

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
a reconciling in Christ congregation



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 4, 2021

9:30 am

Pastor: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

Vicar: Jamie Edelman

Director of Music: Jessica Madow

330 Ferry Street; Easton, PA 18042-4500

Phone: 610-258-6119

E-mail : Admin@stjohnseaston.org

www.stjohnseaston.org

Statement of Welcome

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.—Galatians 3:28

As a community of God striving to be open to all people, we at St. John's Lutheran Congregation believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We welcome all to join us as we struggle to better understand the mysteries of God's teachings. We are challenged by Christ to care for, to love, to understand, and to listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual/affectional orientation, national origin or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God's people. St. John's Lutheran Congregation is a place for each person to shine in their own unique gifts.

Statement of Mission

St. John's Lutheran Church is a downtown, community-oriented, congregation of Christians. We worship God, strive to welcome and wholly accept everyone, and reach out with and in God's love.

Communion is a time we invite all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament. If this is your belief, **YOU ARE WELCOME** to participate in Communion. There are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

Gathering

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

Announcements

Prelude *“O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True”*
(Music: from Gesangbuch”, Nurnberg, 1676)

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✚ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

***Gathering Hymn** ACS #1000

“God’s Work, our Hands”

- 1 God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

- 2 God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

**3 God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

**4 God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

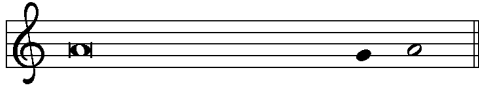
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***Greeting**

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.

***Kyrie** (Congregation please quietly sing parts in bold)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



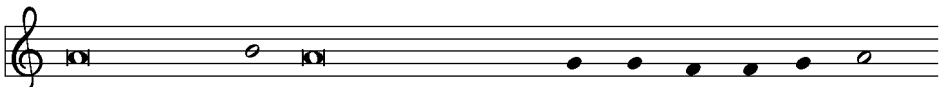
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

***Canticle of Praise** *(congregation sing quietly after 1st line)*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



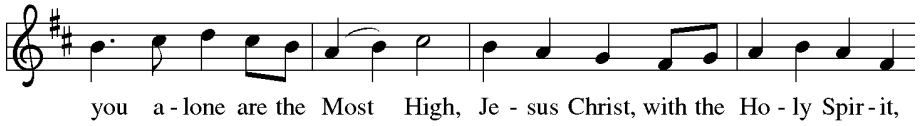
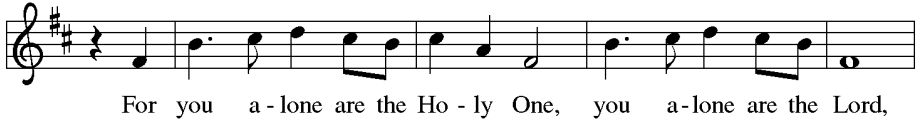
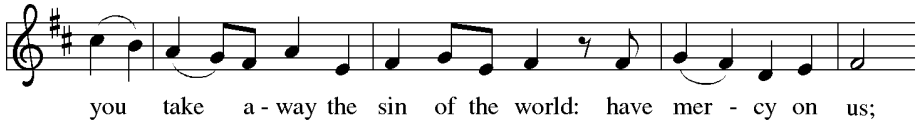
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



**Prayer of the Day*

P: Let us pray. God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Ezekiel 2:1-5

¹[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. ²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.” ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123

(Spoken responsively)

¹To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.

²**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and
the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show us
your mercy.**

³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

⁴**too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

***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.**

Hymn of the Day - ELW # 887

"This is My Song"

- 1 This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

- 2 My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**

**3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.**

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993, sts. 1-2; Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, st. 3
Text sts. 1-2 © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Company. Text st. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing
Company. All rights reserved.

*** Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray. God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, so that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of freedom, you have given us this good land as our heritage, make us always remember your generosity, and constantly do your will. Bless our land with truth, honesty and honor in our daily life. Let us strive for liberty for all. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of compassion, protect the vulnerable, and show solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel weak and faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need including those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . . Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. Equip us as we leave this place to help and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

C: Amen.

*** The Sharing of the Peace**

(remain seated and gesture a sign of peace to those around you.)

P: Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*** Presentation of Gifts**

ELW: # 184 *“Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”*

(continued on following page)



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



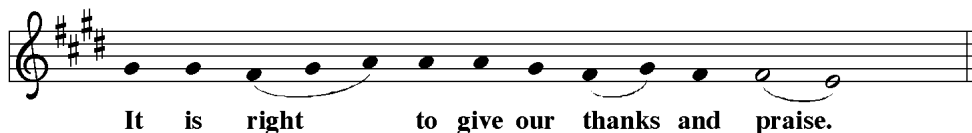
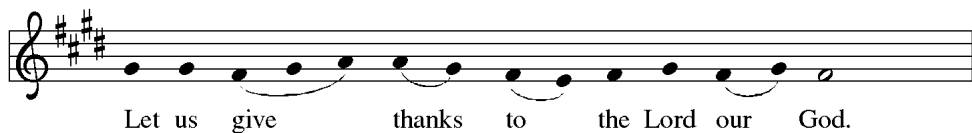
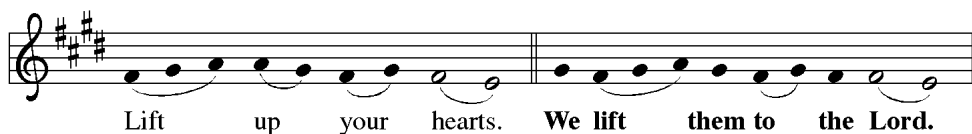
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**Offering Prayer*

A: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C: Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving** (*Congregation sing response quietly.*)



***Preface** (*Pastor continues . . .*)

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all time and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Communion Form

(Pastor continues ...)

