

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, July 28, 2024
10th Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Holy Baptism



We welcome into the body of Christ and St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Charlotte Elizabeth McCracken, daughter of Hannah and Cody McCracken and Cade Anthony and Cambell Andrew McCracken, sons of Megan and Crae McCracken.

INTRODUCTON *Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.*

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG *The Church of Christ in Every Age 729*

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also, with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Children of the Heavenly Father 781*

PRAYER OF THE DAY **Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WE WELCOME Mr. William Miller as a member of St. John Lutheran Church. He transferred his membership from Palm Lutheran Church in Palmyra, PA.

WORD

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

L: A reading from Second Kings

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” ⁴³But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred people?” So he repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’” ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

Psalm: Psalm 145:10-18

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,
and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.

L: A reading from Ephesians

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142

Alleluia, Lord, to who shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

P: The holy gospel according to St. John

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 6:1-21

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly will stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Break Now the Bread of Life* 515

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM P.227

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

A: God of generations, you work in us far more than we can ask or imagine. Bless the church you have called into being across time and space, and fill it with the power of the Spirit for loving service. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of field and forest, streams and seas, you are the fullness of all things. As grains of wheat grow upon the earth and fish swim in the waters, sustain your creation. Protect harvests and give every person food in due season. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God beyond borders, you rule all in all. Bless the work of humanitarians and peacekeepers, shield those who live, work, or serve in harm's way, and bring an end to war and conflict (*nations and places may be named*). In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of healing, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We remember any who are sick or suffering (*especially*), families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and our beloved for whom death is near. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of grace, you root us and ground us in love. As you inspired our ancestors in this place in their ministry, sustain us also in new endeavors, that your glory may be made known, and your lovingkindness shared anew. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of wind and waves, as your Spirit moves over the waters, keep safe those who work on ships that carry goods across the vast oceans. Through the ministry of the Seafarers' International House in New York, provide for the many needs of those seafarers who sacrifice so much in their personal lives so that needed cargo can reach its destinations' shores safely. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God of all, your love in Christ surpasses all knowledge. We give thanks for the departed who have come to know the fullness of your grace. Join our voices with theirs (*and with musicians Johann Sebastian Bach, Heinrich Schütz, and George Frederick Handel*) and all the saints in singing your praises. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Musical Selection -- Harpist Shannon Meixel

Once the Table is Prepare, the assembly will stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144 (*in the beginning of the hymnal*)

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer p. 145

Invitation to Communion

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

Come!

The assembly is seated.

Lamb of God p. 144

Communion

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Remember Me*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

A: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,

now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song: *Bornng Cry* 732

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Announcements

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card

that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate at the front or rear of the church. We practice “open Communion” here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ.”

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Jim Allen, Connie Barker, Danny Bennett, Maisy Boyles, Matteo Cooper, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Beth Good, Dawn Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Lucille Jones, Myrtle Long, Mick Miller, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, Ben Saar, Pam Shuler, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel.

We pray for the safety of **our military troops** around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Jeremy and Haley Naugle Sorrell, Rich Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Kevin Titus, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on.

Special thanks to this weeks’ helpers: Lector –Shelby Rice; Assisting Ministers --Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher –Kaye Long; Teller–Betty Allen; Bulletin Sponsor--the Rice's.

Next week’s helpers: Lector – Kim Myers; Assisting Ministers--Tyson Welshans, Ron Brundrick; Head Usher –Betty Allen; Teller–Kaye Long ; Bulletin Sponsor--Sue Willits; Flowers; Cozette Stoltzfus.

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in praise for His gift of music in our church. Many thanks to our choir, Kaye Long, and Becky Ward for sharing their talents. Fondly, their church family.

The Sanctuary Candle in August is in memory of William and Mary Ely by Jim Ely.

Anyone interested in joining a **texting prayer chain** please text Christine Barner at 570-360-0178. This texting chain will send out the prayers that are received for the calling prayer chain. This chain is a **one-way chain**, please do **not** "reply" when you receive a message.

The Lutheran Church Women’s **Prayer Chain** is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852.

The Parks-Dean Team's **Luke Strong 2024** IS a go, with some changes and revisions this time around. We are doing a two-pronged event this year: Phase One took place on Saturday, May 25, when we participated in the "What the Duck" Ultra from 7 AM to 7 PM at a park in Boiling Springs, and we walked a total of 50 miles for Phase One. Phase Two will take place on

Saturday, August 31, when we plan to ride 65 miles (from Wellsboro to Jersey Shore) on the Pine Creek Rail Trail. We are excited and looking forward to taking on these two challenges to raise funds for our friend, Luke Antolick. More details will be coming-just wanted to give you a heads up AND invite you to come spectate and cheer us on! WE ARE...LUKE STRONG!!!

Seafarers Bags Available! Every year in memory of Pastor Martha McCracken who served on the Board of Seafarers International and as their President, we invite the congregation to assemble seafarer Christmas bags for those who work on the ships that bring goods to America. 90% of global trade is transported on the high seas by crew members on containerships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their service.

The seafarer Christmas bags contain one sweatshirt, three pairs of socks, one T-shirt, one knitted winter cap, one can of nuts **or** large bar of chocolate **or** healthy snack bar (one of three, not all three), and a holiday or Christmas card from YOU! Please do NOT ADD anything else to the bag that's not on the list. The Seafarer bags are available in the Tower along with a more detailed list with additional details. Return them to the church no later than November 3. Take advantage of school sales on clothing, etc. If you are a Thrivent member you can also apply for a Thrivent Action Team gift card of \$250 to purchase your items.

Go on the internet to: www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams

If you have any questions, see or call Pastor Aucker.

Calendar

Sunday, July 28, 2024 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

St James Day Picnic at St James Lutheran. Bring a dish to share. Chicken provided.

1:00 p.m. Nippenose Worship

Sunday, August 4, 2024 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, August 11, 2024 10:30 Women of the Church Meeting following Worship



