



“Forgive your
brother or sister
from your heart.”

MATTHEW 18:35, NRSV

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifteenth Weekend after Pentecost

September 12 & 13, 2020



www.stjohnwilliston.org

September 12 & 13, 2020

Pentecost 15

**WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

GATHERING HYMN

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Lord, I lift your Name on high,
Lord, I love to sing your praises
I'm so glad you're in my life,
I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth
to show the way,
From the earth to the cross,
my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift your name on high.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

ALL: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Faithful God,

**ALL: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another**

before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Leader: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world

ALL: Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God;

while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

SONG

Kyrie Eleison

Refrain
Kyrie eleison,
on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, everyday

For peace in the world, For the health of the church,
For the unity of all.
For this holy house,
For all who worship and praise
Let us pray to the Lord,
Let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

For peace in our hearts, For peace in our homes
For friends and family,
For life and for love, For our work and our play,
Let us pray to the Lord,
Let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

Lord, have mercy, on our world and on our way, Lord, have mercy, everyday.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Leader: Drawn together in the compassion of God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Leader: You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Leader: The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world.

Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Leader: Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Leader: Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Leader: Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Leader: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

OUR OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen.



HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: 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.*

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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**

BLESSING

Leader: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

All: Amen

CLOSING SONG

Be Bold, Be Strong

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.

DISMISSAL

Leader: Depart in peace. Call a neighbor.

Be the church wherever you are. **ALL: Thanks be to God!**

Our Weekly Announcements

This Week at St. John

Tues: Blankets 9:00 AM
Thurs: Council Meeting 7:00 PM
Sat: Worship 5:00 PM
Sun: Sunday School 8:30 AM
Sun: Worship 9:45 AM

In our Prayers

Heather DeWitz-medical concerns
Wilma Smithers-medical concerns (Hospice)
Mark Witt-medical concerns
Lucy Witt-medical concerns
David Witty-medical concerns
Jack Mathews-medical concerns (upcoming surgery)
Ken and Pat Sievert- medical concerns
GaiLyn (friend of Margaret B)- medical concerns
Doris Titgemeyer- medical concerns
The family of Rosalie M. Baumbach

Fall Worship Hours begin September 13th. Saturday 5 PM * Sunday 9:45

We hope you will rejoin us for Worship on Saturdays at 5 PM or Sundays at 9:45 AM, however, if you do not feel comfortable coming to church ...that's ok! You will still be able to join us on Facebook or on our YouTube channel for a live stream of worship.

The weekly bulletin is also available on our website. **www.stjohnwilliston.org**

If you or someone you know would like a recording of the worship service, please let the office know and we will drop off or mail you a CD and bulletin.

Welcome
back to
SUNDAY
SCHOOL!



New Fall Hours/Sunday School Starting! September 13th

Saturday Worship 5 PM (in person and online)

Sunday School 8:30 AM (in person)

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM (in person and online)

Sunday School begins this week! Classes for all ages begin at 8:30 AM. We will be social distancing and sanitizer will be available. Please wear your mask.



The St. John Mini Pantry / Blessing Box is Open!

The St. John Mini Pantry will be stocked with ready to eat or easily prepared food items and hygiene items available to those in our community who may need a little help. We accept donation of non expired non perishable food items anytime. We are also accepting donations of travel size personal items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, travel size tissues and shampoo.

Office Hours

At this time, Pastor O'Brien and LisaAnne will maintain office hours Mon-Fri from 9 am to 3 pm. If you need something, please call 419-836-5514 ahead of time. If the door is locked, please ring the bell.

You may also email/text Pastor O'Brien 419-378-1112

pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Or email the office at **office@stjohnwilliston.org**

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Frederick Sandrock by Marilyn Sandrock and Carolyn Lasseter

The Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Mother and Grandmother, Lois Base by Diana and Christopher Pfaff and Cheryl Berger, Craig and Kelly Morse, Jeremiah Berger and Shelby Barney.

Holy Communion during times of COVID

We have adapted an order for the "Distribution of Holy Communion To Those in Special Circumstances". If you would like share the Lord's Supper with a family member who is unable to be present for our celebration of Holy Communion - and you can do it safely; its someone who lives in your home or someone you provide care for – talk to Pastor O'Brien following worship and he will share how that works.



**The Stephen Ministers at St. John are here for you.
If you need assistance, support, information or would just like to
talk...call Pastor O'Brien or the church office at (419) 836-5514 to be
put in contact with one of our Stephen Ministers.**



21120 W. Toledo Street P.O. Box 235
Williston, Ohio 43468 (419) 836-5514
Pastor Shawn O'Brien
www.stjohnwilliston.org
Email: office@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."***

Saturday Worship 5:00 PM * * Sunday Worship 9:45 AM
Sunday School for all ages 8:30 AM
Worship services are recorded and streamed
on our Facebook Page and our YouTube channel.



***We are a Stephen Ministry Church.
"Christ Caring for People through People"***

***If you need someone to talk to during this stressful
time, please call Pastor O'Brien or the church office and
we will connect you with one of our Stephen Ministers.***