

**“Be opened.”
And immediately his
ears were opened,
his tongue was released ...**

Mark 7:34-35, NRSV



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifteenth Weekend after Pentecost

September 4th and 5th



www.stjohnwilliston.org

September 4th and 5th

Fifteenth Weekend of Pentecost

WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story, of unseen things above.
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know its true,
It satisfies my longings, as nothing else would do.

REFRAIN

**I love to tell the story; twill be my theme in glory to tell the old,
old story of Jesus and his love.**

I love to tell the story, how pleasant to repeat,
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. **REFRAIN**

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. **REFRAIN**

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: God our comforter,

**ALL: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance
and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and
oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us
from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

Leader: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

ALL: Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

SECOND READING

James 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o're all things is wondrously reigning
And as on winds of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do if with his love he befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

APOSTLES' CREED

**C: 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 Pi-
late, 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

Leader: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need

A brief silence.

Leader: Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer

Leader: You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer

Leader: You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. Unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer

Leader: You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer

Leader: You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer

Leader: You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer

Leader: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

OUR OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: God of abundance,

ALL: you cause streams to break forth in the desert, and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, one God, bless you now and forever.

All: Amen

CLOSING SONG

Our God

Water, you turned into wine opened the eyes of the blind.
There's no one like You, none like You.

Into the darkness You shine, out of the ashes we rise.
There's no one like You, none like You.

REFRAIN

**God is our greater, God is our stronger.
God, You are higher than any other.
Our God is healer, our God is power, our God, our God.**

Into the darkness You shine, out of the ashes we rise.
There's no one like You, none like You. **REFRAIN**

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

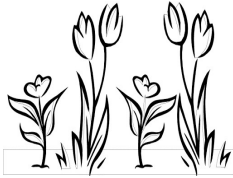
Weekly Announcements

This Week at St. John

Tues: Blankets 9:00 AM
Tues: WELCA Meetings 2pm and 7pm
Sat: Worship 5:00 PM
Sun: Worship 9:45 AM
Sun: Sunday School Kick Off
Sun: God's Work, Our Hands

In our Prayers

Audry S.-medical concerns
Jeff Wheeler- medical concerns
Clarence Smithers- medical concerns
Pat Sievert- medical concerns
Ken Sievert- medical concerns
Marilyn Sandroock- medical concerns
Brad- medical concerns
Betty Roecker- medical concerns
Phil Milbrodt- medical concerns



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given in honor of Jane Lammers, Fred's mom and given by Fred and Melissa Lammers.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

If you would like to volunteer please sign up outside Pastor O'Brien's office or contact the church office.

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH
SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY
8:30am**



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH St John Annual Golf Outing

For information on registering a team or sponsoring a hole, please pick up forms outside the church office, view them online, or call the church office.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are working on the updated church directory. If you have not sent in your form and have not received a phone call from the committee, please do so. Forms are in the Forerunner, by the elevator door and in the back of church. You can also do it on the churches website or simply call in your info. Even if there is no change, please notify us. Pictures will be taken on Sept 11 and 12 by the elevator door.

BLANKET RAFFLE

Blankets will be on display September 11/12 and 18/19. If you would like to purchase one, we are asking \$25. Give your money to one of the Blanket ladies or put in the offering and mark it for blanket. Raffle tickets will be sold starting on September 11 in the cloister. Also the silent auction will be held for a John Deere blanket and for a Ohio State/ Michigan blanket. Deadline for tickets and auction is September 26.