

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sept 7, 2025, 8:30 A.M.

St. John's Lutheran Church

*Bulletins are subject to change based on the Pastors' discretion

Announcements

Prelude

Andante from the Surprise Symphony
Sarah Sweeney & James Bieber, piano duet

Josef Haydn

Ringling of the Church Bell

Confession and Forgiveness

page 116-117

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

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

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

L: 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.**

Gathering Hymn

Take My Life

ELW #685 vs 1-3

Greeting and Kyrie

"In peace, let us pray..."

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.**

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord. **C: Amen**

The Hymn of Praise (This Is the Feast)

L: This is the feast of victory for our God. **C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia**

Prayer of the Day: C: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Psalm 1

L: ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**C: ² Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

L: ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

**C: ⁴ It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

L: ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**C: ⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints

and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Special Music/Anthem

Reverie

Claude A. Debussy

Sarah Sweeney & James Bieber, piano duet

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?”

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Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Glory to you, O Lord/Praise to you, O Christ.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

Message

Count the Cost

Confession of Faith

Apostles’ Creed

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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 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 Offering Hymn

I'd Rather Have Jesus

(see insert)

The Offering Prayer: L: L: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Prayers of the Church: L: God of Grace... **C: Receive our prayer....**

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion Songs:

Oh Jesus I Have Promised ELW #810;

O Master Let Me Walk with You ELW #818

Prayer Following Communion L: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

Benediction

Closing Hymn

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW #772

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Finale from Album Gregorien 1895

Eugene Gigout

Activities this Week at St. John's

Sun, Sept 7	8:30am & 10:30am 9:30am 7pm
Tues, Sept 9	9:15am 7pm
Wed, Sept 10	9am-noon 6pm 7pm
Sun, Sept 14	8:30am & 10:30am 9:30am 7pm

Sept 7, 2025 to Sept 14, 2025

Worship Services w/comm
Sr Choir, LYO mtg
Mens Choir
Sarah Circle
Dorcas Circle w/zoom
Tying quilts
Youth Bells & Deacons mtg
Sr Bells
Worship Services w/comm
Sr Choir
Men's Choir

General Funds (undesignated)**Jan 1 – Sept 3, 2025**

Actual Income	\$140,066
Actual Expenses	124,153

Jan 1 – Sept 30, 2025

Budget Expenses	142,320
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Attendance

Last Sunday	136
2025 Average	98
2024 Average	90

Greeters	8:30am 10:30am	Bailey Benson
Readers	8:30am 10:30am	Becky Roe Linda Groe
Ushers	8:30am	Russ Meyer, Bernie Pausch, Dan Treangen
	10:30am	Norm Peterson, Donna Wood
Comm Prep	8:30am 10:30am	Ann Hagensick, Linda Groe Lori Hesse
Comm Asst	8:30am	Dennis & Linda DeBuhr, Cindy Barness
	10:30am	Karen Stamper
Secretary		Rhonda Barr
Custodians		John & Sharon Roe
Organist/Director of Music		James H. Bieber
Pastor		Bryan Robertson

Today we welcome Pastor Ron Barth to St. John's. He is a retired Pastor joining us today from Owatonna, MN. Please greet him and welcome him.

Radio Broadcast Ministry—Today's radio broadcast is supported by generous donations to our Radio Ministry. Thank you for your continuing support of this outreach ministry. Join us on Sunday mornings on KNEI 103.5 at 8:30am. **Note: you have the option of selecting a hymn of your choice for the service you sponsor.**

As our Congregation is beginning the process to call a pastor, we are asking for volunteers to serve on the Call Committee. Please contact our Council President, Vickie Larson with your questions and interest.

The Board of Education is looking for Sunday School teachers to help teach and someone to direct the Christmas program this year. If you're interested, please contact Bailey Benson 563 380-1378.

