

Old Testament Reading:
Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁷His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁸But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ¹⁹As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²⁰So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Epistle: Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of

the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21–35

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."

²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Forgive



Matthew 18:21



About the Cover: Forgiveness cannot be quantified. The unforgiving servant in Jesus' parable shows that disregarding his own forgiveness results in withholding it from fellow servants. But forgiveness is to be given just as it has been received. Our debt of sin could not be overcome by us. But Christ paid what we could not by His death on the cross. Therefore, the abundance of His forgiveness leads us to forgive one another abundantly.

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

815-989-2025

September 13, 2026 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of Prayer and Preaching (Lutheran Service Book, p. 260)

Hymn of Invocation 801 How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from lofty moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou
art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to
Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Opening Versicles

P This is the day which the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere; C
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C Teach me Your paths.

P Sanctify us in Your truth.

C Your Word is truth.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for
ever. Amen.

Psalm 119:129-136 (PE) *(in place of Old Testament Cantic)* ¹²⁹Your

testimonies are wonderful;

therefore my soul keeps them.

¹³⁰**The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant,
because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love your name.**

¹³³Keep steady my steps according to your promise,
and let no iniquity get dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Redeem me from man's oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.**

¹³⁵Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.
to my God I cried for help.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Responsory

P Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens. C
Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place
where Your glory dwells.

P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. **C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Catechism

Ten Commandments

C You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**C 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.

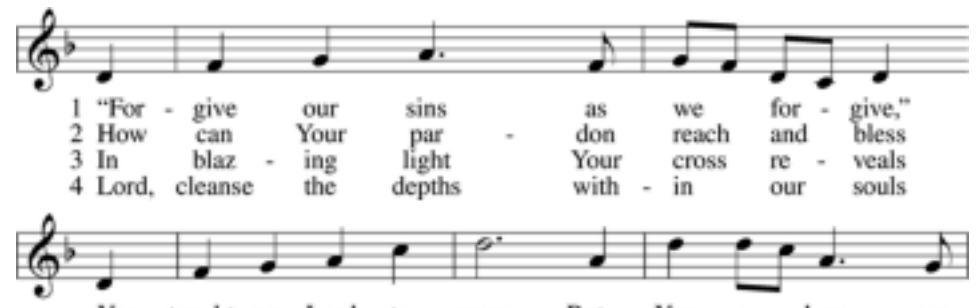
Augsburg Confession Chief Articles of Faith
Article XXI Worship of the Saints

Our churches teach that the history of the saints may be set before us so that we may follow the example of their faith and good works, according to our calling. For example, the emperor may follow the example of David in making war to drive the Turk from his country. For both are kings. But the Scriptures do not teach that we are to call on the saints or to ask the saints for help. Scripture sets before us the one Christ as the Mediator, Atoning Sacrifice, High Priest, and Intercessor. He is to be prayed to. He has promised that He will hear our prayer. This is the worship that He approves above all other worship, that He be called upon in all afflictions. “If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father.”

Sermon



Office Hymn 843 “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”



and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Morning Prayer

**C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ,
Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all**

you taught us, Lord, to pray; but you alone can
The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
The truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are in
And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
owed to us, How great our debt to You!
bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

Presentation of the Offering

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayer concludes:

P ... one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect of the Day

P O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness,
hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of
persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

Collect for the Word

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be
written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read,
mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and
comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast
the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this
day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life
may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my
body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with
me, that the evil foe may have no power

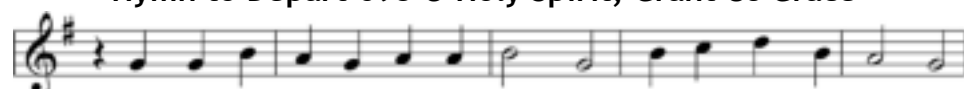
Amen.

Blessing over me.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and
the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart 693 O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, grant us grace That we our Lord and Sav - ior
2 Help us that we Thy sav - ing Word In faith - ful hearts may trea - sure;
3 And when our earth - ly race is run, Death's bit - ter hour im - pend - ing,



In faith and fer - vent love em - brace And tru - ly serve Him ev - er.
Let e'er that Bread of Life af - ford New grace in rich - est mea - sure.
Then may Thy work in us be - gun Con - tin - ue till life's end - ing,



The hour of death can - not bring loss When we are shel - tered
O make us die to ev - 'ry sin, Each day cre - ate new
Un - til we glad - ly may com - mend Our souls in - to our



by the cross That can - celed our trans - gres - sions,
life with - in, That fruits of faith may flour - ish.
Sav - ior's hand, The crown of life ob - tain - ing.



Acknowledgements

Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

Hymn 801, Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine,
1899–1989 Tune: Swedish; arr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989

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Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph

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+ ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

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HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AVAILABLE

Rev. Timothy Nerud, Pastor 815-989-2025 (Office)

612-940-8138

(Cell)

Elder: Mike Dahl

Hymn Leader: Larry Kane or Bobby Wolfe

Greeter: Janet Bertsons

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

WE PRAY: Gracious God, as You maintain the purity of the Kingdom of Grace
by constant forgiveness because of Christ, so help us to purify the community of
saints by constant forgiveness like Yours, each to the other of us because of
Christ; who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us
forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our
Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down
from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of

prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please
ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich
spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our
risen Christ be yours always.

