

STAFF

Rev. Mathew Berger, Pastor mathew.berger@stjohnsparkville.org	Rev. Amy Berger, Pastor amy.berger@stjohnsparkville.org
Martha Requard, Director of Music	Carol Erpenstein, Office Administrator
Scott Becker, Sexton	


For emergencies call 443-844-9314

****The Pastors are off on Fridays****



Notice of live streaming:

Today's worship service is being live streamed to YouTube with video coverage of leaders and worshippers.

 St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville

 stjohnsparkville

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2025



St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville

stjohnsparkville.org

(410) 665-1234

office@stjohnsparkville.org

Text SJPARKVILLE to 22828 to join our email list.

Welcome to St. John's—we are glad you're here! Whether you have worshiped with us many times, or this is your first time, there is a place for you here. Your presence among us is a gift.

Introduction to the Day

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

(Please take a moment to silence all electronics. Thank you!)

(Hymns are taken from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the red book in the pew rack.)

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* *Ann Laura Page*
 (© 2011 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

(Please stand as you are able.)

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
 and of the ✙ Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.
 Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
 and you are God’s children through faith.
 In the cross of ✙ Christ,
 and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
 your sins are forgiven.
 Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	Donna McDonough
Crucifer	Paige M.
Acolyte (s)	Roman G.
Lector	Amanda Wood
Communion Assistant	Amanda Wood
Dismissal Assistant	Maddie W.

This week's schedule		
Today	9:00 am	Faith + Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
	10:00 am	Live & Online Worship
	11:30 am	Worship & Music Meeting (Music Room)
Mon.		Waxing Fellowship Hall
Tues.		Waxing Fellowship Hall
Wed.	9:30 am	Waxing Fellowship Hall Busy Bees (Smith Building) <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>
Thurs.		Waxing Fellowship Hall
Fri.		Waxing Fellowship Hall
Sat.	10:00 am	Property Meeting (Smith Building)
	1:00—5:00 pm	Member Function (Fellowship Hall)

Counting our Blessings			
Sun. 8/10	Attendance: 116 Offering: \$ 3,867 Homebound:15	2025	
		April Offering Income	\$ 31,766
		April Other Income	\$ 3,678
		April Total Income	\$ 35,444
		April Expenses	\$ 49,145
		YTD Offering Income	\$132,727
		YTD Other Income	\$ 20,814
		YTD Total Income	\$153,541
		YTD Expenses	\$151,774



Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Barbara Mueller, Pat Denk, JoAnn Weiland, Louie Gerber, Joan Kraft, Shirley Kreh, Olusegun Fowode, Marge Jasper, Julie Hastings, Kim Townsley, Mildred Schaffer, Bill Fliegel, Ruth Albrecht, Marion McDonough, Diane Carroll, Richard Souders, Oluseye Fowode, Robert Suznick, Lisa Duerling, Joan Swank, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott and Vickie Jasinski

For family & friends: Linda Preuet, Jerry Earles, Lynette Earles, Bill Beck, Henry Davis, Donna Parrish, Brenda DeSouze, Bill Sanner, Linda Sanner, Don Garrish, Peggy Denk, JR Kidd, Carol Paulshock, Katherine Fliegel, Elaine Perzan, Debbie McWilliam, George Lotterer, Jenny Cavallero, Barb Distefano, Marilyn Baldwin, Wendy Kraft, Fred Smith, Anna Meyer, Patricia Dunn, Jerre Keller, Scott Hendricks, Chuck Taylor, Jane Esterby, Patsy Smith, Marianne Widderich

For the military and their families: Christopher McCann, Mason Arnold, Kalib McCann, Leroy Keller, Seaman E-3 Carson Anthony Bowser, Corporal Justin Ferro, Staff Sgt. Brandan Hartmann, Michael Anthony Tucker, and all those in harm's way

For those grieving family & friends of: Charlotte Leach, Gary Roth, Sr.

For St. John's Caring Friends: Patricia Becker, Agatha Biensach-Daniels, Barbara Conrad, Margaret Eubert, June Franz, Betty Glassband, Richard Hoerner, Audrey Lentz, Carl Lotterer, Barbara Mueller, Paul Nolder, Janet Roth, Doris Rye, Kim Townsley, and Emma Volz

Note regarding the Prayer List

Those on the family & friends prayer list will remain for 6 weeks and then be removed— unless otherwise specified. If at any time you would like to add or remove someone from the list, please contact the church office.

GATHERING HYMN

Let the Whole Creation Cry

ELW 876

(Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt.; Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750, adapt.)

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings about a beautiful vineyard, carefully planted and cultivated, that nevertheless yields wild grapes. The owner therefore determines to destroy the vineyard, which represents the sinful people of Israel and Judah.

¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
 what I will do to my vineyard.
 I will remove its hedge,
 and it shall be devoured;
 I will break down its wall,
 and it shall be trampled down.
⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
 it shall not be pruned or hoed,
 and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
 I will also command the clouds
 that they rain no rain upon it.
⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
 is the house of Israel,
 and the people of Judah
 are his cherished garden;
 he expected justice
 but saw bloodshed;
 righteousness
 but heard a cry!

