

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

Sunday, August 14, 2022

10th Sunday after Pentecost
Blessing of the Keys

Introduction to the day

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Blessing of the Keys

P: All your works praise you, O lord;

C: Blessed be God forever and ever

P: You have made heaven and earth and all that is in it;

C: Blessed be God forever and ever

P: You appointed seasons and times for each activity;

C: Blessed be God forever and ever.

P: You have given generous gifts to your people through all the generations of humankind;

C: Blessed be God forever and ever

P: You have entrusted us with responsibility of managing the things of the earth

C: Blessed be God forever and ever

P: {Names} There is sadness in leaving the safety of childhood and also the excitement of new challenges ahead. The keys now in your parents' hands are signs of approaching maturity. As they entrust their keys to you, we pray for your wise discernment in their use and your responsibility.

P: Gracious God our Father, surround {names} with you protection, guide their coming and going, give them competent teachers and good examples, grant them sound judgment and remind them always of your love and care. Give patience and wise discernment to their parents, and a watchful eye to whole community.

C: Blessed be God forever and ever.

P: The blessing of God our Father, of Jesus Christ our Lord, and of the Holy Spirit, accompany you in all your journeys now and forevermore. Amen

C: Blessed be God forever and ever. Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.
Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.
When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.
Set us again on the path of life.
Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light* 815

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: *Holy God, We Praise your Name* 414

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of

bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

L: A reading from Jeremiah

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

PSALM: 82

¹God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

²**"How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?"**

³Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;

⁴**rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶**Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**

⁷nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.’ ”

⁸**Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

L: A reading from Hebrews

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29--12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142

Alleluia Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *If You But Trust in God to Guide You* 769

APOSTLES' CREED (p. 105 at the beginning of the hymnal)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe, and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters (*especially*). Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Arise, O God, and sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Arise, O God, and sustain those who are oppressed. We pray for people harmed by racist discrimination, ableist discrimination, and all people discriminated against based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Arise, O God, and sustain this assembly. We pray for this community, celebrating with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep (*concerns may be named*). In our joy and in our tears, be near us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Arise, O God of the global church, we ask your spirit of wisdom and protection on all who volunteer with the Youth Adults in Global Mission program. May they spread your gospel of love as they serve in Argentina and Uruguay, Cambodia, Central Europe, Jerusalem and the West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal, and the United Kingdom. May they serve as our reminder that your love that covers the whole planet. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember the saints (*especially Maximilian Kolbe and Kaj Munk*) who have gone before us. May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

Amen.

Responding in Love

Our Offerings *This is our response to God's grace.*

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,

strengthen us to labor in your field,

and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,

in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

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

Dialogue

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world

you gave your only Son,

that all those who believe in him

should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared

for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith

as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER P 145 *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

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.**

Communion Song *Lamb of God You Take Away p.146*

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Remember Me*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Lead On, O King Eternal!* 805

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C: Thanks be to God.

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 during 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, Dave Barner, Mary Bower, Agnes Cryder, Sarah Davidson, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, Joanne Fisher, William Green, Fred Hoffer, Barbara Hoffman, Jere Hoy, Linda Lehman, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, Mary Lynn Overdorf, Elsie Parks, Terri Shank, the Snyder family, John Truax, Charles and Candace Welshans, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod soon retiring and Bishop Elect Rev. Craig A. Miller; for our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and we pray for peace in Ukraine and an end to war. We also pray for rain to renew the earth and all creation, including our crops.

We pray for the safety of our military troops around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jake Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, and Jenna White.

Special thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers – Bill Ely Jr and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Kaye Long ; Teller – Betty Allen ; Bulletin Sponsor – Charles Gottschall.

Next week’s helper: Lector – Gracie and Tonya Welshans; Assisting Ministers Gary Johnson and Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Kaye Long; Teller –Betty Allen; Bulletin Sponsor – Charles Gottschall ; Flowers—Deb Heydrich.

The altar flowers are in honor of Dean and Gloria Ely’s 93rd wedding anniversary by their children.

The Sanctuary Candle is given in memory of her sister by Myrtle Long.

ALTAR FLOWERS: St. John received a letter from Russell's Florist informing us of a price increase for flowers. The rising cost of flowers has led them to the following increases: **Altar Vases: \$50.00** (price subject to change based on types of flowers requested). Payments received by individuals in lieu of church payments will be subjected to Pennsylvania Sales Tax (6%) as instructed by their accountant to remain in compliance with State Sales Tax Laws. These prices will go in effect September 1, 2022.

Beginning September 4, 2022, flowers will be \$50.00. Make your check out to St. John Lutheran Church and put it in with your offering or in an envelope marked FLOWERS and put it in the offering.

