

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

Sunday, August 21, 2022

11th Sunday after Pentecost
Blessing of Backpacks, Students & Teachers

Introduction to the day

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Blessing of Backpacks, Students & Teachers

Brothers and sisters in Christ; Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we bless these backpacks to the praise and glory of God.

These backpacks symbolize learning each day, as they are with these children and young people throughout their day, in many places of education, showing that all who these children and young people see and hear; are their teachers.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Helps us all to study diligently and grow in all that is good. Give us guidance to teach others, especially our children, following the model of your son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Matthew 19:13-15

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, bless our schools that they may be lively places for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom. Grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth. Bless these backpacks, symbols of learning that they may support the educational efforts of these children, and remind them to live to the praise of your glory both now and forever. Bless as well their teachers and all who support their learning. Give them strength, guidance, and wisdom in Christ's name. Amen.

May you all have a wonderful school year.

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,
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.

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: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* 858

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: *Praise and Thanksgiving* 689

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, 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 58:9b-14

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if 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.

¹¹The 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.

¹²Your 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.

¹³If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;

¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-8

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave**

and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
**⁶O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
**⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

L: A reading from Hebrews

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.

¹⁰Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?" ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Rock of Ages 623*

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.

You crown your church with steadfast love and mercy. Guide us continually in our baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Use our diverse gifts in service to the whole people of God. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You satisfy the needs of all creatures. Protect the habitats of fish and birds (*local bodies of water or wildlife refuges may be named*). Repair ecosystems damaged by misuse, neglect, or natural disaster, that all creation may thrive. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You make your ways known to all people. Inspire the rulers and leaders of nations with your compassion and mercy. Raise up activists and community organizers to restore places affected by violence, poverty, and inequality. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You provide justice for all who are oppressed and relief to all who are afflicted. Heal those who are bent over by addiction, depression, and anxiety. Set free all who cry out under the weight of mental, emotional, or physical distress (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You call us to delight in the sabbath. Renew our bodies, minds, and spirits in this worshiping assembly. Give rest to all who lead our congregation in worship, study, and service (*congregational leaders may be named*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: In this season of Pentecost, may You give us your Holy Spirit to rest upon the clergy and other church workers throughout the Lutheran Churches of Franconia and the Upper Susquehanna Synod. We give thanks for our partnership over the years with the Ansbach-Würzburg Kirchenkreis and the opportunities to have exchanges of our youth, choirs, Deans, and clergy. May our partnership continue to grow between the congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod and the congregations of the Ansbach-Würzburg Kirchenkreis. May we celebrate our commonality and our history that has brought us together and the power of Jesus Christ to unite us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Generations bless your holy name. We give you thanks for the communion of saints who have gathered in prayer and praise in this place. Support us in your love until we rest forever in you. 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.

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: *Build a Longer Table ACS 1062*

Build a Longer Table



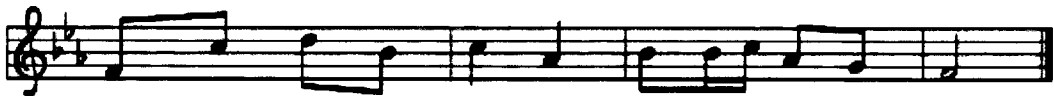
1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



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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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, Linda Lehman, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, Mary Lynn Overdorf, Penny Parks-Dean, 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 – Gracie and Tonya Welshans; Assisting Ministers Gary Johnson and Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Kaye Long; Teller –Betty Allen; Bulletin Sponsor – Charles Gottschall.

Next week's helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers –Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher –Kaye Long ; Teller – Betty Allen ; Bulletin Sponsor – Cozette Stoltzfus; Flowers – Carol Schaefer.

The altar flowers are in loving memory of Jack F. Heydrich by his family.

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

We celebrate two birthdays of our members: Mary Pepperman turned 98 y.o. on 7/23. Send cards to 1101 Michael Street, Jersey Shore PA 17740.

Agnes Cryder will turn 96 y.o. on 9/12. Send cards to 201 S Broad St., Jersey Shore PA 17740

Elsie Parks is to have returned to Nippenose this past Thursday, Her address is Nippenose Valley Village Room 21, 7190 South State Rt 44, Williamsport, PA 17702.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

Worship and Music will meet August 22 at 6:00 p.m. to work on the upcoming season and the budget.

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.

Christian Education is seeking volunteers to lead Children's Church once a month. If interested please see Cathy Eisner.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, August 21, 2022	<i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i>
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service	<i>Blessing of the Backpacks</i>
Catechism Class Meeting	
Ice Cream Social	
Monday, August 22, 2022	
6:00 p.m. Worship and Music Meeting	
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry Meeting	
Wednesday, August 24, 2022	10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship
Sunday, August 28, 2022	<i>12th Sunday after Pentecost</i>
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service	

ZION
SOUNDS
LIKE
QUITE THE
PLACE!



IT IS THE PLACE OF PERFECT
FULFILLMENT, THE PROMISE
OF WHICH SUSTAINS US IN
OUR CALLING TO LIVE AS
HEIRS OF GOD...



EVEN THROUGH
STRUGGLE.

OH, I NEVER
STRUGGLE...



I JUST FALL RIGHT
DOWN AND **BEG**
FOR MERCY!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

HEBREWS 12:18-29

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