

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

at

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



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 11, 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

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.

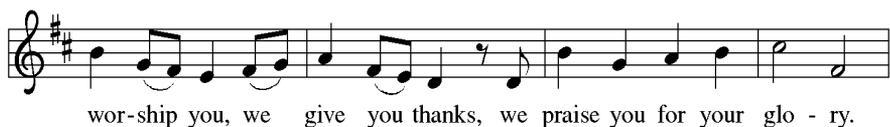
C: Amen

***Gathering Hymn** ELW #807

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

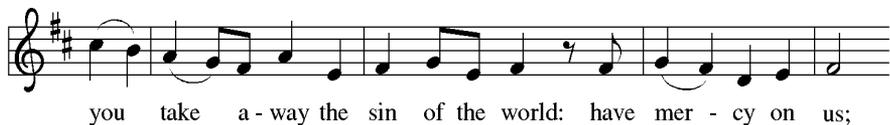
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.



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



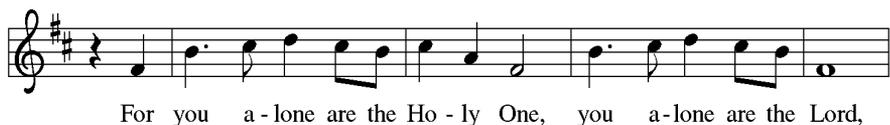
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

* Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Word

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

First Reading

Amos 7:7-15

⁷This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.’ ”

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:8-13

(Spoken responsively)

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn
their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** Gospel**

Mark 6:14-29

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Vicar Jamie Edelman

***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 # 717

“Let Justice Flow like Streams”

- 1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.

- 2 Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.

3 So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade
this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John
Knox Press

* *Prayers of Intercession*

A: Let us pray. Holy One, you welcome your people into one family and gather us together. Bestow your grace upon your beloved church, lavish your wisdom upon us, and redeem us from our faults. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Awesome Creator, you steadfastly tend to the smallest of seeds and the mightiest of sycamore trees. Spring up green growth from the earth, nourish fruit, grain, and other crops, and bless the work of farmers and laborers. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of strength, be near to those who endure sickness, pain and difficulty. Comfort all who are survivors of hurt, illness or violence, guard your people, and protect all 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 love, we pray for this holy house and all those who worship here. We pray especially for those whose efforts often go unnoticed; for the workers of the church and for all who serve as volunteers and on committees. 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



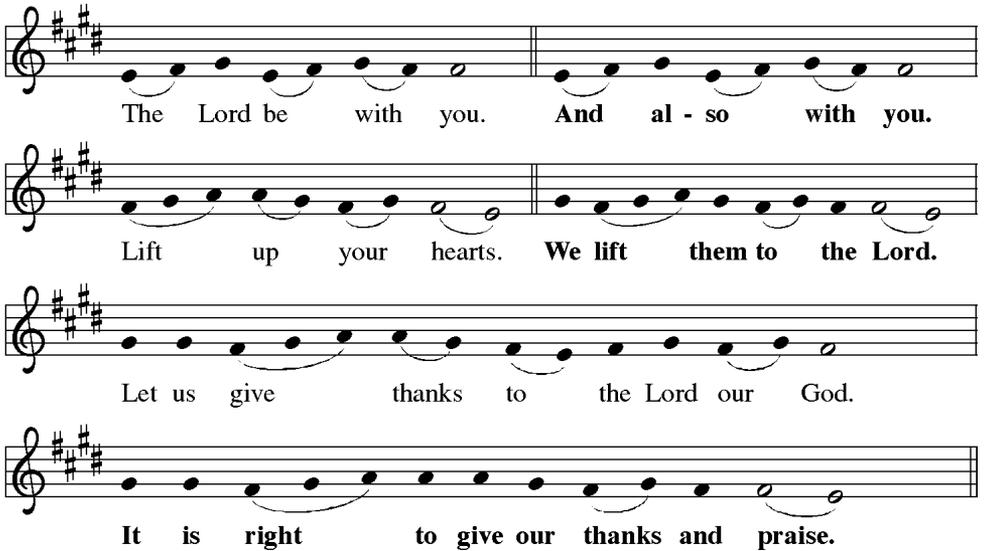
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**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.*)



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** (*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

#494 – *“For The Bread Which You Have Broken”*

#492 – *“Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”*

#479 – *“We Come to the Hungary Feast”*

* 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 – Roger Ruggles
Ushers – Barb Horinko / Wayne Docker
Reader – Nadine Anderson
Altar Guild – Sue Glenn / Carolyn Moyer

This Week at St. John's: July 11th – July 18th

Today (7/11/21) – Worship, 9:30 am

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

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

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

Saturday (7/17/21) – Lee Wisner-Gregor funeral,
10:00 calling, 11:00 service.

Saturday (7/17/21) - My Sisters Closet Shopping Day, 3-5:00 pm

Sunday (7/18/21) – Worship, 9:30 am

Sunday (7/18/21) – Church Workday, following worship.

*Altar Flowers are dedicated in memory of my daughter,
Julia Bradt Hallingse, and my husband, Jack Bradt.
Both loved this church, by Pat Bradt*



Attendance: 7/4/21 –51 people

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering: | \$1,946.00 |
| Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget: | \$2,255.00 |
| Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering: | \$54,004.00 |
| Year to Date amount needed to reach our Budget: | \$60,885.00 |

~~~ TODAY ~~~

Summer Brunch & the Bible Dialogue

Following Worship



|                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>CHURCH WORKDAY – JULY 18<sup>TH</sup></b><br/><b>FOLLOWING WORSHIP</b><br/><b>PLEASE JOIN US!</b></p> | A black and white illustration of a cross. A hammer and a saw are crossed over the cross. The hammer is positioned horizontally across the middle of the cross, and the saw is positioned vertically, crossing the top and bottom arms of the cross. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



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

*Lenore (Lee) Wisner – Gregor*

July 17<sup>th</sup>

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 7<sup>th</sup>,  
“Holiday Show”*

*Fine Arts Committee will meet again  
Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, following worship.*

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

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



## Updated Plans for Worship!!!

Church council voted at its June meeting to adopt the following changes to Worship:

- 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.



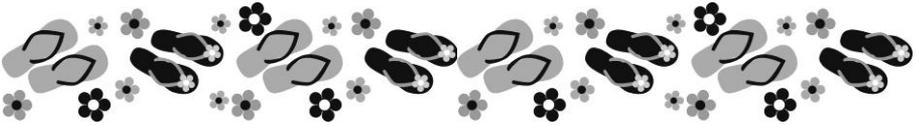
*My Sister's Closet*  
A Women's Resale Boutique

***Private Shopping Event: July 17<sup>th</sup>, from 3-5pm.***

*3400 Bath Pike, Suite 103, Rt. 512*

*Please contact Judi Kalapay for directions or questions.*

*Come Shop for a Great Cause . . .*



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## *We are a Praying Church!*

*Prayer Concerns:* Marcia, Chuck, Anthony, Shirley, Karen, Derrick, Sandy, Serena & baby, Nevaeh, Bob, Lisa, 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](mailto: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.)