



Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Back 2 School Blessings* Saturday, August 16, 2025

10th Saturday after Pentecost

August 16, 2025

**GATHERING
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SONG

This is the Day

This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Sing to the world a brand new song about Je-sus.

Sing to the world, tell ev-rybody that here ... today ... it's start-ing ...

A new day is dawn-ing ... Today ... today ... today ...

This is the day!

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

Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³ Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer

and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:49-56

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O’Brien



Charge to the Parents

Leader – Parents may the Holy Spirit remind you that as covenant partners, our faith community is here for you and your children.

As you send them to be molded and shaped in knowledge, may you remember they are gifts from God. Know that God’s blessing is with you to help them reach their potential because they are made in the image of God. As you prepare clothes, lunches, and backpacks.

People – May you be filled with peace.

Commissioning of Teachers/Professors

Leader – Educators, may God’s blessing, protection, and Spirit be upon you as you guide, lead, serve, and even comfort students. You have been called by God to be ambassadors for Christ, living out God’s love in your daily work. As you educate God’s children of all ages...

People – May you be filled with mercy and wisdom.

Leader – As you encounter challenging situations and challenging students,

People – May you love and serve as Christ, in the strength of the Spirit.

Prayer for Students

Leader – Students, may God surround you with blessings and protection as you carry these backpacks for this new school year. As you carry notes, books, and assignments, know that you also carry the love of Christ to see everyone around you as someone loved by God.

People – May you be filled with God’s grace.

Leader – As you grow in wisdom and knowledge

People – May you grow in compassion.

Prayer for College Students

Leader– Lord, Bless and protect these women and men as they begin another school year. Watch over those who are moving away and grant safe travels to those who will commute. Remind them of the lessons they have learned in this community of faith. Fill them with good judgement, that they may remain focused in their studies, open to learn new things, and far from foolishness.

People- Grant these students the mind of Christ- that they may grow in your wisdom and truth. And whatever their field of study, that they may serve you with compassion and carry your light throughout their campuses.

Blessing

We thank you for each student, their life among us, and the future before them. Lead them in your way, your truth, and your life. Let each classroom they enter be a place of life and light, warmth and welcome, discovery and growth. Give them good friends and let be good friends for others. Set them at tasks which demand their best efforts, and lead them to accomplishments which satisfy and delight. Let them not take failures and disappointments as a measure of their worth but as opportunities for new learning and new beginnings. Open their hearts to life and their minds to learning. Let Holy Wisdom be their companion.

Send your holy angels to guard and protect all students and teachers. Let their names be always on the lips of your saints in prayer. Bless and keep them. Let your face shine upon them. Be gracious to them. and give them peace.

ALL: 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 fist bump or simply a smile....)*

OFFERING SONG

Sanctuary

Lord prepare me..to be a sanctuary.
Pure and ho-ly..and tried and true.
With thanksgiving..I'll be a liv-ing
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, 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**

THE DISTRIBUTION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God of Fullness,
you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: Amen

BLESSING

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen

CLOSING SONG

Step by Step

O God, you are my God, And I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, And I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, And I will learn to walk in your ways.

And step by step you'll lead me, And I will follow you all of my days.

(Repeat)

And I will follow you all of my days, And I will follow you all of my days,

And step by step you'll lead me, And I will follow you all of my days.

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-August
(9:45 AM beginning Sept. 7th)

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