

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

Sunday, September 4, 2022
13th Sunday after Pentecost

Labor Day Weekend

Introduction to the day

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prelude

GATHERING

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

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,
who is eager to forgive
and who loves us beyond our days.

Amen.

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness,

we confess that sin still has a hold on us.

We have harmed your good creation.

We have failed to do justice,

love kindness,

and walk humbly with you.

Turn us in a new direction.

Show us the path that leads to life.

**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ,

who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love

through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *Lift High the Cross* 660

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: *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways* 772

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through 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 Deuteronomy

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

PSALM: Psalm 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**²Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

**⁴It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

L: A reading from Philemon.

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Earth and All Stars* 731

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the world and for the mission of the gospel. Refresh the hearts of your people, deepen our understanding of every good thing we share, and strengthen our partnerships in the faith. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care (*especially*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all health care professionals: Heavenly Father, we lift up the health care professionals seeking to share their gifts of healing here and internationally. Guide the staff workers in matching them with existing opportunities. Support them with your presence as they serve. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give thanks for the saints who now rest from their labors (*especially Peter Claver, priest and missionary*). Give us faith, like them, to love you with all our hearts, and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

Responding in Love

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

CHOIR ANTHEM *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

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: Gracious God,
in your great love you richly provide for our needs.
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,
and make us ready to share with all in need;
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

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

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us
your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people

and be given our inheritance with all you saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Christ invites you to this table.
Come, taste and see.

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: God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.
Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen

SENDING

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

BLESSING

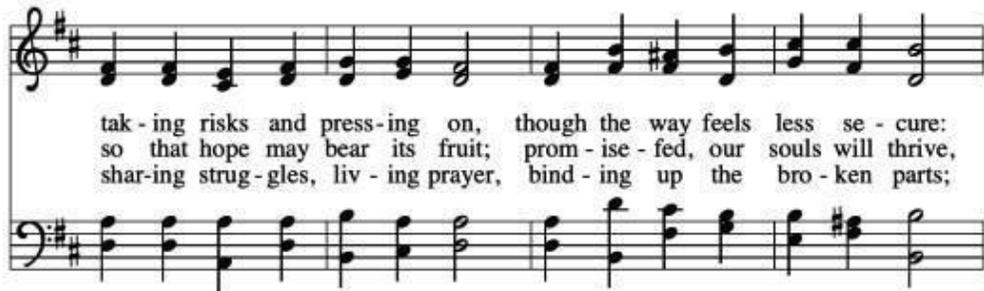
God, who gives life to all things
and frees us from despair,
bless you with truth and peace.
And may the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Faith Begins By Letting Go ACS 1004*

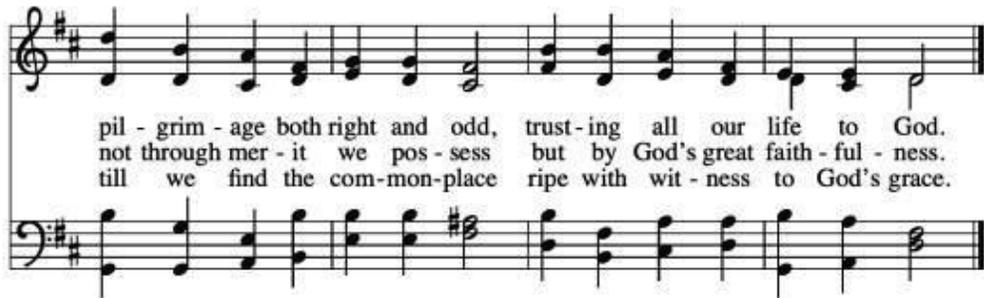
Faith Begins By Letting Go



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

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, Agnes Cryder, Sarah Davidson, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, Joanne Fisher, Beth Good, Fred Hoffer, Barbara Hoffman, Linda Lehman, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, Mary Lynn Overdorf, Penny Parks-Dean, Terri Shank, the Snyder family, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; 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 helper: Lector – Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers—Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Head Usher –Betty Allen; Teller – Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor – Ginger Maffett;

Next week's helpers: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers –Bill Ely, Jr. and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Betty Allen; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor – Cynthia Breon; Flowers--Wehler. The flowers on the organ are in honor of Ken and Mary Ellen Dougherty's 60th Wedding Anniversary.