***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.**

Holy Communion - *If you are baptized and believe that it is the
real blood and body of Christ, we welcome you at the Lord's table
here at St. John's.*

**Please remain seated, communion
will be offered to you in your pew.
(Please ask for gluten free or grape juice if necessary.)*

Communion Music

- ELW #472 ***“Eat This Bread”***
- ELW #474 ***“Bread of Life from Heaven”***
- ELW #477 ***“I Received the Living God”***

* Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

(Please remain in your seat until the candles have been extinguished and the Pastor has left the Sanctuary.)

*Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provided for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✚ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace, you are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant – Jim Heck
Ushers – Joyce Petty / Bob Black
Reader – Mike Thompson
Altar Guild – Sue Glenn / Carolyn Moyer

This Week at St. John's: July 4th – July 11th

Today (7/4/21) – Worship, 9:30 am

Today (7/4/21) – Finance Meeting, following worship – Office

Monday (7/5/21) – Office Closed for the 4th of July Holiday

Wednesday (7/7/21) – Council Reports Due

Thursday (7/8/21) – Prayer Group, 9:30 am – Chapel

Sunday (7/11/21) – Pastor Dialogue, Following Worship – Chapel

Sunday (7/11/21) – Note, No Membership Meeting

Sunday (7/11/21) – Heritage Day – Downtown Easton,
(No church participation this year.)

Monday (7/12/21) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm - Chapel

*Altar Flowers are dedicated in memory of my very
bestest friend Jean Evans, on her birthday
by Michelle Fritz*



Attendance: 6/27/21 –51 people

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$2,286.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,255.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$52,058.00
Year to Date amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$58,630.00

Reminder: My Sister's Closet Private Shopping Event:



July 17th, from 3-5pm.

3400 Bath Pike, Suite 103, Rt. 512

Please contact Judi Kalapay

for directions if needed. Or call,

610-866-5755. To learn more about My Sister's Closet or donating, visit their website

at www.shopmysisterscloset.com.

Hope to see you there!

Summer Brunch & the Bible Dialogue

*July 11th –
Following Worship*



We are a Praying Church!

Prayer Concerns: Marge, Chuck, Anthony, Shirley, Karen, Sandy, Serena & baby, Nevaeh, Bob, Don, Dave, Jane, Walter, Jim & Shirley, Karen, Reverend Kock, Kevin, Carmen, Jim, Michael, Gail, Matthew, and the Family and Friends of: Lee Wisner, Sheila Gerry, Robert Wolfinger, & Daniel Wilson

If you have any prayer requests or needs, please let us know, and let us pray for you.

We invite you to take this prayer list home and pray.

Prayer Requests can be added by contacting the church office at 610-258-6119 or email Admin@stjohnseaston.org, or by filling out a request from the pew cards.



(Requested will be removed at the beginning of the following month unless notified.)

Updated Plans for Worship!!!

Church council voted at its June meeting to adopt the following changes to Worship beginning July 4th, 2021:

- If you have been VACCINATED, you may remove your mask as per the CDC and PA guidelines.
- Social distancing divisions are removed.
- We will continue to “LIVE-STREAM ” worship on Sundays.

You can find the service “live” on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am— through YouTube: search for St. John’s Lutheran Church, Easton, PA. (If your sound is low, you need to go to your computer setting and under system, change the master volume.)

- We will continue to offer communion in the pews until the end of summer.
- We will continue to offer committee meetings in person or using the “Zoom” platform.
- Children will be encouraged to wear masks as most of them are not vaccinated.
- Hand sanitizer and masks will still be available for use in the church.
- Room sanitation following use will continue until further notice.
- If you have any special concerns or needs, please contact the pastor.



The Congregation is invited to the Memorial
Service for . . .

Lenore (Lee) Wisner – Gregor

July 17th

Calling Hours - 10:00 am

Service - 11:00 am

Lee passed away November 28, 2020 at the age of
89. Lee was a longtime member of St. John's.

The Fine Arts Committee is pleased to announce . . .

The “Re-opening” of the Gallery at St. John’s



*The First Show will be November 7th,
“Holiday Show”*

*Fine Arts Committee will meet again
Sunday, July 25th, following worship.*

*In the meantime, the artwork of **Chris Swan**
will be hung in the gallery for all to admire.*

Details of when the art is available for viewing to come . . .

***Fine Arts is always looking for new members, and Gallery
attendants. Please think about your fall schedule and why not
come try something new?***



VBS

AUGUST 2ND - 6TH, 2021

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

AGES: COMPLETED KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE

Registration forms can be found in the narthex
on the youth bulletin board, or online.

(Find the link on our website.)

Volunteers are needed for the following areas:

**Registration, Dinner Coordinator, Crew Leaders &
Assistants, Station Leaders & Assistants and
Volunteers at large (Runners).**

Registration for Volunteers can also be found on our website,
or see Vicar Jamie.

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