

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

Sunday, September 19, 2021  
17th Sunday after Pentecost



*“This morning we are led in worship by, Mr. Gary Johnson, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leaders have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist in specific situations.*

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committed to ordained ministry as the primary means for filling the needs of this church for Word and Sacrament, but at this place in the church’s pilgrimage, the church’s inability to provide all congregations with full-time ordained pastoral ministry presents a challenge. On any given Sunday, congregations have needs that cannot be met by available ordained ministers. Therefore, because it is the bishop’s responsibility to meet the Word and Sacrament needs of the congregations in this Synod, synodically authorized lay worship leaders are trained to meet this need. On behalf of the whole church, Bishop Collins is deeply gratified by the ministry of these servants of the Gospel.”*

### **Introduction to the day**

*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.*

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

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **GATHERING**

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

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

P. Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

**Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: *O Master, Let Me Walk with You 818***

### **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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: *All Are Welcome 641***

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

**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.

**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.*

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But 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!”  
<sup>20</sup>But 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.**

#### PSALM Psalm 54

*God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)*

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, by your name;  
in your might, defend my cause.  
<sup>2</sup>**Hear my prayer, O God;**  
**give ear to the words of my mouth.**  
<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,  
those who have no regard for God.  
<sup>4</sup>**Behold, God is my helper;**  
**it is the Lord who sustains my life.**  
<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who spy on me;  
in your faithfulness, destroy them.  
<sup>6</sup>**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice**  
**and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**  
<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from every trouble,  
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

#### 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.*

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But 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. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4:</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You 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. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Children's Sermon

*The assembly stands.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to 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.*

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup>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." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"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

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Children of the Heavenly Father 781*

## APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict (*especially*). Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, we are grateful for the leadership of Bishop Bedstrohm, the presiding Bishop of Germany, as he retires. Our partnership with Ansbach/Wurzburg will continue as we continue the mission and ministry God has planned in this time of transition. We look forward to times when we can gather together again to celebrate this global companion synod. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today (*especially*). Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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**Our Offerings**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *No, Never Alone*

**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**

God of abundance,

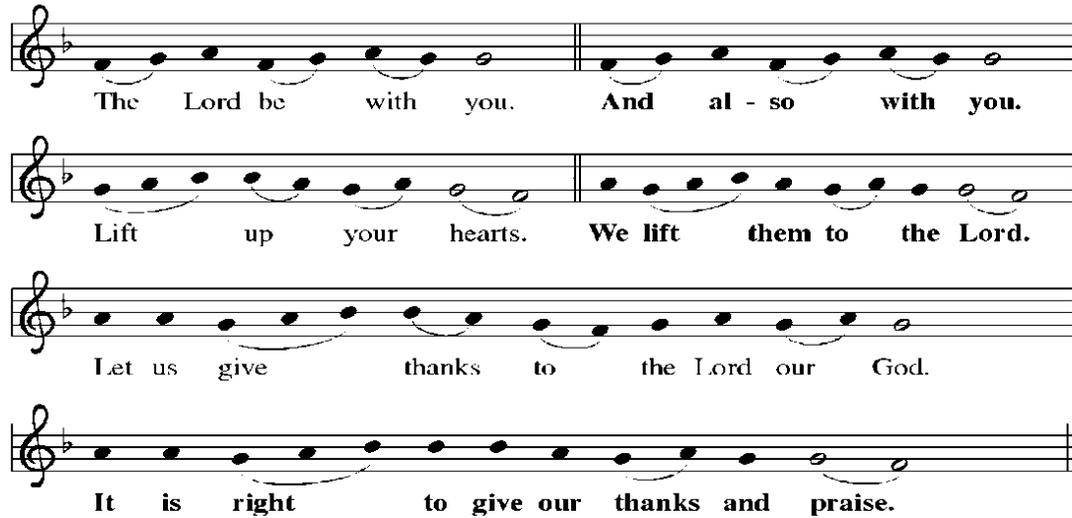
you cause streams to break forth in the desert  
and manna to rain from the heavens.

Accept the gifts you have first given us.

Unite them with the offering of our lives  
to nourish the world you love so dearly;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

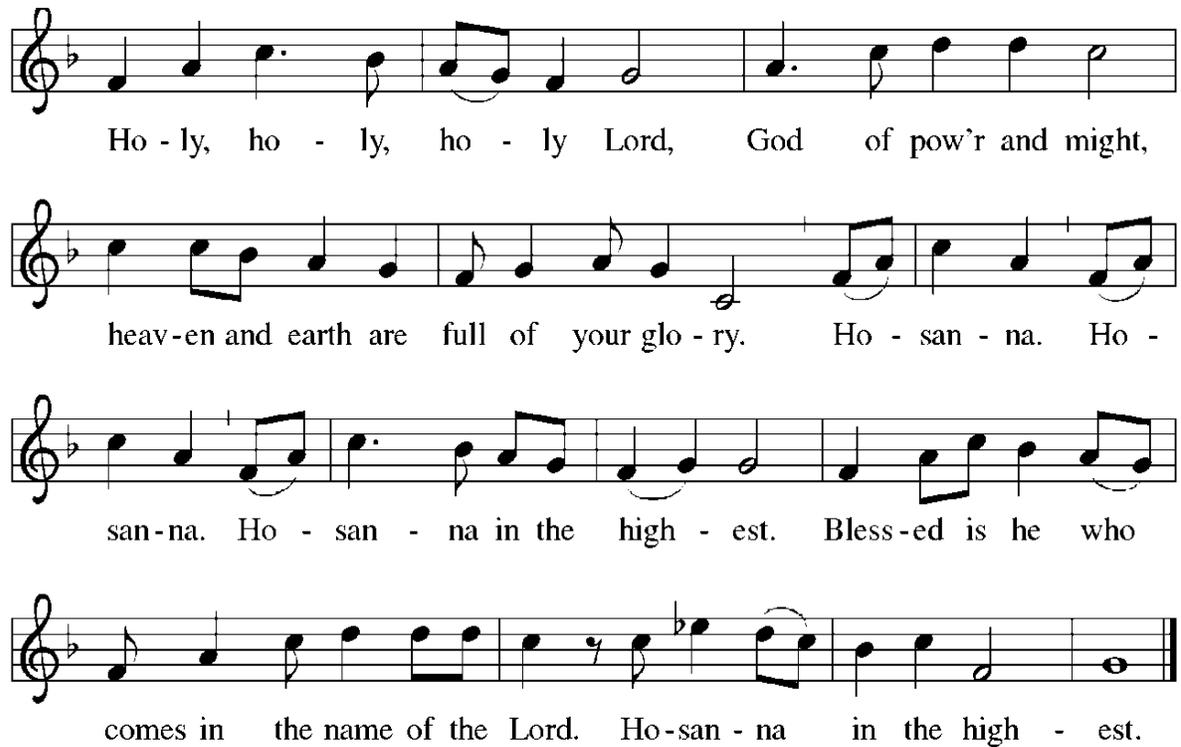
**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE BY PASTOR HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;  
you encircled the globe with air;  
you created fire for warmth and light;  
you nourish the lands with water.  
You molded us in your image,  
and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
with grace deeper than the seas,  
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,  
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.  
We await his coming,  
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,

