



Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
7th Saturday after Pentecost* July 26, 2025

7th Saturday after Pentecost July 26, 2025

**GATHERING
ANNOUNCEMENTS
SONG**

Once Again in Jesus Name

We will gather as his children,
once again and worship him.
We will sing out songs of praises,
once again and worship him.

Once again in Jesus' name.
Once again we share together.
Once again in Jesus' name,
Once again his children gather.

We will offer grateful praises,
once again and worship him.
We'll surrender heavy burdens,
once again and worship him.

Once again in Jesus' name.
Once again we share together.
Once again in Jesus' name,
Once again his children gather.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Because we're joined to Christ in baptism, let us take a moment to be honest with God, with ourselves, and each other...

Let's pause for a moment of quiet reflection.

**C: God of mercy,
you've set us free to love, but too often we choose self-interest
instead of our neighbor. You offer joy and peace through your Spirit,
but we chase after other things. You surrounded us with kindness,
patience, and generosity, but sometimes we get tired and give up
doing what's right. Please forgive us. Don't give up on us.
Heal what's broken, set us free, and lead us into real, lasting life.
Amen.**

P: Here's the good news: You belong to Christ. Through faith, you are a child of God. Because of the cross and through the power of the Holy Spirit, you are completely forgiven. You are wrapped in grace and made new.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:20-32

²⁰ Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

SECOND READING

Colossians 2:6-19

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 11:1-13

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.'⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth—
a God who is full of love, who made all things good,
and who holds all things together.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Savior.
He was born like us, lived among us,
loved people fully and freely.
He was crucified, died, and was buried.
He rose again—defeating death—
and now lives and reigns with the Father forever.
One day, he will come again to make all things new.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God in us.
The Spirit gives life, builds up the Church,
and sends us out with courage and hope.**

**We believe in one global Church—past, present, and future—
and in the communion of all believers.
We believe in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and life that never ends. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: God of Grace, **C: Hear our prayer.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*(Please offer those around you a sign of peace as you are comfortable..
this can be a handshake, a thumbs up, a fist bump or simply a smile...)*



OFFERING SONG

Sanctuary

Lord prepare me..to be a sanctuary.
Pure and holy..and tried and true.
With thanksgiving..I'll be a living
Sanctuary..for..you

OFFERING PRAYER

All: Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is
plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor, that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

COMMUNION LITANY

Leader: Jesus calls us to gather for this holy meal—

All: not as strangers, but as beloved children of God.
This is the feast of grace, where heaven and earth meet.

Leader: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

THE DISTRIBUTION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of love and presence. As we receive this bread and cup, we remember your mercy, we proclaim your death, and we celebrate your risen life. **C: Amen**

BLESSING

P: Send now your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Make us one with him, one with each other, and one in service to your world. **C: Amen**

CLOSING SONG

Be Bold

Be bold ... Be strong ... for the Lord your God is with you.
Be bold ... Be strong ... for the Lord your God is with you.
Do not be afraid ... do not be dismayed
Walk in faith and victory ...
walk in faith and victory ...
walk in faith and victory ...
For the Lord, your God is with you.

SENDING

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!



St. John Lutheran Church

Williston, Ohio

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Pastor Shawn O'Brien
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Visit our website for information/calendars/updates
www.stjohnwilliston.org

***We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church.
We are... "creating and nurturing life changing relationships
based on the love of God in Jesus Christ,
so that we may grow in faith, serve God,
and serve our neighbor."***

Worship: Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday Worship 9:00 AM June-Labor Day

Church office hours:
M-T-W 9 AM to 3 PM (Thurs. hours may vary)
Office closed Friday
Email: office@stjohnwilliston.org

Welcome!

St. John practices "open communion". All who are baptized and instructed are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us today. Starting with the right side of the church, followed by the left when they are finished, the Pastor will distribute the bread and the communion assistant will serve the wine. We will also have pre-sealed elements available for those who would prefer the more hygienic option (or those who wish to receive grape juice instead of wine). Indicate to the Pastor that you would like pre-sealed elements and skip the wine server. Those who wish to receive a blessing should indicate their wishes to the Pastor by crossing their arms