

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

Sunday, November 12, 2023
Commemorating Veteran's Day
24th 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.
SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Introduction

Military service is marked by self-denial, sacrifice, and service, each of which are attributes of a Christian vocation in the world. Without needing to address the wisdom of any particular military engagement or to mimic civic ceremonies, congregations can speak words of blessing to those who relinquished personal freedom, made countless sacrifices, and willingly put themselves in service to neighbor and nation in the armed forces. Honoring these vocational attributes allows veterans who may question the value of their service, or the wars in which they fought, to reframe their service as a vocation in which Christian faith was active.

Prelude

The assembly stands.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation.

Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.

Amen.

Hymn "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" 890

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;

He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.
Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

C Christ's blood sets us free to be people of God. Hallelujah!

P Give glory to God, whose strong hand and mighty arm have gained the victory.

C Christ's blood sets us free to be people of God. Hallelujah!

P In every circumstance, we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us.

C Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

P In Christ Jesus, God had fashioned us to do those good things which will glorify the Father in heaven.

C Christ's blood sets us free to be people of God. Hallelujah!

P "Continue in my Word," the Savior said, "and you will know the truth, the truth that makes you free."

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat.
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.
Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

The **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Hear us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me.
As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free;
While God is marching on.
Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

The assembly is seated.

WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

L: A reading from Ecclesiastes.

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

3 There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

Psalm: **Psalm 46**

1 God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
2 **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,**
3 though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
4 **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.**
5 God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
6 **Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.**
7 The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
8 **Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.**
9 He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
10 **He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."**

¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-17

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

The **Homily for Veterans Day** is delivered by Colonel Lisa Harbach, Ret. US Army

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: (to the tune 597 tune of My Hope is Built)

In God we trust! Oh, may it be

Lord, turn our hearts from guilt and shame To bear with joy your sacred name.

In ev'ry need, as well they must, Our hearts cry out, "In God we trust!"

In God we trust! For we have heard The news of your forgiving Word,

The peace for which our Savior died, The Spirit's favors multiplied.

For ev'ry blessing, true and just, Thankful we cry, "In God we trust!"

In God we trust! Oh, give us grace n you our confidence to place,

To set our hearts on things above, To live as agents of your love,

To conquer death, to rise from dust, To cry anew, “In God we trust!”

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

The Prayers

P Glory be to you, O God, for the blessings you provide in this most favored land.

Glory be to you for those who have gone before us, for those who worked and strove, who fought and died, that we might live in peace and liberty. Oh, make us worthy of our heritage, great God; help us to remember.

Glory be to you, O God, for the blessings that continue to surround us. Make us responsible stewards of your bounty, that all may have a share in your goodness and come to know your love.

Let your blessing rest upon those among us who are in need or want of any kind. [*Specific names and causes may be named here.*] In your great mercy, bless them with your grace and power, that they may come to join in singing, “Hallelujah!”

Glory be to you, O God, for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the message of his labor in our behalf, his death for our redemption, his resurrection and rule. Let that glorious message be proclaimed freely through this land of liberty, that we may joyfully acknowledge your lordship, and faithfully live according to your will.

Glory be to you, O Lord of all, we ask for blessings to our Liberia missionaries – Pastor Brian Palmer and Pastor Linda Johnson Seyenkulo. We thank you for their faithful teaching to lay ministers at Louis T. Bower Lay Leader and Minister Training Center as they prepare for church service.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Glory be to you, O God! So continue to bless us on our pilgrim way that, when you call us hence at last, we may join the heavenly chorus, there where we have our true citizenship; and sing forever, “Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!”

Choir Anthem *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you,

gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings.

Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,

and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self

and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

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: There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.

Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

A Benediction, from Psalm 67, is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P God, be merciful to us and bless us; make your face to shine upon us,

C that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

P Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

C The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

P May God continue to bless us. May people everywhere honor him.

The Closing Hymn *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 888*

BLESSING

The God of peace,

who creates all things and calls them good,

who makes us alive in Jesus,

and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,

✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *God Bless America*

God bless America Land that I love

Stand beside her And guide her

Through the night with a light from above

From the mountains To the prairies

To the oceans white with foam

God bless America

My home, sweet home

God bless America
My home, sweet home

Dismissal

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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, Dawn Hauser, Barb Hoffman, Mick Miller, Bob Moriarity, 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 week’s helpers: Lector —Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers—Bill Ely and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Dawn McCloskey; Teller – Shane Snyder; Bulletin Sponsor – Sue Willits; Children's Church -- Pam Wehler.

Next weeks’ helpers: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers --Karen Aucker and Gary Johnson; Head Usher –Dawn McCloskey; Teller – Shane Snyder; Bulletin Sponsor – Sue Willits; Children's Church --Cathy Eisner; Flowers-- Myers.

The flowers are to the glory of God and in honor of Maxine's birthday by Ashley Shields.

The Sanctuary Candle in November is in memory of my father by Sue Willits.

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.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH. A meeting is planned for **Sunday, November 19.**

Ever have thoughts of being a missionary? Of serving in a ministry in another country for a short time period? We welcome all of our Middle School and High School Youth to join us on **Sunday, November 19** for lunch and a presentation by Claire Weisner who served as a Young Adult in Global Missions in Argentina/Uruguay. Claire is from Trinity Lutheran, Milton, and will speak about her experiences providing ministry in two other countries. I'm sure there will be room if adults would like to join us. I'm setting up a Zoom meeting so if you cannot attend and want to join by zoom, contact Pastor Aucker. I would like to see all eighty of our youth attend.

CHRISTMAS EVE at 10 o'clock there is a half hour of **special music**. If you would like to perform and share your talent, please see organist Becky Ward.

Calendar

Sunday, November 12, 2023 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Veterans Day Observance and Harvest Home

- 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 8:45 a.m. First Communion Class
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:30 a.m. Endowment Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2023 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Hymn Picking

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, November 19, 2023 25th Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church
10:30 Women of the Church Meeting
Young adult Global Missionary Claire Weisner

THERE'S A LOT GOING ON HERE, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN...



WWW.AGNLSDAY.ORG

HOW ABOUT AT THE **END?**



"WE WILL BE WITH THE LORD **FOREVER!**"



I'LL CONFESS. I GOT STUCK AT "CAUGHT UP IN THE CLOUDS," I'M NOT EVEN GOOD ON A LADDER!



1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

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Just a reminder of upcoming events:

Nov. 19 – After worship, 11:00 am, Claire Weisner, from Trinity Lutheran, Milton, will share her experiences as a Young Adult in Global Mission during her year in Argentina and Uruguay. Learn how you can be a missionary for a year.

Nov. 26 – Annual Congregation Meeting following worship.

Dec. 3 – Youth and young at heart make Gingerbread houses after worship in the Sunday School room.

Dec. 9 – Women of St. John Annual Bazaar. 9 am – 2:00 p.m. Youth leave for Christmas at Hershey Park at 2:00 pm.

Dec. 16 -- Youth Christmas Caroling at 5 p.m.

Dec. 17 – Children’s Christmas Program and Congregation Christmas Dinner after worship.

December 24 - Celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas

9:30 a.m. Advent Worship at St. John Lutheran

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship at St. John Lutheran

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship at St. James Lutheran

10:00 p.m. Special Music at St. John Lutheran

10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship at St. John Lutheran

Let us pack the church on Christmas Eve! Invite everyone you encounter to join us at one of the Christmas Eve Services.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Linda Caris who died on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. A Memorial Service will be held at St. John Lutheran on Saturday, November 18 at 6:00 p.m.