whose breath revives us for life,  
whose fire rouses us to love.  
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.  
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,  
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,  
receive our praise and petitions,  
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,  
and fill us with your blessing,  
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,  
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:  
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

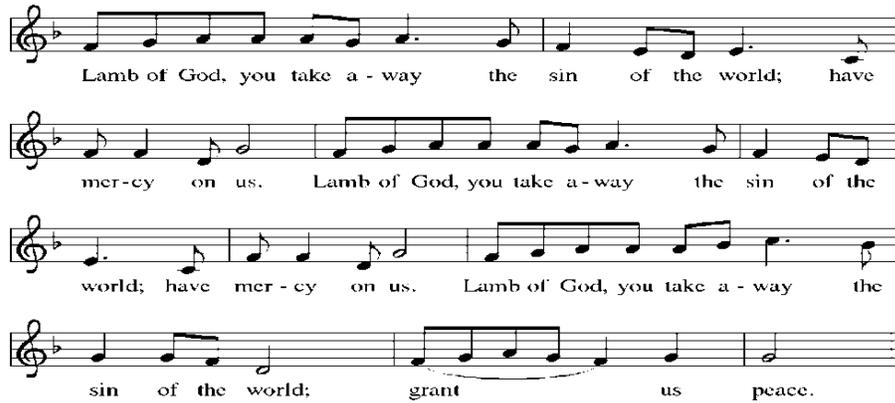
### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

### **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 a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## 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

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood

you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.

Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,

bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## BLESSING

People of God, you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG: *Jesus Loves Me 595*

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### *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, Luke Antolick, Charlie Dunne, Joanne Fisher, David Kuehl, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Ruth Nice, Jean Ann Snyder, Shane Snyder, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jake Cordrey, Richie and Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

Special Thanks to this week's helpers: Lector – Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers – Gary Johnson, Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Betty Allen; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor – Cynthia Breon;

Next week's helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich Assisting Ministers – Joyce Braucht, Carl Schaefer; Head Usher –Betty Allen; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor – Cynthia Breon; Flowers – Gary and Gina Johnson

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored by Myrtle Long during the month of September in loving memory of her brother.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of our loving parents, William and Nancy Wolfe & Charles and Candy Welshans by Tonya and Tyson Welshans.

There will be a **Women of the Church** meeting immediately following worship **TODAY!** Please make plans to attend!

The bazaar will be happening soon! Holly Ditmer is accepting donations of old costume jewelry and Hobby Lobby gift cards for supplies for bazaar craft projects.

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

Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659

Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

Lycoming County Life Chain will be on Sunday, October 3 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the Golden Strip. Please contact Joyce Braucht. It's not radical. All lives matter – born and unborn.

“DAVID” playing at Sight and Sound !! August 6, 2022 -- Children 10 and under \$125.00; Adults \$190.00. Fare includes bus, play, meal, tip for driver and fund raiser for Luke Antolick. Payments may be made during the course of the year! Thank You! Joyce Braucht.

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH !** Look for flyers and save the date!

Monday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. supper and Learn to Care for Your Car

**FREE TO ALL YOUTH !** Look for flyers and save the date!

Saturday, October 2, at 5:00 p.m. Pine Creek Seed Farm Corn Maze

Download the **VANCO** app from your app store for your cell phone. This feature is also available on our web 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. People were asking if they could give electronically by debit/credit card. Now this feature is available. If you have any questions, contact Pastor or Scott Mitchell.

**VANCO 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 card holder 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. VANCO 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.

Pastor Aucker is away and taking a few days off. Pastor Karl Runser will be covering September 17-24. For pastoral emergencies Pastor Runser can be contacted at 570-725-2155.

#### ***THIS WEEK'S EVENTS***

Sunday, September 19 , 2021

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Women of the Church meeting

7:00 p.m. NA meeting

*17th Sunday after Pentecost  
Gary Johnson leads Worship*

Monday, September 20 , 2021

10:00 Worship and Music Hymn Picking Meeting

Boy Scouts

7:30 p.m. N/A meeting

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. N/A meeting

Friday, September 24, 2021

9:00-1:00 Food Distribution

Sunday, September 26 , 2021

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

7:00 p.m. NA meeting

*18th Sunday after Pentecost*