

The Eagle

*“I carried you on eagle’s wings
and brought you to myself.”*

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

**Our Mission:
*Called Together
Sharing Christ
Serving Others***

April / May 2021

Check out our congregation’s webpage at www.stjl.org. or St. John Lutheran on Facebook

*“The average Lutheran invites a friend to worship once every 26 years.” Pat Keifert.
Let’s break the average. Invite your neighbors and friends to worship and make our
congregation grow! Encourage them to encounter the Holy Spirit among us in Word and
Sacrament.*

Please send us your email so you can receive updates from St. John at: stjohn@stjl.org

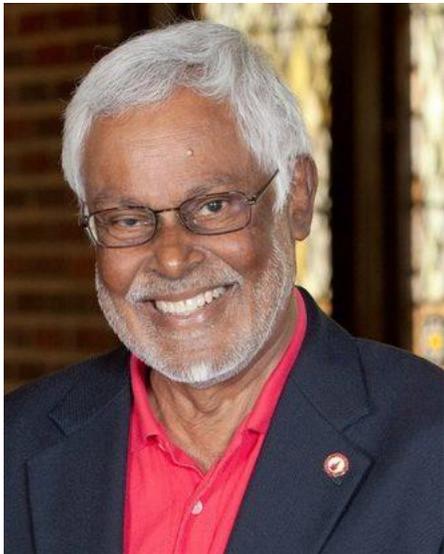
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

"[W]e entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything."

Our Identity in Christ

Rev. Winston D. Persaud, PhD



This text of Scripture continues to be one to which I return intentionally on a regular basis, as I go about my vocation as a teacher of the church who, as an ordained pastor, has served full time in a parish. In the rhythms of life in both the congregation and the seminary classroom—as in our any other walks of life—the call and challenge is unavoidable: to be centered in Jesus Christ by faith in him and, consequently, to act in the world in a manner that says, “I belong to Jesus Christ.” I keep thinking about how far Jesus went to make us right with God and the privilege to be ambassadors in Jesus’ Name. St. Paul writes, “[W]e entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (5:20b-21).

To belong to Christ is not an inoculation from the consequences of sin which are pervasive in the world which are right around and even in us, influencing the way we are. The picture Paul paints of the lived reality of what he and others have experienced on account of their witness to Jesus Christ is sobering: “through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger” (v. 4b-5).

Inevitably, the question comes up, again and again: what am I to do when my identification with Jesus Christ leads to tough challenges? Precisely, in the face of those life-denying

consequences of sin, which have the power to turn us away from living the truth of our identity in Christ—which means being “servants of God”—Paul tells us that he and the others stayed the course. How? “[B]y purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute” (vv. 6-8). Truly, it is by the power of the new life and identity in Christ which we have been given out of the sheer grace of God that we press on. Even when we fall flat on our faces, God does not turn away. Through the Spirit, God keeps calling us back to our life in Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord and Saviour. Jesus does not walk away from us; rather, he looks at us with compassion and understanding and takes us by the hand and leads us forward. Hear this promise again and again: in Christ, we are reconciled to God!

O, God, I give you thanks that for Jesus’ sake, in the power of the Holy Spirit, you accept me and forgive my sins and are always present with me and for me in all circumstances and conditions. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Now for the lighter side of Easter:

A woman in Gonzales, LA, attended the funeral of a prominent man in the community, and listened to the preacher carry on about all the wonderful attributes of the deceased, “while everyone knew of his shady other side.”

When the preacher finished his glowing sermon, the town drunk stood up and said, “Now, I’ve got something to say ...”

“That man was ushered out of the church faster than you can say Jack Daniels!” the woman recalled.

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, “When you’re in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?”

Artie said, “I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man.”

Eugene commented, “I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people’s lives.”

Al said, “I’d like them to say, ‘Look, he’s moving!’”

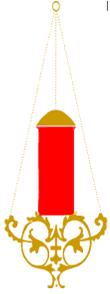
A young boy called the pastor of a local church and asked him to come by and pray for his mother, who was very ill with the flu.

The pastor knew the family and was aware they were members of another church down the road. So the pastor asked, “Shouldn’t you be asking Pastor Simon at your church to come by to pray with your mom?”

The young boy replied, “Yeah, but we didn’t want to take the chance that he might catch whatever it is that Mom has.”

I continue to keep you in my prayers and remember I am available to you, 570.916.1317.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Aucker*



The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored by Cozette Stoltzfus during the month of March in memory of grandparents.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored by Cozette Stoltzfus during the month of April to the Glory of God.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored by Lynette, Carol, Nicole, Hannah, Bryan and Adalynn during the month of May in memory of our beloved dad and grandfather, Bill Yost.