Troop 64 Boy Scout Omelet Breakfast: today, Sept 7, 2025, Allamakee Co Fairground Pavillon, Waukon. Serving 8am-noon. Dine in or carry out. Made to order omelets, hashbrowns, fresh cinnamon rolls, coffee, juice or milk. \$10 Advance Tickets / \$12 at the door

Norwegian Meatball Supper at Old West Paint Creek Lutheran Church, 1306 Maud Rd, Waukon on Sept 17. Serving begins at 4pm. Menu: meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy, glazed carrots, cole slaw, lefse, rolls & pie. DRIVE THRU ONLY. All meals \$15. Everyone Welcome

Harvest Dinner on Wednesday, Sept 24 at First Presbyterian Church, 204 W Main St, Waukon from 4:30pm till gone. Drive -thru only. Menu includes: ham cheesy potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, dinner roll, pumpkin bar & frosted cookie. \$15 per dinner. All are welcome

Volunteers for Sept 14 service:

Ushers for September: 8:30am Russ Meyer, Bernie Pausch, Dan Treangen /

10am: Norm Peterson, Donna Wood

Greeters: 8:30am / 10am

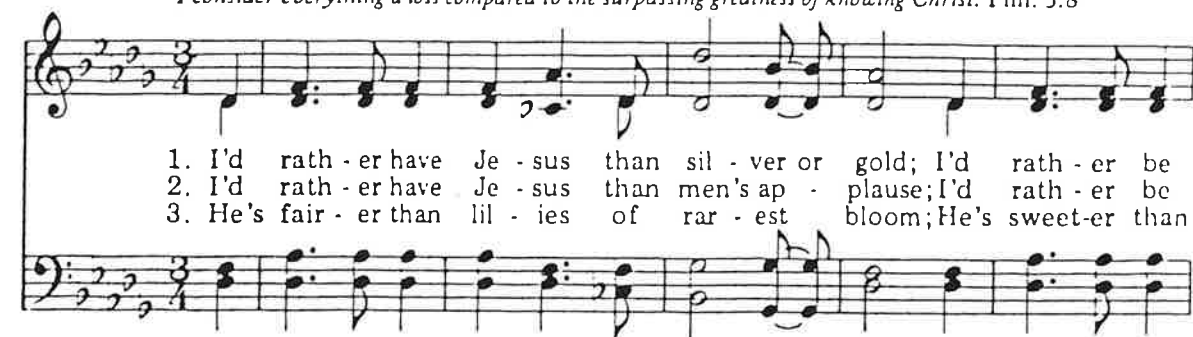
Readers: 8:30am Mary Jo Meyer / 10am Linda Groe

