20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 11, 2026



ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
est. 1760

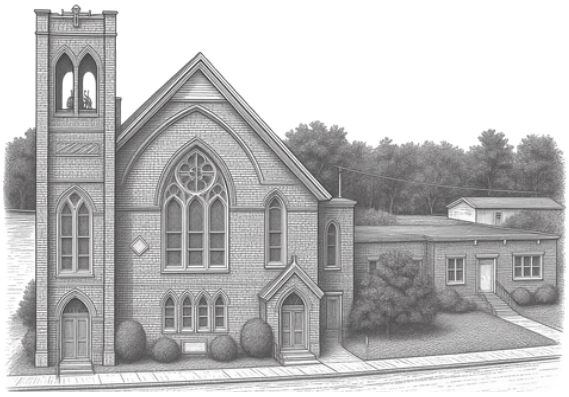
October 11, 2026

Introduction

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Welcome to St. John's!

If you are exploring faith, have questions about baptism or holy communion, desire to be involved in our ministries, or wish to become a member of St. John's - please feel free to talk with Pastor Shawn or Deacon Amy. We hope to worship and fellowship with you again soon.



Prelude *"Blessed Assurance"* *Williams/Knapp*

– Welcome & Announcements –

*Special Thanks to our **Junior Choir** for sharing their Musical talents with us today!*

THE GATHERING

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
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.

(Continued)

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.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn ELW 522

"As We Gather at Your Table"



*The Greeting

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

***The Kyrie**



"Brand New Song"
– Junior Choir –

***Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us Pray... Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of:

Darlene Rodgers

By Donald Rodgers

THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9



1 O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
2 For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
3 Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
4 For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
5 the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.
6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
7 And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
8 he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.
9 It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

The Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

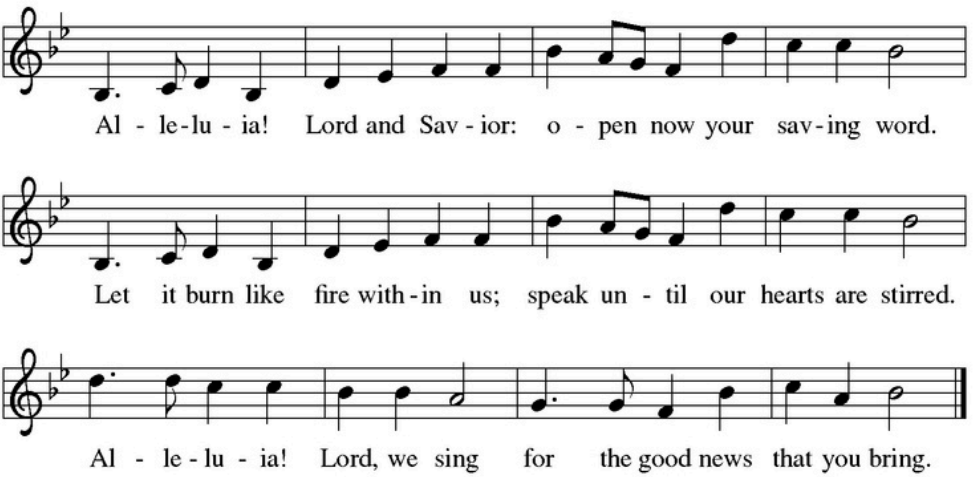
Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

[2] I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in
the Lord. [3] Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help
these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of
the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my
coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.
[4] Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. [5] Let your
gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. [6] Do not be
anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made
known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ
Jesus.

[8] Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is
honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is
pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these
things. [9] As for the things that you have learned and received
and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace
will be with you.

The Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14



The Holy gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-second chapter.
Glory to you, Oh Lord.

