

God be with you. God be with you.
When you travel far away, in your daily work and play,
God be with you.

God be with you. God be with you.
And wherever you may go, as the spirit winds will blow,
God be with you.

God be with you. God be with you.
As you listen, teach, and learn, and then safely home return,
God be with you.

God be with you God be with you.
When the moon and stars shine light as you slumber through the night,
God be with you.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

Serving Today



in Worship

Serving Today

WELCA Sunday Lay Preacher:	Cathy Plowden
Lay Assistant:	Cathy Plowden
Lector:	Lynn Pöde
Greeters:	Frieda Cobb & Kay Gartner
Musicians:	Tom Ward, Ray Burroughs, Dave Devoe

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The Bell Tower—Ministry News

TODAY IS WELCA SUNDAY!



The women of St. John's will serve as worship leaders and assistants at both services today in honor of WELCA Sunday.

Joy Offerings will be received in a separate basket from the regular offering. Make checks payable to St John's Lutheran WELCA. These offerings will be sent to SC WELCA.

NO BIBLE STUDIES THIS WEEK



Due to the Mission Trip to Lutheridge, there will be no Monday evening or Tuesday morning Bible Studies. Both Bible Studies will resume on October 6 and 7, respectively.

YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT



On **Sunday, October 5 at 4pm**, please join us for a youth movie night. We will be watching “*Finding Nemo*” and learning about coral reefs. Contact Adriana for more information.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



On **Sunday, October 12 at 4pm** we will be holding a “Blessing of the Animals” at Biggerstaff. All friendly pets and their owners are invited for a special service of blessing! All pets must be leashed or crated. (If you’re unable to bring your pet, bring a photo or them.) There will be a photographer on site. Contact Adriana for more information.

Please Note: Pastor Rachel will be away on vacation from September 25 through October 9. If you have any pastoral care needs or concerns, please call the church office and/or reach out to Council President, Lynn Pode at 586-770-7422 or lynnpode@mac.com.



Our Church Family

Anne Craig, hip surgery/recovery
Ronnie Lattimore, surgery/healing
Michael Pode, surgery/healing
Jan Long, healing/surgery
Tom Ward, treatment of a neurological disease
Michelle Leggett, ALS, comfort
Tiffany Chapman, healing
Robert Smith, healing
Katie Johns, home, healing
Charlie (health) & Debbie (lung cancer) Busch



Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

Betty Mantell, The Oaks
Jeanne Welch, home/healing
Thelma Miller, Clemson Heritage
Marsha Cabbage, home/rehab
Ann Biemann, home
Brenda Cantrell, home
Linda Humphries, home
Marie Palmatier, home
Peg Turner, The Oaks
Betty Wallace, Belvedere
Bill Watt, home/rehab
Lynne Williams (Pawleys Island)

Other Prayer Concerns

For our country amidst on-going nationwide violence—in the tragic killing of
Charlie Kirk at the Univ. of Utah and the school shootings in Colorado.
For the victims and families affected by the mass shootings in Minneapolis.
For wisdom for military leaders involved in the events unfolding
in the Middle East.
For those dealing with loss from recent natural disasters and severe weather.
For all those who have lost their jobs due to recent government changes.
For peace for our country and protection for our government officials.
For the Israeli hostages and their families.
For colleges & universities across our country.
For those dealing with loss and fear from gun violence.
For peace in the Middle East, and comfort to those impacted by violence.
All military Personnel
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff

*Please let the church office know of
any updates to our prayer list.*

Our Extended Family and Friends

Gabino Vivaldo, healing from surgery/cancer
Stephanie Williams, cancer surgery/chemo (cousin of Pastor Rachel)
Matthew Caymol, heart surgery/healing (great nephew of Lattimore's)
Kathy Smith, liver cancer (cousin of Cathy Plowden)
Jerry Gardner (Della), cancer (friend of Grace Lichtenwald)
Isabel Fogel, healing (granddaughter of Fogel's)
Dwight Amick, hospice (step-father of Stephanie Champion)
Joan Cotton, stroke/healing (grandmother of Tosha Simpson)
Ruth Campbell Chapman, hospice (grandmother of Jeremy Chapman)
Delane McJunkin, healing at home
Chris Radford, recovery (brother-in-law of Micky Ward)
Danny Childress, comfort (nephew of Safrit's)
Hubert Barrett, stroke (brother-in-law of Tina Barrett)
Larry Smith, (friend of Jane Harris)
Bonnie Blanchett, healing (mother of Ryan Raab)
Cheryle Hurley, cancer & chemo (friend of Pastor Rachel)
Dan Fogel, healing (son of Fogel's)
E. Christian Gauderer, hospitalized in Lisbon, Portugal (brother of Michael)
Risaline Sioson, breast cancer (Sister of Josie Busch)
Janelle Gibson, healing (Aunt of Jan Day)
Bob Lidwin, (nephew of Bill Pickard)
Erica McKee Skinner, healing (friend of Tina Barrett)
Ben Harding, healing (brother of Allen Harding)
Chad Cobb (son of Wilma)
Ernestine Addis, healing (sister-in-law of Richard & Connie Addis)
Kay Davis, recovery (mother of Stephanie Champion)
Pam Hester, (cousin of Ann Brackett)
Ruth Williams, cancer (sister of Grace Schmeelcke)
George Rogers, lung cancer (half brother of Micky)
Kelsey Bowman, healing (daughter-in-law of Bowmans)
George Combes, (brother of Grace Lichtenwald)
Lauren Bowman, Lyme disease (daughter of Gary and Barb Bowman)
Jacquelyn Moore, (niece of Kathy Scherter)
Bennie Smith, health (nephew of Wards)
John Heasley, diabetes (son-in-law of Johnsons)
Dohnvan (grandson of Kathy Scherter)
Dolorico Perez (father of Josie Perez)
Gina Daly, health (daughter of Bob Johnson)





CHURCH
OFFICE
STAFF

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Additional St. John's Staff

Ray Burroughs, Facilities Manager
Joan Lewis, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator
Lynn Pode, Congregational President

...WELCOME TO...
church

Our tithes and offerings are an important part of our faith journey.

- Electronic offerings may be given through the GIVELIFY app.
- You may also go to our website: **www.stjohnswalhalla.org** and click on the “Give Now With Givelify” button
- Another option is to scan this QR code to go directly to our Givelify page.

