

Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20, 2026
17th Weekend after Pentecost



*So the LAST
will be
FIRST
and the FIRST
LAST.*

Matthew 20:1-16



Pastor Selena Blackwell • Cell: 860-965-4446 • Email: pastor@elcastjohns.org

Worship Services: Saturdays at 5:00pm • Sundays at 9:45am

*Parish Education: Sunday School - Grades Pre-K to 6th - 8:30am • Adult Forum - 8:30am
Confirmation - Grades 7 & 8 - Wednesdays 6:30pm*

Church Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9am-2pm • Fri 9am-12pm (call first)

235 S Green Street | PO Box 245 | Somonauk, IL 60552 | 815-498-3667

office@elcastjohns.org | www.elcastjohns.org



September 20-27

Sunday	8:30am Sunday School Rally Day 9:45am Worship 10:45am Lunch & Fellowship
Wednesday	6:30pm Confirmation—St. John's
Saturday	5:00pm Worship
Sunday	8:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 9:45am Worship



This year, United Church of Sandwich will be hosting the CROP Walk on Sunday, October 4th, 2026. Registration will begin at 1:15pm and the walk will start at 2:00pm. Please contact Mike Hamer or Mark Lee with any questions.



Grab your fishing pole and join us for a morning of fun at the Cole's Camp Fishing Derby!

Cole's Camp invites community members of all ages to come together for a fun-filled morning of fishing, friendship and making memories.

 **Saturday, September 26, 2026**  **9:00am**

 **Newark Sportsman's Club - Newark, IL**



This weekend! September 20th!
Sunday School 8:30AM Worship 9:45AM
Light Lunch after worship



Offering 9/5 and 9/6	Received	Received YTD
General Fund	\$4,269.44	\$135,806.57
Capital Fund	\$736.60	\$17,233.91
LWR Shipping Fund	\$1,048.72	\$1,048.72
Our Sharing Pantry—Utilities	\$175.00	\$1,575.00
LWR School bag supplies	\$100.00	\$706.60
Feed My Starving Children	\$67.60	\$135.10



It's time to read with Mrs. Merkel's newest Kindergarten Class!

Sign up in the Welcome Center

for the first installment:

Wednesday, September 30th at 10:00am

Note Date Change!!!

Prayer Requests

Mary Bark
Mary Carlson
Lance Davenport
Judy Erickson
Lee Gehrke
Sharon Goode
Karol Grandgeorge's daughter, Lisa

Mike Hamer
Scott Horsch
Mary Ann Hulon
Anna Judge
Rhea Lumsden
Linda Martin
James Moris
Lonnie Murray
Kay Nelson

Jeanette Pfeifer
Anita Reiss
Roger & Helen
Shelly
Lynn Skryzpiec
Rosemary Underwood
Jackie Wendland
Cindy Westbrook
Susan White

Dates to Remember

Month	Date	Occasion
SEPTEMBER	30	READING BUDDIES
OCTOBER	4	CROP WALK
OCTOBER	11	BOTANICAL PUMPKIN WORKSHOP
OCTOBER	25	GLORY WAY CONCERT

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: **Amen.**

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn W&P 14 Baptized and Set Free

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

The Kyrie is presented in three staves of musical notation. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with the English text in blue and the Greek text in black. The first staff has the lyrics: **A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy. The second staff has the lyrics: **A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy. The third staff has the lyrics: **A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty and eternal God,

C: **you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

A: The **First Reading** comes from Exodus Chapter 16 vs 2-15

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A: Our Psalm today is Psalm 105 vs 1-6, 37-45

¹ Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's name;
make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.

² **Sing to the Lord, sing praises, and speak of all God's marvelous works.**

³ Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

⁴ **Search for the strength of the Lord; continually seek God's face.**
⁵ Remember the marvels God has done, the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,
⁶ **O offspring of Abraham, God's servant, O children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.**
³⁷ You led out your people with silver and gold;
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
³⁸ **Egypt was glad to see them go, because they were afraid of them.**
³⁹ You spread out a cloud for a covering and a fire to give light by night.
⁴⁰ **They asked, and you brought quail,**
and satisfied them with bread from heaven.
⁴¹ You opened the rock, and water flowed, so the river ran in the dry places.
⁴² **For you remembered your holy word and Abraham your servant.**
⁴³ So you led forth your people with gladness, your chosen with shouts of joy.
⁴⁴ **You gave your people the lands of the nations, and they took the fruit of**
others' toil,
⁴⁵ that they might keep your statutes and observe your teachings. Hallelujah!

A: The Second Reading comes from Philippians Chapter 1 verses 21-30

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

P: The **Holy Gospel** according to St. Matthew the 20th Chapter

C: **Glory to you O Lord.** **Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day W&P 6 Alleluia

Apostle's Creed

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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 Pilate, 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

P: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

A: ... Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us offer to each other the sign of peace.

Offering

Please stand as you are able.

Offering Prayer

P: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: **Amen.**

Dialogue

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: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things: our Savior, Jesus Christ. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out of the womb. You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing; all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn :



Eucharistic Prayer

P: Gathered at and around the Lord's table, we remember with thanksgiving that *"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

P: Let us pray together the words our Savior gave us:

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Please be seated. The usher will direct you when to come forward for Holy Communion.

Holy Communion is served.

Please stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

A: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ELW 733 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Pastor & Assisting Minister process to back of sanctuary during Sending Hymn.

Dismissal

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

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