

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025, 8:30 A.M.

St. John's Lutheran Church

Announcements

Prelude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Emma Berges, Flute Soloist

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

God Is Here

ELW #526

Greeting and Kyrie

"In peace, let us pray..."

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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**

L: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. **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: L: O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C: Amen.

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Psalm 112

L: ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in God's commandments!
**C: ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**
L: ³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
**C: ⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**
L: ⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
**C: ⁶ For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**
L: ⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
**C: ⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- on their enemies.**
L: ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
**C: ¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Special Music

How Great Thou Art

Emma Berges, unaccompanied Flute Soloist

Children's Message

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 14:1, 7-14

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

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Sermon

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

Canticle of the Turning

ELW #723

Offering Prayer: 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. **C: Amen**

Prayers of the Church: L: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

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:

Now We Join in Celebration ELW #462; *In the Singing* ELW #466

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**

Farewell Ceremony

Pastor Bryan, In August, 2019 you were called to be our pastor, to proclaim God's word, to baptize new members into the church of Jesus Christ, to announce God's forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebrations of the Lord's Supper. With the Gospel, you have challenged us to live our lives in service to one another. With the Gospel, you have comforted us in times of sickness and at the death of our loved ones. You have shared our joys and our sorrows as we have lived our life together as the church of Jesus Christ in this community.

(Walk to the pulpit)

You were invited to preach from this pulpit. You have proclaimed the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ hundreds of times throughout these past 6 years. You have been a faithful occupant of this pulpit and a messenger of the Good News of God's Love in Jesus Christ. We thank you for your preaching ministry!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

(Walk to the baptismal font)

You have presided at Baptisms while serving St. John's. Through the cleansing waters of baptism, you have welcomed new members into the family of Christ.

You have presided at Confirmation ceremonies where young men and women have renewed their Baptismal vows. We thank you for your ministry surrounding the promises of Baptism.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

(Walk to the main altar)

You have officiated at wedding ceremonies for couples beginning their lives together. You were present to rejoice with those who rejoice. We thank you for sharing those times of joy.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

(Walk in front of the portable altar)

You presided at funerals celebrating God's victory over death. You have comforted us in the midst of our grief. You proclaimed the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and encouraged the community with the comfort of the gospel. We thank you for your ministry during times of sorrow and loss.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

(Walk behind the portable altar)

At this altar you have presided at the Sacrament of Holy Communion. You have reminded us of the story of Jesus as He began this meal. You have provided instruction to those who would receive communion for the first time. We thank you for presiding at the Sacrament of Holy Communion!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Pastor Bryan, you have been in our midst for 6 years of your 37 years of ministry. You have been a part of this church family, and you have shared your gifts for the sake of Christ's mission in our community. We are proud to send you into retirement with our love and our blessing!

Let us pray: gracious God, you have called us in our baptism to be your servants. You have enabled us to respond to that call as a community of believers. Thank you for the partnership in the Gospel that we have enjoyed with Pastor Bryan. We send him forth to continue his work in retirement. Strengthen him for the mission that you place before him, and may he go forth knowing our love for him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

When you became our Pastor, you were given the keys to your office and to this church. We ask that you return those keys as we now send you into retirement.

Congregation: Go in Peace! Serve the Lord!

Pastor: Thanks be to God!

Benediction

L: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood, strengthen, keep, and unite us, now and forever. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

Lord of All Nations

ELW #716

Postlude

This Joy

arr. Keith Hampton

Tune: *This Little Light of Mine*

Activities this Week at St. John's

Sun, Aug 31	8:30am & 10am 10am
Wed, Sept 3	9am-noon
Thurs, Sept 4	8:30am-4:30pm
Sun, Sept 7	8:30am & 10:30am 9:30am 7pm

Aug 31, 2025 to Sept 7, 2025

Worship Services w/comm
Pierson baptisms
Tying quilts
WIC
Worship Services w/comm
Sr Choir, LYO mtg
Men's Choir

General Funds (undesignated)**Jan 1 – Aug 27, 2025**

Actual Income	\$135,734
Actual Expenses	118,256

Jan 1 –August 31, 2025

Budget Expenses	133,329
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Attendance

Last Sunday	139
2025 Average	97
2024 Average	90

Greeters	8:30am 10am	Bill & Linda Halvorson
Ushers	8:30am 10am	Bill Roe family
Comm Prep	8:30am 10am	Altar Guild Altar Guild
Comm Asst	8:30am 10am	Greg & Ann Hagensick, Ann Rademaker Karen Stamper
Readers	8:30am 10am	Sarah Sweeney Karen Stamper
Secretary		Rhonda Barr
Custodians		John & Sharon Roe
Organist/Director of Music		James H. Bieber
Pastor		Bryan Robertson

Radio Broadcast Ministry –Today's radio broadcast is given in honor of the baptisms of our granddaughters Phoebe & Leonora; given by Glenn & Karen Grimstad. 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.**

We thank God for the gift of Baptism and Phoebe Lou Pierson, daughter of Drew & Suzanne Pierson, who will be received today at our 10am service. Phoebe's sponsors are Brianne Grimstad and Corbett & Arica Grimstad.

We thank God for the gift of Baptism and Leonora Lea Pierson, daughter of Drew & Suzanne Pierson, who will be received today at our 10am service. Leonora's sponsors are Brianne Grimstad and Jenny & Michael Hager.

We are excited to announce that we have a new church secretary effective September 15. Her name is Lana Dahlstrom. Please join us in welcoming her to our St. John's family!

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: Sunday, 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

Volunteers for Sept 7 service:

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

10am: Norm Peterson, Donna Wood

Greeters: 8:30am Bailey Benson/ 10am

Readers: 8:30am Becky Roe/ 10am Linda Groe

Comm Prep: 8:30am Ann Hagensick, Linda Groe / 10am Lori Hesse

Comm Asst: 8:30am Dennis & Linda DeBuhr, Cindy Barness / 10am Linda Groe