

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

Sunday, August 18, 2024  
13th Sunday after Pentecost  
Blessings of Backpacks, Students, and Teachers



**INTRODUCTON** *Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.*

The Parks-Dean Team's **Luke Strong 2024**

## **PRELUDE**

**GATHERING SONG** *O Living Bread from Heaven 542*

## **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.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy. **Amen.**  
Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,  
**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.  
We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.  
We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.  
We take offense at your teachings and your ways.  
Turn us again to you.  
Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: *Praise and Thanksgiving* 689**

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS, STUDENTS, AND TEACHERS**

Brothers and sisters in Christ; Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we bless these backpacks to the praise and glory of God.

These backpacks symbolize learning each day, as they are with these children and young people throughout their day, in many places of education, showing that all who these children and young people see and hear; are their teachers.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Helps us all to study diligently and grow in all that is good. Give us guidance to teach others, especially our children, following the model of your son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Matthew 19:13-15

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, bless our schools that they may be lively places for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom. Grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth. Bless these backpacks, symbols of learning that they may support the educational efforts of these children, and remind them to live to the praise of your glory both now and forever. Bless as well their teachers and all who support their learning. Give them strength, guidance, and wisdom in Christ's name. Amen.

May you all have a wonderful school year.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened

**and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, 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 Proverbs

**First Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6**

*Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.*

- <sup>1</sup> Wisdom has built her house,  
she has hewn her seven pillars.  
<sup>2</sup> She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,  
she has also set her table.  
<sup>3</sup> She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls  
from the highest places in the town,  
<sup>4</sup> “You that are simple, turn in here!”  
To those without sense she says,  
<sup>5</sup> “Come, eat of my bread  
and drink of the wine I have mixed.  
<sup>6</sup> Lay aside immaturity, and live,  
and walk in the way of insight.”

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

**Psalm: Psalm 34:9-14**

- <sup>9</sup> Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,  
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.  
<sup>10</sup> **The lions are in want and suffer hunger,  
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**  
<sup>11</sup> Come, children, and listen to me;  
I will teach you reverence for the LORD.  
<sup>12</sup> **Who among you takes pleasure in life  
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**  
<sup>13</sup> Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from lying words.  
<sup>14</sup> **Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.**

**L: A reading from Ephesians**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20**

*True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>15</sup> Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 6:51-58**

*In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.*

[Jesus said,] <sup>51</sup> "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

<sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup> for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

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 *Be Thou My Vision* 793**

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

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation (*local agriculture may be named*). Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort (*especially*). Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of compassion and good counsel, bless the work of volunteer consultants who serve on behalf of Global Health Ministries. Guide them as they use their expertise to help improve health care in countries where adequate resources are lacking. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**OFFERING** Please place your offering in the offering plates located at the front and the back of the church.

*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*)

**Dialogue**

**Preface by the Pastor  
Holy Holy Holy**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE  
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: Thy Holy Wings 613**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved

**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, Chet Creasy, 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, Karen Welker, 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 week's helpers:** Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers--Gary Johnson, Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Betty Allen; Teller–Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor--Sue Willits.

**Next weeks' helpers:** Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers --Joyce Braucht, Carl Schaefer; Head Usher –Betty Allen; Teller–Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor--Sue Willits; Flowers --Tonya Welshans.

The flowers on the altar are to the glory of God and in loving memory of our mom, Norma Schaefer in remembrance of her birthday. Love, Mick, Carl, Kathy and family.

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

**Thank you** everyone for your prayers and cards. I am improving! Connie Barker

The family of Mary L. Pepperman would like to **thank** each and every one of you that sent cards of well-wishing and love for her 100th birthday! Thanks again; she is a lover of cards.

**Thank you** for your cards and prayers. James Barnard.

We are looking for someone to be the chairperson of the **annual Apple Dumpling Sale**. Please contact Gloria Ely if you are interested. We have lots of helpers, but we need someone to be the chairperson for this.

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.

We are in need of people to help with the **Children's Church program**. The program is a way for youth to take a deeper dive into the stories of the Bible. Each month we spotlight a Bible story that features a video, then throughout the month we backup the Bible story with crafts, bible study worksheets, and fun activities related to the Bible story of the month. The curriculum will be preplanned with the needed materials. The youth will be attending for approximately 30 minutes then they move to the sanctuary for communion and they attend the remainder of the service. If we get enough volunteers, we can have a rotating schedule and each person will help once per month. If you are interested, please let anyone on the Christian Education committee know: Molly Hollick, Pam Wehler, Gloria Ely, Gina Johnson, Ken Daugherty, or Pastor Aucker. Any help would be greatly appreciated! Molly

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. WE ARE...LUKE STRONG!!!

### Calendar

Sunday, August 18, 2024 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Blessing of the Backpacks, Students, and Teachers

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Lunch

Saturday, August 24, 2024 9:00 a.m. Church Cleaning! All are invited to participate!

Wednesday, August 28, 2024 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, August 31, 2024 The Park-Dean Team rides for Luke Strong!

Sunday, September 8, 2024 God's Work Our Hands Sunday assemble Seafarer bags after the service

Monday, September 9, 2024 10:00 a.m. Bible Study resumes

Sunday, September 15, 2024 Sunday School Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 22, 2024 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School resumes

