

**Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost
September 28, 2025, 8:30 A.M.
St. John's Lutheran Church**

Announcements

Prelude

*Variation on God Is So Good
Senior Bell Choir*

Patricia Hurlbutt

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

Voices Raised to You

ELW # 845

Greeting and Kyrie

"In peace, let us pray..."

pp. 147-148

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

"Glory to God in the highest"

pp 148-149

L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for

your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day: C: O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Choir Dedication Litany

L: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands..... C: He himself has made us, and we are His: We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

L: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. C: Give thanks to him and call upon His name.

L: For the Lord is good; his steadfast mercy is everlasting. C: And His faithfulness endures from age to age.

L: Brothers and sisters in Christ, in moments of greatest joy and sorrow, our souls sing our joy, and our souls sing our sorrow. This morning, we dedicate our vocal choirs and bell choirs to lead us in our songs of praise to our God. Congregation : God give us faith always to sing "Alleluia!"

L: As these choirs lift their voices in worship, may Your Word and Spirit help us believe. Congregation: God give us faith to always sing "Alleluia!"

L: Let these choir members join their voices with the voice of your whole church everywhere, singing the songs of those who sang before them, and singing the new song of our time, bearing witness to your truth that never changes. Choir: God give us faith to always sing "Alleluia!"

Pastor: Tune these bell choir members into your instruments, O Lord, so that in every action of their day, we may see and hear in them, and unending hymn of praise. Choir: God give us faith to always sing "Alleluia!"

Pastor: Will the congregation please affirm the ministry of music offered by these dedicated choir and bell choir members?

Congregation: We affirm your ministry of music in the life of this congregation. We pray that through your work and the leading of the Holy Spirit, our lives may become rooted into the mind of Christ. May your witness through music, be an inspiration to all who worship in this community, and a humble sacrifice to our Risen Lord Jesus. Amen.

Anthem

**Sing To The Lord
Senior Choir**

Willis L. Barnett

First Reading: Amos 6: 1a, 4-7

1a Woe to those who are at ease in Zion

and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

4 Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory

and lounge on their couches

and eat lambs from the flock

and calves from the stall,

5 who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp

and like David improvise on instruments of music,

6 who drink wine from bowls

and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
7 Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Psalm : Psalm 146 (read responsively)

P: ¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

C: ² **I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

P: ³ Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.

C: ⁴ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

P: ⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

C: ⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

P: ⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The Lord sets the captive free.

C: ⁸ **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

P: ⁹ The Lord cares for the stranger;
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

C: ¹⁰ **The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6: 6-19

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.

⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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 16: 19-31

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

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷ He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰ He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

Message:

"The Best Way to be a Tiger"

Pastor Ron Barth

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

Rise Up O Saints of God

ELW # 669

The Offering Prayer: L: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

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

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction:

Closing Hymn

Let the Whole Creation Cry

ELW # 876

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord! **C: Thanks Be to God!**

Postlude

Let The Whole Creation Cry

Robert Hobby

Activities this Week at St. John's

Sun, Sept 28	8:30am & 10:30am 9:30am 7pm
Wed, Oct 1	6pm 7pm 7pm
Sun, Oct 5	8:30am & 10:30am 9:30am 7pm

Sept 28, 2025, to Oct 5, 2025

Worship Services w/Choir Dedication
Sr Choir, Sun School
Men's Choir
Youth Bells
Sr Bells
Confirmation Youth & Parents
Worship Services w/Comm
Sr Choir, Sunday School
Men's Choir

General Funds (undesignated)**Jan 1 – Sept 23, 2025**

Actual Income	\$145,675
Actual Expenses	132,300

Jan 1 – Sept 30, 2025

Budget Expenses	156,222
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Attendance

Last Sunday	101
2025 Average	97
2024 Average	90

Greeters	8:30am 10:30am	Dave & Wendy Sanderson
Readers	8:30am 10:30am	Linda Halvorson Vickie Larson
Ushers	8:30am 10:30am	Russ Meyer, Bernie Pausch, Dan Treangen Norm Peterson, Donna Wood
Secretary		Rhonda Barr/Lana Dahlstrom
Custodians		John & Sharon Roe
Organist/Director of Music		James H. Bieber
Pastor		Michael Sherer

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

Radio Broadcast Ministry –Today's radio broadcast is from generous donations from the congregation. 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.**

The following members were elected to the 2025 Call Committee:

Ron Dahlstrom	Christine Ellickson
Michael Hagensick	Scott Houg
Karen Stamper	Mark Stock

Fields of Faith on Wed, Oct 8 starting at 7pm at the Waukon High School Football Field. The Key Speaker is Tanner Morgan. No cost to attend and **All Are Welcome!**

Wilmington Lutheran Church Meatball Dinner Sunday, October 12 at Spring Grove Fest Building
Serving from 10:30am to 1:00pm. \$15 per meal. Menu: meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, country coleslaw, lefse, dinner roll, and bar.

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

Volunteers for Oct 5 service:

Ushers for October: 8:30am Matt & Dawn Teslow and Bob Joachim

10:30am: Lyle & Brenda Kurth

Greeters: 8:30am / 10:30am

Readers: 8:30am Diana Johnson / 10:30am Jill Kistler

Comm Prep: 8:30am Diana & Jeff Johnson / 10:30am Roseanne Wicks

Comm Asst: 8:30am Linda & Dennis DeBuhr, Matt Teslow / 10:30am Jill Kistler

Youth Bell Choir

James H. Bieber, Director, Sarah Sweeney, Assistant Director

Henley Benson	Emma Berges	Jocelyn Berges
Connor Buhl	John Marti	Lena Rausch
Theodore Wilkes	Thomas Wilkes	

Senior Bell Choir

James H. Bieber, Director

Sara Berges	Sue Blagsvedt	Linda Groe
Sarah Hagen	Randy Johnsen	Vickie Larson
John Marti	Carrie Niehaus	Jon Payne
Kris Rausch	Chris Stuckman	Sarah Sweeney
Sue Torkelson	Eva Urmanski	

Senior Choir

James H. Bieber, Director

Judith Engle	Don Fruechte	Linda Halvorson
Randy Johnsen	Vickie Larson	Jon Payne
Chris Stuckman	Sarah Sweeney	Dawn Teslow