

September 2026

St John Messenger



CONTACT INFO

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COMMUNION

September 6, 2026
September 20, 2026

LIVESTREAM

YouTube
St John Lutheran, Athol

FACEBOOK

St John Lutheran, Athol

WEBSITE

stjohnlutheranathol.com



*Let's not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in
due season if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9*

Dear Members of St. John,

May this prayer bless you during this harvest season:

Father, Maker of the field and Keeper of our souls, we come with hands that have planted and hearts that have waited. You know the soil of our days—where it is rich and where it is hard. Breathe Your Spirit over us again.

We offer the seeds we have sown: small obediences, whispered prayers, quiet kindness. Where we grew tired, strengthen us. Where we have wept, hold us close. Let the tears we've given to You become, in Your time, songs of joy.

Teach us to trust Your rhythm. You bring the growth. Guard us from hurry, from envy, from discouragement. Make us faithful in the little rows we tend, whether at a kitchen table, a hospital room, a cubicle, or a classroom.

When the harvest comes, large or little, turn our hearts first toward worship. Receive our first fruits—our time, our attention, our resources—as a sign of love. And where the field looks bare, sow Your hope again. In Jesus' name, amen.

Harvest Blessings to you all,
Pastor Ann

Jesus Thinks I Am
One in a MELON

Sunday School
Youth Kickoff
&
Watermelon Feed
August 30th
after Services!
Sweet fun for all!



Mission Festival

Sept. 27th

Presenter: Caleb Meyer

The Salt Company

College Outreach Ministry

Citylight Church, Kearney



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Prayer Concerns this Month

Blondina Kuhlmann

Virginia Engelke

Roy Dean Bell

Betty Kirchhoff

Family of Pastor Bob Sinclair

Pastor Doyle & Janna Karst

Family of Evelyn Wilson

Irish Kussmann

Dorothy Seems

Dorothy Wire

Bob Wire

Connie Francis

Nancy Linka

Family of Kyle Kudritzki

Text additions to Penny @ 785-282-0216

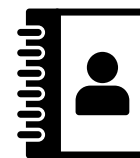


Praise the Lord, for a beautiful evening at the Ice Cream Social! Thanks to everyone who brought ice cream and to the youth who served it!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER



Watch the weekly bulletin announcements.



An updated Church Directory is in the works! Watch for more information!





September

Upcoming Events

Sept. 1: 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sept. 2 : 10:30 AM Sunporch Communion

Sept. 16: 4:45-6:15 PM - 4th & 5th Gr. Confirmation Begins

Sept. 19: 11:00 AM Evelyn Wilson Graveside Service/Lunch

Sept. 21: 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study

Sept. 27: Mission Festival - The Salt Company

Ongoing Events:

Tuesdays: 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Ann

Wednesdays: 9:00 AM Women's Morning Circle

Thursdays: 1:30 PM Bible Study at Sunporch

September Member Celebrations

Birthdays

1 - Wyatt Oliver
11 - Kacie Timmons
16 - Stacey Schoel
17 - Marsha Allen
20 - Vicki Hutchison
23 - Dalton Oliver
24 - Gilbert Kirchhoff
25 - Kale Engelke
26 - Tony Blickenstaff
28 - Irish Kussman
29 - Gary Kirchhoff
30 - Garen Kuhlmann

Baptismal Birthdays

5 - Lovelle Kirchhoff
14 - Levee Frieling
22 - Blake Kirchhoff

Anniversaries

27 - Mr & Mrs Gary Gerstenkorn
29 - Mr & Mrs Jacob Cobb

Text additions/corrections
to Penny 785-282-0216

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Finding Joy in Every Season

by Penny McKenzie

**“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds.”
—James 1:2**

Fall is a season of change. The green leaves become brilliant shades of red, orange, and gold before eventually falling to the ground. The days grow shorter, the air becomes cooler, and we begin preparing our homes and hearts for the winter months ahead. Farmers gather the harvest, families settle into new routines, and nature reminds us that every season has a purpose.

Change can be beautiful, but it is not always easy. Life brings seasons of disappointment, uncertainty, illness, loss, and unexpected challenges. Sometimes the path before us looks very different from what we had planned. In James 1:2, we are encouraged to “consider it pure joy” when we face trials. This does not mean that our struggles are pleasant or that we should pretend they do not hurt. Instead, it reminds us that God is present and working even during our most difficult seasons.

The verses that follow explain that the testing of our faith produces perseverance. Trials can teach us patience, strengthen our trust in God, and remind us that our hope does not depend on our circumstances. Just as the trees must release their leaves before new growth can appear in the spring, God can use challenging seasons to shape us, deepen our faith, and draw us closer to Him.

Joy in difficult times is not the same as happiness. Happiness may change from day to day, but Christian joy is rooted in the promises of God. It comes from knowing that we are loved, forgiven, and never abandoned. Through Jesus Christ, we have the assurance that hardship, sorrow, and even death will never have the final word.

As we enjoy the beauty of fall, may each changing leaf remind us of God’s faithfulness. Whatever season of life we may be experiencing, we can trust that we are never alone. Christ walks beside us, gives us strength for each day, and surrounds us with a church family that can offer prayer, encouragement, and support.

This fall, let us look for God’s blessings in both the joyful and difficult moments. May we take time to thank Him for the harvest, the beauty of creation, the gift of fellowship, and the hope we have in Christ. Let us also remember those who may be walking through a difficult season and reach out with kindness, prayer, and compassion.

May James 1:2 encourage us to face each new season with faith, knowing that God is at work and that His love remains constant through every change.



September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	31 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	1 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 10:30AM SunPorch Communion 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline	2 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	3 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	4	5
6 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	7	8 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	9 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline	10 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	11	12
13 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	14	15 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	16 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline 4:45PM 4th and 5th Gr Confirmation	17 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	18	19
20 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	21 2:00PM Afternoon Circle	22 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	23 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline	24 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	25	26
27 9:30AM MISSION FESTIVAL - SALT CO 10:30AM Sunday School	28	29 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	30 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline	1 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	2	3