[1] Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: [2] "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. [3] He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. [4] Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' [5] But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, [6] while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. [7] The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. [8] Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. [9] Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' [10] Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. [11] "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, [12] and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. [13] Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' [14] For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Oh Christ.**

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***Hymn of the Day** **ELW 462**

"Now We Join in Celebration"



*The Apostles' Creed

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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Amen.**

*Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Offertory Anthem *Chancel Choir*

"Christ is With Us"

***Offertory Prayer**

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. **Amen.**

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

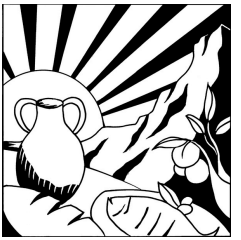
Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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 SENDING

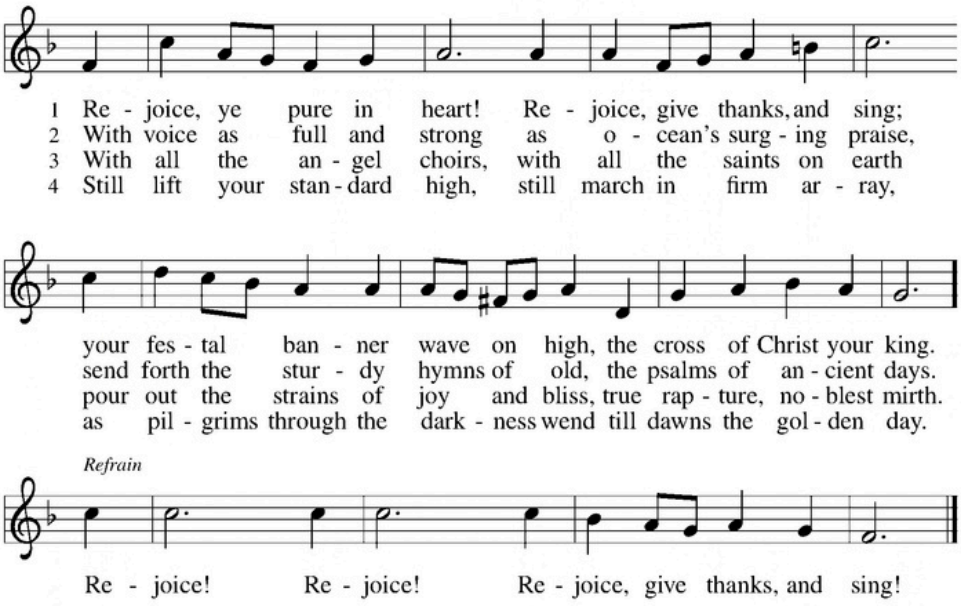
*Blessing

May the God of love draw you together in the body of Christ. May the God of hope fill you with strength and joy in every circumstance, and may the God of grace, through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you, sustain you, and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sending Hymn

ELW 873
Verses 1, 2 & 3

“Rejoice, Ye Pure Heart”



*Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God’s hands at work in the world!

Thanks be to God. We Will!

Postlude

Peterson

“The Lord Reigns, Alleluia”

\+ + +



Serving St. John's - October 11th

Head Usher	Wanda Wagaman
Communion Assistant	Barb Colandreo
Acolyte	Olivia Leight
Greeters	Patty Murren, Carrigan & James
Lector	Mike Omlor

Serving St. John's - October 18th

Head Usher	Brian Leib
Communion Assistant	Allison Baker
Acolyte	Emma Lewis
Greeters	Brian Leib
Lector	Mike Omlor



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are in *need* of **worship volunteers** to serve as an ***acolyte, communion assistant, lector, and greeters*** (a great way for a family to volunteer.)
Please see the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.
Dates through ***November 29th*** are now available to sign up for!

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP HAS MOVED ONLINE!
TINYURL.COM/MR6K99HA →

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or call the office at 717-259-0796 to sponsor your flowers.
Altar flowers cost $30.

