

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

Sunday, September 11, 2022  
14th Sunday after Pentecost  
God's Work; Our Hands Sunday



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH in social room at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child downstairs before worship begins.**

**Introduction to the day**

*The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.*

**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:** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* 834

### **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:** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* 789

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

**O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in 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 Exodus.

### **FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14**

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

<sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup>they have been quick to turn aside

from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’”<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

<sup>11</sup>But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’”<sup>14</sup>And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

**PSALM:** Psalm 51:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my wickedness.

**<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

L: A reading from First Timothy.

**Second Reading:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

*The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

<sup>12</sup>I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup>even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory 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 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 15:1-10

*Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.*

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and

losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Amazing Grace 779***

**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.*

Your people receive mercy and your grace overflows in our lives. Fill your church with faith and love, and give understanding hearts to those who work to strengthen our ecumenical and interreligious commitments. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Your creation groans as it suffers the impacts of pollution and lack of care. As the seasons change, renew in us the will to protect plants, animals, and habitats.

Bless us with bountiful harvests that all may share. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Your world is shattered and the nations rage. Remember us in your mercy.

Teach wisdom to our elected leaders so that we know peace in our world, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Your children wander homeless and the hungry cry for bread. Seek out those who are lost or lonely, anxious or depressed, or struggling with addiction or illness. Provide for those in any need (*especially*). God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Your work is done in this congregation with our hands, feet, voices, minds, and hearts. Build up the ministries of this community (*local ministries and partnerships may be named*), that we serve our neighbors and welcome the stranger in your name. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Your guidance is needed as a synod and Global Ministry Team to help our congregations deepen their relationship with our global partners. Keep our hearts and minds open to new possibilities. God of grace.

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Your blessed saints who have died now rest in your presence. Give us thankful hearts for those who have been examples of faith in our lives, and receive us with joy when we come to share eternal life with you. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we

C: **Amen.**

**Responding in Love**

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

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled my Soul*

*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:** *Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak 676*

**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 worshippers 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. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on often with added stress.

Special thanks to this 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.

Next week’s helper: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers—Gary Johnson and Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Betty Allen; Teller – Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor –John and Kathie Horn; Flowers—Gottschall.

The altar flowers are in honor of Bob & John’s birthday by the Wehler family.

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

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 join us downstairs to assembly personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief and pizza and ice cream for lunch.

**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. Bible Study will begin Sept 20 at 6:00 p.m.

**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.

**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, speaks, and small groups with youth from across the region.

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

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

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship at Trinity Episcopal

6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal "Join the Choir Night!"

Saturday, September 17, 2022

2:00 p.m. Installation of Bishop Miller in Sunbury

Sunday, September 18, 2022

*15th Sunday after Pentecost*

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

9:30 Children's Church

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](mailto: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

SO, AFTER EVERYTHING HE DID, PAUL JUST GETS A PASS FROM GOD?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

PAUL DOESN'T DENY THAT WHAT HE DID WAS WRONG.



BUT GOD SAW THAT PAUL BELIEVED HE WAS ACTING ON GOD'S BEHALF. HE WAS SEEKING RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT ACTING IN IGNORANCE.



LIKE WHEN I ORDER A VEGAN CHEESEBURGER!



1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

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