

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, September 22, 2024
18th Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Kerry Aucker, Pastor



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.

INTRODUCTON *Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.*

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG *Thy Holy Wings 613*

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first
we make distinctions among ourselves.**

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: *God Is Here* 526

PRAYER OF THE DAY O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of 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 Jeremiah

First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

¹⁸It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

²⁰But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

Psalm: Psalm 54

¹Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

²**Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless
have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

⁴**Behold, God is my helper;
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.**

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

L: A reading from James**Second Reading: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a**

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.⁴

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142

Alleluia, Lord, to who shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again."³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly will stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Children of our Heavenly Father 781*

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek

you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation (*specific ministries may be named*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer (*especially*). Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of rest and renewal, be with Chad Hershberger, Jim Vitale, the counselors and the campers as they have finished the summer camp program and returned home. May they truly live out their discipleship as you have created them to be. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING Please place your offering in the offering plates located at the front and the back of the church.

CHOIR ANTHEM: *Will You Walk with Him*
The assembly will stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation.
 By these gifts and with our lives,
 help us to serve one another and all in need,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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

The Lord's Prayer p. 145

Invitation to Communion

P: Jesus welcomes you to this table.
 Come, here is your God.
The assembly is seated.

Lamb of God p. 144

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.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Remember Me*
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

A: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

P: God all mighty, God most merciful
 ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Song: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* 815

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

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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 at the front or rear of the church. 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, Connie Barker, Danny Bennett, Maisy Boyles, Chet Creasy, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Beth Good, Dawn Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Lucille Jones, Myrtle Long, Mick Miller, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, Ben Saar, Pam Shuler, Karen Welker, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel.

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, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Jeremy and Haley Naugle Sorrell, Rich 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.

Special thanks to this week's helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers—Deb Heydrich, Joyce Braucht; Head Usher – Brayden Wehler; Teller–Bob Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor--Sue Willets. **Next weeks' helpers:** Lector – Pam Wehler; Assisting Ministers – Cozette Stoltzfus, Karen Aucker; Head Usher– Brayden Wehler; Teller–Bob Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor--Sue Willits; Flowers – Chuck and Laurel Gottschall.

The flowers on the altar are to the glory of God and in thankfulness of 59 years of marriage by Gary and Gina Johnson.

The Sanctuary Candle in September is in honor of Kim's 40th birthday by Darlene Bilby.

The Annual **Apple Dumpling Sale** will be held on October 18th. Order slips are in the bulletin. Deadline to order is Sunday, October 13th. Pick up is from 10:00 - 12:00 on Friday, October 18th. Thank you for your continued support. Women of St. John.

Anyone interested in joining a **texting prayer chain** please text Christine Barner at 570-360-0178. This texting chain will send out the prayers that are received for the calling prayer chain. This chain is a **one-way chain**, please do **not** "reply" when you receive a message.

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.

The Christian Education Committee has several needs for the Children's Church program. We are looking for **donations of cases of 8oz. bottled waters** to give the kids during Children's Church. A snack is provided and the 8-ounce bottled water is a great size for the kids to have with their snack. If anyone would be interested in providing snacks please let me know. Thank you! Molly

Christian Education is looking for someone **to head the Children's Christmas Program** this year. There are resources available and the program can be as big or small of a production as you want to make it. There is so much material to choose from and many are one rehearsal programs. Last year the program was a short but very meaningful two rehearsal program. We have an abundance of talent here at St. John's, so if you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. Thank you!! Molly

Mark your Calendars and Make Plans! October 27, 2024 at 4 pm a Trunk or Treat here at St John's in the parking lot, everyone is welcome to come and partake of games (bobbing for apples, bag toss, etc) - food hotdogs, chips and drinks, candy OR set up their trunk to hand out candy to young and old alike!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

October 13 at 12:30 -- Carpenter's Corn Maze /Pumpkin picking

October 27 at 4:00 – All Hallow's Eve Trunk or Treat in St John's parking lot

November 17 – fall wreath making for Homes

And more in the planning!

Pastor Aucker is away this week for a wedding. Pastor Carol Johnson is covering for him for pastoral emergencies. If you have a pastoral emergency contact Christine Barner, Shane Snyder, or Kaye Long.

Calendar

Sunday, September 22, 2024 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School resumes
930 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, September 23, 2024 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, September 24, 2024 **6:00 p.m.** Choir Rehearsal

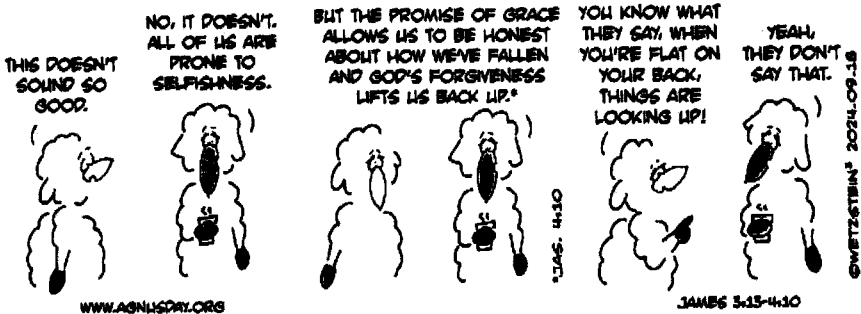
Sunday, September 29, 2024 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship Service lead by John Yingling
10:30 Social Time

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 6:00 p.m. Council

Wednesday, October 2, 2024 **6:00 p.m.** Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 6, 2024 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
930 a.m. Worship Service

1 0:30 Christian Ed Committee meeting





It's Apple Dumpling Time!!!

St. John Women of the Church will be meeting to make the Apple Dumplings of Thursday, October 17 at 5 p.m. Help is needed with paring the apples and rolling the dough. Baking the dumplings will begin at 6 a.m. on Friday, October 18.

The dumplings that you order will be ready for pick up on **Friday, October 18, 10 a.m. until noon**

Apple Dumpling are packed in pairs.

Two dumplings for \$8.00.

Orders are due no later than Sunday, October 13. You can pay with the order or at pick up.

Checks should be made to **Women of St. Johns**

Orders and any questions to:

Lynette Yost, Deb Heydrich or Kim Myers

****carefully fold and tear off bottom !! ***

Name _____

Phone _____

Number of Dumplings Packs _____

Money DUE _____