OPEN DATES TO SPONSOR: 10/25, 11/22, & 12/27

Happening Soon:

- ***Chancel Choir*** - Every Sunday - 9:50am - Rehearsal
- ***Faith Formation - Second Sunday*** – Sun, Oct. 11th - 9:00am
- ***Pal Lunch*** - Fri, Oct. 16th - 9:00am
- ***Food Collection Day*** - Sun, Oct. 18th - After Worship
- ***New Member Cluster Meeting*** - Sun, Oct. 18th – 11:30am
- ***Diaper Packing*** – Thurs, Oct 22nd - 6:00pm
- ***Diaper Distribution*** – Sat, Oct 24th - 9:30pm
- ***Trunk or Treat*** – Tues, Oct 27th – 6:00pm
- ***Diaper Packing*** – Mon, Nov 2nd - 6:00pm
- ***Laundry Love*** – Tues, Nov 3rd - 5:30pm
- ***Diaper Packing*** – Thurs, Nov 5th - 2:30pm
- ***Atown Food Pantry*** – Thurs, Nov 5th - 3:00pm





* * * *

- ***Girl Scout Troop 80120*** - Tuesday evenings - 6:00-7:30pm
- ***Al-Anon & AA*** - Friday evenings - 7:00pm

Music Notes

- ***Chancel Choir -*** We will resume anthems for the fall and will rehearse **each Sunday morning at 9:50am.**

  If you have any questions, please contact Donna Renaut at (717) 451-0959, or dkrenaut@gmail.com

- ***Junior Choir Rehearsal -*** **November 8th at 8:30am** will rehearse and will sing in church that Sunday. Any child entering 2nd grade and older is welcome to join us.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

TRUNK OR TREAT

Community Event
All invited!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026 6:00PM

AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

WANT TO HELP MAKE THIS YEAR'S TRUNK OR TREAT **SPOOKTACULAR**?

SCAN & SIGN UP

VOLUNTEER ARRIVAL TIME: 5:00 PM

****Please arrive no later than 5:30pm*

Our October Special Giving Designation goes to support:

Hanover Area Council of Churches / PAL Lunch

The **Hanover Area Council of Churches (HACC)** has been serving the greater Hanover community since 1968 with the purpose of improving the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. Our mission is to combat hunger and homelessness. Our vision is to share the love of Christ and empower at-risk neighbors with life-changing solutions that foster stability and independence.

The **Provide-A-Lunch (PAL)** program by the Hanover Area Council of Churches is a community outreach initiative that serves a free, hot, nutritious home-cooked meal 365 days a year. It operates daily from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM at 136 Carlisle Street in Hanover, Pennsylvania

KEEP IN TOUCH

CONNECT WITH US ON THE BAND APP!

UPDATES ABOUT SUNDAYS, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND MORE!





SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE

Help Families Bloom.

FAMILIES IN BLOOM

WE ARE NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PACK OUR DIAPERS! SIGN UP BY SCANNING OUR QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE

TO SIGN-UP FOR A DIAPER PACKING NIGHT!

SCAN ME

UPCOMING DISTRIBUTION DAYS:

THURSDAYS
11/5
2:30-4:30PM

SATURDAYS
10/24 & 11/21
9:30-11:30AM

Prayer Concerns

For our homebound members:
Gloria Breighner, Dorothy Hoffheins, Ruthetta Baker,
Mary LaRue, Earl Swope, Joan Folmer, Marlin & Jean Baker

For those serving the larger church:
Dr. Stephan J. Swanson and Jodi Lynn Swanson, RN - missionaries

For persons who are ill or hospitalized:
Judy Klunk (sister of Gloria Breighner) - receiving care for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease at Genesis Health - Gburg
Marie Smith – congestive heart failure
Linda Verdoliva - recovering
Cecelia Helwig - recovering from 3rd leg operation
Jim Leonard - receiving care at UPMC



