

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

Sunday, September 15, 2024  
17th Sunday after Pentecost  
The Rev. Dr. Kerry Aucker, Pastor



**Children's Church will meet upstairs in the youth Sunday School room at end of the hallway at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child there before worship begins.**

**INTRODUCTON** *Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

**GATHERING SONG** *What a Fellowship 774*

### **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,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us  
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first  
we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.  
Draw near to us with grace in time of need,  
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ,  
the source of eternal healing,  
your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: *Baptized in Water* 456**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow 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 Isaiah

**First Reading:** Isaiah 50:4-9a

*The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.  
<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.  
<sup>7</sup>The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

L: The word of the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

**Psalm: Psalm 116:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,  
<sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**  
<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.  
<sup>4</sup>**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**  
<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the LORD and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.  
<sup>6</sup>**The LORD watches over the innocent;  
I was brought low, and God saved me.**  
<sup>7</sup>Turn again to your rest, O my soul.  
for the LORD has dealt well with you.  
<sup>8</sup>**For you have rescued my life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**  
<sup>9</sup>I will walk in the presence of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

**L: A reading from James**

**Second Reading: James 3:1-12**

*This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it

we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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. Mark.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel:** Mark 8:27-38

*This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup>He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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 *Lift High the Cross* 660**

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

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve (*especially*). Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for young adults in global missions. God of all nations, be with our young adults as they travel to places around the world in which you called them to serve. May they use the gifts you have given to them to help all in need. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: We remember our beloved dead (*especially*), who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

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

**CHOIR ANTHEM: *No, Never Alone***

*The assembly will stand.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation.  
By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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: Jesus welcomes you to this table.

Come, here is your God.

*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: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome one another and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

P: God all mighty, God most merciful

✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

### **Sending Song: *Born Cry* 732**

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**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 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 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, 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 – Brayden Wehler; Teller–Bob Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor--Sue Willets.

**Next weeks’ helpers:** Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers –Deb Heydrich, Joyce Braucht; Head Usher– Brayden Wehler; Teller–Bob Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor--Sue Willits; Flowers – Gary and Gina Johnson.

The flowers on the altar are to the glory of God by Betty Allen

The Sanctuary Candle in September is in honor of Kim's 40th birthday by Darlene Bilby.

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.

**Rally Day is this Sunday** and all members are welcome to join us downstairs to check out this year's Adult Sunday School materials and chat with members of the classes. This gives everyone an opportunity to see what the class is about without a commitment and enjoy light refreshments while you talk to members of the class and look over the materials.

The Christian Education Committee has several needs for the Children's Church program. We are looking for **donations of cases of 8oz. bottled waters** to give the kids during Children's Church. A snack is provided and the 8-ounce bottled water is a great size for the kids to have with their snack. If anyone would be interested in providing snacks please let me know. Thank you! Molly

Christian Education is looking for someone **to head the Children's Christmas Program** this year. There are resources available and the program can be as big or small of a production as you want to make it. There is so much material to choose from and many are one rehearsal programs. Last year the program was a short but very meaningful two rehearsal program. We have an abundance of talent here at St. John's, so if you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. Thank you!! Molly

**Mark your Calendars and Make Plans!** October 27, 2024 at 4 pm a Trunk or Treat here at St John's in the parking lot, everyone is welcome to come and partake of games (bobbing for apples, bag toss, etc) - food hotdogs, chips and drinks, candy OR set up their trunk to hand out candy to young and old alike!

## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

October 13 at 12:30 --Carpenter's Corn Maze /Pumpkin picking

October 27 at 4:00 – All Hallow's Eve Trunk or Treat in St John's parking lot

November 17 – fall wreath making for Homes

And more in the planning!

**CROP Walk** – We invite you to participate in the annual CROP Walk to fight hunger in Lycoming County. This year's walk begins at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Williamsport near the bridge on Sunday, October 13 at 1:00 pm. This year is our 46<sup>th</sup> Walk, and to date, we have raised over 1 million dollars to help stop Hunger. Besides the work of Church World Services, 25% of funds raised go to four food pantries in Lycoming County: Jersey Shore Care and Share, the Sonlight House of Muncy, the United Churches of Lycoming County Food Pantry, and the West End Christian Community Center. Walkers can walk, 3, 6, or 9 miles on the River Walk in Williamsport. If you wish to register or receive information about the CROP Walk, go to [www.crophungerwalk.org/williamsportpa](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/williamsportpa)

**Seafarer Satchels** - While the ELCA will celebrate God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 8, I decided to re-schedule our assembly of Seafarer Satchels until October 13 as I learned some stores do not have sweat shirts and knitted hats on their shelves yet. If you are a Thrivent member and have not applied for a Thrivent Action Grant of \$250, I encourage you to do so. You should receive enough funding to purchase supplies for ten Seafarer Satchels. If you would like to purchase individual items to donate on October 13 when the congregations is welcomed to assemble the satchels here is a list: Sweatshirt, hooded or unhooded, L or XL; three pairs of socks – thermal or gym, one T-shirt (L or XL)

one Knitted Winter Cap (do not add fringes or pom poms); One item of three choices: one can of nuts or one large bar of chocolate or one Healthy snack bar; a Holiday or Christmas card from YOU! You pick the colors, styles, and brands but please no substitutions from the list. The Christmas at Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew.

### Calendar

Sunday, September 15, 2024 Sunday School Rally Sunday  
930 a.m. Worship Service  
Women of the Church Meeting after Worship  
Monday, September 16, 2024 10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. Pantry Choice Food Distribution  
Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Lunch  
**6:00 p.m.** Choir Rehearsal  
Sunday, September 22, 2024 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School resumes  
930 a.m. Worship Service  
Sunday, September 29, 2024 9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
Sunday, October 6, 2024 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
930 a.m. Worship Service  
10:30 Christian Ed Committee meeting