Word of God, word of life.

PSALM *(Read responsively; congregation reads bold verses)*

¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
 giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
² **“How long will you judge unjustly,
 and show favor to the wicked?”**
³ Save the weak and the orphan;
 defend the humble and needy;
⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor;
 deliver them from the power of the wicked.**
⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;
 all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
⁶ **Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,
 and all of you children of the Most High;**
⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
 and fall like any prince.’”
⁸ **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
 for you shall take all nations for your own.**

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 82

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Next Week— Sunday, August 24th—Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost


† 9 am—**Faith + Fellowship**

† 10 am—**Worship in-person/Blessing of the Backpacks
 and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel**


Visit stjohnsparkville.org





The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in honor and remembrance of the birthday of Ernie Schuman with love from his wife, Jana, and family and friends.


Nursery Care for infants through age 2 is available during the Sunday School hour while parents are attending Faith and Fellowship. During worship, care is available for infants through kindergarten. 

 **Faith and Fellowship meets in the Fellowship Hall on the first floor from 9 am—9:45 am each Sunday.** This is an opportunity for adults to gather for light refreshments and to grow in faith.

The Food for Thought Program is gearing up for the 2025-2026 school year. We will again be supporting children at Carney Elementary. **At this time we are in need of: tuna & chicken salad kits, Chef Boyardee single serving meals, applesauce pouches, poparts and pudding cups.** Don't fee like shopping? Monetary donations are always welcome. 

 **Join us for our next Community Meal on Wednesday, September 3rd beginning at 5:30 pm.** Please come and invite your friends, family and neighbors! We will need donations and volunteers. Look for the sign up sheet on the third floor bulletin board.

Our next Wednesday Night Worship will take place on Wednesday, September 3rd after the Community Meal at 6:45 pm. This is a brief communion service held in the Smith Building with blended music featuring piano and/or guitar, as well as an interactive reflection. We hope you can join us and invite your friends and neighbors! 

 **Have you been wondering what the colorful little box is outside of the kitchen entrance?** It's a "Little Free Library!" There are books in there that you can take to enjoy. When you are finished with a book, you can return it or not, either way is fine! We are also looking for donations of books for all ages to keep the library stocked. If you have any books you would like to contribute or have any questions, please see Amanda Hartman.

Our office administrator is on vacation from August 18th—August 22nd. We will have volunteers in the office this week. The office hours are 10 am—2 pm.

Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
And the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

ELW 603

(Text: Fred Kaan, 1929-2009; Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889; Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Be Strong in the Lord

Robert J. Powell

(© 2015 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

Commemorations

When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of people across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith. It is not that these people are perfect, as we are all both saint and sinner. Our faith in God working in them can be a reminder of God's grace working in all of our lives. "The saints are to be remembered so that we may strengthen our faith when we see how they experienced grace and how they were helped by faith."
(Augsburg Confession)

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.

From *SundaysAndSeasons.com*. Copyright 2025Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual 30295. Permission for hymn use and organ music granted under ONE LICENSE #735150-A and CCLI License #11527942.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:29—12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!

⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!

⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three;

⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say,

'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret

the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly is seated.)

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (See insert)* **ACS 1084**

COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's table. Bread is received in the hands. Gluten-free wafers are available-if you need one, please ask the pastor. To receive the wine, take an empty cup and the communion assistant will fill it with wine. The cups that are already filled contain grape juice. After drinking, place the used cup in the basket on your way back to your seat.

If you are not communing you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, crossing your arms over your chest.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Come, Let Us Eat

ELW 491

(Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., 1930-2024, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.; Music: Billema Kwillia, adapt.: Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and adapt. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4, admin. Augsburg Fortress)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

(Text and music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration)

(The assembly remains seated.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.

among the poor;
with us now.
We thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.
Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 assembly is seated.)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

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 THE CHURCH

After each petition Hear us, O God.
 Your mercy is great.

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always.
 And also with you.

(We offer each other a sign of God's peace. Afterwards, the assembly is seated.)

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Happy Are They Who Trust in the Lord* Robert J. Powell
(© 2018 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

Thank you for your generous support of St. John's. During this time an offering is gathered for the mission and ministry of the Church as together we experience and share God's abundant grace and love.

Many in our congregation give online. You can set up one-time or recurring donations on our website stjohnsparkville.org. Checks and cash may be placed in the offering plate. You may also donate via venmo @stjohnsparkville

(Please stand as you are able.)





Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;



light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931
 Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Text © 1995 Desmond Tutu, admin. Random House, Inc. and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd.
 Music © 1996 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,
 in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
 and the harvest is plentiful.
 Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
 and our labor,
 that we may work for the good of all;
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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 our Savior Jesus Christ;
 who on this day overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

You Are Holy (See insert)

ELW 525

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
 you alone are holy,
 you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
 beyond the stars;
 beneath the sea;
 within each cell;
 with every breath.
 We praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
 through the water;
 by night and day;
 across the wilderness;
 out of exile;
 into the future.
 We bless you, O God.
We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
 at the heart of human life;
 near to those who suffer;
 beside the sinner;