

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

Sunday, August 7, 2022

9th Sunday after Pentecost



Introduction to the day

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

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 steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

**Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**

P: Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens 771*

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: *Blessed Assurance 638*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, 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 Genesis.

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

PSALM: 33:12-22

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷**The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹**to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,
our helper and our shield.

²¹**Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

L: A reading from Hebrews.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful

who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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 Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God’s reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God’s generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Great is Thy Faithfulness 733*

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence (*especially*). Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you (*especially*). Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation (*specific ministries may be named*) and all who care for those in need. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Let your lovingkindness be upon our relationships, you have called us into partnership with Christians of the Lutheran tradition through the Lutheran World Federation. Strengthen our unified commitment to uphold human dignity and to work for justice and peace throughout your world. Help us to respond to all human suffering and to actively address its root causes. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

C: Amen.

Responding in Love

Our Offerings *This is our response to God's grace.*

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 abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,

strengthen us to labor in your field,

and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,

in the name of Jesus. **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

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world

you gave your only Son,

that all those who believe in him

should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared

for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.
Come to the banquet.

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: Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *How Great Thou Art 856*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

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 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, Dave Barner, Mary Bower, Agnes Cryder, Sarah Davidson, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, Joanne Fisher, William Green, Fred Hoffer, Barbara Hoffman, Jere Hoy, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, Mary Lynn Overdorf, Elsie Parks, Terri Shank, the Snyder family, John Truax, Charles and Candace Welshans, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod soon retiring and Bishop Elect Rev. Craig A. Miller; for our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and we pray for peace in Ukraine and an end to war. We also pray for rain to renew the earth and all creation, including our crops.

We pray for the safety of our military troops around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jake 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, and Jenna White.

Special thanks to this week’s helper: Lector –Kathy Brundrick; Assisting Ministers—Ron Brundick and Deb Heydrich; Head Usher –Kaye Long; Teller – Betty Allen; Bulletin Sponsor – Ruth Aldridge.

Next week's helpers: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers –Bill Ely Jr and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Kaye Long ; Teller – Betty Allen ; Bulletin Sponsor – Charles Gottschall; Flowers – Ely sibblings.

The altar flowers are to the glory of God.

The Sanctuary Candle is given in memory of her sister by Myrtle Long.

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

PANTRY AND KITCHEN ETIQUETTE. The pantry and refrigerator have been cleaned out and all outdated and opened items have been removed. In order to keep the pantry and refrigerator neat and sanitary, please observe the following:

- Any food items that are bought or donated for functions are to be taken back home or given to someone to take. Condiments and unopened beverages may be left for the Food Distribution lunches, if desired. Do NOT store opened food items in the pantry.
- unused plastic ware is to be put back in the appropriate plastic bins, not left out in baskets, where they can become dirty or dusty.
- Unused napkins are to be stored in a designated plastic bin to keep them clean.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our pantry and kitchen clean and safe for all to use.
The Women of the Church

Sight and Sound in Lancaster will be airing a live broadcast of **David** on Friday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m. Download the Sight and Sound app on your computer and you can view the play **David** through your computer, Ipad, or connect a cable to your TV to show the play through your TV. Cost is \$24.99

ALTAR FLOWERS: St. John received a letter from Russell's Florist informing us of a price increase for flowers. The rising cost of flowers has led them to the following increases: **Altar Vases: \$50.00** (price subject to change based on types of flowers requested). Payments received by individuals in lieu of church payments will be subjected to Pennsylvania Sales Tax (6%) as instructed by their

accountant to remain in compliance with State Sales Tax Laws. These prices will go in effect September 1, 2022.

Beginning September 4, 2022, flowers will be \$50.00. Make your check out to St. John Lutheran Church and put it in with your offering or in an envelope marked FLOWERS and put it in the offering.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL !!! – After worship of Sunday, August 21. Come for worship; stay for fellowship!

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, August 7, 2022 *9th Sunday after Pentecost*
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service
Monday, August 8, 2022
10:00 a.m. Hymn Picking
Wednesday, August 10, 2022
10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship
Thursday, August 11, 2022
4:00 p.m. Pack Boxes
Friday, August 12, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Food Distribution
Sunday, August 14, 2022 *10th Sunday after Pentecost*
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service *Blessing of the Keys*
WOMEN OF THE CHURCH –meeting after the service

God's Work Our Hands Sunday, September 11

We invite you to assemble personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Millions of kits assembled in Lutheran congregations around the world were sent to Poland, Ukraine, Moldova, and many other countries housing refugees from the war in Ukraine. Those kits need replaced with new kits and this is where you can help.

