

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

Sunday, March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Healing Service



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

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

✠ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light* 815

GREETING

P: The love of God poured into our hearts,
the saving grace of Jesus Christ,
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father 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.

L: A reading from First Samuel.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded,

and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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 Ephesians.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my

eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Healer of our Every Ill 612*

THE NICENE CREED p, 104

HEALING SERVICE

P: Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Let us pray.

Loving God, our source and our final home,
we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth,
for our human bodies and all you have created.

In your great mercy,

C: hear us, O God.

A: Merciful God,
by the wounds of your Son we are healed.

Bring your saving health to all people.

In your great mercy,

C: hear us, O God.

A: Holy God,
your Spirit came upon us in the waters of baptism
and brought us into the communion of saints.
Renew in us the grace of baptism,
by which we share in Christ's death and resurrection.

In your great mercy,

C: hear us, O God.

A: Mighty God,
your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all.
Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain.
Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair.

In your great mercy,

C: hear us, O God.

A: Compassionate God, the strength of those who suffer,
bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical, or spiritual distress.

In your great mercy,

C: hear us, O God.

A: Almighty God, source of human knowledge,
give skill, wisdom, and compassion
to all who provide medical care.

In your great mercy,

C: hear us, O God.

A: Loving God, our creator and redeemer,
give gentleness and courage to family members, friends,
and caregivers of those who suffer.

In your great mercy,
C: hear us, O God.

A: God of the prophets, of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, of Miriam, Deborah, and Anna, you call us to live lives of justice, freedom, and peace. Bless the work of advocacy groups like Lutheran World Federation which seek to bring justice where there is unfairness, freedom where there is slavery, and peace where there is war. In your great mercy,
C: hear us, O God.

Other petitions may be offered, including particular needs and requests for healing.

P: God of great and abundant mercy,
with your presence sustain all for whom we pray.
Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope,
and strengthen their trust in you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

Those who wish to receive laying on of hands (and anointing) approach and, as conditions permit, they may kneel.

The minister lays both hands on each person's head and may use one of these forms or similar words. The minister may also anoint the person's forehead with oil, making the sign of the cross.

Name, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,
be strengthened and filled with God's grace,
that you may know the healing power of the Spirit.
Amen.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands, and the presiding minister continues.

Let us pray.
Living God, through the laying on of hands [and anointing],
grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing.
When they are afraid, give them courage;
when afflicted, give them patience;
when dejected, give them hope;
and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The presiding minister concludes the order for healing.

Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Responding in Love

Our Offering of Music

CHOIR ANTHEM *Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone*

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: God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER P.145

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

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.

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, constant source of all healing,
we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life,
and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son,
through whom we have health and salvation.

As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain,
help us by your Holy Spirit
to be assured of your power in our lives
and to trust in your eternal love;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of all consolation bless you in every way,
grant you hope all the days of your life,
restore you to health and grant you salvation,
fill your heart with peace,
and lead you to eternal life.

Almighty God bless you, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Be Thou My Vision 793*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Candy Welshans who died on March 10, 2023. The Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 11:00 a.m..

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Jim Allen, Donna Batschelet, Ron Brundick, Agnes Cryder, Don & Helen Delaney, Joanne Fisher, Joann Hall, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, Cora Pelletier, the Snyder family, Charles Welshans, 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 we pray for peace in Ukraine and an end to war.

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, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, 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.

The flowers on our altar are in honor of the saints by Cozette Stoltzfus.

The Sanctuary Candle in March is in memory of loved ones by Pastor and Mrs. Aucker.

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

There will be a **Christian Education** Committee Meeting on Monday, March 20 at 6:00 p.m.

There will be a **Youth Planning** Committee Meeting on Monday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m.

Outreach Committee will assemble Easter candy bags for Jersey Shore Nursing and Rehabilitation and Nippenose Valley Village, March 25th at 10 am at the church. Anyone wishing to help contact Shane Snyder or Cozette Stoltzfus.