OFFICE HOURS

Terri Monday—Friday, please call ahead Pastor Tuesday— Friday
please call ahead

STREAM SERVICES <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on
the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org or

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsLutheranChurchGeneseoIl>

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Sunday school—1/1 Adult Bible class—13 Worship —50

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday \$3,960.00 Weekly Budget for 2026 \$4,379.13

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today 8:45 amSS/Adult & Youth Bible Study 10:00 am

Outdoor Divine Worship

Tuesday 5:00 pm Confirmation

6:30 pm SS Teachers

Thursday 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study

Next Sunday 10:00 am Divine Worship/Holy Communion

NATIONAL OFFERING—You have the opportunity to give to the National
Offering which is taken each year of the Synodical Convention. This offering
reflects the church's call to share the Gospel message around the world. Your
gifts will directly benefit ongoing work carried out at the local level by LCMS
congregations, districts and others supporting the LCMS Family Ministry,
Youth Ministry, Campus Ministry and School Ministry. More information will
be coming in the future months. Place your gifts in the offering plate in the Nar
thex anytime during the next 3 weeks. Check maybe made out to *St. John's
Church* adding *National Offering* in the memo line.

Building Healthy Families: Want to be closer to your spouse,
children, or grandchildren? Praying as a couple or as a family is
one of the most powerful and intimate things you can do together.
Start simply by pray ing for things you're thankful for, things you
need, or things you're worried about. Pray for people you know
who are struggling. If you're not currently praying aloud together, consider the
many positive im pacts of doing so. You will be drawn closer to God, and to
each other. Find a creative, practical, and free downloadable resource for fun
ways to build prayer into you and your family's daily life, created by our
friends at Concordia Center for the Family at

<https://www.concordiafamilystore.org/resources/p/family-prayer-handout>.

www.LutheranFamilyService.org **Lutheran Family Service**

COMING SOON!

2027 is the 120th Anniversary of CID and the
first 5 Circuits (ours being the Peoria-Rock
Island Circuit). It is also the 70th year since



the Rock Island Circuit branched off its own. The Rock Island Circuit office administrators are currently working on creating a beautiful wall calendar that will highlight the 12

churches in our Rock Island Circuit. This October, each of the 12 sister congregations will have a copy to view and begin taking orders. We are aiming for a delivery date of December 1. All additional proceeds will be given to our very own Cristo Rey Lutheran Church.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Rejoice in God's goodness in Christ as you pray:

MISSION—*Thank God for the Holy Spirit. Pray that He would keep all in the true faith.*

ST JOHN'S—Mr. & Mrs. Lucas Thompson—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Luc, Nicole, Aaron, Adam, and Andrew asking Your blessings on them.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants: **Linda Aper Paula Chapa Joyce DeFauw John Erdman Betty Firch Marcia Helke Jessica Johnson Rosalie Jorgensen Larry Kane Linda Lundquist Mary Jayne Nash Aaron Raschke Drew Schillinger Carolyn Werner Carolyn Wildermuth Marilyn Woods**

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)
Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)
Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)
Marty Cavato (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)
Ellen Bauer (grandmother of Joel Werling)
Joline Parrish (sister of Gayla Kroll)
Ann Behrendt (daughter of Carolyn Wildermuth)
Lyall Talarico (niece of Mary Jo Gehn)
Cindy Davenport (cousin of Terri Hock)
Chad Gehn (nephew of Brad Gehn)
Jeff Schreck (cousin of Terri Hock)
Ralph Boney (uncle of Larry Hock)

MILITARY—Pray for our military and their families:

Karl & Hannah Flynn (son/daughter-in-law of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)
Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)
Chase Werling (nephew of Joel Werling)
Carter Martwig (nephew of Joel Werling)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“Again, our worth is never determined by what we do. God has given us value by creating, redeeming, and calling us as His own. Still, we can be comforted knowing that even as we age and reach the point where we can no longer be active, God not only watches over us and cares for us, He accomplishes great and wonderful things through us. May the Lord of life grant us the faith and the strength to bear the crosses of aging in such a way that others are led to see the love of Christ manifest in us!” *Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Lutheran Family Service is seeking a School-Based Mental Health Counselor / School Partnership Coordinator to provide Christ-centered counseling and support services to students and families in a partner school in Davenport, Iowa. This position combines counseling, classroom education, crisis response, and school partnership development in a faith-based setting. Candidates should hold a master's degree in a mental health-related field and have Iowa licensure or licensure eligibility. Part-time and full-time opportunities are available. To learn more or apply, send your resume to Cassie Beltz at cbeltz@lutheranfamilyservice.org.

Lutheran Family Service is also seeking a Part-Time Pregnancy Counselor & Adoption Caseworker serving Central Illinois. This role provides life-affirming counseling to women facing unplanned pregnancies, supports birth families, and guides adoptive families through the adoption process. Ideal candidates have a bachelor's degree in social work or a related human-services field and a desire to serve in a Christian, faith-based ministry dedicated to helping women, children, and families. For more information or to apply, contact Kim Laube at klaube@lutheranfamilyservice.org.

Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you! 800-324-9458 and use code: HABC001

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention

September 30, 2026 from 8 am—5 pm