

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

Sunday, October 15, 2023

20th Sunday after Pentecost



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.

Introduction to the day

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of 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 God, the one who forms us,

✠ Jesus who bears the cross,

the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice,

yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed

by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have

for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused,

known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others

and your creation, forgive us.

**For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* 632

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: *I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy* TFF 257

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

1 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
2 I've got the peace that pass - es un - der - stand - ing,
3 I've got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus,

down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
I've got the peace that pass - es un - der - stand - ing,
I've got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus,

down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

Text: George W. Cooke
Music: DOWN IN MY HEART, George W. Cooke

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just,

and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, 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 Isaiah

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

Psalm: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

L: A reading from Philippians

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 Matthew

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Now We Join in Celebration* 462

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world (*local natural areas may be named*), that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. (*We pray especially for . . .*).
God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Glorious God, we give you thanks for the ministry of Camp Mounty Luther. May the staff find time of rest and renewal from their summer camping season and give them wisdom and insight for future programs that share the Good News. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy (*especially Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church*), that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *I Can Only Imagine*

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144 (*in the beginning of the hymnal*)

Dialogue

Holy Holy Holy

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

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 Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word,

Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

SENDING SONG: *Sent Forth by God's Blessing 547*

DISMISSAL P: Go in peace. God is at work in 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 the receiving of the offering. 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, Christine and Dave Barner, Linda Caris, Agnes Cryder, Don & Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Dina George, Barb Hoffman, Mick Miller, Bob Moriarity, Elsie Parks in Haven Place, Cora Pelletier, Shane Snyder, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton – ELCA; 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, Richie 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 often with added stress.

Special thanks to this weeks' helpers: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers—Gary Johnson, Karen Aucker; Children's Church –Cathy Eisner; Head Usher –Shelby Rice; Teller – Deb Heydrich; Bulletin Sponsor – Sue Willits.

Next week's helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers—Joyce Braucht, Carl Schaefer; Children's Church –Holly Dittmar; Head Usher –Shelby Rice; Teller –Deb Heydrich; Bulletin Sponsor – Sue Willits; Flowers-- .

The flowers are to the glory of God.

The Sanctuary Candle in October is in honor of family birthdays by Agnus Cryder.




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

This bulletin and more can be found on our church website: www.stjl.org.

Youth Group is meeting TODAY after worship to go to Carpenter's farm for a hayride and to pick pumpkins. Come join us!

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH will meet after the worship service next Sunday, October 15. A meeting is also planned for Sunday, November 12.

 **CALLING ALL CHILI LOVERS**  Mark your calendar October 22 Chili cook off ...Our Social for the month, following Worship, will be a Fund Raiser for Pastors Discretionary Fund! We need your help! If you willing to make a crockpot of Chili please let someone on council know! We will be selling bowls of Chili  for \$5.00, that will include a roll, dessert & drink! (Chicken noodle soup has been added for non-chili eaters) And for \$1 you get 5 samples and ballots to vote for your Favorite CHILI! If we have extras will sell takeouts! Hope to see you there!

IT'S BUDGET TIME!!! Committee chairs please submit your proposed budget for 2024 to Bob Dittmar by Oct 22.

Pastor Aucker is hosting a **First Communion class** for anyone who has not completed instruction in the proper reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The class will be held on either Sunday, October 22 or October 29 at 8:45 am in the Sanctuary. Children should come with their parents.

All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2023 we will be remembering
Candace Louise Welshans 3/10/2023 David Mitchell 4/14/2023
Jack Rishel 5/1/2023 Mary Jane Zinn 7/22/2023
Nancy Ott Wolfe 8/28/2023

Seafarer's Bags are due November 1 (It's fast approaching!) The bags, list, and directions are on the table in the office. Our very own Pastor Martha McCracken was on the board of Seafarer's International and served as their president.

HOLIDAY BUS TRIP Saturday, Dec. 2 with JS Garden Club. " A Delightful Day at Longwood Gardens." Details on the bulletin boards and see Molly Hollick.

