

Welcome to Worship
St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church
September 6, 2026



203 West South Street, PO Box 786, McComb, Ohio 45858-0786

CHURCH: 419-293-3445

SJLCMcComb@gmail.com

Pastor: SAM Paul Brooks - 419-722-8625

15th Sunday of Pentecost

September 6, 2026

Welcome: Thank you to those who join us for Worship. We hope you will be blessed as we pray and sing together, as we hear God's Word read and proclaimed. We gather as equals in the sight of God, who loves us, forgives us, and is WITH US. Peace be with you.

Serving at Worship Today:

READER: David Sharninghouse

ACCOMPANIST: Linda Ross

Your Servant Leaders:

Worship Leader: SAM Paul Brooks

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Dave Sharninghouse, 419-293-2322 Hm.
419-429-2391 Cell**

NWOS BISHOP: The Rev. Daniel Beaudoin

ELCA BISHOP: The Rev. Yehiel Curry

St. John's email address: SJLCMcComb@gmail.com

St. John's Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/SJLCMcComb>

Attendance Last Sunday: 13

Offering Last Sunday: \$405.00

Direct Deposit: \$20.00

Mile of Pennies: \$.00

Food Pantry for September: The Blessing Basket and CHOPIN Hall - in Findlay, requests are for everyone to bring Single Rolls of Paper Towels and small bottles of Laundry Detergent.

Please invite a friend or family member to come to church with you!

Let's try to increase our numbers and grow our church.

Our Mission Statement: Serving the community by sharing the love of God by example.

*Worship
Assistants*

Order of Worship

Sunday, September 6, 2026

God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.

*please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER REQUESTS

PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Loving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to listen."

THE GREETING

Leader: the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: and also with you.**

*GATHERING HYMN #764

HAVE NO FEAR, LITTLE FLOCK

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **ALL: Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Compassionate God,

ALL: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

***CONFESSIONAL HYMN #186**

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

***CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE**

Leader: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **ALL: Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE #574**

HERE I AM, LORD

"I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: Please join me in prayer, O Lord God,

ALL: enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

MATTHEW 22:34-40

Reader: When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 19:1-14

Reader: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

ALL: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.

Reader: In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

ALL: Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat.

Reader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

ALL: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Reader: Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

ALL: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

***ACCLAMATION OF THE WORD #853**

WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES

When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

***OLD TESTAMENT READING**

EXODUS 20:17

Leader: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Leader: The Word God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #883

ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

ALL: 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 PEOPLE INTRODUCTION

Prayer Leader: Trusting in God's love and mercy, let us pray for the church, our communities, and all of God's creation.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Leader: Gracious God, help your church to be thankful for what you have given us. Keep us from always wanting more, and teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer leader: We pray for our community of North Baltimore and McComb. Bless our schools, teachers, students, coaches, and families as a new school year and football season begin. Keep everyone safe and help our communities support one another. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer leader: Loving God, we remember those in our local communities who have died and the families who are grieving. Give them comfort through the memories of those they loved and through the support of friends and neighbors. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer leader: We pray for all who are sick, recovering from surgery or illness, or facing a difficult time. Give them healing, strength, patience, and comfort. We pray especially for John, Sue, Carol, Dave, Betty, LuAnn, Colene, Teri, Eric, Lisa, Kris, Don, Ashley, Mary, Pat, Vicki, Josh, Ellery, Paige, Tom, Ruth, Mike, Ron, Ned, Lorraine, Pat, Rut, Lois, Steve, Lisa, Bertha, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, John, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Cheryl, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Barb, Brianne, Delphia, Charles, Heather, Granger, Owen, Diana, Sean, Judy, Christina, Mike, Riley, Nickie, Eli, Mr. Doherty, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Michael, and Cindy. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer leader: God of peace, help us when jealousy, anger, or wanting what belongs to someone else gets in the way of our relationships. Give us hearts that are grateful and willing to share. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer leader: We pray for farmers, workers, business owners, first responders, health-care workers, and all who serve our communities. Give them strength for their work and remind them that their efforts matter. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer leader: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **ALL: Amen.**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Please share God's peace with those worshipping around you.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: Today, let us joyfully offer our time, our treasure, and our talents to God, not because we have to, but because we are thankful for the blessings and the community we have. Thanks be to God!

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #890 MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
his truth is marching on.

Refrain

Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray, God of Creation

ALL: 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.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you. **ALL: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord of God. **ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: And so, with all creatures and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing:

***HYMN**

GOD IS SO GOOD

God is so good, God is so good.
God is so good, he's so good to me.
He loves me so, he loves me so
He loves me so, he's so good to me.

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Leader: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

In the unity of the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: 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 INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Leader: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

DISTRIBUTION

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: Please join with me in prayer. Sustaining God,

ALL: with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #536**

GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN

God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain

Till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again,)
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again.)
God be with you till we meet again.

