

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

Sunday, July 2, 2023
5th Sunday after Pentecost



We welcome through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism Olivia Alyse Conner, Lola Alyse Conner, Boppy Lauren Myers, and Marlow Reese Myers.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Introduction

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest.

We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven

in the name of † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *As We Gather at Your Table* 522

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: *Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak* 676

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, 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 Jeremiah

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).

⁵The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

¹Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

²**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

³"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴**I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.' "**

¹⁵Happy are the people who know the festal shout!
They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.

**¹⁶They rejoice daily in your name;
they are jubilant in your righteousness.**

¹⁷For you are the glory of their strength,
and by your favor our might is exalted.

**¹⁸Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD;
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

L: A reading from Romans.

Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23

Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

¹²Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 10:40-42

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Build a Longer Table* ACS 1062

Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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HOLY BAPTISM p.227 in the front of the hymnal

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in God’s abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. For wisdom to heed the voices of prophets in our midst who cast a vision of God's promised future. For courage to welcome people whom society rejects. For resolve to serve all in need. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for creation. For (*local bodies of water and*) all rivers, lakes, oceans, and streams. For lands exng heat, drought, or wildfires. For conservation organizations and environmental activists. For scientists working on clean energy solutions. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for this nation and all nations. For (*national elected leaders and*) presidents, governors, and legislators. For judges, juries, district attorneys, and public defenders. For military personnel. For those who are incarcerated. Guide us in ways of freedom that promote the common good. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for those in need. For exiles, immigrants, refugees, and those seeking asylum. For victims of harassment, torture, or abuse. For those who are ill (*especially*). For any near death and for all who grieve. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for children. For their safety at home and in childcare settings. For their flourishing at summer programs and camps. For the many people who care for them including parents and grandparents; childcare workers and teachers; coaches, counselors, and mentors; pediatricians and psychologists. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Gracious God, we uplift the work and mission of our companion synod, the Lutheran Church of Liberia. May our partnership offer support and encouragement as we all strive to share the gospel, teach God's word and offer healing of spirit, mind and body. God in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give thanks for (*names and*) all the saints and prophets who have received the free gift of God, which is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. May their lives of humble service inspire us in faith. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION

OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144 (*in the beginning of the hymnal*)

Dialogue

Holy Holy Holy

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

Glory and praise to you, O God,
Author of life, Word made flesh,
Power of the Most High, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER P 145 (in the beginning of the hymnal)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.

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 We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

A LITANY FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,
let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts. For the women and men

who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,

We thank you Lord.

For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation,

We thank you Lord.

For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,

We thank you Lord.

For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,

We thank you Lord.

For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,

We thank you Lord.

For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice,

We thank you Lord.

For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,

We thank you Lord.

For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,

We thank you Lord.

For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,

We thank you Lord.

Lord, we pray for The United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.

We pray to you Lord.

That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray,

We pray to you Lord.

That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness,

We pray to you Lord.

That those who are elected to govern and lead, would be guided by you, and be ever aware of the trust that has been given them,

We pray to you Lord.

That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to you and to your grace,

We pray to you Lord.

Gracious God, Father of all nations, bless and defend us and our land; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed

✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* 890

POSTLUDE *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 P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

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, Jim Allen, Christine and Dave Barner, Agnes Cryder, Don & Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dina George, Barb Hoffman, Mick Miller, 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.

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.

Thanks to this weeks’ helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers—Deb Heydrich. Ron Brundick; Head Usher –Deb Heydrich; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor – Betty Allen.

Next week’s helpers: Lector – Karen Aucker; Assisting—Bill Ely and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Deb Heydrich; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor Betty Allen. Flowers— open.

The flowers are given in honor of our grandchildren, Olivia, Lola, Trenton, Duke, Boppy, and Marlow with love from GG and Grandpa Myers.

The Sanctuary Candle in July is given in memory of my husband by Agnes Cryder.

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

We welcome **donation to support our missionary** in Liberia, Brian Palmer. Two plastic jugs are available in the front and back of the sanctuary for cash donations or write a check to St John Lutheran with a memo to Brian Palmer.

Town Meeting **Parade July 6!** Come watch at St John or swing by for Hot dogs, chips and drink before the parade. Benefits the Youth going to New Orleans 2024.

This bulletin and more can be found on our church website: www.stjl.org

FIESTA VBS. July 16-20 at Trinity Methodist. 3 years old to 5th grade. St John needs someone to help with Sunday, July 16 registration, and we need to provide snacks and volunteers to help Tuesday, July 18. Nightly volunteers. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. would be great! See Molly Hollick

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the **LUKE STRONG 125 mile ride** on Saturday, September 2 by Parks-Dean Team. Donations are to assist with a handicap bathroom for Luke. Training for the Luke Strong 2023 Ride is officially underway! As always, your prayers, positive energy and support are GREATLY appreciated. Checks can be made out to Luke Antolick Benefit Fund.

Embarking on a spiritual journey can feel overwhelming. If you're feeling stuck and unsure about the next steps, we understand. We've created something special just for you – an interactive online course called "**Overflow: An Introduction to Growing in Faith.**"

In this course, you'll discover:

1. Your unique spiritual path and how to stay motivated
2. Ways to deepen your relationship with God
3. Practices to align your mind, spirit, and body with your faith
4. Cultivating a grateful spirit and finding security in God's love
5. Simple steps to set and achieve spiritual goals

Join our vibrant community of learners who, just like you, are looking to gain the confidence to navigate their spiritual journey. Don't let uncertainty hold you back from a deeper, more fulfilling relationship with God.

<https://faithlead.org/course-lp/overflow-an-introduction-to-growing-in-faith>

Calendar

Sunday, July 2, 2023	5 th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 a.m.	Worship Service with Baptism
Thursday, July 6, 2023	5:00 p.m. Youth Cook out before the Parade
Sunday, July 9, 2023	6 th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 a.m.	Worship Service

FIESTA Vacation Bible School

WHEN: July 16-20

Open Registration – Sunday from 6-7:30PM

Monday -Thursday 6-8PM (Crafts, music, games, and Bible stories)

AGES: 3yrs old – 5th grade

Come join us!!!!

AM I SUPPOSED TO
BE **RECEIVING** A
CUP OF WATER OR
GIVING IT? I'M
PERPLEXED.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YOU'RE
RECEIVING
HOSPITALITY
FROM OTHERS



AS ONE WHO
OFFERS JESUS.



HOW ABOUT I JUST
BRING MY **OWN**
WATER? THAT
SEEMS MORE
RELIABLE.



MATTHEW 10:40-42