The altar flowers are to the glory of God.

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

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

Elsie Parks has returned to Nippenose. Her address is Nippenose Valley Village Room 21, 7190 South State Rt 44, Williamsport, PA 17702. They are currently under quarantine for Covid.

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

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!

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 cannot 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.

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

Changes in Altar Flowers

Sign up on the "new" chart listing who is donating flowers, in glory/honor/memory of, and by which choice the flowers coming:

A person signing up to donate Altar flowers now will have four (4) options

1. Make your check out to St. John Lutheran Church for \$50 and put it in with the offering and have it marked FLOWERS. Contact Karen Aucker and ask her to order the flowers from Russell's. These flowers will be yours to take after the service.
2. Bring in appropriate potted plants or ask Karen Aucker for assistance. After the service, you may be able to pick up your potted plants
3. Purchase your own flowers / arrangements which you take after the service.
4. Donate \$25 to the flower fund and request that the Altar Guild use one of our silk arrangements. These arrangements will remain property of the church.

Christian Education committee will be holding their meeting on Monday, September 19th at 6:00 pm in the church office. **Youth Ministry** Committee will be at 7:00 p.m.

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

Children's Church will be back next Sunday, September 11, 2022

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, September 4, 2022 *13th Sunday after Pentecost*

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

Tuesday, September 6, 2022

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship at Trinity Episcopal

6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 8, 2022

4:00 p.m. Pack boxes

Friday, September 9, 2022

9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Food Distribution

Sunday, September 11, 2022 *14th Sunday after Pentecost*

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

9:30 Children's Church

After worship God's Work: Our Hands Kit Assemble Party and Pizza



“Join-the-Choir” Night is at 6:30 p.m. and running every Wednesday until May 2023.

Good Morning!

Soon, Habitat for Humanity will be breaking ground for the next home build...a home entirely built by our Faith Community! I wonder...would you consider being part of our small planning group? I know that as pastors you are already serving in a variety of ways and on several committees...maybe, you could recommend someone in your congregation if it doesn't fit your schedule or heart commitment.

If you are interested in having Duane Hershberger, the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, be a guest speaker, please reach out to him at duane.hershberger@lycominghabitat.org. He is VERY entertaining and informative!

If there are any questions that I might be able to answer before you decide, please let me know. Thank you for all that you already do for our community!

Tammey L. Aichner

United Churches of Lycoming County, Executive Director

I would like to thank all those who volunteered their time and effort to make 2022 Vacation Bible School, "Discovery on Adventure Island" a success. I am so grateful that we had 31 children attend the program as they became Explorers on a quest to discover how God's light shines on us and how we reflect the light as we live each day. Special thanks to Pastor and Karen Aucker, Kaye Long, Pam Wehler, Holly Dittmar, Theresa Levins, Kim Myers, Stephanie Hollick, Gloria Ely, Cathy Eisner, Lisa Ely, Susan Ely, Roman Dittmar, Bob Dittmar, the Women who provided the ice cream social, the congregation for their support and the volunteers from First Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, and Trinity Episcopal Church, Trinity United Methodist Church .

At a time when many congregations are seeing a decline in the participation of children and youth, we experienced a resurgence of kids' participation, a "beacon" of hope for the future of our youth.

Molly Hollick, VBS Coordinator

Middle and High School Youth – We invite you to join us for Youth Quake Jan. 13-15, 2023, in Harrisburg, PA. The 2023 Theme is Re-Ignite from 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" **Registration deadline is November 1.** Please register with Pastor or Cathy Eisner before November 1 for this Friday-Sunday retreat of band music, speakers, small groups with youth from across the region.