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 Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659
Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

PANTRY AND KITCHEN ETIQUETTE. The pantry and refrigerator have been cleaned out and all outdated and opened items have been removed. In order to keep the pantry and refrigerator neat and sanitary, please observe the following:

- Any food items that are bought or donated for functions are to be taken back home or given to someone to take. Condiments and unopened beverages may be left for the Food Distribution lunches, if desired. Do NOT store opened food items in the pantry.
- unused plastic ware is to be put back in the appropriate plastic bins, not left out in baskets, where they can become dirty or dusty.
- Unused napkins are to be stored in a designated plastic bin to keep them clean.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our pantry and kitchen clean and safe for all to use.
The Women of the Church

Sight and Sound in Lancaster will be airing a live broadcast of **David** on Friday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m. Download the Sight and Sound app on your computer and you can view the play **David** through your computer, Ipad, or connect a cable to your TV to show the play through your TV. Cost is \$24.99

God's Work Our Hands Sunday, September 11

We invite you to assemble personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Millions of kits assembled in Lutheran congregations around the world were sent to Poland, Ukraine, Moldova, and many other countries housing refugees from the war in Ukraine. Those kits need replaced with new kits and this is where you can help.

- *One light-weight bath-size towel (20" x 40" to 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- *Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrapping; no mini Or hotel size bars
- *One adult-sized toothbrush in its original packaging

*One sturdy comb. There are many different types of hair texture, so no picks or fine-toothed combs; Remove packaging.

*One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging.

Look around, you might be able to purchase the above items in bulk to save money.

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap all the items in the towel and secure with ribbon, yarn, or rubber bands. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

Shipping note: LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one personal care kit overseas is \$2.65 (including the addition of a tube of toothpaste).

Visit lwr.org/kitvideos to watch a video with tips and tricks for assembling Personal Care Kits.

For those of you who are Thrivent Members, apply online for a Thrivent Action Team Grant and use your \$250 grant to buy supplies for your Personal Care Kits.

The plan right now is to have worship on September 11, meet to organize and pack kits, and then eat PIZZA!

Catechism Classes to Begin, Pastor Aucker will have an open meeting for parents and youth, 7th grade or older, who have not completed catechism instruction. Last year was Bible study. This year we will focus on Luther's Small Catechism. **All students who will be entering 7th grade or older who have not completed catechism AND THEIR PARENTS** are asked to attend a meeting in the chapel immediately following worship **on Sunday, August 21**. Parents and youth will be given a review of Catechism and asked to make a decision on when to hold class.

Blessing of the Backpacks, We invite all youth to bring their backpacks on Sunday, August 21, to the 9:30 a.m. worship service. We will have a blessing of the students and teachers as we begin the new school year.

"Join-the-Choir" Night is starting Wednesday, August 31 at 6:30 p.m. and running every Wednesday until May 2023. People may be hesitant to show up to a choir rehearsal because they don't want to be the only new person in an established group. A person may feel like they have to make a forever commitment that night. No! not with us! Come try choir out for a night or two. No commitment is required. Everyone is invited!

Youth Ministry Meeting August 22. The Youth Ministry Committee will be meeting on Monday, August 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the church office to plan youth ministries for the upcoming months. We invite interested adults and youth to attend and participate in the planning process. We are still looking for adults with a deep commitment to youth to volunteer as leaders for the Elementary and Middle School Youth groups.

Worship and Music will meet August 22 at 6:00 p.m. to work on the upcoming season, the budget, and complete the hymn selection.

Bible Study. Pastor Aucker will be leading a new Bible Study on the book of Proverbs this Fall. It is available as a 39 page photo-copyable book. So, if you would like a copy of the study, even if you can not attend the scheduled classes and want to do a home study, please contact me and I will have a copy made for you. 570-916-1317.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL !!! – After worship of Sunday, August 21. Come for worship; stay for fellowship!

Christian Education is seeking volunteers to lead Children’s Church once a month. If interested please see Cathy Eisner.

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

Sunday, August 14, 2022

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service
Women of the Church Meeting

*10th Sunday after Pentecost
Blessing of the Keys*

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship
11:30 Fellowship Time at Shore Diner

Sunday, August 21, 2022

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service
Catechism Class Meeting
Ice Cream Social

*11th Sunday after Pentecost
Blessing of the Backpacks*

I WOULD PREFER NOT TO
HAVE *THIS MUCH* FAITH.
IT SOUNDS *VERY* PAINFUL!



GWETZSTEIN 2022-08-10

WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

HEBREWS 11:29-12:2

We celebrate two birthdays of our members: Mary Pepperman turned 98 y.o. on 7/23. Send cards to 1101 Michael Street, Jersey Shore PA 17740.

Agnes Cryder will turn 96 y.o. on 9/12. Send cards to 201 S Broad St., Jersey Shore PA 17740.