For persons undergoing treatment for Cancer:
Lisa Polhman (friend of the Sharrer family) - receiving care for breast cancer
Scott Dentler - receiving care for cancer
Tammy Moore - receiving care for cancer
Chuck Gabrielson - receiving care for lung cancer
Kathy Smith (Lorna Runk's niece) - receiving care for throat cancer
Roger Broz - (Carol Wassilewski's Brother-in-Law) receiving care for vocal chord cancer

♥♥♥ Prayer List Notice ♥♥♥

To help keep our prayer list current, names will remain in the church bulletin for one month and will then be removed unless we are notified that continued prayers are requested. If you would like a name to remain on the prayer list beyond one month, please contact the church office or let us know before the end of that period. Thank you for helping us keep our prayer list up to date while continuing to lift one another in prayer.

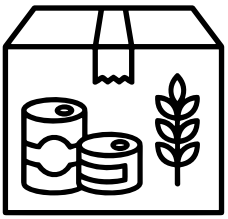
Hospital Admittance:

If you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital, please be sure to identify St. John's, Abbottstown, as your congregation. According to HIPAA regulation, if you provide this information to the Hospital, they will notify us of your admittance.



Additionally, If you or a loved one has become ill, or homebound, please inform the church office so we can include you on our prayer list. Also, please let Pastor Shawn or Deacon Amy know if you would like them to call or visit you. Thanks!

Ruth's Harvest Packing Dates- 2026 / 2027:



IN NEED OF:

100 each of Chef Boyardee Cups & Pudding Cups

Wednesday, October 21st
Wednesday, November 18th
Wednesday, December 16th
Wednesday, January 20th
Wednesday, February 17th
Wednesday, March 17th
Wednesday, April 14th
Wednesday, May 19th

***Contact Kristi for more Info:*
Kristi Rickrode
jkrickrode@gmail.com
717-752-0470

TACKLE DIAPER NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY!

HELP FAMILIES IN BLOOM DIAPER BANK SCORE A TOUCHDOWN FOR LOCAL FAMILIES THIS OCTOBER!

THE PLAY BY PLAY

WE ARE RESTOCKING OUR DIAPER BANK AND NEED YOU ON OUR TEAM! WE ACCEPT UNOPENED BOXES OF DIAPERS AND WIPES, WHICH ARE GIVEN AT NO COST TO LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED.

WHAT WE NEED:

- **Diapers, Pull-ups & Goodnites:**
  - **Current Highest Need:**
    - **Diapers (Sizes 2-7)**
- **Wipes: Unscented Preferred**
- **OUR GOAL IS 100 BOXES!**

SCAN HERE TO VIEW OUR AMAZON WISH LIST

WHEN WE NEED IT:

- **Thursday - October 22nd @ 6:00-8:00pm**
- **Monday - November 2nd @ 6:00-8:00pm**
- **During Trunk or Treat Event @ St. John's**
  - **Tuesday - October 27th @ 6:00 - 8:00**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
DEACON AMY MAMBU
amy@stjohnsatown.com

FAMILIES IN BLOOM
DIAPER BANK

ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Online Giving at St. John's

Don't carry cash or checks? Still want to give to the ministry and mission of the church? Scan or click on the QR Code to help us grow in our giving, by making an online gift. You will have the option to make a one time donation or recurring donations. This website is easy, quick and very secure.

The Ministry Staff

Rev. Shawn M. Berkebile	Pastor (717) 521-7000
Deacon Amy Mambu	Faith Formation and Outreach
Donna Renaut	Director of Music
Norbert Mamet	Director of St. John's Ringers
Katie Grim	Office Administrator
Barb Colandreo (301) 639-1799	Council President
Benjamin Hoffman	Outdoor Caretaker

St. John's Regularly Scheduled Office Hours

Office: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9am-2pm
Pastor: Monday through Thursday 9am-12pm, or by appointment
Website: www.stjohnsatown.com
Office email: Katie@stjohnsatown.com
Pastor Shawn's email: Shawn@stjohnsatown.com
Deacon Amy's email: Amy@stjohnsatown.com