SAVE THE DATE!! Christmas Bazaar will be Saturday, December 9.

Calendar

Sunday, October 15, 2023 20th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church

10:30 a.m. Youth Group Carpenter's Farm pumpkins and corn maize.

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

Monday, October 16, 2023

10:00 a.m. Bible Study-resume page 14, question 3

6:00 p.m. Christian Ed meeting

7:00 p.m. Youth Planning

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time at Restless Oaks

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 20, 2023 6:00 p.m. wedding rehearsal

Saturday, October 21, 2023 3:00 p.m. Wedding Lauren Miller & Brock Knarr

Sunday, October 22, 2023 21st Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m.. Adult Sunday School

8:45 a.m. First Communion Class

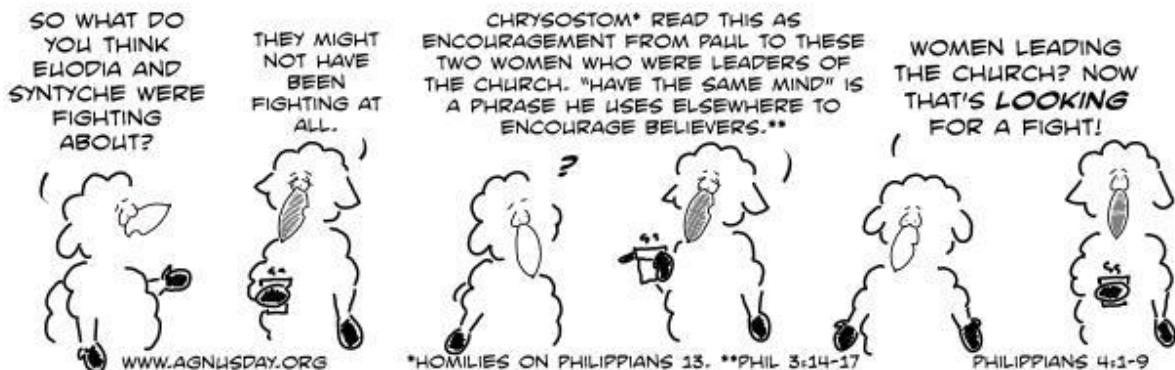
9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church

10:30 Chili Cook Off; \$5.00

1:00 p.m. Worship at Nippenose Village

2:00 p.m. Catechism Class

BUDGETS DUE TO BOB DITTMAR



This is Bishop Eaton's response to our Lutheran Bishop in Jordan

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

October 10, 2023 Dear Bishop Azar, My heart continues to be heavy as we have learned of the escalation of conflict between Hamas and Israel and the growing number of casualties. We mourn all the lives lost and those who live in fear. I read your statement last weekend and wish to assure you that you, our siblings in Christ who continue to bear faithful witness to the gospel, enduring years of living under occupation and violence – and now war, are not lost to us in this horrendous situation. You lifted up how the conflict is connected to a larger context and history, which is important for our awareness. I share your reminder: “As a church, [the ELCJHL continues] to advocate for non-violence; but we also believe it is crucial to understand the circumstances from which violence emerges. ... It is a symptom of a people deeply wounded by extended and systematic violence and oppression. ... As always, we pray for a peaceful resolution that extends human rights to all. We remember that the peace Jesus offers, that which is based in justice and solidarity with the suffering and oppressed, is at the root of true peace.” I encourage the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to unite in prayer for the families of innocent civilians whose lives were lost, as well as pray for healing for all the injured, fearful and traumatized. I pledge our accompaniment and support to you as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and its ministries provide “critical and timely assistance [psychological and otherwise] to those affected by this war.” We also will advocate to U.S. officials your “appeal to the international community to stand with us in these efforts to address the crisis in Gaza and to urge all involved to uphold the principles of international humanitarian law.” We pray: God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. In all our conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen for your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 76).

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America