

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, April 28, 2024
5th Sunday of Easter



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

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

PRELUDE

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.
Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING SONG *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!* 377

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.

KYRIE: page 138

HYMN OF PRAISE: *When Morning Guilds the Skies* 853

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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.

L: A reading from Acts

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went

down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

L: A reading from First John

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom

they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142

Alleluia! Lord and Savior; open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The holy gospel according to St. John

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON “The Blessings of Relationships”

The assembly will stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *In Christ There Is No East or West* 650

THE NICENE CREED p.104

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters (*local bodies of water may be named*). Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering (*especially*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the Global Health Ministries, compassionate and healing God, continue to bless and strengthen the work of Global Health Ministries. Provide for their needs as they strive to build up the capacity of effectiveness of health care systems in under-resourced countries. Move us to support them in their foundational belief that all people should have access to a healthy life.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *There in God's Garden*

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **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: The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.
The assembly is seated.

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, Name Above All Names* (repeat twice)

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.*

The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

A: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Song: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resound 367

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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, Connie Barker, Danny Bennett, Maisy Boyles, Matteo Cooper, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Dawn Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Myrtle Long, Mick Miller, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, Ben Saar, Pam Shuler, 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 – Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers-- Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher –Lynette Yost; Teller–Shelby Rice; Bulletin Sponsor-- Darlene Bilby; Children's Church--Holly Dittmar.

Next weeks' helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers Ron Brundick and Deb Heydrich; Head Usher –Gina Johnson; Teller–Lynette Yost; Bulletin Sponsor--Cindy Breon; Children's Church--Molly Hollick; Flowers--Ashley Shields.

The flowers are to the glory of God by Chuck and Laurel Gottschall

The Sanctuary Candle in April is to the glory of God by Jim Ely.

NEEDED: Copier Paper. We are running low on 8 1/2 x 11” copier paper for printing the bulletins, etc. If you could purchase a case of paper for St John Lutheran it would be greatly appreciated. If you have a Sam's Club membership their price for an eight-ream case is \$39.98. Staples and other places are much higher. The paper needs to be brought to the office. Even a single case would be helpful!

This bulletin and more can be found on church site www.stjl.org

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.

Attention all Treasurers: Please turn your books and check registers into the office for the finance committee to do its annual audit by May 5th.

Pastor and Mrs. Aucker will be on vacation Wednesday, May 1 to Saturday, May 4, 2024. Pastoral needs will be covered by Pastor Shumway 570-295-5958

Calendar

Sunday, April 28, 2024 5th Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

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

10:30 a.m. Christian Ed meeting

10:30 a.m. Brunch !!! Ham BBQ and bring a dish to share!

Wednesday May 1- Saturday, May 4, 2024 Pastor out of town

Saturday, May 4, 2024 Workshop for Congregation Leaders and certification of

Lay Worship Leader John Yingling in Northumberland
Sunday, May 5, 2024 6th Sunday of Easter

Spring Cash Sunday for repairs to the outside tower

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

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

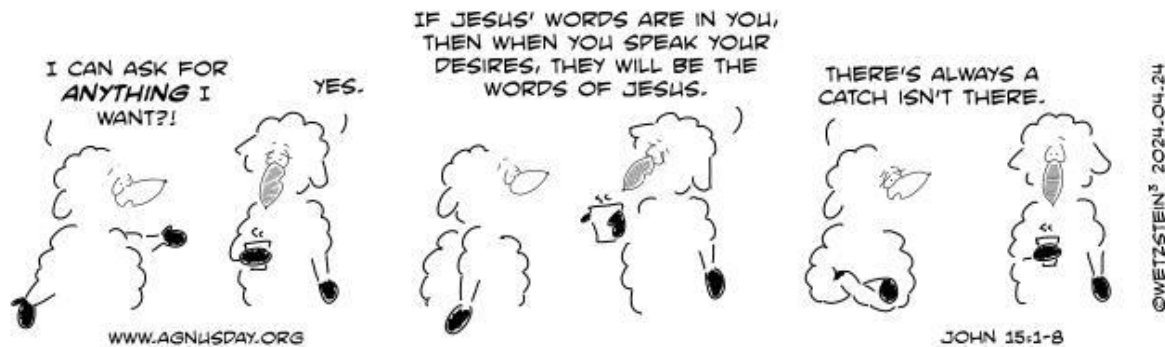
Audit of Treasurer's Accounts

Saturday, May 11, 2024 Mother's Day Dinner at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 19, 2024, Confirmation and Graduate tea, Recognition of Scholarship Recipients.

Saturday, June 22, 2024 Church Work Day at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 30, 2024 A Brunch in honors of Fathers after worship



Many thanks to all the Women of the Church and men who helped honor and thank our First Responders at a dinner Thursday evening. A delicious pasta meal was prepared, served and enjoyed by all.

Special thanks to Mayor Lon Myers, Pastor Aucker, Julie Bowes and Phil It Up, Lynette Yost, Shane and JeanAnne Snyder and Joyce and Bob Braucht's niece and nephew Denise and Ralph Hershberger for their contribution of food, time and expertise. All hands working together made for an enjoyable time.

We are blessed to have a Police Force, EMTs, Fire Fighters and a Judicial Office that work hard and tirelessly for the good of our community.