

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

Sunday, November 27, 2022
1st Sunday of Advent



Introduction to the day

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prelude

GATHERING

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath. *One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.*

First Week of Advent

Use this blessing when lighting the first candle.

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,

let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

Light One candle to Watch for Messiah 240

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:

Let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel,

God fulfills the promise

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.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch,

a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on † Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Fling Wide the Door* 259

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 P. 139

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, 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 Isaiah.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

PSALM: Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

L: A reading from Romans.

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you 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: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* 244

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth (*other places of conflict may be named*). God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict (*especially*). Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of healing, we give thanks that we have access to medical supplies whenever we might need them; but we know there are a great many people who do not. Encourage the work of Global Health Ministries as they seek to send medical supplies where they are needed most. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Responding in Love

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

CHOIR ANTHEM *Advent Canticle*

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: Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ 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

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.
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.
Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.
Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.

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: Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,

and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *The King Shall Come 260*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

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, Agnes Cryder, Sarah Davidson, Don & Helen Delaney, Joanne Fisher, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, the Snyder family, 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, 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 week’s helper: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers—Joyce Braucht Carl Schaefer; Head Usher – Christine Barner; Teller – Gina Johnson; Bulletin Sponsor –Betty Allen; Children’s Church –,

Next week’s helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers –Ron Brundick, Deb Heydrich; Head Usher –Lon Myers; Teller –Bob Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor—Betty Allen; Children’s Church – Pam Wehler; Flowers -- .

The altar flowers are in memory of Mitch Hollick by his family.

The Sanctuary Candle is given in memory of loved ones and in honor of everyone’s birthday 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 Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

Advent 4. December 18: 9:30 am Children's Christmas Pageant
10:30 am Congregation Christmas Dinner. Bring a covered dish, your silverware.
Meat and drinks provided by Council.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Invite your family, neighbors, and friends to join us!

Join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

4:00 p.m. Christmas Service at St. John Lutheran

7:00 p.m. at St. James Lutheran

10:00 p.m. Special Christmas Music at St. John Lutheran

10:30 p.m. Christmas Service at St. John Lutheran

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, Christmas Worship at St. John Lutheran 9:30 a.m.

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.

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.

Paster will be conducting a **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS** after worship next Sunday, November 27. If you have an interested youth, please plan to attend.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS, unwrapped with the angel tag are due back on Sunday, December 4. That gives you two weeks! Thank you for your participation and donations.

GINGERBREAD HOUSES !!! The Youth will be constructing their Gingerbread Houses after church on Sunday, December 4.

Mark your calendar! The **Annual Christmas Bazaar** will be December 10, 2022 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. And as we start to prepare

Start saving your items for the **Cherish Moments Table**. You can bring them in and store them in the old kitchen.

It's time to plan your **Baked Goods** for the table at the Bazaar. There will be a **Cookie Sign Up Sheet** on the bulletin board. Baked goods cannot come in early as we are working around the food pantry. Baked goods can be delivered starting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 9 as we set up.

Thank you to everyone who donated food on Harvest Home Sunday. The many food items donated will be kept here at St. John Lutheran to serve the emergency needs of people here in the community.

Your 2023 Offering Envelopes are available in the Tower of the Church. Please pick up yours and any of your relatives. Only a small number of people use envelopes but it is an important stewardship tool. If there are no envelopes with your name on, please contact Laurel Gottschall for envelopes. It costs us \$3.60 to mail one box of \$1.30 envelopes. Please save us money and pick up your envelopes or give electronically. Forms are available from the office or you can give on-line via the Vanco app.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, November 27, 2022

Advent 1

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class

9:30 a.m. Children's Church

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service.

10:30 a.m. First Communion Class

Monday, November 28, 2022

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Youth Group open to all Middle and High School Youth

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship. You are invited to attend.

6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Sunday, December 4, 2023

Advent 2

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class

9:30 a.m. Children's Church

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service.

9:30 a.m. Christmas Angel Gifts Due

10:30 a.m. Youth Gingerbread Houses Construction!

Watch for the movie at the theaters this week, Dec. 1, 3, 4. "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" produced by the actors at Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster. This live movie event is being offered through local theaters across the United States.

There are Advent/Christmas Envelopes in each pew. Of this year's Advent/Christmas offerings, half will go to Mission Support of the ELCA and half will go to United Churches of Lycoming County.

Results of last Sunday's Congregation Meeting:

Heartfelt thanks was expressed to Betty Allen who has given six years of service on the council and Max Dincher for three years.

Jim Ely, Deb Heydrich, Shelby Rice, and Brayden Wehler (youth) were elected to council.

Gina and Gary Johnson were elected as Synod Delegates

The pledge for Mission Support was approved for \$18,700 as it has been for a number of years. Mission Support supports the Synod, ELCA, and ministries of the wider Church.

Darlene Bilby, Pam Wehler, Carl Schaefer were elected to the Trinity Lutheran Avis Endowment Fund Committee

It was approved to discontinue the Stewardship Committee and add the Stewardship responsibilities to the Finance Committee.

A question was asked about the budget compared to the current year.

The 2023 budget is \$165,367

The 2022 budget is \$165,684

As noted at the meeting our current income is down from last year by about \$25,000, but our expenses are down, too.