

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
229 South Broad Street  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740

Sunday, May 28, 2023  
Day of Pentecost

Confirmation and Blessing of Graduates



**PLEASE WEAR RED TO CHURCH TODAY!**

### **INTRODUCTON**

*Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.*

### **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **THE BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF RED PARAMENTS**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

C: **I will offer unto you the sacrifices of thanksgiving,  
and will call upon the name of the Lord.**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Dearly beloved in Christ: Forasmuch as God has laid it upon the hearts of Mr. & Mrs. Allen to provide these paraments for use in our worship, it is right that we should now dedicate them to God, and set them apart to the sacred use for which they are intended.

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to you, O Lord, we dedicate these paraments setting them apart to your most blessed service and praise. Accept now, O God, these gifts which we offer in thanksgiving. May it be a reminder to us of the grace you have shown in the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.

C: **And now, O God, by whose word and power all things were made, and without whose blessing we cannot bring anything into the service of your praise, send down your Holy Spirit and let these gifts be sanctified and hallowed to your greater glory. Grant that in their use, your holy name may be honored and magnified, and that now and always we may worship, adore and praise you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **PRELUDE**

*The assembly stands.*

**GATHERING SONG** *Blow Spirit Blow*

Before the earth had form,  
you rode upon the storm.  
Your hands because our womb,  
so warm and wonderful a home.

CHORUS: So, Blow Spirit Blow!  
Blow Spirit, Blow!  
We need to feel the presence of the Lord,  
So, Blow Spirit, Blow! (repeat Chorus)

When Mary heard the Word,  
you sought to reassure.  
And by the Jordan river,  
there a voice from heav'n was heard. (Chorus)

And when the Spirit came  
on wind and tongue of flame,  
you took away our guilt and shame,  
and blest us once again. (Chorus)

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM of Ilanna Green** (*front of the hymnal p 234*)

**HYMN OF PRAISE: Take My Life ELW 685**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our 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 Acts

**First Reading: Acts 2:1-21**

*Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.*

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new

wine.”

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>“In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ ”

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

### **Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

<sup>24</sup>How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup>**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,  
living things both small and great.**

<sup>26</sup>There go the ships to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

<sup>27</sup>**All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.**

<sup>28</sup>You give it to them; they gather it;

you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

<sup>29</sup>**When you hide your face, they are terrified;**

**when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

<sup>30</sup>You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

<sup>31</sup>**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;**

**O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

<sup>32</sup>You look at the earth and it trembles; you touch the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup>**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will praise my God while I have my being.**

<sup>34</sup>May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>35b</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!**

L: A reading from First Corinthians

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

*Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.*

<sup>3b</sup>No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142**

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 20:19-23**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON** "Know that God will walk with you into your future endeavors!"

**Blessing of Graduates**

We are delighted to recognize our graduates today. It is our privilege to affirm these members of our congregation who have completed this phase of their lives and move with great expectations to another.

Graduates, please come forward as your names are read:

High School -- Madison Beasley, Andrew Mitchell, Dylan Rhea, Carter  
Stackhouse, Grace Welshans, Gus Wool, Kane Wright  
College -- Cheyenne Mitchell.

Before you were even formed, God knew you.  
While in your Mother's womb, God named you.  
At your birth, God's breath filled you with life.

Today we celebrate what you have become at this moment in time. And so we pray, God of our beginnings, we thank you for the gifts of these graduates; their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity, their open speech and encouraging words. Their contributions have blessed and challenged us, and we have become a richer and more diverse community because of them.

