

St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill

Pentecost 15, Proper 18

September 10, 2023



Worship Assistants

Pastor: Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.

Accompanist: Linda Schulze

Acolyte: Brooklyn Randermann

Lay Reader: Connie Rohde

Altar Preparations: Carolyn Kessel, Laura Sulaica

Tellers: Donna Skrla, Gary Schulze

Screen Crew: Anna Finke, Jennifer Schroeder

Ladies Aid : Linda Schulze

Church Ministers: St John Members

Ushers: Huckert Family, Steve & Donna Skrla

Council Members: Herbert Klatte, Jr., Ken
Seeker

Communion Bread: Donna Bentke

Sanctuary Prep: Cathie Klatte, Christin
Seeker

Memorial Committee: Debra Westerfeld,
Janet Wehring

Please tune to 87.9 FM for access to the service in the church parking lot on Sundays.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

THE PEACE

ELW Pg. 152


The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Peace be with you. R. Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (v. 1, 3, 4)

ELW #708

INTROIT with Psalm 92:5

How great are your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are very deep!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

ELW Pg. 147

Please be seated.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Sage James Kaminski

PRESENTATION

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of

baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Parents, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child, Sage James Kaminski, baptized into Christ?

Parents: I do.

As you bring her to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Sage in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Sage and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

Sage James Kaminski, I baptize you in the name of the Father,*
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

Sustain Sage with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Sage, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me
will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:

join us in giving thanks and praise to God.

And bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

BAPTISMAL HYMN

Baptized in Water

ELW #456

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, always lead and follow us with your grace, that we may be still more intent on doing good. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 32:1-6

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

⁶**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord Be Glorified (2X)

SCREEN

**In Your Word, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In Your Word, Lord be glorified, today.**

***GOSPEL: Matthew 18:1-20**

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations

come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Norman Sulaica, Jr.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Loves Me!

ELW #595

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God’s abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

OFFERING HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW #184

OFFERTORY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW #884

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.
Amen.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

ELW Pg. 153

EUCCHARIST PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we acknowledge our sins against You and others.

Guide us through Your Holy Spirit to do Your good in the world!

Through Jesus and the cross, we offer You our sins.

Cleanse us, renew us, and lead us

through the body and blood of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;

fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

Please be seated.

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

SCREEN

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS

**Let Us Break Bread Together
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
Just As I Am, without One Plea**

**ELW #471
ELW #608
ELW #592**

Please stand as you are able.

DECLARATION OF GRACE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Go, My Children With My Blessing

ELW #543

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage faith in Jesus!
Thanks be to God!

Attendance Card Information

We want to make certain ~~that~~ we have your current phone number and address for the upcoming photo directory contact.

Please indicate any changes on the back of your attendance card.
We would still like you to provide address and phone information, even if you have no change.

Luther League

The youth (7th-12th Grade) will leave after church today for virtual golf at Big Shots in College Station. Youth are asked to bring money to cover their meal and games.

Game Day

Join the fun on Wednesday, September 13th from 2:00PM-5:00PM.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class is Wednesday, September 13th, beginning at 5:00pm. There will be no class on the September 20th.

Choir

Choir Practice is Wednesday September 13th at 6:30PM.

Church Gift Shop and Library

Take the opportunity to visit the new library, located across from the Pastor's office! Come by to see the many items for sale by donation. There are many great gift ideas.

New items are available and seasonal items for Fall are coming soon.

There are many adult and children's books on the shelves that can be checked out. Come by and see what is available!

Bible Study

Bible study will be September 11th at 10:00AM.

A new 5 Week Bible study will begin soon, called, "Faith Lessons on the Promise Land". It is a unique video series that brings God's word to life. Make plans to attend!

Special Fund Envelope for September Good Samaritan - Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Contact Information for Pastor Norm

Pastor Norm can be reached in either of the following ways: Cell Phone Number (361) 362-9108
Or Email: pastornorm2003@yahoo.com

Kid Fish

Coming in October. Watch for more information in the upcoming bulletins and newsletter.

Upcoming Via de Cristo Weekend..... Study, Worship, Sharing

September 14-17, 2023

Camp Lone Star - Pines Campus, Tomball, TX

In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him.” Romans 8:28

Via de Cristo is a Spanish phrase meaning Way of Christ. A Via de Cristo weekend is a three-day journey, designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, bringing them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. The participants live, study, worship and commune together daily.

There are fourteen talks, nine by lay people and five by clergy, presenting the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.. Via de Cristo gives those attending a living understanding of basic Christian Truths. Participants will enjoy music and singing, food and fellowship, and a time for prayer and reflection.

For more information, contact Pastor Norm or Sandy Ordner.

New events and opportunities for growing our faith are being introduced in the months of September and October. You are encouraged to find the event(s) that meets your needs and join in on the activity. There is something for everyone!

