

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2026

9 am



Saint John Lutheran Church

Fairfield, Pennsylvania

Rev. Wayne Gallipo, Interim Pastor

Assisting Ministers, Linn Wichowski/Julie Falk

Carol Garman, Organist/ Music Director

**St. John Lutheran Church
13 East Main St.
Fairfield Pa 17320
717-642-5822**

Reverend Wayne Gallipo, Interim Pastor
Cell: 605-214-6828
Pastor's Office Hours – Mon. & Tues. 8:30am – 4:30pm

Assisting Ministers – Linn Wichowski/Julie Falk

Carol Garman, Director of Music Ministries

www.stjohnfairfield.net
Email: office@stjohnfairfield.net

Like us on Facebook

Office Hours
Monday – Thursday 8:30am-12:00pm

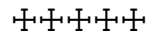
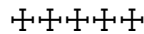
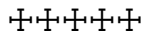
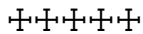
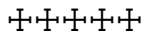
Our Mission is to make Christ known.

We welcome all guests this morning.
We are very pleased to have you worship with us!
All are welcome to receive communion.

Sunday School for all ages 10:15-11:15. Everyone is welcome!
Grab some refreshments and join us!

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Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 13, 2026



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Alleluia; Holy, Holy: When Morning Gilds the Skies Buckley, Thompson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of Almighty God, the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

P: 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**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage 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: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN All Creatures, Worship God Most High! (vs. 1-3) ELW 835

INVOCATION

P: May 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

P: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANTHEM Build a Longer Table (Bjorlin)

WOV

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. *The Word of the Lord...Thanks Be to God.*

PSALM 103:[1-7] 8-13 (Read Responsively)

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

³ Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴ **Who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵ Who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹ You will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING:

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable. *The Word of the Lord... **Thanks Be to God.***

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ *please stand if able*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew....**Glory to you O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” *The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.***

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Stacey Haynes/Carol Garman

THE MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. H. Lee Brumback II

HYMN Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

ELW 605

APOSTLES CREED

(inside back cover of hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Response: Hear Us, O God.... **Your mercy is great.**

PEACE

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERING PRAYER

C: 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. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

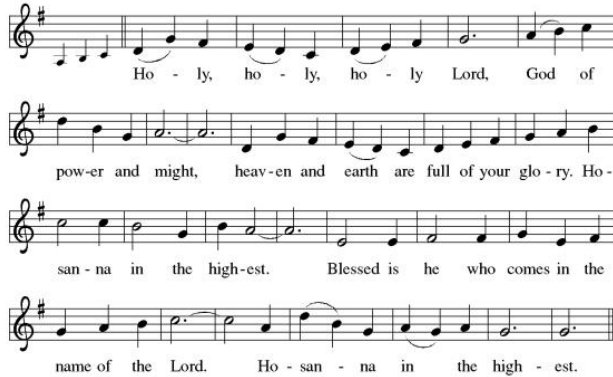
P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give God our thanks and praise. P: It is indeed right....

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



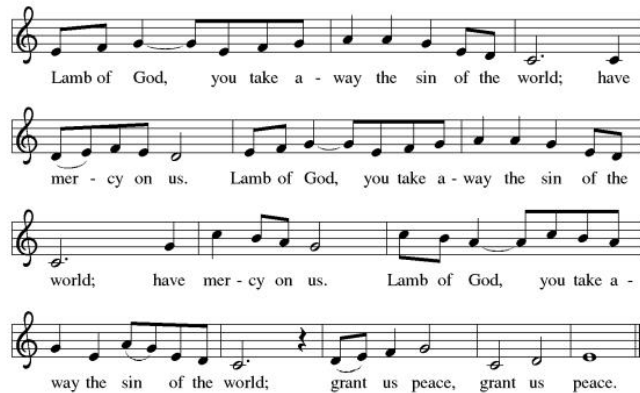
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: On the night in which he was betrayed ... for as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes again.

LORD'S PRAYER

THE FRACTION AND INVITATION

LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION

We practice "open communion" at St. John. ALL are invited to come forward as ushered to receive this life-giving sacrament. Those not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing. As you are given the bread and wine an appropriate response is "Amen." Please be respectful of this meditative time within our worship.

COMMUNION HYMNS	All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly	ELW 461
	Blessed Assurance	ELW 638
	Awake O Sleeper	ELW 452

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN **May the God of Hope**

May the God of hope go with us ev'ry day,
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to ev'ry land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

DISMISSAL

P: "Go in peace. Be Kind. Serve the Lord." **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE	No Greater Love Than Jesus	Walker
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