

Saturday, September 5 and Sunday, September 6, 2026
Creation in Christ Weekend



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

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

Church Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9am-2pm • Fri 9am-12pm

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UPCOMING EVENTS

for the week of
September 6-13

Sunday	9:00am Worship 4:30pm School bag filling event; pizza after
Tuesday	9:00am-3:00pm LWR Workday
Wednesday	9:00am-3:00pm LWR Workday
Saturday	5:00pm Worship
Sunday	8:30am Worship at the Sandwich Fair No worship at St. John's

Rebekah Circle for September '26

Date: Thursday, Sept. 17th **Time:** 1:00 pm. **Location:** St. John's Lutheran

Lesson: Lesson: Food for the Journey – Session #2 p.32

Hostess: Connie Hamer

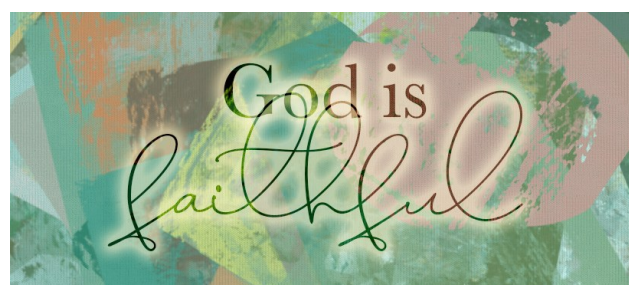


RAVEN
BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

During the week at St. John's, the Sunday School area of the church will be used by Raven Behavior Analysis, a company that Lily Horsch works for, to provide ABA therapy services to children with autism. ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) is a type of therapy that helps children learn necessary social and communicational skills through play and positive reinforcement techniques. We are grateful for the opportunity to make use of this space in a way that supports children and families in our community. If you know of any children or families that may benefit, please reach out to Lily Horsch at 815-570-7567, or contact the church office. We are currently looking for clients in the area!

Check out the website: ravenbehavior.com

Offering 8/29 and 8/30	Received	Received YTD
General Fund	\$2,192.00	\$129,875.13
Capital Fund	\$140.00	\$16,422.31
LWR School Bag supplies	\$170.00	\$606.00



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	6	FILL SCHOOL BAGS/PIZZA
SEPTEMBER	20	RALLY DAY
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, our hope, our heart, our home.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,

C: **we confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate oppression and injustice. We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves. We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

P: When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure. Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. In the name of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Be in peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn ELW 835 All Creatures Worship God

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 English lyrics in blue and Latin lyrics in black. The first staff has the lyrics: **A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy. Below the English lyrics is the Latin text: Lord, ... have mer - cy:. The second staff has the lyrics: **A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy. Below the English lyrics is the Latin text: Christ, ... have mer - cy:. The third staff has the lyrics: **A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy. Below the English lyrics is the Latin text: Lord, ... have mer - cy:.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God our defender,

C: **in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

A: The **First Reading** comes from Genesis Chapter 2 vs 4-25

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A: Our Psalm today is Psalm 148

¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

² **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ **He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² **Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven..

¹⁴ **He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!**

A: The Second Reading comes from Acts Chapter 17 verses 22a, 24-28

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. John the 1st Chapter

C: **Glory to you O Lord.** **Gospel: John 1:1-5**

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW 740 God of the Sparrow

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: We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need.

A brief silence.

A: ... Hear us, O God, source of life

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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: The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

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: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord .

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

P: Creator God bless you and keep you.
Creating Christ ✝ shine through you with grace and mercy.
Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace .

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ELW 881 Let All Things Now Living

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

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Flourish with creation!

C: **Thanks be to God.**



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

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