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Keith Gingrich, Consistory President, Rebekah Reece, Pianist

October 18, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.
Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost
Harvest Home Sunday

**You are invited to stand in body or in spirit*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: The fields are golden, the crops are gathered in, and God's abundant goodness surrounds us. Come, let us raise a song of thanksgiving to our Maker!
People: For the sun and the rain, for the seed and the soil, for the daily bread on our tables, we give you thanks, O God.
Leader: God provides for our every need with a love that never ends. He invites us to feast at the table of grace and share his generosity with the world.
People: Our souls hunger for your presence, and our hearts overflow with praise.
Leader: Come, let us worship the God of harvest and hope,
All: And bring our offering of praise to the Lord of all creation! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #559** "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Almighty and Everlasting God, we gather today with hearts full of gratitude, surrounding your altar with the physical signs of your faithful care. You are the Lord of the harvest, the one who commands the seasons, who breathes life into the soil, and who sustains all living things. We invite your Holy Spirit to move among us now. Plant your Word deep within the soil of our hearts, so that we may grow in faith, deep in love, and rich in good works. As you have filled our barns and our tables with good things, fill our spirits today with your joy, peace, and presence. Transform our thanksgiving into a holy living, that we might freely share the fruits of your grace with a hungry world.
In the name of the one who is the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: Gracious and providing God, you open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Yet, we confess that our hearts are often tight and fearful in the face of your abundance.
All: We confess that we take your creation for granted. We consume its resources without thinking of tomorrow, and we forget the hands that labor to bring food to our tables. We confess that even when our barns are full, we worry about having enough, hoarding your gifts rather than sharing them.
Leader: Forgive us for the times we have turned a blind eye to the hungry, the stranger, and the poor in our communities. Forgive us for failing to see that everything we have belongs to you.
All: Break open our hardened hearts, Lord. Forgive our ingratitude, and root out our selfishness. Teach us to live with open hands, trusting in your daily provision and rejoicing in your endless grace. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Hear the good news! The God of the harvest does not ration his mercy or measure out his love. Out of his glorious riches, he forgives you, restores you, and fills you with new life. Receive his forgiveness, live in his peace, and bear good fruit in the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** ***The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into Hades; the third day, He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #560 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

TESTIMONY Neal Grimes

SCRIPTURE READING
Exodus 33: 12-23 (pg.80)
Psalm 99: (pg.552)
Acts 10:34-43 (pg. 129)
Matthew 22: 15-22 (pg.24)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

MESSAGE A Harvest of Gratitude, Faith, and Hope

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION / LORD'S PRAYER
Leader: God of the harvest, you hear the cries of your creation and sustain us through your infinite love. In gratitude for your bounty, we bring our prayers for the world before you today.
We pray for the earth, our home. Bless the soil, the water, and the air. Grant wisdom to farmers, ranchers, and all who labor in the fields to feed us. Protect them from harsh weather, economic hardship, and exhaustion. Give us the wisdom to be faithful stewards of the resources you have entrusted to our care. Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
Leader: We pray for the hungry and the broken in a world of abundance. We remember those facing drought, famine, war, or poverty. Forgive our global community for unequal distribution, waste, and greed. Stir the hearts of leaders to act with justice, and empower our own hands to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and support local food pantries and ministries. Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
Leader: We pray for our local community and this congregation. May the seeds of faith, hope, and love planted here bear rich fruit. We lift up those who are going through a season of scarcity—those who are grieving, lonely, sick, or anxious *(especially...)*. Bring them your comfort and let them feel your tangible provision through the care of this community. Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
Leader: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy and your provision, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Everything in heaven and on earth belongs to God. The food on our tables, the clothes on our backs, and the resources in our hands are all gifts from a loving Creator. As we look upon the abundance of this harvest season, let us remember that we are blessed in order to be a blessing. God invites us to give not out of duty or fear, but from hearts overflowing with gratitude.

Whether you are giving financially today, donating food to our local pantry, or offering your time and talents to God's work, let us bring our gifts forward with joy. Let us share the first fruits of our harvest so that our community and the world may know the goodness of the Lord.

Let us gather our tithes and offerings.

***OFFERING RESPONSE** "Doxology" (Hymnal, p. 625)

***DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS**

Lord of the harvest, take these gifts—the fruit of our labor and the tokens of our trust—and use them for your glory. Multiply them to feed the hungry, comfort the lonely, and spread the good news of your grace. Dedicate our very lives to your service, that we may be agents of your abundance in a weary world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #66** "To God Be the Glory"

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Go out into the world with joy, and be led forth in peace.
May the God of the harvest fill your hearts with gratitude,
may the Bread of Life sustain you through every season,
and may the Holy Spirit empower you to scatter the seeds of love, justice, and mercy wherever you go.
And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you, your homes, and your loved ones, this day and forevermore.
All: Amen.



to our Volunteers today:

Deacon of the Month: Glenda Kohr
Worship Leader and Lay Reader: Louise Walmer
Message: Beth Benfer
Thanks to Neal for sharing his thoughts with us today.
Everyone who brought items to share for Harvest Home.

The **altar flowers and bulletins today** are sponsored by Joe and Julie Ditzler to celebrate the baptism of their grandson, Sebastian Rhodes Cannon, yesterday here at St. John's.

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SPONSORS NEEDED for flowers and bulletins. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Karen Light Fellowship Hall.

Lumens of Hope – for the month of October, we will continue to have votive candles at the front of the Sanctuary. Whether prior to the service, or during the passing of the peace, we invite you to **light a candle** as an outward sign of love, care, and support to those individuals you know may need an extra blessing during the upcoming week.

A total of **130.2 pounds of food** was donated from our Harvest Home celebration last week to the **Joy Pantry**. Way to go, St. John's!

Thanks to all who helped make a **St. John's pot pie dinner** a reality once more! A community favorite is back!!

We will observe **All Saints Sunday on Sunday, November 1st**. If you have someone you would like to have recognized, please speak to Robin Gingrich, Louise Walmer, or Dena Eberhart as soon as possible.

Look through your crockpot recipe and choose one to prepare for our **Golden Ladle Contest on Sunday, November 8th.** Any kind of slow cooker dish is welcome, and will be served and voted on during a covered dish meal after worship.



November 1st	11:00 am	Worship Service All Saints Sunday
November 8th	11:00 am	Worship Service Golden Ladle Covered Dish And Contest



"*In You, O Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily: Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me. For you are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me."*

(Psalm 31: 1-3 NKJV)

Please keep the following members and friends of St. John's in your prayers this week: Pat Ziegler • Millie Schriver • Randy Sweigart • Gerald Rudy • Cortney Smith • Tom Graby • Steve Clark • Bruce R. Shepps • Jon Olesh • Callum Quinn Frank Shepler • Emily Rentschler • Jean Ann and Neal Grimes • Karen Metz Harford Overton • Jodi Checket • Mike Large • Rose Marie Gardner • Mike Kachurak