Food Pantry

Distribution will be on Tuesday, September 12th from 6:30AM-8:00AM.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, September 11th

10:00AM Bible Study

6:00PM Council Meeting

7:00PM Jump Start

Tuesday, September 12th

6:30AM Food Pantry

9:00AM Music Planning Team

4:30PM God Squad

Wednesday, September 13th

2:00PM Game Day

5:00PM Confirmation

6:30PM Choir Practice

Thursday, September 14th

2:00PM Ladies Aid

Saturday, September 16th

8:00AM Men's Ministry Breakfast

Bod4God

Bod4God is a weekly event that begins on Monday, September 18th at 6:00PM. Join this journey of faith and weight loss ministry. Sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex.

Prayer Requests for our Church Family:

Mavis Smith Janice Cordova Sydney Wagner Florence Bentke
Gilbert Spinn Helen Gaskamp Cynthia Wilson Linda King Jerry
Randermann Mary Ann Luce Connie Seward Dorothy Wiesepape
Mark Marburger Tom Bentke Earline Moody Verna Mae Sefcik
Ruth Finke Milton Bosse Donald Lange Sandy Kite Mike Altman
Emery & Helen Schulze Dennis Moehlmann Diana Williams Lloyd Neutzler Mollie Grote
Family of Evelyn Thielemann.



Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries: Josh Church, Sophia Sulaica, Gabrielle Sommerfield,
Florence Bentke, Charles Spinn, and Gerald Kuecker

Those Celebrating wedding anniversaries:

Prayer Requests for Our Family and Friends:

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|
| Aaron Batot | Gladys Schwartz | R.V. Pittman |
| Alan Pittman | James Lee | Shannon Wellmann |
| Alyssa and Aliza Jones | Joe Deatherage | Sue Beall |
| Amanda Gurka | Kennedy Altman | Sue Maass |
| Ann Fogt | Mark Hundemer | Tess Loberg |
| Brent Dorman | Marvin Luedke | Wayne Hueske |
| Carol Lieber | Mike McIntyre | William Richter |
| Christy Dallmeyer | Missy Goldmith | Please notify the church office of |
| David Majewski | Nicole Clark | prayer requests by noting on the back of |
| Dora Pittman | Patty Addicks | your attendance card. Thanks. |
| Dorothy Bowles | Roger Ellermann | |



The 2023 flower chart is posted in the Annex so that you may sign up to place flowers in the church. You may sign up for flowers by checking the flower chart for available dates.

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Linda Crabtree prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com Church Office Phone: 979-836-8666
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm Website: www.stjohnprairiehill.org
Church Council President Herbert Klatte, Jr. (936) 443-8243

Octoberfest

Our Octoberfest Bazaar on October 22nd, (3:00pm-6:00pm) will soon be here. To help with planning, there will be 2 sign-up sheets in the Narthex beginning September 3rd. One sheet is for those planning to attend, and the other will be a sign-up sheet for those items being

donated for the silent auction at the bazaar.

Thanks to all for the help with this event.

What an enjoyable day it should be!

All monies will go toward the camp fund to be used for camps, retreats and outings.

JUMP START

**JUMP START WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11TH AT 7:00PM.**

2023 ST JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| President | Herbert Klatte, Jr. |
| Vice-President..... | Kenneth Seeker |
| Treasurer | Sharon Neutzler |
| Secretary | Rita Gaskamp |
| Community Concerns | India Randermann |
| Evangelism | Josh Clay |
| Financial Secretary | Jeannie Kroll |
| Parish Ed..... | Stephanie Koehler |
| Property | Colton Maass |
| Worship & Music..... | Virginia Altman |

Photo Directory

Photo Directory pictures will be on **Thursday, October 5th** and **Friday, October 6th** from 2:00pm-8:30pm and also on **Saturday, October 7th** from 10:30pm-5:00pm. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex for selecting a time slot.

You may also sign-up on-line at www.ucdir.com.

Instructions for registering online are available in the Narthex. You will need the **church code** and the **church password** to sign-up online. This information is provided on the **Online Scheduling Instructions** in the Narthex.

If you elect to **register** for a time slot online, registration is limited to **Mondays thru Fridays of each week**. Online registrations are closed on the weekend. If you wish to register on a **Saturday** or **Sunday**, you will need to sign-up via the paper sign-ups sheets located in the Narthex or wait until you can go online again on Mondays. Sign up sheets are available now.

Weight-A-Thon

Pastor Norm calls you to support our youth to go to camp. Sunday, September 17th, before worship, Pastor will step on the scale to reveal his weight. This will begin the Bod4God, centered on scripture and weight loss. You may make a financial commitment for every pound Pastor Norm loses, or, you can commit to a lump sum donation.

Pastor Norm will step back on the scales, January 21st to share his results.