

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

Sunday, September 18, 2022
15th Sunday after Pentecost



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

Introduction to the day

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

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: *Take My Life, That I May Be* 685

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: *Praise to the Lord* 858

P: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed 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 Amos.

FIRST READING: **Amos 8:4-7**

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

PSALM: 113

¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

²**Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**

³From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.

⁴**The LORD is high above all nations;
God’s glory above the heavens.**

⁵Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,

⁶**but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?**

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

⁸**enthroning them¹ with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

L: A reading from First Timothy

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time.⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and

whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Son of God, Eternal Savior 655*

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.

God our Savior, you keep your church in faith and truth. Accompany those preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all those who share your good news with the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Divine teacher, you instruct your children to be responsible stewards of your creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources, and guide those who work to develop sustainable practices. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority. Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace. Inspire public servants to follow the example of courageous leaders (*especially Dag Hammarskjöld*) and safeguard the dignity of each person. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Helper of the needy, you lift up those who are oppressed. Breathe justice into economic and social systems that perpetuate poverty and hunger. Sustain food ministries, clothing banks, and emergency shelters (*local outreach may be named*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Sustainer and giver of life, you bless this congregation with abundance. Instruct us in the proper and faithful use of wealth and resources, that we share generously. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Protector of the seafarers, God bless the work of Seafarers International House as they share housing with the Salvation Army in New York City. Bless the chaplains as they visit the seafarers on ship and provide them with essentials in the

gift bags we collect in November. Give them strength as they advocate for the needs of crew members on the cargo ships. God of grace

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us (*especially*), and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end. 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 *Creation is Singing*

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: *Let All Things Now Living 818*

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 & Helen 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 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 helper: Lector – ; Assisting Ministers—Gary Johnson and Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Betty Allen; Teller – Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor –John and Kathie Horn.

Next week’s helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers –Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher –Betty Allen; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor--Cozette Stoltzfus. Flowers—Johnsons.

The altar flowers are to the glory of God by Charles and Laurel Gottschall.

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

Consider cards of encouragement to
Beth Good, Ravine Ridge room 2, Williamsport Home, 1900 Ravine Road,
Williamsport, PA 17701
Elsie Parks, Nippenose Valley Village room 21, 7190 South State Rt 44,
Williamsport PA 17702

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

There will be a **Women of the Church** Meeting after the service today!

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 Tuesday, Sept 20 at 6:00 p.m.

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. on Monday, September 19.

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.

An informational meeting about the **2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering** will be held on Sunday, September 25 after worship. The Gathering will be held in New Orleans on July 16-20, 2024. Registration will be in the Fall of 2023. We want to plan fund-raising activities soon for those interested in going.

Youth Group meeting for Middle and High School Youth September 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Project: Assemble Seafarer Satchels.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, September 18, 2022

15th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Children's Church

10:30 a.m. Women of the Church meeting

2:00 p.m. Catechism

Monday, September 19, 2022

6:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee in office

7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry Committee in office
Tuesday, September 20, 2022

6:00 p.m. Bible Study on Proverbs

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship at Trinity Episcopal

11:30 a.m. Fellowship at Shore Diner

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

Sunday, September 25, 2022

16th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service. Baptism Jemarie Rae-Ann Alyse Fetzer

9:30 a.m. Children's Church

10:30 a.m. Information on ELCA National Youth Gathering



CHURCH TREASURER: Due to the end-of-the year resignation of Scott Mitchell, we are searching for someone to serve as church treasurer. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor, Bill Ely, or Becky Ward.