Christian Education is seeking volunteers to lead Children’s Church once a month. If interested please see Cathy Eisner. The 4th and 5th Sundays are open.

NO NEED TO STAY HOME !!! We now have the volunteers to supervise toddlers/babies, childrensay up to age 6 in the **NURSERY**. Ken Dougherty will have a sign-up sheet if you would be willing to help out in the **NURSERY**.

NURSERY TOYS. Molly and I will be cleaning out the nursery in a few weeks and throwing away broken toys. We will be looking for some toys that can replace the ones we will be getting rid of. If you have any toys that are like new and have all their pieces and you would like to donate to the church nursery we would be very appreciative. If you could put them in one of the classrooms upstairs that is not being used that would be great. Thank you so much! Carol Yost

EASTER SUNRISE BREAKFAST - Plans are being made and phone calls are going out to have our breakfast after the early service. Some volunteers are needed following the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8 to set up the room. After the hunt, please stay a few minutes to help set up table and chairs.

Pictorial Directory

The last pictorial directory of the members of St. John Lutheran was created in 2009. Over the past fourteen years we have had a number of changes with births, new members, and deaths, along with the pandemic that had a significant impact upon us. It was suggested that we create a new pictorial directory so people have a visual picture of our members.

We also need information from you to verify what we have on file. We have no birthdates on some people. We have a lot of young adults who moved away from home but we have no addresses, phone numbers or emails for them. Just their parent's address.

So, we are asking each of you to send us a photo of yourselves and send it by email to St. John Lutheran Church at: stjohn@stjl.org

Please take a close-up photo of ourselves or your family. Use your cell phone or have someone else take your photo and email it to St. John. Please send us a close-up photo. A dot standing out in the field will not show your smiley face.

Please also send us your address, email, and phone number to update the directory and make sure it is accurate. A number of people provided their home phone number years ago but have since discontinued their home phone and use only their cell phones. If you do not want your cell phone listed, please note that when you send us your photo and information. Current church directories are always available without photos. Just ask Pastor to print one out for you. It only takes a few minutes. Remember the directory is only as good as the information that we have available.

Special Thanks to Shelby Rice for volunteering to coordinate the pictorial directory project. Contact her for any information regarding photos. You can text your pictures directly to Shelby 570.506.4934

Youth Ministry

Camp Mt. Luther has a new way to send out their summer camp flyers and registration. There is a QR code available here at the church on the bulletin board and in the annual report that you scan and read. You can download the registration, medical, and other forms from the QR code.

Turn in registrations to Molly Hollick. **Deadline is April 9**

LENTEN SERVICES

These will be traditional services in the sanctuary with no meal.

Lent 4, March 22, 7:00 pm at Garman Lutheran

Lent 5, March 29, 7:00 pm at St. John Lutheran

Palm Sunday, April 2, 9:30 am at St. John Lutheran. We need volunteers to read the Passion of St. Matthew.

A sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the Tower, 2nd floor.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7:00 pm at St. John Lutheran

Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, April 7 at St. James Lutheran

Easter Vigil Egg Hunt for the children, April 8 at 11:00 am.

Set up for Easter Sunrise Breakfast following the Egg Hunt

Easter Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday, April 9, 6:00 am and 9:30 am, St. John Lutheran

Easter Sunrise Breakfast following the 6:00 a.m. service

Holy Humor Sunday, April 16, 9:30 a.m. Rumor has it that the Blues Brothers will return to St. John!

Calendar

Sunday, March 19, 2023

4th Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 a.m. Sunday School *Healing Service*
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Church and Worship Service
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 2:00 p.m. Catechism

Monday, March 20, 2022

- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Education
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry Planning Committee

Wednesday, March 21, 2023

- 10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship
- 7:00 p.m. Lent Service 4 at Garman

Saturday, March 25, 2023

- 10:00 a.m. Assemble cards and Easter baskets for nursing homes
- a.m. Memorial Service for Candace Welshans

Sunday, March 26, 2023

5th Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Church and Worship Service
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 1:00 p.m. Worship at Nippenose Village

