

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 3, 2023 | 9:15 AM



Hear God's Word. Reflect God's Grace.
Share Christ's Love.

All are welcome at Saint John's regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor	pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org
Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music	charlowjennings@stjohnssummit.org
Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator	crothman@stjohnssummit.org
Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator	jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org
Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation	wk154linda@gmail.com
Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton	

We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

Prayer Before Worship

God of mystery and might, whose wonderful works are to be remembered, move in our lives, change our minds, soften our hearts, direct our feet, that we may follow you more faithfully. Yes, Lord, we seek to follow Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ELW *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book*

ACS *All Creation Sings: Purple Book*

PRELUDE Meditation on ROCKINGHAM OLD

Wayne Dietterick

WELCOME

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 798 Will You Come and Follow Me



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



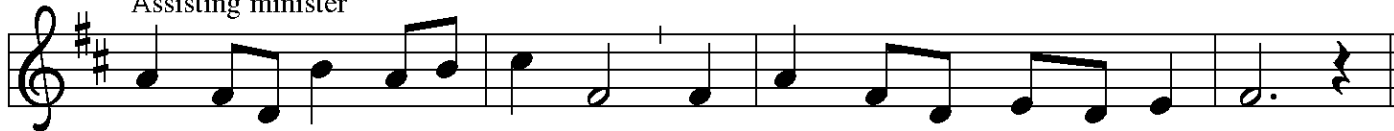
grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

APOSTOLIC 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

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



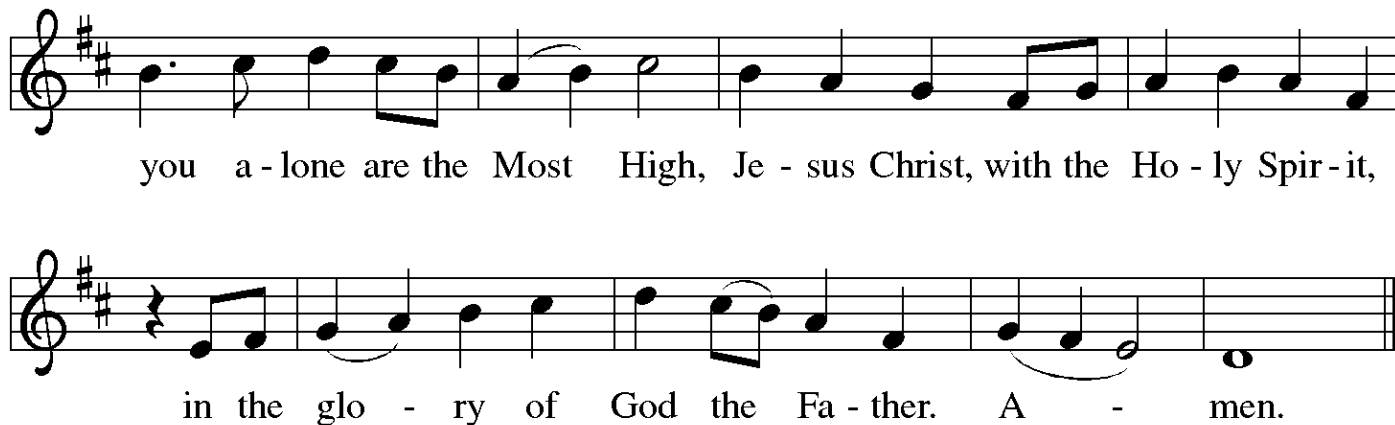
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 15:15–21

¹⁵O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. ***The assembly responds:*** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 26:1–8

Spoken responsively.

- ¹Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
- ²**Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**
- ³For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.
- ⁴**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**
- ⁵I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.
- ⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**
- ⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
- ⁸**Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING Romans 12:9–21

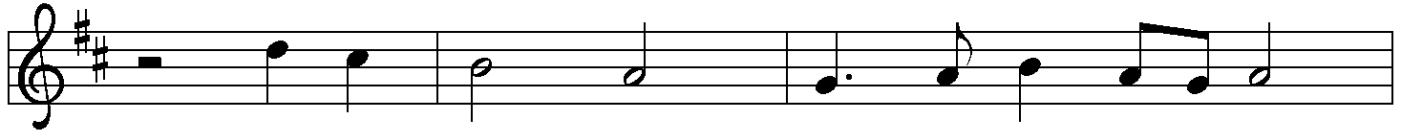
⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

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.

GOSPEL Matthew 16:21–28

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him

aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 799 Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake



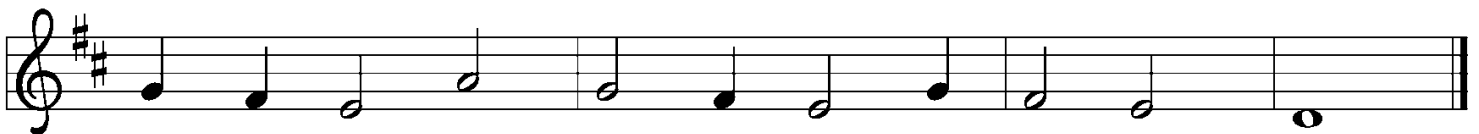
1 “Come, fol - low me,” the Sav - ior spake, “all in my way a -
2 “I am the light; I light the way, a god - ly life dis -
3 “I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your soul’s sal -
4 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, and take the cross ap -



bid - ing; de - ny your - selves, the world for - sake, o -
play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day; I
va - tion; from ev - ’ry guile your heart I free, from
point - ed, and, firm - ly cling - ing to his word, in



bey my call and guid - ing. Oh, bear the cross, what -
keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
suf - f’ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e’er be - tide; take my ex - am - ple for your guide.”
well I show how you should so - journ here be - low.”
of the soul and lead you to your heav’n - ly goal.”
bat - tle’s strain the crown of heav’n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677; tr. Charles W. Shaeffer, 1813–1896, alt.

