

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Sunday, May 19, 2024
Day of Pentecost
Confirmation and Blessing of Graduates
Jersey Shore Independence Fire Personnel



INTRODUCTON *Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.*

Announcement by Youth regarding Hunger

PRELUDE

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection

you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING SONG *Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart* 800

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.

The assembly is seated.

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

Jack Fetzer, Jayce Fetzer, Nathan Klugh, Trenton Myers

The assembly stands

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Take My Life* 685

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, 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 Acts

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.

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

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are

speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷‘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.

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

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

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,

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

²¹Then 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: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

²⁴How manifold are your works, O LORD!

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

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

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

²⁷**All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.**

²⁸You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

²⁹**When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.

³¹**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**
³²You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.
³³**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.**
³⁴May these words of mine please God.
I will rejoice in the LORD.
^{35b}**Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Hallelujah!**

L: A reading from Romans

Second Reading: Romans 8:22-27

By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142

Alleluia! Lord and Savior; open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The holy gospel according to St. John

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as "the Helper" and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.

[Jesus said,] ²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:4b}“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but

if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

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 – Max Dincher

College -- Olivia Ann Eisner, Arabella Fiedler, Max Ferguson,

Hannah Wool, Gus Wool

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!**

Recognition of Recipients of the Trinity Lutheran, Avis, Scholarships.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Blow Spirit Blow*

Before the earth had form,

CHORUS: So, Blow Spirit Blow!

you rode upon the storm.

Blow Spirit, Blow!

Your hands because our womb,

We need to feel the presence of the Lord,

so warm and wonderful a home.

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)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church universal, for its ministries, and for the spread of the gospel. Shower your Spirit upon Sunday school students, confirmands, and the newly baptized (*especially*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the earth, our precious home. We give thanks for the diversity of plant and animal life on our planet. Empower us by your Spirit to be wise and faithful stewards of all you have made. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the nations and those who govern. Give those in authority understanding hearts, that they work together to bring justice and peace on earth. Grant all who vote in elections wisdom and discernment. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For those in need around the world: for victims of crimes, for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, for those who are incarcerated. For all who suffer in any way (*especially*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For this congregation and its ministries: for those who plan and lead worship, for acolytes and communion servers, for readers and tech ministers, for all who prepare and clean our worship space. May our worship be pleasing in your sight. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of all peoples, we thank you for the companion synod relationship that we share with the Ansbach-Wurzburg Kirchenkreis in Germany and the Lutheran Church of Liberia. Bless those who lead and all who serve in your Church. Keep our lines of communication open so that we can better know of our mutual support, one for another. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We remember the faithful departed. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us in the faith. At the last day, breathe new life into our dry bones, that we might feast forever with all the saints in light. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Hymn of Promise*

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **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: The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

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: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Song: Great is Thy Faithfulness 733

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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Please join us downstairs for light refreshments as we continue to honor our
confirmands, graduates, and recipients of the Trinity scholarships!

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 worshippers 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, Connie Barker, Danny Bennett, Maisy Boyles, Matteo Cooper, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Dawn Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Myrtle Long, Mick Miller, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, Ben Saar, Pam Shuler, 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 weeks’ helpers: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers -- Karen Aucker, Gary Johnson; Head Usher –Gina Johnson; Teller–Lynette Yost; Bulletin Sponsor--Cindy Breon.

Next week’s helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers--Joyce Braucht, Carl Schaefer; Head Usher –Gina Johnson; Teller–Lynette Yost; Bulletin Sponsor--Cindy Breon; Children's Church--Holly Ditmer; Flowers-- .

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Myrtle Long.

The Sanctuary Candle in May is to the glory of God and in memory of our Pap by Nicole, Hannah, Bryan, and Adalynn.

If you haven attended Camp Mt. Luther and have **photographs of the camp** and yourself doing activities, please bring them in and allow Betty Allen to use them on a Camp Mt. Luther bulletin board.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod is seeking a young adult (ages 18-30) to serve at the Churchwide assembly July 28-August 2, 2025, in Phoenix, Arizona. The costs are covered by the Synod. If you are interested, please see Pastor soon.

Many thanks to all who attended and helped with the Mother Daughter Brunch. This year’s theme was “Angels Among Us.” Special thanks to Hannah Yost for supplying the fresh eggs, the Daugherty family for supplying the beautiful gerbera daisy centerpieces, Susan Ely for making the lovely angel pins and Christine Barner for sharing her thoughtful readings and serving as MC. We all enjoyed a nice time as we gathered to honor and remember mothers, daughters and all the special women who we cherish and love. Thank you to Lynette Yost, Kim Myers, Susan Ely who served on the

committee to plan this day and prepare the food, and also to the Women of the Church, who supported this event. Molly Hollick

This bulletin and more can be found on church site www.stjl.org

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.

Women of the Church has accepted a challenge to **collect new or gently worn shoes** for Missions. Please check your closets and bring the shoes in soon! Place them in the box near the elevator labeled for shoes

Calendar

- Sunday, May 19, 2024 Sunday, Day of Pentecost
 - 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
 - Confirmation and Graduate tea, Recognition of Scholarship Recipients.
 - Fire Company joining us for worship
- Monday, May 20, 2024 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- Sunday, May 26, 2024 7th Sunday of Easter
 - 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's church.
- Saturday, June 22, 2024 Church Work Day at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, June 30, 2024 A Brunch in honors of Fathers after worship



Also, many thanks to Cynthia Breon and other helpers who decorated the sanctuary for Pentecost.