

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 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

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

(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 *If You But Trust in God to Guide You* Gerald Peterson
(© 2006 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

(Please stand as you are able.)

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✚ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* **ELW 669**
(Text: Norman O. Forness, 1936-2009; Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893; Text © Norman O.
Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress)

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

Counting our Blessings

		2025	
Sun. 10/12	Attendance: 143	September Offering Income	\$ 21,087
	Offering: \$4,893	September Other Income	\$ 2,591
	Homebound: 17	September Total Income	\$ 23,678
		September Expenses	\$ 26,035
		YTD Offering Income	\$235,293
		YTD Other Income	\$ 36,234
		YTD Total Income	\$271,527
		YTD Expenses	\$308,174
		YTD Tax Credit	*\$ 92,089

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother’s birthright and his father’s blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to “Israel,” a name that means “he wrestles with God.”

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” ²⁷ So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸ Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.” ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved.” ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

This week's schedule

Today	9:00 am Handbell Choir 9:00 am Sunday School & Faith + Fellowship 10:00 am Live & Online Worship/Welcome New Members 11:30 am Altar Guild Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Mon.	7:00 pm Council Meeting (Smith Building)
Tues.	
Wed.	9:30 am Busy Bees (Smith Building) 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Thurs.	
Fri.	11:00 am Bible Study (Smith Building)
Sat.	6:00 pm Trunk or Treat (Parking lot) Car decorating begins at 5:00 pm

Those Serving Today

Assisting Minister
Crucifer
Acolyte (s)
Lector
Communion Assistant
Dismissal Assistant

Amanda Hartman
Gabby G.
Roman G., Alec B.
Bonnie Spellman
Bonnie Spellman
Devon W.



Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Barbara Conrad, Lou Carletti, Landon Ullmann, John McLaughlin, Barbara Mueller, Tony Jasinski, Danyiel Cleckley, Kathy Barnes, Sue Wenneson, Pat Denk, 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, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott and Vickie Jasinski

For family & friends: Bill Denk, Judy Miller, Hubie Tarbo, Abby Chamberlain, Bunny Russell, Linda Preuet, Jerry Earles, Lynette Earles, Bill Beck, Henry Davis, Donna Parrish, Brenda DeSouze, Bill Sanner, Linda Sanner, Carol Paulshock, 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: Stephen Denk

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

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

(Refrain, Verse 2 only, Refrain)

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's



2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my



3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and



goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and



friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.



deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.



day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
 Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953
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 Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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All Saints Day is Sunday, November 2nd. If you have someone you have lost this past year, who you would like remembered this day, please call or email the church office to have their name added to the list of names to be read during worship. **Please contact us by Friday, October 24th to add a name.**



College Cares Program... We will be sending packages to students who are away at college to let them know that we are thinking of them. If you are interested in contributing to this program, take a sticking note from the board in the hallway outside of the Sanctuary. **Please return your donations today.**

We are collecting 40 jars, cans and/or packets of gravy to help our local food pantry at Christus Victor Lutheran Church with their holiday food distribution.



If you would like to participate in this project, please return your donations by Sunday, October 26th. There is a box for your donation on the 3rd floor counter, outside of the Sanctuary.



Join us for our next Community Meal on Wednesday, November 12th 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, November 12th 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!



Vendors Wanted! Our Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held this year on Saturday, November 8th from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Spaces are \$20 each or \$30 for a space with a table rental. Tables are limited, so please respond early. Anyone interested in displaying in our Crafter's Room should contact the church office at 410-665-1234 or office@stjohnsparkville.org.

St. John's Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 8th from 9 am –2 pm. Join us for this fun event with all of your favorites: food, crafters, jewelry, baked goods, homemade jellies and candies, quilt raffle, white elephant sale and more. We need many volunteers. There is a sign up board outside of the Sanctuary.



Our "Caring Friends" ministry is in need of more volunteers to visit with our homebound members. If you enjoy visiting and talking with fellow siblings in Christ, please prayerfully consider if this opportunity is calling out to you! You will receive training to deliver communion from our worship service to our members who cannot make it to church on Sundays. Please be in touch with Pastor Amy for more information.

Tickets are on sale for our Quilt Raffle. Tickets are 1 for \$1, 6 for \$5, or 13 for \$10. The drawing will take place during the Christmas Bazaar on November 8th. Winner does not need to be present. See the Busy Bees for tickets.



Announcements & Upcoming Events

Next Week—Sunday, October 26th—Reformation Sunday

† 9 am—**Sunday School & Faith + Fellowship**

† 9 am—**Handbell Choir**

† 10 am—**Worship in-person**

and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

Visit stjohnsparkville.org



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in memory of Phyllis Duerling, on what would have been her 100th birthday by Keith and Lisa Duerling.

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.



What is Lutheran Christianity? Wow, what a big question! You're invited to Faith and Fellowship as we dig into this together. We meet on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00–9:45am to learn, ask questions, and share conversation about what it means to be Lutheran and how our faith shapes daily life. All are welcome—come with your curiosity!

St. John's Youth Group meets on the first Sunday of the month from about 11:15 am—12:30 pm. This group is for middle and high school students. Join us as we have fun, get to know one another and grow in faith.



Food for Thought Program... Due to your generosity, we will not need any food donations for a few weeks.



Join us for our Friday morning Bible Study at 11:00 am in the Smith Building. Our study is on Philipians. All are welcome!



St. John's Preschool is in need of: clean empty glass jars (spaghetti sauce size), empty Pringle's cans with lids, large coffee cans with lids, and styrofoam blocks.



Christians of the Holy Land... Today during worship, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land. After the service, a display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem will be available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice gift for someone special. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem.



Our Annual Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 25th from 6-7:30 pm in the church parking lot. Car decorating begins at 5 pm. If you would like to enter your vehicle, contact the church office. **Sign up by October 20th.**



GOSPEL

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

ELW 769

(Text and music: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite; Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress)

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

God of grace.

Receive our prayer.

PEACE

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

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

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC

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.)

OFFERING HYMN

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685 (vv. 1, 3, 6)



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: ΡΑΙΜΟΣ, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

✚ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

ELW 773

(Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993; Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey; Text and music © 1938, 1966 unichappell Music Inc., admin. Hal Leonard Corp.)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

I Will Exalt in the Lord

Lani Smith

(© 2019 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)

**James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62
Thursday, October 23, 2025**

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.
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LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Day by Day

ELW 790

(Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005; Music: Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882; Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress)

Give Me Jesus

ELW 770

(Text and music: African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress)

(The assembly remains seated.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provide for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Praise to you O God.
Your love grows in the night.
Your mercy is new each morning.
Your love breaks through dry ground.
Your mercy makes all things new.

Praise to you O God,
for your son Jesus.
Guiding us away from selfishness and despair
Leading us into the path of peace
Giving us his very self

In the night in which he was betrayed...
Again after supper he took the cup...

Turning again to you we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Praise to you O God,
Send your Spirit among us now.

Warm cold hearts.
Restore weary souls.
Heal old wounds.

Praise to you O blessed and Holy Trinity,
In hope we shout Amen. **Amen.**
Through tears we speak Amen. **Amen.**
Even at the grave we sing Amen. **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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

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.*