Distribution of Food

The New Love Center Food Pantry will host the Food Distribution from 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. on April and May. The New Love Center Food Pantry served 383 households in the month of December distributing food to 947 people. Boxes will be packed at 4:00 p.m.; April and May

Lent/Easter Offering

The Lent/Easter offerings will be divided 50% to the Jersey Shore Ministerium to meet local needs and 50% to Mission Support to meet the needs of the wider Church.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 28. 9:30 a.m. at St. John Lutheran.

Maundy Thursday Service, April 1, 7:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran.

Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, April 2, 7:00 p.m. at St. James Lutheran.

Baptism of Charlotte Lash, Saturday, April 3, 7:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran.

The Resurrection of Our Lord -- Easter will be celebrated this year on Sunday, April 4 at 6:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Sunday after Easter – Holy Humor Sunday

While I don't have a specific theme in mind this early in advance, I do ask that everyone attending worship April 11, Holy Humor Sunday, please wear silly sun-glasses for our 'focus' is on Jesus and our 'vision' is 2021.

Council Updates

Council approved to have Charles McCracken do outside lawn maintenance for \$150 for the summer.

Council approved the slate of candidates for the Trinity Endowment Fund committee.

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor will be on vacation April 12-21 (if it works out this time). Pastor Runser will be available for emergency pastoral care, 570.725.2155.

Distribution of Food

The New Love Center Food Pantry will host the Food Distribution from 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. on April 9 & 23 and May 14 & 28. The New Love Center Food Pantry Jersey Shore served 289 households in the month of February distributing food to 649 people. Boxes will be packed at 4:00 p.m.; April 8 and May 13.

Catechism Retreat April 24

Our Catechetical students will be traveling to Gettysburg on Saturday, April 24, to visit the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, the Seminary Ridge Museum, the Gettysburg National Park museum, and a short tour of the battlefield before returning home. Students are reminded to borrow the movie Gettysburg and view it before going on the trip. We will be leaving at 7:00 a.m. and returning at 9:00 p.m.

West Branch Conference Assembly

The West Branch Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday, April 25 at 2:00 p.m. by Zoom. The congregation elected Gary and Gina Johnson as our congregation's delegates.

Spring Cash Sunday

Spring Cash Sunday, May 2, will go to the continued upgrade of electrical fixtures. A number of electrical fixtures have been replaced with LED bulbs and fixtures that have no ballast which should last many years.

Affirmation of Baptism – Confirmation

Emilee Eisner, OceAnn Green, and Brayden Wehler, will affirm their baptism to Christ and before the congregation on Pentecost, May 23 at 9:30 a.m. A tea recognizing them will be held following worship.

Update on the Rising Anew Campaign

We continue to pay on the loan from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Currently our loan is down to \$251,965. Thank you everyone for your support in paying down the loan and your continued commitment to the ministries of St. John Lutheran Church. For those who wish to contribute to the Rising Anew Campaign, please write your check to: St. John Lutheran, earmark on the memo line: "Rising Anew" and put it in an envelope with your name on the envelope and place it in the offering plate. The steel girders for the new roof were installed in October. Due to the rising costs of lumber from the forest fires in the west and the hurricanes we decided to delay the installation of the trusses and roof until early Spring. Hopefully the cost of lumber comes down.

Remember our Home bound members with your prayers, cards, and visits

Agnes Cryder, 201 S. Broad Street, Apt. 2, Jersey Shore PA 17740

Dave Kuehl, 120 Grove Street, Jersey Shore, PA 17740

Barbara & Charles Long, 140 Valley View Drive, JS. 570.398.2252

Leila Hiller, 2331 Marydale Avenue, Williamsport PA 17701. 570.322.1091

Richard Hurd (Jun 29), Hillside Assisted Living Room 101, 2725 Four Mile Drive,
Montoursville PA 17754
570.322.4436



Dave Mitchell, 516 Allegheny Street, Jersey Shore PA 17740

Virginia Moffitt (May 20), 174 Valley Heights Drive, Williamsport PA 17701
570.651.9563

Mary Pepperman (July 23), 1101 Michael Street, Jersey Shore PA 17740
570.398.2780.

Joann Rishel, Hillside Assisted Living, 2725 Four Mile Drive, Montoursville PA 17754
570.322.4436

Jane Hunter Shaffer, 237 Wild Wings Blvd, Jersey Shore PA 17740. 570.873.3023

Remember those serving in the military with your cards and prayers:

Sgt. Myers, Maddison
8205b Eberle Loop, Fort Campbell KY 42223

The Key to a better life:

- *Complain less, appreciate more*
- *Whine less, laugh more*
- *Talk less, listen more*
- *Want less, give more*
- *Hate less, love more*
- *Scold less, praise more*
- *Fear less, hope more*

-Michael Josephson

Automate your regular offering

Do you know that over \$4,000 per month is given electronically by members of St. John? St. John Lutheran Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering. Electronic giving provides convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation. Getting started is easy. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office, 570-398-1676.

Giving Plus+



St. John Lutheran is offering a new way to support the ministries of St. John. Now you can download the “Giving Plus+” app from your app store for your cell phone. This feature is also on our web site and Facebook site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. About once a month we receive a request asking if someone can give electronically by debit/credit card. Now this feature is available. If you have any questions, contact Scott Mitchell.