As they step forward into the world that awaits, comfort their fears with the full knowledge of your divine presence. Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as modern-day disciples in a world that needs their spirit. Guide their feet as they move through life, protecting them from the pitfalls of darkness while they help to lead future generations into the warmth and promise of your light. We ask this blessing upon each of them.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **C: AMEN!**

*The assembly will stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Borning Cry* 732**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Passionate God, you sent your Spirit through the gifts of fire, wind, and word. As you equipped the disciples for their work, equip us to bring the good news to all those who long for you. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Restoring God, wind and flame bring life and destruction throughout the world. We pray for those who work with wind energy, for migratory birds, for protection for lands facing destructive fire, for forestry managers and firefighters. Renew the face of the earth. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Ever-present God, your spirit embraces all. Send your spirit of understanding to immigrants, refugees, and any experiencing language barriers. Bless the work of translators, ESL teachers, ambassadors, and international peace organizations. Safely guide those fleeing war and danger. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Merciful God, you anoint us with your spirit. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who seek your comfort (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Generous God, you impart a variety of gifts. Set aflame the desire to learn from one another, especially those who differ from us. Make your presence known through missionaries, peace workers, and through the outreach ministries of our synod and community (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for Chad Hershberger, Pastor Jim Vitale and staff as they prepare for another camping season. May congregations and individuals offer financial support and encourage children and families to attend camp this summer. Hear us, O God

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Life-giving God, we give thanks for those who have died to new life in you (*especially*). As we observe Memorial Day, we remember those who died in military service. Comfort all who mourn, and usher in a world where war is no more. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**CHOIR ANTHEM *I Will Heal Their Land***

*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: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self.

We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.

In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One.

In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world;  
through Christ our 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**

Holy God, you alone are holy,  
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell;  
with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness;  
out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

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 his love for us on the way, at the table,  
and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering;  
within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks  
to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,  
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

**Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer p. 145**

**Invitation to Communion**

P: Come and know Christ,  
broken and poured out for you.

*The assembly is seated.*

**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, Name Above All Names* (repeat twice)

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,*

*Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.*

*The assembly stands.*

**Prayer after Communion**

A: Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being.

With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together.

Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**Blessing**

P: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead,

bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

**Sending Song: Oh Beautiful for Spacious Skies 888**

## **Dismissal**

P; Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*We extend our sympathies to the family of James Scott Ferguson who died on May 19, 2023. He was the brother of Bill Ferguson.*

## **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, Carolyn Arthur, Christine and Dave Barner, Agnes Cryder, Don & Helen Delaney, Joanne Fisher, Barb Hoffman, Mick Miller, Cora Pelletier, Shane Snyder, 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; those effected by the tornadoes and flooding and snow.

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, 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 week’s helpers: Lector – Dittmar; Assisting--Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher – Cozette Stoltzfus; Teller – Shelby Rice; Bulletin Sponsor--Bill and Karyl Garner.

Next weeks’ helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundrick; Assisting Ministers—Ron Brundrick and Deb Heydrich; Head Usher –Brayden Wehler; Teller –Bob Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor – C Breon; Flowers – Mike and Ruth Aldridge.

The flowers are in loving memory of my husband by Myrtle Long.

The Sanctuary Candle in May is in memory of Pap Yost by Nicole, Hannah, Bryan, and Adalynn.

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

**This bulletin and more** can be found on church site [www.stjl.org](http://www.stjl.org)



## Calendar

Sunday, May 28, 2023

Day of Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Confirmation of Ilanna Greene, Dedication of red paraments,  
Confirmation and Graduation "Tea"

You are welcomed to join us downstairs after worship to celebrate  
With our confirmand and graduates.

Pastor & Mrs Aucker will be on vacation May 31-June 7. Pastor  
Shumway is covering.

1:00 p.m.,

Worship at Nippenose Village

Sunday, June 4, 2023

The Holy Trinity; 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Pastor and Mrs. Aucker celebrated their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 24. Karen's birthday  
will be June 4 when we are away.

PETER'S SERMON SOUNDS  
LIKE HE THINKS PENTECOST  
IS THE END OF THE WORLD,  
"IN THE LAST DAYS... THE  
SUN TURNED TO  
DARKNESS..."



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

THAT  
HAPPENED  
AT THE  
CRUCIFIXION.\*

\*LUKE 23:44-45



EVER SINCE THE  
**RESURRECTION,**  
WE'VE BEEN LIVING  
IN THE **END TIMES.**



JESUS REALLY  
KNOWS HOW  
TO **STRETCH**  
**THINGS OUT!**



ACTS 2:1-21

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