

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

Sunday, October 31, 2021
The Rev. Dr. K Aucker, Pastor
REFORMATION DAY

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

We welcome the Fairplay Brass to our Reformation Festival. We sincerely appreciate and are thankful for their generously sharing their gifted talents. A basket for thank-offerings for them is on the piano.

Reformation Day

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.



Introduction to the day

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.
Amen.

P. Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* 504

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: *This Is the Feast* p.140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

**Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON *A Visit with Katie Luther*

HYMN OF THE DAY: *God of Our Fathers (from LBW)*

God of Our Fathers

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand
 2 Your love di - vine has led us in the past;
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
 4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some way;

leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 in this free land - ty you our lot is cast;
 make your strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.
 lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies;
 oh, be our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;
 Your true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;
 fill all our lives with heav'n - born love and grace

our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.
 your word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.
 your boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 un - til at last we meet be - fore your face.

Text: Daniel C. Roberts, 1841–1907, alt.
 Music: NATIONAL HYMN, George W. Warren, 1828–1902

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A: We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places (*especially*). Pour wisdom and understanding upon all who govern so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit (*especially*). Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all nations, as we remember the lives and work of the 16th century Church Reformers in Germany, we ask that you continue to bless and guide those who lead the Church in our companion synod in the Ansbach-Wurzburg Kirchenkreis. Keep them true to your Word as they share the Gospel and serve your people where they are called. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation (*especially*). Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

Amen.

Our Offerings of Music

FAIRPLAY BRASS *Just a Closer Walk*

CHOIR ANTHEM *O For Grace*

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: God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.

Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE BY PASTOR HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 144)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age;
the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all ages, the gift of you Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will,
even to giving his life.

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.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the
great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to
the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious
Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours,
almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

**We welcome Sophie Karim and her family to come forward for the first table for her first
Holy Communion.**

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 (P.146)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

(repeat twice)

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,

Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood

you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.

Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,

bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

People of God, you are Christ's body,

bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *The Church's One Foundation 654*

POSTLUDE *The Fairplay Brass The Spacious Firmament*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells 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, Luke Antolick, Dave Barner, Darlene Bilby, Stan Breon, Agnes Cryder, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, Joanne Fisher, Joyce Hudson, Steve Keller and sister Janet Grazier, Bud Long, Mary Miller, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Ruth Nice, Penny Parks-Dean, Jean Ann Snyder, Shane Snyder, John Truax, Sue Willits’ father Thomas Willits, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Loudon Boring, Jake Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

Special Thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector—Pam Wehler; Assisting Ministers –Karen Aucker and Dawn McCloskey; Head Usher –Dawn McCloskey; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor – Betty Allen.

Next week’s helpers: Lector – Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers – Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Head Usher –Dawn McCloskey; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor - NEEDED; Flowers – JOY Class; Children’s Church—Pam Wehler.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored in memory of loved ones by Dave and Christine Barner.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my parents, Harris and Winifred Barner by Cindy Breon.

Fall Cash Sunday, November 7, 2021—Council voted to designate the monies to the repair of the pipe organ.

Let there be NO running, pushing, or shoving ☺ as you go to the bulletin board in the upstairs hallway to sign up for flower openings Nov. 28, Dec.5, Dec. 26 and ALL of next year! The 2022 Flower calendar has been posted. Also needed are Bulletin Sponsors for November and December. That list is in the downstairs hallway.

COURAGEOUS, Youth Quake 2022 Jan.21-22 in Harrisburg. Grades 6-12. Please let Cathy Eisner or Pastor know by Nov 7 if you are interested in attending.

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

“DAVID” playing at Sight and Sound !! August 6, 2022 -- Children 10 and under \$125.00; Adults \$190.00. Fare includes bus, play, meal, tip for driver and fund raiser for Luke Antolick. Payments may be made during the course of the year! Thank You! Joyce Braucht.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, October 31, 2021

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service
7:00 p.m. NA meeting

Reformation Sunday
Deadline for Seafarers Satchels

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Monday, November 1, 2021

10:00a.m. Bible Study
7:30 p.m. N/A meeting

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 Election Day in PA

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

10:00 a.m. Worship at Trinity Episcopal Church
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. N/A meeting

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Preparation and 6:30 p.m. Dinner for First Responders

Sunday, November 7, 2021

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Women of Church Meeting
7:00 p.m. NA meeting

All Saints Sunday
Fall Cash Sunday
22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Other upcoming events!

November 7 is All Saints Sunday when we light candles to remember those who have joined the Saints Triumphant. In the past year fifteen members of St. John Lutheran have died. A record in my twenty-two years here at St. John. Also, we invite volunteers to join us at noon on November 7 for the ringing of the bells. We would like to join all the churches across the nation who will be remembering the 733,000 people who have died from coronavirus, including many in the Jersey Shore area.

November 14 we will celebrate Veterans Day with a special service and Harvest Home. Donations of food are appreciated and will be donated to the New Love Center Food Pantry.

November 15 is the deadline for the next EAGLE newsletter submissions.

