

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

Sunday, February 19, 2023
Transfiguration of our Lord
Celebration Pastor's 30th Anniversary of Ordination



We welcome Rev. Craig A Miller, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, to our celebration of Pastor Aucker's 30th anniversary of his Ordination to Word and Sacrament Ministry.

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

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.
We have not practiced your righteousness.
Our hearts have turned away from you.
For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* 834

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: *Beautiful Savior* 838

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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 Exodus

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the LORD” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

¹²The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

PSALM: Psalm 2

¹Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

²**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together,**

against the LORD and against the LORD’s anointed?

³“Let us break their yoke,” they say;

“let us cast off their bonds from us.”

⁴**God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;
the LORD holds them in derision.**

⁵Then in wrath God speaks to them,
and in rage fills them with terror.

⁶**“As for me, I have anointed my king
upon Zion, my holy mountain.”**

⁷Let me announce the decree of the LORD,
who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

⁸**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

⁹You shall crush them with an iron rod
and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”

¹⁰**And now, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

¹¹Submit to the LORD with fear,
and with trembling bow in worship;
¹²**lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.**
Happy are all who take refuge in God!

L: A reading from Second Peter

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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 St. Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵While he was still speaking,

suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON The Rev. Craig A. Miller, Bishop, Upper Susquehanna Synod

HYMN OF THE DAY: *When Morning Gilds the Skies* 853

APOSTLES CREED (*p. 105 at the beginning of the hymnal*)

Prayers of Intercession

A: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats (*locally threatened waters or lands may be named*). Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor (*name*) and local leaders, our governor (*name*) and state legislators, our president (*name*) and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus’ voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Call us, Holy Spirit, as you breathe on all creation and call your people into relationship with you. We pray especially for all those who are considering working as summer staff members at

Camp Mount Luther. Assist them in their discernment process and guide them as they consider mentoring youth this summer. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Receive our thanksgiving for the holy ones who have guided us in faithfulness and gathered even the unlikely as your people. With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

Responding in Love

Our Offering of Music

CHOIR ANTHEM *Hallelujah, We Shall Rise*

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: Liberating God,

you break the bonds of injustice

and let the oppressed go free.

Receive these offerings in thanksgiving

for all your works of merciful power,

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.

You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

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

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,

and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

**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**

SIT

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

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, Name Above All Names*

(repeat twice)

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

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.

Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

Amen.

REFLECTIONS : 30 YEARS OF ORDINATION The Rev. Dr. Kerry Aucker

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Jim Allen, Donna Batschelet, Ron Brundrick, Agnes Cryder, Don & Helen Delaney, Joanne Fisher, Joann Hall, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, Cora Pellitier, the Snyder family, Charles and Candace Welshans, 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.

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, 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 –Grace Welshans; Assisting Ministers –Karen Aucker, Gary Johnson; Head Usher – Christine Barner; Teller –Gina Johnson; Children's Church – Cathy Eisner; Bulletin Sponsor— Gary and Gina Johnson.

Next week's helper: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers—Joyce Braucht, Carl Schaefer; Head Usher – Christine Barner; Teller –Gina Johnson; Bulletin Sponsor –Gary and Gina Johnson: Flowers – Yost.

The Sanctuary Candle in February is in memory of our Gram Yost by Nicole, Hannah, Bryan and Adalynn.

The flowers on the altar are in honor of Dean Ely's birthday by Theresa Levins. The flowers on the organ are in honor of Pastor's 30th Anniversary of Ordination.

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

The **Christian Education Committee** will be meeting on Monday, February 20th, at 6 pm.

Christian Education is seeking volunteers to lead Children's Church once a month. If interested please see Cathy Eisner. The 4th and 5th Sundays are open.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO RESUME NURSERY. We are in need of adult and teen volunteers to supervise toddlers/babies in the nursery during church. Please contact Molly Hollick, or Ken Dougherty if you would be willing to help out or have any questions. Our hope is to get enough volunteers to have a monthly rotation cycle.

NURSERY TOYS. Molly and I will be cleaning out the nursery in a few weeks and throwing away broken toys. We will be looking for some toys that can replace the ones we will be getting rid of. If you have any toys that are like new and have all their pieces and you would like to donate to the church nursery we would be very appreciative. If you could put them in one of the classrooms upstairs that is not being used that would be great. Thank you so much! Carol Yost

Volunteers are needed to sponsor the weekly **flowers**. A sign-up sheet is on the wall in the 2nd floor elevator tower. It's neon green and set up for the whole year. Sign up for the Sunday you want!

