

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

Sunday, February 5, 2023

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany  
Pastor's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination*



**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**

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.*

### **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERN PRELUDE**

### **GATHERING**

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

### **CONFESSON 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 the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who makes all things new,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, source of our renewal,  
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,**  
**and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness.**  
**Our hearts have turned away from you.**  
**For the sake of the world you so love,**

**forgive us,  
that we may be reconciled to one another  
for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass  
and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of  $\ddagger$  Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING SONG: *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* 553**

#### **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: *Gather Us In* 532**

#### **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

**Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, 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 58:1-9a [9b-12]**

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9a</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

<sup>9b</sup>If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,

whose waters never fail.  
<sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

**PSALM: Psalm 112:1-9 [10]**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD  
and have great delight in God's commandments!  
**<sup>2</sup>Their descendants will be mighty in the land;**  
**the generation of the upright will be blessed.**  
<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.  
**<sup>4</sup>Light shines in the darkness for the upright;**  
**the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**  
<sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.  
**<sup>6</sup>For they will never be shaken;**  
**the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**  
<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.  
**<sup>8</sup>Their heart is established and will not shrink,**  
**until they see their desire upon their enemies.**  
<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.  
**<sup>10</sup>The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine**  
**away;**  
**the desires of the wicked will perish.**

L: A reading from First Corinthians

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and

him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [<sup>13</sup>And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup>"For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.]

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 St. Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others,

so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service 712***

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

### **Prayers of Intercession**

A: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice (*injustice such as systemic racism, church sanction of colonialism, church protection of sexual abusers may be named*). Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters (*especially*). Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way (*especially*). Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Gracious Lord, we give thanks for partnerships and for the opportunities to learn about others in our world and in the Church. We give thanks for our partnership with the Ansbach-Würzburg Kirchenkreis and the people of the Franconian region of Germany. Support our efforts to build relationships between our congregations and people that we may see the wider Church in a new way. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for (*the Martyrs of Japan and*) all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

## **Responding in Love**

### **Our Offering of Music**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM *The Light of the World is Jesus***

### **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: Liberating God,  
you break the bonds of injustice

and let the oppressed go free.  
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving  
for all your works of merciful power,  
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.  
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,  
**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**

We give you thanks, Father,  
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,  
whom you sent in this end of the ages  
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,  
through whom you created all things,  
and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot  
and was shown forth as your Son,  
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.  
He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will  
and won for you a holy people;  
he stretched out his hands in suffering  
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,  
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,  
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,  
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,  
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,  
we take this bread and cup,  
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy  
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;  
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,  
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;  
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**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**

**SIT**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

### **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, 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: Holy One,  
we thank you for the healing  
that springs forth abundantly from this table.  
Renew our strength to do justice,  
love kindness,  
and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

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

## **BLESSING**

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice  
and breaks the oppressor's rod  
☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,  
today and always. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG: *God, Whose Almighty Word* 673**

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Remember in prayer:** Rowan Aldridge, Agnes Cryder, Don & Helen Delaney, Joanne Fisher, Joann Hall, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, the Snyder family, Charles and Candace 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 Stably, Paul St. James, 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 – Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers -- Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher – Christine Barner; Teller – Gina Johnson; Children's Church – Pam Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor— Gary and Gina Johnson; Flowers--Sponsor needed.

Next week's helper: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers—Bill Ely Jr and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher – Christine Barner; Teller –Gina Johnson; Children's Church –Molly Hollick; Bulletin Sponsor –Gary and Gina Johnson; Flowers – sponsor needed.

The Sanctuary Candle in February is in memory of our Gram Yost by Nicole, Hannah, Bryan and Adalynn.

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

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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO RESUME NURSERY.** We are in need of adult and teen volunteers to supervise toddlers/babies in the nursery during church. Please contact Molly Hollick, or Ken Dougherty if you would be willing to help out or have any questions. Our hope is to get enough volunteers to have a monthly rotation cycle.

**Annual Offering Statements** are available in the tower of the Church. Please pick up yours and any relatives to save us postage.

Volunteers are needed to sponsor the weekly **flowers**. A sign-up sheet is on the wall in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor elevator tower. It's neon green and set up for the whole year. Sign up for the Sunday you want!

**A Time of Celebration as we Recognize the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pastor Aucker's Ordination.** While Pastor Aucker was officially Ordained into the Public Office of Word and Sacrament Ministry on a snowy day on February 6, 1993, at Zion Lutheran, Turbotville; the members of St. John Lutheran will officially celebrate his 30<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary on February 19 when Bishop Miller is available to come and worship with us at 9:30 a.m. A meal will be provided after worship to all who come. No reservations are necessary. Please join us for this joyous occasion.

#### **Youth Ministry**

**ICE SKATING !! February 5.** After church, we will have lunch and then drive to Sunbury. Open to all ages!

**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.

**Souper Bowl Sunday, February 12** – The Youth of St. John will be taking up a special collection on that Sunday to have emergency food and funds for those in our community in need. Any donations of canned or boxed goods are appreciated and will be kept here at St. John for people without food in the Jersey Shore area.

**GROW in the Snow Looks at Baptism:** All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend this synod youth retreat on March 17-18. The theme of this year's will be baptism. Experience your Creator, play winter games and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth

and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults and the number of youth attending. To register contact Pastor Aucker or Mrs. Eisner. A flyer and registration form are coming soon!

### THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, February 5, 2023

- 8:30 p.m. Adult Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service  
Children's Church  
10:30 a.m. Youth leave for lunch and Ice Skating at Sunbury  
Catechism on own read assignment

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany*

Monday, February 6, 2023

- The actual 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pastor's Ordination  
10:00 a.m. Hymn Picking Meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

- 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

- 10:00 a.m. Trinity Worship  
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, February 10, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Food Distribution  
2:00 p.m. -- Inspection

Sunday, February 12, 2023

- 8:30 p.m. Adult Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service  
Souper Bowl Collection

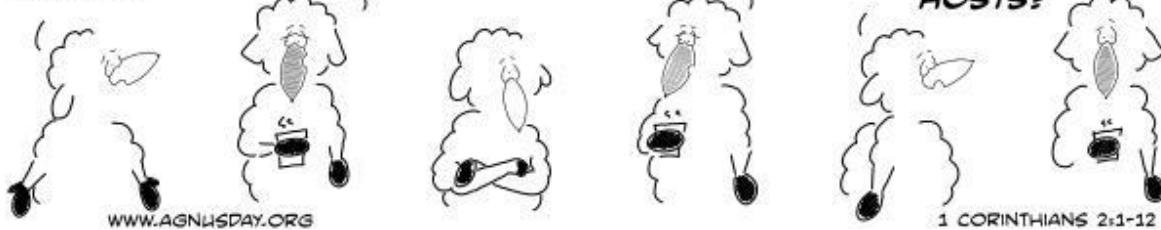
*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany*

"I CAME TO YOU  
IN WEAKNESS  
AND FEAR?"  
IS PAUL  
FOR REAL?

THE GOSPEL IS THE  
MOST IMPORTANT  
MESSAGE, BUT PAUL  
WAS SHARING IT IN A  
CULTURE THAT VALUED  
SKILLFUL RHETORIC.

PEOPLE WHO WERE GOOD WITH  
WORDS WON OVER CROWDS  
EVEN IF THEY DIDN'T REALLY  
HAVE ANYTHING OF IMPORTANCE  
TO SAY. THEY WERE THE DAY'S  
ENTERTAINMENT.

CORINTHIANS HAD  
LATE-NIGHT TV  
HOSTS?



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