Comm Prep: 8:30am / 10am

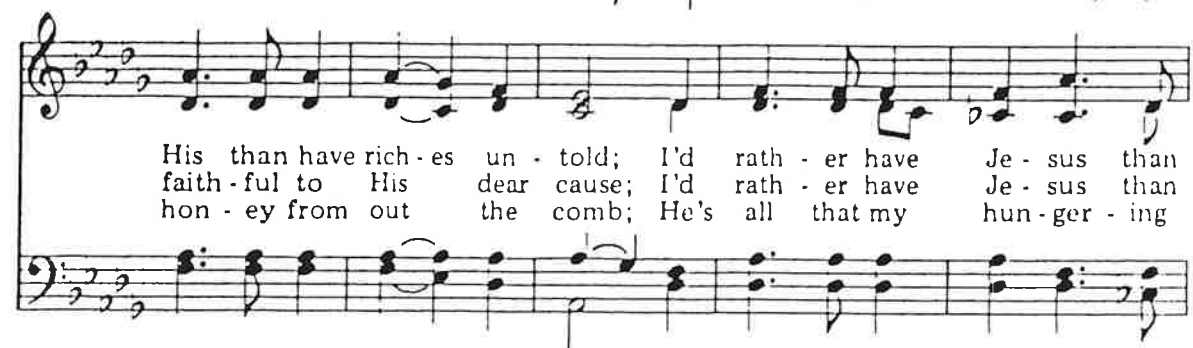
Comm Asst: 8:30am / 10am

I'd Rather Have Jesus

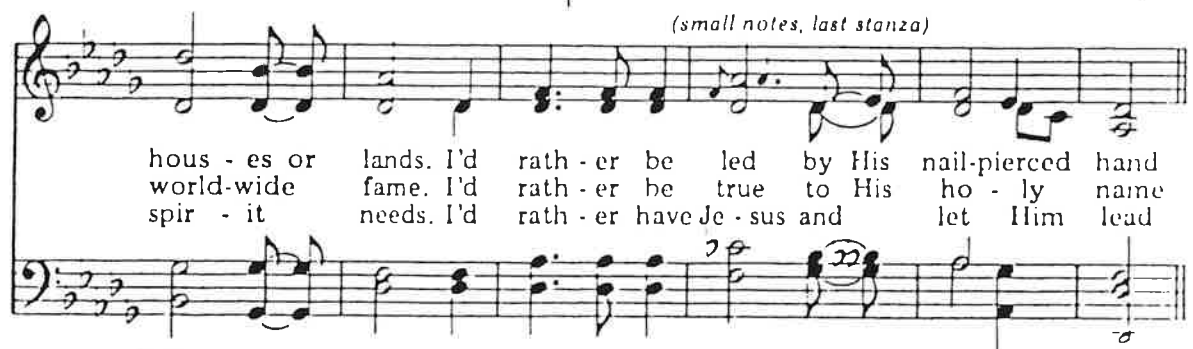
I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ. Phil. 3:8



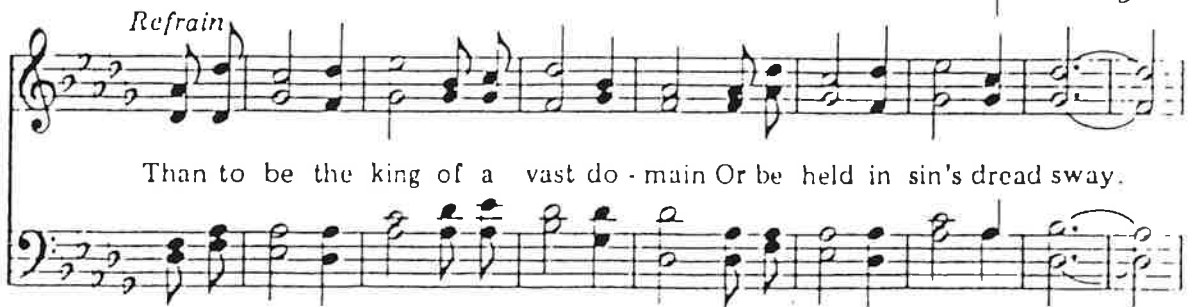
1. I'd rath - er have Je - sus than sil - ver or gold; I'd rath - er be
 2. I'd rath - er have Je - sus than men's ap - plause; I'd rath - er be
 3. He's fair - er than lil - ies of rar - est bloom; He's sweet - er than



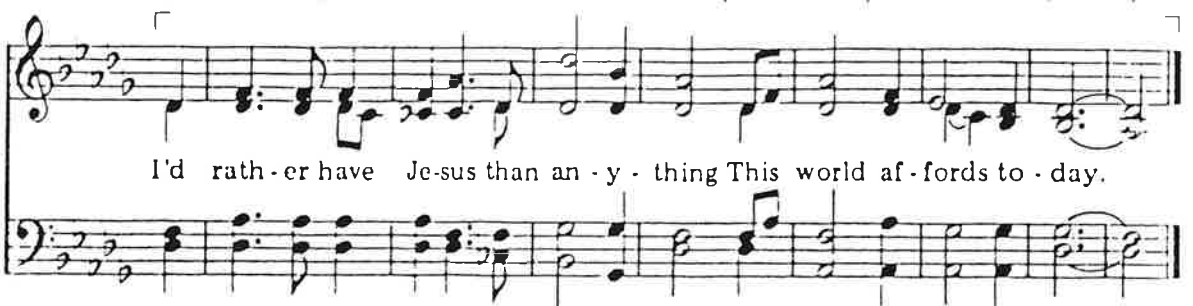
His than have rich - es un - told; I'd rath - er have Je - sus than
 faith - ful to His dear cause; I'd rath - er have Je - sus than
 hon - ey from out the comb; He's all that my hun - ger - ing



(small notes, last stanza)
 hous - es or lands. I'd rath - er be led by His nail-pierced hand
 world-wide fame. I'd rath - er be true to His ho - ly name
 spir - it needs. I'd rath - er have Je - sus and let Him lead



Refrain
 Than to be the king of a vast do - main Or be held in sin's dread sway.



I'd rath - er have Je - sus than an - y - thing This world af - fords to - day.

