

# St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill

## Pentecost 18, Proper 21

### October 1, 2023



### Worship Assistants

**Pastor:** Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.

**Lay Reader:** Sandy Ordner

**Sanctuary Prep:** Rachel Church, Sherry Randermann

**Accompanist:** Linda Schulze

**Ushers:** Colton Maass Family, Janice Fairlie

**Acolyte:** Cayd Wilkerson

**Altar Preparations:** Carolyn Kessel, Laura Sulaica

**Ladies Aid :** Carolyn Kessel, Susi Bentke

**Screen Crew:** Steve Skrla, Barnay Glaesmann

**Communion Bread:** Becky Schulze

**Council Members:** Sharon Neutzler, Virginia Altman

**Tellers:** Christin Seeker, Catherine Klatte

**Memorial Committee:** Debra Westerfeld  
Janet Wehring

**Church Ministers:** St John Members

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.**

Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord, let us with confidence draw near to God, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your lovingkindness. In your great mercy, wash away our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not remove us from your presence; do not take your Spirit away.**

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain us with your Spirit. Amen**

God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **GATHERING HYMN**

*Crown Him With Many Crowns (v. 1-4) ELW #855*

## **INTROIT with Psalm 147:6**

The LORD lifts up the humble;

**he casts the wicked to the ground.**

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

*ELW Pg. 147*

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Open the Eyes of My Heart*

**SCREEN**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,  
Open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see You,  
I want to see You.  
[Repeat]

{Chorus}  
To see You high and lifted up,  
Shining in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your pow'r and love,  
As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy, holy,  
I want to see You. [Repeat]

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Almighty and most Merciful God, through your bountiful goodness, keep us from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that you would have us do. Grant this, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING:

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? <sup>3</sup>As I live, declares the LORD God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

<sup>25</sup>“Yet you say, ‘The way of the LORD is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>26</sup>When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. <sup>28</sup>Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet

the house of Israel says, 'The way of the LORD is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the LORD God; so turn, and live."

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM:**

**Psalms 27:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;  
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>2</sup>**Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

<sup>3</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.

<sup>4</sup>**Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

<sup>5</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Gracious and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

<sup>8</sup>**He guides the humble in doing right  
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

<sup>9</sup>All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

**SECOND READING:**

**Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18**

<sup>1</sup>So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

<sup>14</sup>Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup>that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup>Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup>Likewise you

also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**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 21:23-27**

<sup>23</sup>When {Jesus} entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O’ Christ.

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Norman Sulaica, Jr.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*You Servants of God (v. 1, 2, 4)*

**ELW #825**

**CREED**

**\*Apostles’ 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,  
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.**

## 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.

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* **ELW Pg. 153**

**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.**

## **EUCCHARIST PRAYER**

*Let us pray.*

Gracious God, we lift up our soul and put our trust in You.  
Show us your ways and teach us your path through Your Son Jesus Christ.  
We present ourselves as a living sacrifice  
to be made holy through your forgiving love.  
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.

**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**

*O Bread of Life from Heaven*

**SCREEN**

**1      O Bread of life from heaven,  
         O Food to pilgrims given,  
         O Manna from above:  
         feed with the blessed sweetness  
         of your divine completeness  
the souls that want and need your love.**

**2      O Fount of grace redeeming,  
         O River ever streaming  
         from Jesus' wounded side:  
come now, your love bestowing  
on thirsting souls, and flowing  
till all are fully satisfied.**

**3      We love you, Jesus, tender,  
         in all your hidden splendor  
         within these means of grace.  
         Oh, let the veil be riven,  
and our clear eye in heaven  
behold your glory face to face.**



**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**

*Onward, Christian Soldiers*

***SCREEN***

- 1      **Onward, Christian soldiers,  
         marching as to war,  
         with the cross of Jesus  
         going on before.  
Christ, the royal master,  
         leads against the foe;  
         forward into battle,  
         see, his banners go!**

***Refrain***

**Onward, Christian soldiers,  
         marching as to war,  
         with the cross of Jesus  
         going on before.**

- 2      **Like a mighty army  
         moves the church of God;  
         let us boldly follow  
where the saints have trod.  
         We are not divided;  
         all one body we;  
         one in hope and doctrine,  
         one in charity. *Refrain***

3        Crowns and thrones may perish,  
              kingdoms rise and wane,  
              but the church of Jesus  
              constant will remain;  
              gates of hell can never  
              'gainst the church prevail.  
We have Christ's own promise,  
and that cannot fail. *Refrain*

4        Onward, then, you faithful,  
              join our happy throng;  
              blend with ours your voices  
              in the triumph song.  
              Glory, laud, and honor  
              unto Christ the king.  
We through countless ages  
with the angels sing: *Refrain*

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace, and rejoice in Jesus!  
Thanks be to God!



*Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
by Pastor Norm & Laura Sulaica*

#### 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.

### Weight-A-Thon

Sunday, September 17th, Pastor Norm stepped on the scale and revealed his weight. He weighed in at 298lbs, kicking off the beginning of Bod4God on Monday, September 25th at 6:00PM.

Bod4God is centered around scripture and weight loss. His purpose is to encourage each of you to commit to raising money for our youth to attend camp and also to encourage a healthier you. A sign up sheet to support this Weight-A-Thon will be available in the Narthex and remain throughout the event. You can make a financial commitment for every pound Pastor Norm loses. He will step back on the scale on January 21st, 2024.

### Semi-Annual Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the church will be held on October 22nd, following the worship service. An agenda was included in your October newsletter.

### 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](mailto:pastornorm2003@yahoo.com)

Special Fund Envelope for October is CASA for Kids

## 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



### Monday, October 2nd

10:00AM Bible Study  
6:00PM Bod4God  
6:00PM Executive Council

### Tuesday, October 3rd

4:30PM God Squad  
9:00AM Music Planning Team  
6:30PM Rachel Circle

### Wednesday, October 4th

5:00PM Confirmation  
6:30PM Choir Practice

### Thursday, October 5th

10:00AM Naomi Circle  
6:00PM Faith Lessons Bible Study

Church photos are October 5th-7th.

### Church Gift Shop and Library

Take the opportunity to visit the library, located across from the Pastor's office! Come by to see the many items available by donation. There are great gift ideas. New items are available and seasonal items for Fall are coming soon. Books for children and adults can be checked out. Come by and see what is available!

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: Tara Reuter, Tatum Lackey, Hunter Janner, Kevin Finke, Sandy Kite, Donna Skrla, Glenda Stegent, Star Cavner, Fred Gaskamp, Helen Gaskamp, Judy Grote, and Sydney Wagner

Those Celebrating wedding anniversaries: Wesley & Carol Westerfeld, Daniel & India Randermann

**Prayer Requests for Our Family and Friends:** (Prayer requests can be noted on the back of your attendance cards).

Aaron Batot	Dorothy Bowles	Missy Goldmith
Alan Pittman	Gladys Schwartz	Nicole Clark
Alyssa and Aliza Jones	Gloria Hanath	Patty Addicks
Amanda Gurka	James Lee	Roger Ellermann
Ann Fogt	Joe Deatherage	R.V. Pittman
Blake Townsend	Kelsey Mattheis	Shannon Wellmann
Brent Dorman	Kennedy Altman	Sue Beall
Carol Lieber	Mark Hundemer	Sue Maass
Christy Dallmeyer	Marlene Fairlie	Tess Loberg
David Majewski	Marvin Luedke	Wayne Hueske
Dora Pittman	Mike McIntyre	William Richter



*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](http://www.stjohnprairiehill.org)

### Bod4God

Bod4God is a meeting on October 2, 2023 at 6:00PM. Join this journey of faith and weight loss ministry. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

## **FAMILY FISH FEST (FORMERLY KID FISH)**

**OCTOBER 21ST**

**7:00AM REGISTRATION**

**12:00PM WEIGH-IN**

**6:00PM FISH FRY MEAL**

**FISHING AT SELECT PONDS ONLY.**

**PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AT THE MEAL.**

**AGES 0-99.**

### **Faith Lessons Bible Study Class**

A five week Bible Study class, Faith Lessons on the Promise Land, will begin in October 5th at 6:00PM. Filmed on location in Israel, Faith Lessons, is a unique video series that brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance by weaving together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious contexts. Join us in attending this this unique weekly event.

## Octoberfest

St John's Octoberfest will be held October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00-6:00 p.m. with German music by Allison Crowson's band from 3:00-5:00. German food will be served from 3:00-5:30, and the Bazaar and Silent Auction will be held from 3:00-5:30. There will also be kids' crafts, craft beer, and lawn games, so bring your lawn chairs and join the fun!

Sign up sheets are in the Narthex for those planning to attend and for what items will be donated, both will help with planning. Also please bring any donated items for the Bazaar or Silent Auction to the Parish Hall (entering through the double doors) Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00-4:00 p.m. as work will begin to arrange these items for the Octoberfest Bazaar. Again, items may be crafted, baked, or canned. Thank you ahead for all you may share. All donations from this event will go towards the Camp/Retreat Fund.

## Confirmation Class

Confirmation class is Wednesday, October 4th at 5:00pm.

### 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.

The sign-up sheets are available now.

### Bible Study

Bible study will be **Monday, October 2nd** at 10:00AM.

### Choir

Choir Practice is **Wednesday October 4th** at 6:30PM.