A Time of Celebration as we Recognize the 30th Anniversary of Pastor Aucker's Ordination. While Pastor Aucker was officially Ordained into the Public Office of Word and Sacrament Ministry on a snowy day on February 6, 1993, at Zion Lutheran, Turbotville; the members of St. John Lutheran will officially celebrate his 30th Ordination Anniversary on February 19 when Bishop Miller is available to come and worship with us at 9:30 a.m. A meal will be provided after worship to all who come. No reservations are necessary. Please join us for this joyous occasion.

The last pictorial directory of the members of St. John Lutheran was created in 2009. Over the past fourteen years we have had a number of changes with births, new members, and deaths, along with the pandemic that had a significant impact upon us. It was suggested that we create a new pictorial directory so people have a visual picture of our members.

We also need information from you to verify what we have on file. We have no birthdates on some people. We have a lot of young adults who moved away from home but we have no addresses, phone numbers or emails for them. Just their parent's address.

So, we are asking each of you to send us a photo of yourselves and send it by email to St. John Lutheran Church at: stjohn@stjl.org

Please take a close-up photo of ourselves or your family. Use your cell phone or have someone else take your photo and email it to St. John. Please send us a close-up photo. A dot standing out in the field will not show your smiley face.

Please also send us your address, email, and phone number to update the directory and make sure it is accurate. A number of people provided their home phone number years ago but have since discontinued their home phone and use only their cell phones. If you do not want your cell phone listed, please note that when you send us your photo and information

Current church directories are always available without photos. Just ask Pastor to print one out for you. It only takes a few minutes. Remember the directory is only as good as the information that we have available.

Special Thanks to Shelby Rice for volunteering to coordinate the pictorial directory project. Contact her for any information regarding photos.

Lent Begins February 22

Ash Wednesday, February 22, **6:00 am and 7:00 pm**, at St. John Lutheran. Sermon: “Jesus at the Pizzeria”

These will be traditional services in the sanctuary with no meal.

Lent 1, March 1, 7:00 pm at Garman Lutheran

Lent 2, March 8, 7:00 pm at Grace Lutheran

Lent 3, March 15, 7:00 pm at St. John Lutheran

Service of Healing, March 19, 9:30 am at St. John Lutheran

Lent 4, March 22, 7:00 pm at Garman Lutheran

Lent 5, March 29, 7:00 pm at St. John Lutheran

Palm Sunday, April 2, 9:30 am at St. John Lutheran. We need volunteers to read the Passion of St. Matthew.

A sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the Tower, 2nd floor.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7:00 pm at St. John Lutheran

Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, April 7 at St. James Lutheran

Easter Vigil Egg Hunt for the children, April 8 at 11:00 am.

Easter Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday, April 9, 6:00 am and 9:30 am, St. John Lutheran

Holy Humor Sunday, April 16, 9:30 a.m. Rumor has it that the Blues Brothers will return to St. John!

Youth Ministry

Thank you to everyone who donated food to Souper Bowl Sunday. It was appreciated.

Camp Mt. Luther has a new way to send out their summer camp flyers and registration. There is a QR code available here at the church on the bulletin board and in the annual report that you scan and read. You can download the registration, medical, and other forms from the QR code. Turn in registrations to Molly Hollick.

GROW in the Snow Looks at Baptism: All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend this synod youth retreat on March 17-18. The theme of this year’s will be baptism. Experience your Creator, play winter games and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults and the number of youth attending. To register contact Pastor Aucker or Mrs. Eisner. A flyer is on the table by the water fountain.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Transfiguration of our Lord

8:30 p.m. Adult Sunday School *Celebration Pastor's 30th Anniversary of Ordination*

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service with Bishop Craig Miller

Children's Church

10:30 a.m. Brunch celebration Pastor Aucker down in the big Sunday School room

2:00 p.m. Catechism class

Monday, February 20, 2023

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Christian Ed Meeting

7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday Lent Begins

6:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service

10:00 a.m. Trinity Worship with ashes

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 26, 2023

1st Sunday of Lent

8:30 p.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

Youth Gathering after worship in SS room. Steps to Getting your Driver's license

1:00 pm Worship Nippenose Village

