

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

Epistle: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put

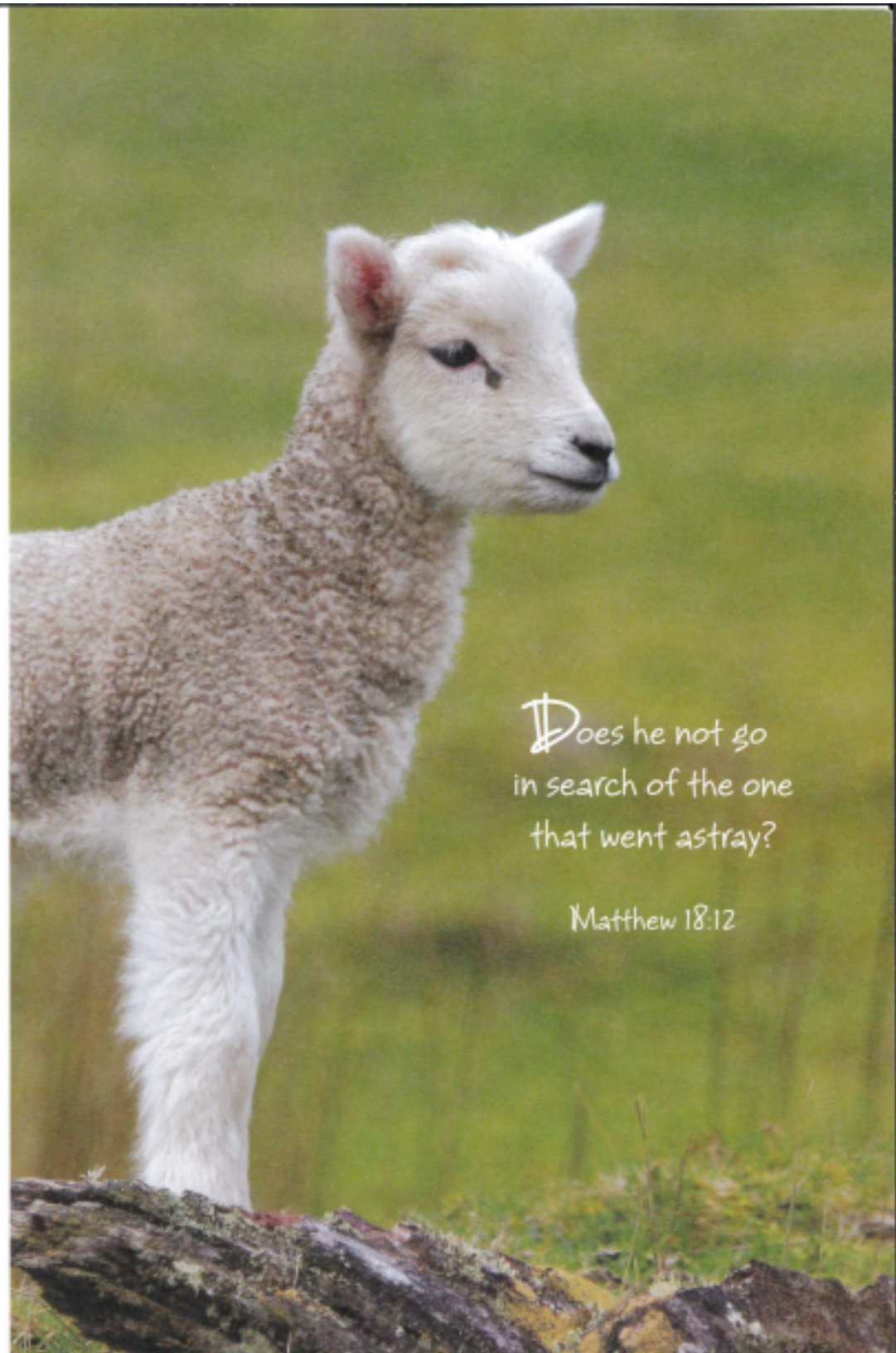
him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."



Does he not go
in search of the one
that went astray?

Matthew 18:12



About the Cover: Every single little sheep in the Lord's flock is precious to Him. He, like a shepherd in search of his lost sheep, is willing to go to great lengths to find every missing sheep. You are also precious to Your Savior, who laid down His life for you on the cross (John 10:17). He knows you by name (John 10:3). He has gone to great lengths to find you, who was once lost. But today, you are found, and there is great rejoicing!

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

815-989-2025

September 6, 2026 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service Three (Lutheran Service Book, p. 184)

Hymn of Invocation 873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Invocation and Versicles (p. 184)

Introit *Psalm 92:1-4; antiphon: v. 5* How great are your works, O Lord!

Your thoughts are very deep!

**It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;**

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

and your faithfulness by night,

to the music of the lute and the harp,

to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;

at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

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.

How great are your works, O Lord!

Your thoughts are very deep!

Gloria Patri and Kyrie (p. 186)

Gloria In Excelsis (p. 187)

Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 189)

P O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your hum ble
servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on
the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, ac
complish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.

C Amen. (*sung*)

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Gradual *Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.* Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who

fear him lack nothing! **Many are the afflictions of the righteous,**

but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Alleluia (p. 190)

The Nicene Creed (p. 191)

Hymn of the Day 820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker

Sermon

Offertory (p. 192)

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.

Service of the Sacrament (p. 194)

(Please read the statement below before receiving Holy Communion.)

Distribution Hymns

614 "As Surely as I Live," God Said

665 Be Strong in the Lord

836 O God of Light

Nunc Dimittis (p. 199)

Hymn to Depart 598 Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters

Silent Prayer

Receiving Holy Communion at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church The

Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John's in the confession and confidence that,

as He says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but

His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, to

strengthen our fight against sin and grow in His likeness, to assure us of our

own bodily resurrection on the Last Day, and to increase our unity of love with

Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His

words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He

forgives and loves us, so that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to

their great harm and judgment, and because Holy Communion is a confession of

the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in

doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are asked to first speak with the pastor

before receiving the Sacrament.

For further study: Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor 10:16; 11:17-

34; Acts 2:42; 20:27.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

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Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org

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: From of old You have established that all divine and human relationships should be of love, Almighty God, therefore teach us to love You and to love our neighbor as well and so fulfill Your Law; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with the Father 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 all ways.

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/@StJohnsLutheranChurchGeneseo11>

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Sunday school—3/2 Adult Bible class—10 Worship—44

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday \$6,100.00 Weekly Budget for 2026 \$4,379.13

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

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

Worship/Holy Communion Thursday 6:00 pm Elders meeting

Next Sunday 10:00 am Divine Worship/Holy Communion

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalms 122:1

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 Narthex 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: Every day, your Lutheran Family Service counselors walk alongside people facing grief, broken relationships, anxiety, trauma, and life's many challenges. While professional care is important, our ultimate hope is in the Lord. Psalm 34 reminds us that God is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Whatever burden you're carrying today, know that nothing is beyond His notice and care. If you or someone you know could benefit from compassionate Christian counseling, call us. It's why we're here!
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—*Than God that He is our loving heavenly Father, for His beautiful creation, for daily bread that all would be fed and clothed this day. Thank God for Jesus.* He is our only Savior from sin, death and the power of the devil.

ST JOHN'S—Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Werner—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 Dan and Carolyn 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

“However imperfect, every day comes as opportunity and privilege. They usually require patience and persistence, of course, and not a little bit of shared sweat and tears. But they turn out the sweeter for it. ‘When she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world’ (John 16:21). ‘Take heart; I have overcome the world’ (John 16:33)!” *Rev. Michael Salemink, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*