*One light-weight bath-size towel (20" x 40" to 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

*Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrapping; no mini Or hotel size bars

*One adult-sized toothbrush in its original packaging

*One sturdy comb. There are many different types of hair texture, so no picks or fine-toothed combs; Remove packaging.

*One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging.

Look around, you might be able to purchase the above items in bulk to save money.

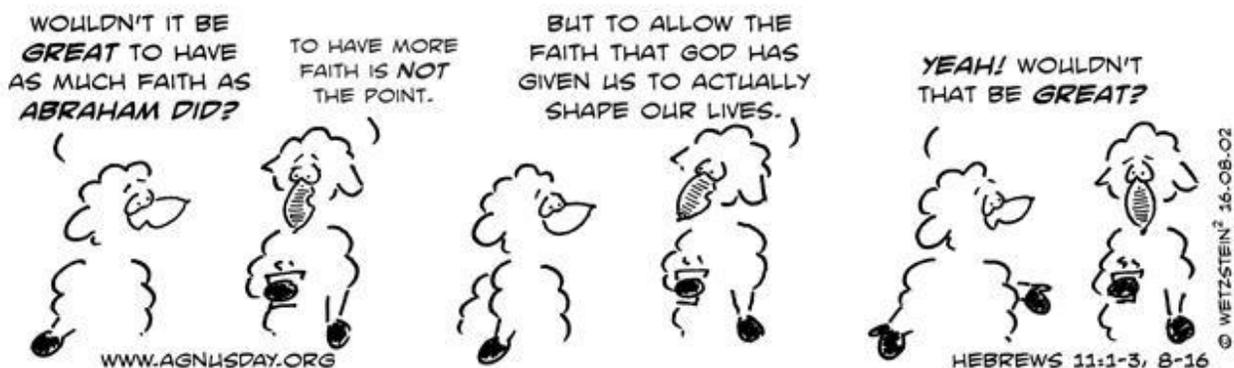
Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap all the items in the towel and secure with ribbon, yarn, or rubber bands. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

Shipping note: LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one personal care kit overseas is \$2.65 (including the addition of a tube of toothpaste).

Visit lwr.org/kitvideos to watch a video with tips and tricks for assembling Personal Care Kits.

For those of you who are Thrivent Members, apply online for a Thrivent Action Team Grant and use your \$250 grant to buy supplies for your Personal Care Kits.

The plan right now is to have worship on September 11, meet to organize and pack kits, and then eat PIZZA!



Catechism Classes to Begin

Pastor Aucker will have an open meeting for parents and youth, 7th grade or older, who have not completed catechism instruction. Last year was Bible study. This year we will focus on Luther's Small Catechism. **All students who will be entering 7th grade or older who have not completed catechism AND THEIR PARENTS** are asked to attend a meeting in the chapel immediately following worship **on Sunday, August 21**. Parents and youth will be given a review of Catechism and asked to make a decision on when to hold class.

Blessing of the Backpacks

We invite all youth to bring their backpacks on Sunday, August 21, to the 9:30 a.m. worship service. We will have a blessing of the students and teachers as we begin the new school year.

“Join-the-Choir” Night is starting Wednesday, August 31 at 6:30 p.m. and running every Wednesday until May 2023. People may be hesitant to show up to a choir rehearsal because they don’t want to be the only new person in an established group. A person may feel like they have to make a forever commitment that night. No! not with us! Come try choir out for a night or two. No commitment is required. It is newsletter time, and I want to include an announcement that choir starts back up. I want to **extend an invitation to everyone!**

I wasn’t feeling too creative, so I did a google search for some ideas. One sight said “Keep it fun and lighthearted!” Well, that’s no problem; our problem is to be serious enough to practice. “Plan to have some refreshments and let people mingle.” was the suggestion. Well, yes, feel free to bring a beverage; many members do! And a snack is you wish! We got the mingling down well! I just thought of something else! No worries about what to wear to church; your outfit is covered by a gown!

Come join Choir starting Wednesday, August 31! (I’ve also read it is excellent for your health!)

Youth Ministry Meeting August 22

The Youth Ministry Committee will be meeting on Monday, August 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the church office to plan youth ministries for the upcoming months. We invite interested adults and youth to attend and participate in the planning process. We are still looking for adults with a deep commitment to youth to volunteer as leaders for the Elementary and Middle School Youth groups.

Bible Study

Pastor Aucker will be leading a new Bible Study on the book of Proverbs this Fall. It is available as a 39 page photo-copyable book. So, if you would like a copy of the study, even if you can not attend the scheduled classes and want to do a home study, please contact me and I will have a copy made for you. 570-916-1317.