Music: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT, Bartholomäus Gesius, 1555–1613; adapt. Johann Herman Schein, 1586–1630

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC Meditation on KELVINGROVE

Lyle K. Neff

Please stand.

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

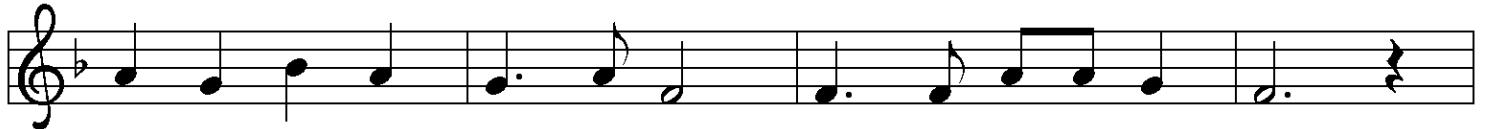
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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



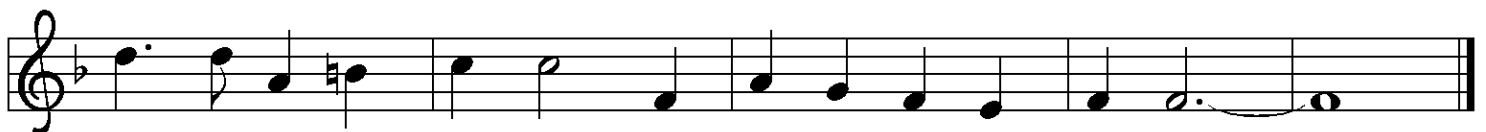
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



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



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



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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray in the words Jesus taught us:

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.



Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.

Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN LBW 482 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, adapt. Edward Miller, 1731–1807

Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 660 Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Lift High the Cross

John Leavitt

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
587 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
stjohnssummit.org | 908-273-3846



From *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006 and
All Creation Sings copyright © 2020. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license
#9925-S, OneLicense.net license #A-722032,
&/or Church Copyright License #11453771 which
provide permission to podcast the music in this service.

September 3, 2023

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Marie Patterson by the Sharpe and Bowler families.

We welcome the Wayne Dietterick as our guest organist today.

Hawaii Wildfires Relief: Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with local agencies to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction on Maui and is committed to assisting communities in the years ahead. You may give through St. John's, noting Hawaii Wildfires in the memo line. Donations will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected.

Applications are now being accepted for the Hinman Scholarship Fund. For any questions, please contact Linda Mesenbrink.

Blessing of the Backpacks, Sunday, September 10: Bring your backpack to church and receive a blessing and a prayer as we return to school.

Homecoming Sunday—Join us as we kick-off the fall program year on **September 10**. This is an exciting time to re-engage in worship, education, music and service. Services will be held at **8:00 AM** and **10:30 AM** followed by a **picnic at Noon**. Sign-up in the entryway. We ask that you bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.

St. John's Choir is open to high school students through adults and rehearses Wednesdays at 7:30–9:00 PM beginning **September 6**. They sing most Sundays (Sept. to June) at the 10:30 AM service. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music for more information.

Children's Choir: The children's choir is open to everyone in the community, grades K through 6, rehearsing Sundays at 9:30–10:00 AM and singing the first Sunday of the month at the 10:30 AM service. Rehearsals begin **September 10**. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music for more information.

Faith Formation is for children ages Pre-K through 6th Grade. There will be two classes this Fall, Pre-K through 2nd Grade and 3rd through 6th Grade. All are welcome as we grow our faith together through Bible reading, fun and sharing on Sundays at 10:00–10:30 AM beginning **September 10**. Contact Deacon Walker for more information.

Forum Series starting on Sunday, September 10 at 9:00 AM through October 15. The ELCA is developing a social statement on Civic Life and Faith, the relationship between church and state. We will dialogue about religious liberty, the proper role of the church in relation to government, and many other critical topics. Feedback is solicited by the ELCA following these sessions.

At Home in Summit: Summit Interfaith Council is sponsoring a series on housing September 13, 20, & 27. Please see the weekly email or the narthex bulleting board for more details.

Have you been worshipping at St. John's for a while now? Do you consider St. John's your spiritual home? Maybe it's time to become a member! Contact Pastor Blake to schedule a meeting and take that next step!

We are hiring a Livestream Coordinator for Sunday services from 7:45–Noon, including religious holidays, approximately 5 hours a week. Open to high school and college students with TV production experience. Contact Linda Mesenbrink at 973-202-2773 or Linda.mesenbrink@verizon.net.