***BLESSING**

Leader: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

*The Amen



*SENDING HYMN

O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

(bulletin pg 11)

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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### TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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*"Have No Fear, Little Flock"* TEXT: Luke 12:32, st. 1: Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931. Sts. 2-4 MUSIC: Heinz Werner, Zimmermann, b. 1930  
Text and music © 1973 *Concordia Publishing House*

*"Create in Me a Clean Heart"* TEXT: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 MUSIC: © *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress (#186)  
**PUBLIC DOMAIN**

*"Here I am, Lord"* TEXT: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946 MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte Text and music © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc.

*"When Morning Gilds the Skies"* TEXT: German Hymn, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt. MUSIC: Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896

*"All People that on Earth do Dwell"* TEXT: William Kethe, d.c. 1594 MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

*"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"* TEXT: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910 MUSIC: North American, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.

*"God IS So Good"* TEXT: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904, alt.

*"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"* Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904 MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1833-1896

*"Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go"* TEXT: George Matheson, 1842-1906, alt. MUSIC: ST. MARGARET, Albert I. Peace, 1844-1912

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# Have a blessed day!

# O Love That Will Not Let Me Go



1 O Love that will not let me go, I rest my wea - ry soul in  
 2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my flick-'ring torch to  
 3 O Joy that seek-est me through pain, I can - not close my heart to  
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not ask to fly from



thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that  
 thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that  
 thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain and  
 thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and



in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.  
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.  
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.  
 from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

Text: George Matheson, 1842–1906, alt.

Music: ST. MARGARET, Albert L. Peace, 1844–1912

### **Calendar of Events:**

Wed. Sept. 9 – 1:00 P.M. Church Council Meeting

Sun. Sept. 13 - 8:00 A.M. Worship Service

Sun. Sept. 13 - 9:30 A.M. Adult Sunday School

Sun. Sept. 13 - 10:00 A.M. Calvary's Worship Service

Wed. Sept. 16 - 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Bible Study @ St. Luke's for 4 weeks

Following that, we will have it here for 4 weeks, to see how it goes.

### **Readers for September & October**

Sept. 13 - Lori McDaniel

Sept. 20 – Carol Cary

Sept. 27 – Michele Robles

Oct. 4 - David Sharninghouse

**In Our Prayers:** Betty Jones, John Sharninghouse, Sue Maki, Carol & David Cary, Betty Hornbeck, LuAnn Beverly, Colene Shoop, Teri Zent, Bobby Zent, Eric & Lisa Kreh, Ashley Edler, Mary Scroll, Pat Newell, Vicki Shoop, Josh, Ellery Paige Robinson, and Tom. Please pray for the victims of all natural disasters, our shut-ins, others absent from our worship this morning, all who grieve, and all others with special needs.

**The McComb Farmers Market:** the last one will be next Saturday, September 12.

**FYI:** Hancock County Religious Education release time classes for McComb Grade School are tentatively scheduled to start on Friday, September 18. These classes, which run from 8:10 am to 10:30 am, allow us to share the Gospel with Kindergarten through 3rd grade students and include learning the books of the Bible, Scripture memorization and more. Even if you can only help occasionally that would be great. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Dan Ritter at [dritter2795@gmail.com](mailto:dritter2795@gmail.com) or call/text 419-788-6468.

**FYI:** We have a lot of older Hymnals that we need to get rid of, there are some with dedications from the families that donated them, if you or anyone in your family would like one, let us know, they will be on a table in the Parish Hall. If no one wants them they will be donated to The Grain Train to give them away.

**FYI:** Church Picnic will be Sept. 27 at 12:30, at the home of David Sharninghouse, 5421 Twp. Rd. 136, Findlay, Oh. 45840. More info to come later, save the date.

# **Sermon Notes**

Write 3 teachings or ideas you heard in today's sermon:

1.

2.

3.

Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.

# Called to Community

Jesus says, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matt. 18:20). In these Sundays after Pentecost, we are repeatedly



reminded that God has not abandoned us and that Christ’s resurrection and ascension are a beginning for us, not an end. The readings this week focus on the practical work of the gathered Christian community: turning from sin to repentance, from conflict to reconciliation. The question is as relevant today as it was for the disciples and the first Christians: How do we live together, work together, as the body of Christ? We have been saved by grace, liberated by

God’s love to love one another. What does it mean for us and for our community to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 13:14) and to clothe ourselves in love?

We keep asking these questions because the way we gather as Christians continues to be profoundly countercultural. We do not gather as a social club, drawn and kept together only by shared demographics and interests. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to continue to gather if conflict arises, if uncomfortable issues are raised, or if “the way it’s always been” begins to change. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to do the hard work of reconciliation and forgiveness.

God calls us into community knowing that being in community is hard. In scripture we can find practical guidance for gathering through good and hard times. The Holy Spirit is always at work—in, through, and among us—to gather and regather us again. In community we meet and become Christ’s body in ways that are impossible for us as individuals; all the commandments are fulfilled in this call to neighbor-love (Rom. 13:9).