

St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill
Pentecost 16, Proper 19
September 17, 2023



Worship Assistants

Pastor: Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.

Accompanist: Linda Pieper

Acolyte: Arabella Clay

Lay Reader: Charles Gaskamp

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: Rita Gaskamp, Josh Clay

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.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God,

all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus (v. 1, 3, 4)

SCREEN

1 **Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
as soldiers of the cross,
lift high his royal banner;
it must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry
his army he shall lead,
till ev'ry foe is vanquished
and Christ is Lord indeed.**

3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you,
you dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor;
each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger,
be never wanting there.

4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
the strife will not be long;
this day the din of battle,
the next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming,
their crown of life shall see,
and with the King of glory
shall reign eternally.

INTROIT with Psalm 143:9

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

I have fled to you for refuge.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

ELW Pg. 147

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love

SCREEN

1 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. **Chorus**

3 We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride. **Chorus**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. 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.

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you."' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 103:1-12

- ¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- ²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.**
- ³He forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;
- ⁴**He redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness;**
- ⁵He satisfies you with good things,
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶**The LORD executes righteousness
and judgment for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸**The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**
- ⁹He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
- ¹⁰**He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so far has he removed our sins from us.

so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.**

SECOND READING: Romans 43:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

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 18:21-35**

²¹Peter came up and said to {Jesus}, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him

‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

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

Chief of Sinners Though I Be (v. 1, 2, 4)

ELW #609

CREED

ELW Pg.105

**Apostle’s Creed*

**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.**

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.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

ELW Pg. 152

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.

Bless you, Lord, from our Soul,
for God forgives us all our sins
Bless you, Lord, from our Soul,
You redeem our lives from the grave.
Through Your Son, Jesus Christ in this holy meal,
Create in us clean hearts.
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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, 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

SCREEN

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS

For the Bread Which You Have Broken
Precious Lord Take My Hand
Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW #494

ELW #773

ELW #765

Please stand as you are able.

DECLARATION OF GRACE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

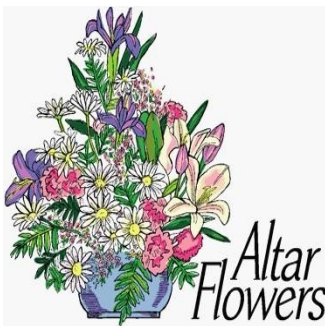
Praise to the Lord the Almighty (v. 1, 2, 4)

ELW #858

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live to the Lord!

Thanks be to God!



*Altar Flowers are given to the
glory of God by
Mary Longhofer, in memory of
Eddie Longhofer*

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.

Bible Study

Bible study will be September 18th 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!



Good luck to all
participating in
the fair!

Confirmation Class

There will be no class on the September 20th.

Choir

Choir Practice is Wednesday September 20th at 6:30PM.

Church Gift Shop and Library

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

New items are available and seasonal items for Fall are being added.

There are also many adult and children's books on the shelves that can be checked out. Stop in to see all that is offered!

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!

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

October 21st is the day of Kid Fish. The schedule and the details of the day will be published soon.

Bod4God

Bod4God is here! It is a weekly event that begins on Monday, September 25th at 6:00PM. Join this journey of faith and weight loss ministry. Sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex. Please note the revised start date.

Weight-A-Thon

Pastor Norm has weighed in and is ready to support our youth go to camp. This will begin 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, September 18th

10:00AM Bible Study

Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, September 19th

9:00AM Music Planning Team

9:00AM Quilting

Wednesday, September 20th

No Confirmation

6:30PM Choir Practice

Pastor Norm out of office September 20th-24th



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 Jim & Sandy Kite Mike
Altman Emery & Helen Schulze Dennis Moehlmann Diana Williams Lloyd Neutzler Mollie Grote



Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries: (from the 10th), Gilbert Spinn, Brenda Randermann, Cathy Boeker, Jon Westerfeld, Billy Wellmann, David Clay, Michelle Janner, Shelly Lehmann, (for the 17th), Josh Church, Sophia Sulaica, Gabrielle Sommerfield, Florence Bentke, Charles Spinn and Gerald Kuecker
Those Celebrating wedding anniversaries: (from the 10th), James & Florence Wolff

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 to be held on October 22nd, (3:00pm-6:00pm) will soon be here. To help with planning, there are 2 sign-up sheets in the Narthex. 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 that are assisting with the bazaar. There will be something for everyone!

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

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.

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 Friday 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. Don't forget to sign-up either way, on-line or in the Narthex of the church.

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