

St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill

Pentecost 14

September 14, 2025



Pastor: Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.
Accompanist: Linda Pieper
Acolytes: Alex Grote
Communion Bread: Gayle Himly
Lay Reader: Sandra Tillman
Family Aid: Deanna Giese
Altar Preparations: Carolyn Kessel
& Laura Sulaica
Screen Crew: Anna Finke
Memorial Committee: Debra Westerfeld & Janet Wehring

Quilters:
Ushers:

Council Members:

Tellers:

Sanctuary Prep:

Church Ministers:
Ladies Aid:

Sandy Ordner
Don Holtkamp,
Chris Koehler,
& Blake Becker
Gerald Hermann
& Jon Westerfeld
Donna Skrla
& Gary Schulze
Cathie Klatte
& Christin Seeker
St John Members
Linda Schulze
& Laura Sulaica

We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We ask that both members and visitors complete an attendance card each time you worship with us.

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PEACE

ELW Pg. 152

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness,

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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.

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. 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 sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

GATHERING HYMN Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (v. 1-3) **ELW #807**

INTROIT: Psalm 30:11a-21b

You turned my wailing into dancing

Lord my God, I will praise you forever.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CANTICLE OF PRAISE Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (v.1,3) ELW #836

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,

Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-24

¹¹“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

¹⁷As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet? ²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.”
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 119:169-176

¹⁶⁹ Let my cry come before you, O LORD;
give me understanding according to your word!

¹⁷⁰ **Let my plea come before you;
deliver me according to your word.**

¹⁷¹ My lips will pour forth praise,
for you teach me your statutes.

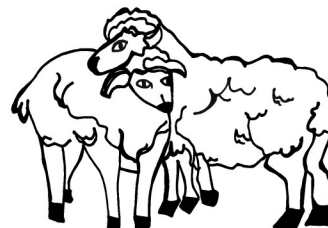
¹⁷² **My tongue will sing of your word,
for all your commandments are right.**

¹⁷³ Let your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.

¹⁷⁴ **I long for your salvation, O LORD,
and your law is my delight.**

¹⁷⁵ Let my soul live and praise you,
and let your rules help me.

¹⁷⁶ **I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.**



Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1: 12-17

¹²I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: This is the day

Screen

WORD OF GOD

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 15:1-10

¹ The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear {Jesus}. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling** **ELW #608**

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,
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

Each petition of prayers end with the following response:
God of grace, receive our prayer.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN We Give Thee But Thine Own

ELW #686

**1 We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**2 May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us,
to thee our first fruits give.**

**3 The captive to release,
to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace--
it is a Christ like thing.**

**4 And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.**

OFFERTORY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW #884

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

OFFERTORY 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy”

ELW# 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

O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise,
call us to your table, grant us your life.

**You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression,
he wept over the city. With infinite love,
he granted the people your life.**

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**]

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God you are Bread: feed us with yourself .
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

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”

**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

ELW # 484 (v 1,2,3) You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW # 789 (v 1-3) Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW # 676 (v1-4) Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

DECLARATION OF GRACE

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen

SENDING SONG Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (v.1,3,4) ELW #834

DISMISSAL

Go in peace for God transforms our suffering into joy.

Thanks be to God!

This Week's Events

Monday, September 15

10:00 AM Bible Study

6:00 PM Whittlers for Christ

6:30 PM Jump Start

Tuesday, September 16

6:30 AM Food Pantry

9:00 AM Music Planning

Quilting

6:00 PM Bible Study

Wednesday, September 17

6:30 PM Choir

Sunday, September 21

8:30 AM Sunday School

9:15 AM Worship Service

Updates from the Council Mailbox

-Due to a request, we are trying the passing of the offering plate through each pew.

We will monitor how this works.

-Dual communion lines are being tried for the summer months. We are adjusting things as your requests have suggested. Grape juice cups are being filled on Sunday by council members to avoid any spoilage since it has been refrigerated.

Common cup will be provided with the help of past or current council members willing to serve.

-Please keep in mind, if you have a request or complaint, sign your name on your paper so we can contact you personally.

Thank you,

Church Council

2025 ST JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS

President.....	Gerald Herrmann
Vice-President.....	Jon Westerfeld
Treasurer	Regina Holtkamp
Secretary	Cathy Boeker
Community Concerns.....	Gayle Bednar
Evangelism.....	Cindy Clay
Financial Secretary.....	Cassie Lynch
Parish Ed	Megan Schramme
Property.....	Colin Zimmerman
Worship & Music.....	Donna Skrla

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**Alter flowers
are given by
Judy Grote
in Memory of
Alex Grote**

Remember in Prayers Our Church Family:

Ruth Finke	Howard Kruse	Lloyd Neutzler
Verna Mae Sefcik	Mollie Grote	Jerry Randermann
Dorothy Wiesepape	Phyllis Bickham	Tom Bentke
Connie Seward	Florence Bentke	Shanan Marburger
Donald Lange	Ashley Armatys	Helen Schulze
Elsie Herrmann	Virginia Altman	Mary Longhofer
Janice Fairlie	Delores Seeker	Janice Cordova
Marjorie Hohlt	David Feldmann	John Haarmeyer
Milton Bosse	Laura Sulaica	Marburger Family

*Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries:
 9/10- Brenda Randermann, 9/11- Cathy Boeker,
 9/14-Howard Kruse and Jon Westerfeld
 Those celebrating wedding anniversaries:
 46th James and Florence Wolff on 9/15*

Our Family and Friends:

Sue Beall	Judith Huckert	Jill Finke
Robert Fuchs	Joe Frank Huckert	Karen Curtis
Christie Dallmeyer	Lewis Hodges	D Klausmeyer
Joe Deatherage	Trina Crenshaw	Weldon Haevischer
Mary Angel	Floyd Engeling	Bill Odom

*Names remain for 60 Days unless otherwise notified.
 Please use the back of the attendance card if someone needs to be added or removed from the list. Complete a card each time you attend a worship service.*

Luther League Meets today at 2:00 PM

Bills & Reimbursement

If anyone has bills or reimbursement receipts, please submit them by the 10th or 25th to be reimbursed on the 15th or the end of month checks. If requests come after 10th or 25th, the payment maybe held until the following pay period.

Thank you, Darrell & Regina

New Members

We are sure you have seen some new faces joining our worship service. If you would, take a minute to introduce yourself.

These are our newest members:

<i>Karen Anderson</i>	<i>Brandon & Kristie Marth</i>
<i>Richard & Jana Ahlers</i>	<i>Emma Marth</i>
<i>Jim & Hailey Kruse</i>	<i>Paige Marth</i>
<i>Jeanette Preuss</i>	<i>David Kruse</i>
<i>Bill & Cindy Morhofer</i>	<i>Garral & Linda Tiaden</i>
<i>Shelly Hawkins</i>	<i>Umberto Coppola</i>
<i>Rob & Sherrie Winkelmann</i>	<i>Josh & Jill Hyatt</i>
<i>Isabelle Hyatt</i>	<i>Luke Hyatt</i>

**If you would like to add something to the October Newsletter,
the deadline is September 22,2025**



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

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com Church Office Phone: 979-836-8666
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm Website: www.stjohnprairiehill.org
Church Council President Gerald Herrmann (979) 277-5877