

October 2026

St John Messenger



CONTACT INFO

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COMMUNION

October 4, 2026
October 12, 2026
October 25, 2026

LIVESTREAM

YouTube
St John Lutheran, Athol

FACEBOOK

St John Lutheran, Athol

stjohnlutheranathol.com



He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:14

Dear Members of St. John,

Blessings be upon you, including favorable weather and a safe harvest!

We as Christians are confronted by our culture every day. What society values are often things we're explicitly told by Jesus to avoid. How do we remain firm in our faith while engaging with people who are so wrapped up in this world, but not the next. It is no wonder that the book of Daniel in the Bible has come to the forefront of biblical study on Right Now Media. Sight and Sound Theaters are featuring a production on Daniel this year. A mainstream movie called "Daniel and the Fiery Furnace" has been released in mainstream theaters.

In his story, Daniel and the people of Israel are in captivity in Babylon. The temple has been destroyed. They are forced to bow to an earthly king. We have much to learn from the way Daniel speaks truth to power and refuses to compromise on his convictions. God doesn't always remove threats to our faith, but he promises to be with us, even in the lion's den.

You are invited to attend our Daniel Bible Study on Tuesday nights either in person or on-line. As we study Daniel's example, we all need support from each other to live courageously and without compromise, as the world continues to change around us. When religions around us say that there is more than one path to heaven. When technology seems to be replacing who we are as God's children. We must never forget, God is ultimately in control. Come, receive encouragement as we learn to keep God present in our lives, through the fires of unbelief and doubt. See you on Tuesdays!

Pastor Ann

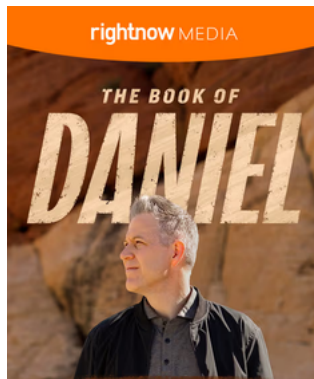


Pizza Party!
October 8th
Parish Hall
5:30 PM

Pastor Siimon Haamer and his nephew Mattias will be visiting St. John to give a progress update! He is visiting congregations in Kansas this week after the Annual Gathering. Come Join Us!



Harvest Special Offering
Oct. 11th & 18th
Tartu Academy &
Home of Hope



New Bible Study
Beginning
Tuesdays!
Oct. 13th 6:30 PM
Book of Daniel
 We also plan to see
 the new movie
Daniel and the
Fiery Furnace
 together.



Right Now Media
Get Free Access:
Text "SJLCKS" to 49775
to register
You'll love the videos!
Share with friends!

Prayer Concerns this Month

Blondina Kuhlmann
Virginia Engelke
Roy Dean Bell
Betty Kirchhoff
Zach Warren
Brad Cole
Bridgette Hutchinson
Family of Pastor Bob Sinclair

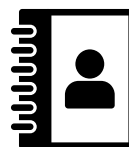
Irish Kussmann
Dorothy Seems
Dorothy Wire
Bob Wire
Ginger Pletcher
Nancy Horning
Kris Gerstenkorn
Roy Dean Bell

Text additions to Penny
@ 785-282-0216

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR OCTOBER



Watch the
weekly bulletin
announcements.



Do we have your current
information for our future
directory. Please update the
clipboard by the mailboxes!



Youth
Cookout!
OCTOBER 7TH
WEDNESDAY



Reformation Sunday
October 25th

First Communion

Believers's For Christ Fall Schedule (B4C)



7:00 - 9:00 PM

St. John Parsonage
October 7th - Fall Cookout
November 4th - Movie Night
December 2nd - Christmas
Mission Project

On-Line Meetups
Every Wednesday 7:00-8:00 PM



October Calendar

3rd - Pastor Bob Sinclair

Graveside Service @ 11:00 AM

6th - Men's Breakfast @ 6:30 PM

7th - Sunporch Communion @ 10:30 PM

BFC Youth Cookout @ 7:00 PM

8th - Pizza with Pastor Siimon @ 5:30 PM

13th - Devotions at Sunporch & SCHR @ 10:30 PM

31st - SCMA Pancake Supper & Trunk or Treat

Weekly Meetings

Tuesdays, Bible Study @ 6:30 PM @

Wednesdays, Women's Bible Study @ 9:00 PM

Confirmation @ 4:45-6:15 PM

Thursdays, Bible Study Sunporch @ 1:30 PM

October Member Celebrations

Birthdays

1 - Todd Kirchhoff
2 - Dairiane Cobb
14 - Dixie Engelke
16 - Sherri Frieling
17 - Amy Timmons
26 - Tim Meyer

Baptismal Birthdays

6 - Tom Boxum
9 - Marsha Allen
13 - Gilbert Kirchhoff
29 - Dorothy Wire

Text additions/corrections
to Penny 785-282-0216

Reformation Sunday: A Faith Worth Passing On

by Penny McKenzie

Reformation Sunday is a special day in the life of the Lutheran Church. It gives us an opportunity to remember where we have come from, what we believe, and most importantly, the Savior who remains at the center of our faith.

More than 500 years ago, Martin Luther helped call the Church back to the truth found in God's Word: we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is not something we earn by being good enough, working hard enough, or doing all the right things. It is a gift freely given to us because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

That message may be centuries old, but it is just as important in our lives today.

In a small church and a close-knit community like ours, faith is often passed down in very ordinary ways. It is passed from parents and grandparents to children gathered around the kitchen table. It is heard in Sunday School classrooms and confirmation lessons. It is sung in familiar hymns beside people we have worshiped with for many years. It is shared at baptisms, weddings, funerals, church suppers, Bible studies, and Sunday morning worship.

Many of us can probably think of someone from our own church family who helped shape our faith—a Sunday School teacher who patiently taught us Bible stories, a pastor who reminded us of God's promises during a difficult season, a grandparent who prayed before every meal, or a neighbor who quietly lived out their faith through kindness and service.

That is part of what makes Reformation Sunday so meaningful. We are reminded that we are part of something much bigger than ourselves. The Gospel that was proclaimed generations ago is the same Gospel we hear today, and it is the same Gospel we are called to share with the generations that follow us.

The heart of the Reformation can be summed up in three simple truths: Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture Alone. We are saved by God's grace alone. We receive that gift through faith alone. And God's Word remains the foundation that teaches, guides, comforts, and strengthens us.

Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

What a comforting promise that is. We do not have to wonder whether we have done enough for God to love us. We do not have to earn our place in His family. Because of Jesus, we are forgiven, redeemed, and loved.

And because we have received that grace, we are called to share it.

Sometimes sharing our faith does not look dramatic. In a community like ours, it may simply mean checking on a neighbor, bringing a meal to someone who is grieving, encouraging a young family, helping with a church activity, forgiving someone who has hurt us, inviting someone to worship, or reminding a friend that God is with them during a difficult time. These small acts of faithfulness are ways the love of Christ continues to move from one generation to the next.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday at St. John Lutheran Church, may we be thankful for the faithful people who came before us and made sure the Gospel was proclaimed here. May we treasure the church family God has given us today. And may we faithfully pass on the good news of Jesus Christ to our children, grandchildren, neighbors, and generations yet to come.

Times change. Communities change. Churches change. But the promise of the Gospel remains the same: We are saved by grace, through faith, because of Christ alone.

That is a faith worth celebrating—and a faith worth passing on.

