

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

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Christ the King Sunday



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.

Introduction to the day

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation.

Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through † Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* 634

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. 138

This is the Feast p. 140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 Ezekiel

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed

them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

^{7a}For the LORD is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

L: A reading from Ephesians

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’ ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?’ ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Beautiful Savior* 838

HOLY BAPTISM p.227

We welcome to the Sacrament of Holy Baptism this morning, Peyton Renee Saar daughter of Emilee and Benjamin Saar.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, from Christ we receive our call to feed, clothe, and welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. We pray for those who suffer (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: In Christ we are made the people of his pasture. Inspire the outreach and social ministries of this congregation (*especially*). We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: In Christ we pray for the staff of our ELCA Young Adult Global Ministry. While no young adults have been serving this year because of the pandemic, may the ministry in your name in the numerous countries around the world continue to proclaim the gospel. May they know your presence in the midst of their challenges in serving Christ. Hear us, O God

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us (*especially*). Unite us with them as one body of Christ. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *We Will Rejoice*

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings.

Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

Amen.

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

Dialogue

Holy Holy Holy

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING May the God of all creation,

in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Rejoice for Christ is King 430*

DISMISSAL P: Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The assembly is seated

CONGREGATION MEETING

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 Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Dina George, Dawn Hauser, Barb Hoffman, Myrtle Long, Mick Miller, Bob Moriarity, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Michael Burk Presiding Bishop Pro Temp --ELCA; 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, 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.

Special thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers—Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher –Dawn McCloskey; Teller – Shane Snyder; Bulletin Sponsor – Sue Willits; Children's Church --Holly Dittmar,

Next weeks’ helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers --Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Head Usher –Lon Myers; Teller –Cozette Stoltzfus; Bulletin Sponsor – Sue Willits; Children's Church --Molly Hollick.

The flowers are to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mitch Hollick by his family.

The Sanctuary Candle in November is in memory of my father by Sue Willits.

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 are working on **updating the prayer chain**. Please fill out a **blue flyer** and put in the offering plate in you wish to participate. All are welcome!

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

CHRISTMAS COOKIES ARE NEEDED FOR THE BAZAAR! Please bring the cookies to the social room between 1:00-5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 8. Bazaars set up is at 5:00 p.m.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS DINNER is after worship on Sunday, December 17. Please bring a casserole to share and your own place settings. Meat and beverage will be provided.

Youth desiring to go to Camp Mt. Luther for the annual Grow in the Snow Synod Youth Event March 8 & 9, see Pastor Aucker to register. This is for Middle School and High School Youth.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH- The Upper Susquehanna Synod is offering to send High School youth to Winterfest in Lancaster January 5-7. Winterfest gathers 200 youth from Central Pennsylvania together for worship, spiritual formation, and fellowship. There will be live music, bouncy houses, worship services and plenty of opportunities to grow in your faith. If you're interested in participating, please email cml@campmountluther.org by December 1st.

CHRISTMAS EVE at 10 o'clock there is a half hour of **special music**. If you would like to perform and share your talent, please see organist Becky Ward.

The angel tree kids will be on the Christmas tree in the tower today and the gifts need to be back to the church on Sunday, December 3rd. Any questions see Lynette Yost or Carol Yost.

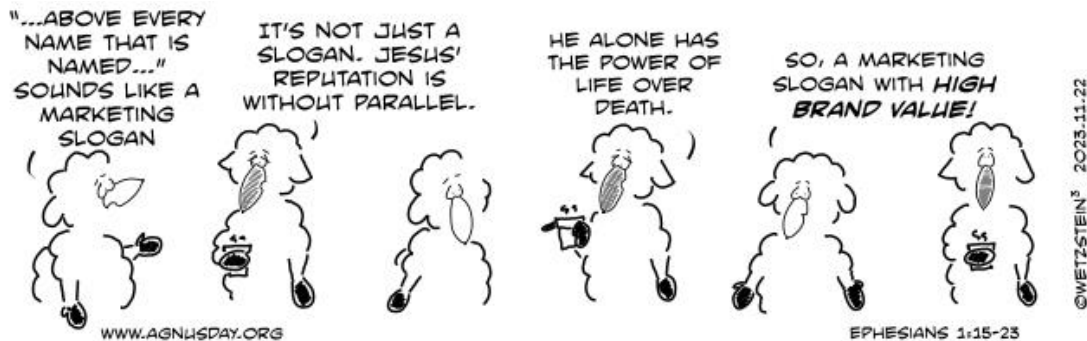
Calendar

Sunday, November 26, 2023 26th Sunday after Pentecost
Christ the King Sunday

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Congregation Meeting
1:00 p.m. Nippenose Worship

Monday, November 27, 2023 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, December 3, 2023 1st Sunday of Advent
Angel Tree gifts need to be brought in by today!
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church
10:30 a.m. Youth make Gingerbread Houses



Just a reminder of upcoming events:

Nov. 26 – Annual Congregation Meeting following worship to elect council members, synod delegates, Trinity Endowment members, Mission Support, and the 2024 budget.

Dec. 3 – Youth and young at heart make Gingerbread houses after worship in the Sunday School room.

Dec. 9 – Women of St. John Annual Bazaar. Starting at 9 am. Youth leave for Christmas at Hershey Park at 2:00 pm.

Dec. 17 – Children's Christmas Program and Congregation Christmas Dinner after worship. Youth go Christmas Caroling at 5:00 p.m.

December 24 - Celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas

9:30 a.m. Advent Worship at St. John Lutheran

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship at St. John Lutheran

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship at St. James Lutheran

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

10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship at St. John Lutheran

Let us pack the church on Christmas Eve! Invite everyone you encounter to join us at one of the Christmas Eve Services.