We also offer Give+ Text:

Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25). Within a few minutes, you’ll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.

For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text “repeat” to make it a recurring donation. Give+ Text is one of the fastest, easiest ways to give.

We hope you enjoy this new way to share your generosity and we thank you for supporting your church.

Weis Certificates

As a special fundraiser for church projects, we are selling Weis Markets gift certificates each Sunday after worship or during office hours during the weekdays. You can buy \$10, 20, 50, 100 certificates. You pay \$10, take them to the store and use them like cash to buy \$10 worth of groceries. The church earns 5% from Weis Markets. While that may not seem like much, if 100 families in the congregation spend \$100 per week on groceries that 5% would add up to \$26,000 per year with very little effort other than buying and reselling them. It is a great way to support the youth ministries of St. John. They are also available Tuesday-Thursday from Molly in the office.

Our on-going Needs

Sponsors sheets are available by the Office for the Sanctuary Candle, Weekly Bulletins, Flowers, and Bread Donors. You can sponsor any of the above by placing your name on the sponsor sheets and they will be listed in the bulletin. Enclose money in your offering envelope: Sanctuary candle \$6; Weekly bulletin \$17; Flowers are provided by Russell Florists (\$42) or you can provide your own. If you wish to provide your own, please contact Molly. Payment should be made to “St. John Lutheran Church.” Currently we are using wafers during this time of pandemic concerns.

AmazonSmile

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization (in this case, St. John Lutheran) selected by customers. Amazon charges no fees.

How does my charity receive the donations?

Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations by electronic fund transfer. Donations are transferred approximately 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter. In the last quarter, we received \$50.60. Please try it and help support the ministries of St. John Lutheran. Every small gift can make a big difference.

Mission Support

Mission Support is a separate item that is not part of our church budget. Mission Support goes to support the salaries and ministries of the Upper Susquehanna Synod (office in Lewisburg, including Camp Mt. Luther, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (office in Chicago) and its numerous ministries around the world including youth ministries, ministries supporting congregations, and our disaster response partnerships around the world. Your regular contributions, as a separate line item electronically or on your envelope, to support the wider ministries of the Church are greatly appreciated. ***If each family at St. John made a commitment to give \$15 per month to Mission Support, we could not only fulfill our commitment as we did in the past, but we would be supporting the wider ministries of our Church to make Christ known throughout the world.***

Remember St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in your will!

Your gifts to the Endowment Fund are held in perpetuity and the interest will continue to support the ministries of St. John and the community forever!

Youth Ministry

“Grab-a-Tab”

The youth of St. John would like to ask for donations of little tabs from beverage, soup and dessert cans. It doesn't matter what color the tab, just grab them and deliver them to the church office. This project will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Danville. “Grab-a-Tab” program allows people of all ages to join in the effort of providing a “Home-away-from-Home” to children with cancer or other serious illnesses and their families.



Annual Easter Egg hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 3rd at 11:00 a.m. for all children and grandchildren of St. John 12 years and under. We will begin promptly, so please arrive at 10:45 a.m. and bring a basket with you. Middle and High school youth will meet in the church office at 9:30 a.m. to help fill the eggs.

Summer Camp



Sign up for Summer Camp at Camp Mt. Luther. Registration forms and Camp Brochures are available please see Molly. Our Christian Education Ministry encourages all our youth to attend camp and we will pay your registration fees. Church camp is a great place to grow in your faith.

Camp Mt. Luther Clean Up Day

Practice stewardship through service at camp at Camp Mount Luther at the Annual Spring Work Day on Saturday, May 22, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We need your help getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! A light lunch will be served. We will be meeting at St. John on Saturday, May 22 at 8:00 a.m. and returning around 2:00 p.m. to go to Camp Mt. Luther to spring clean the cabin St. John sponsors. Anyone interested in joining us please contact Molly.

ELCA National Youth Gathering

ELCA National Youth Gathering July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. All High School Students in 2021 are invited to join 40,000+ other youth across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to celebrate the power of Christ in our lives and serve our neighbors. See Cathy Eisner if you can go.

Remember the deadline for the June/July newsletter is May 15. Please submit your articles to the secretary early.

A young boy called the pastor of a local church and asked him to come by to pray for his mother, who was very ill with the flu. The pastor knew the family and was aware they were members of another church down the road. So, the pastor asked, "Shouldn't you be asking Pastor Simon at your church to come by to pray with your mom?" The young boy replied, "Yeah, but we didn't want to take the chance that he might catch whatever it is that Mom has."

– via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft Dover, DE

Friends

*A friend is someone we turn to when our spirits need a lift.
A friend is someone we treasure, for our friendship is a gift.
A friend is someone who fills our lives with beauty, joy, and grace.
And makes the whole world we live in a better and happier place.*

– Jean Kyler McManus