

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

at

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



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 25, 2021

9:30 am

Pastor: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

Vicar: Jamie Edelman

Leading Worship Today: Steve Moyer

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

A: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

C: Amen

***Gathering Hymn** ELW #696

“Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult”

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me":**
- 2 As of old Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.**
- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."**
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."**
- 5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy,
Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.**

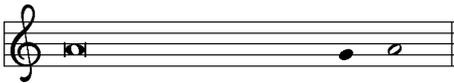
Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

*Greeting

A: 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.



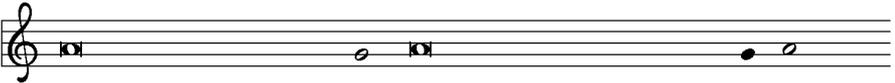
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



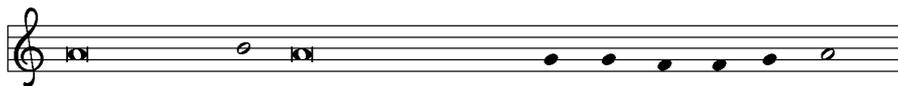
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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,



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*

A: Let us pray. Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Word

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

First Reading

2 Kings 4:42-44

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” ⁴³But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred people?” So he repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’” ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:10-18

(Spoken responsively)

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion
endures throughout all ages.**

**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all
your works.**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,
and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about

three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

A: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily – Steve Moyer

**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 # 729

“The Church of Christ, in Every Age”

- 1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.**
- 2 Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.**
- 3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**
- 4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.**
- 5 We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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* Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us pray. We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations. Empower churches throughout the world and encourage missionaries. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration, that all people may know your loving works. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring extreme weather. Nurture crops grown for the nourishment of your people and conserve habitats and populations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for those bowed down by heavy burdens: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing, and those without health insurance. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for healing including those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . . Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for this assembly. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*** The Sharing of the Peace**

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

A: 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



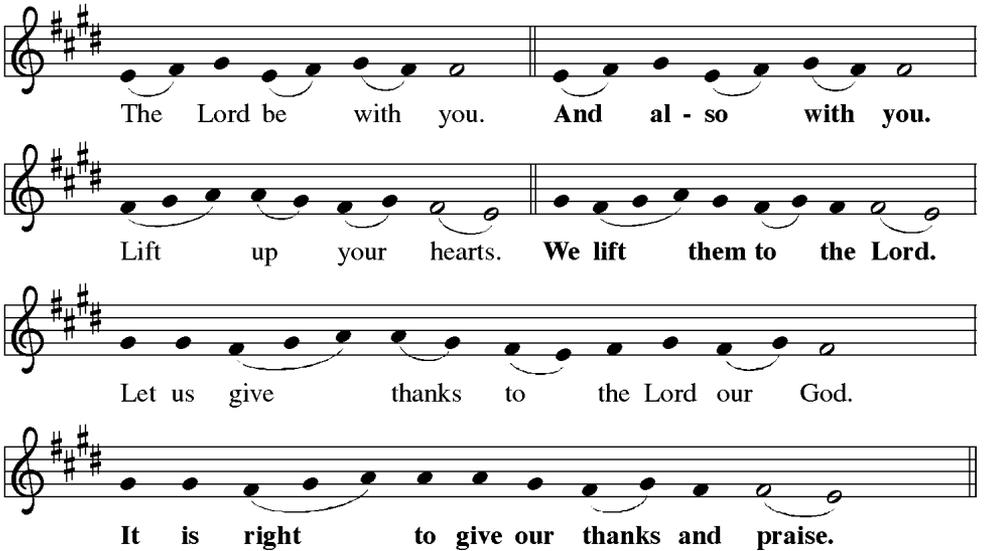
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**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** (*Leader continues . . .*)

A: When our congregation last gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God’s mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that “in the night in which he was betrayed, he 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.”

We were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now we share this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that we may be strengthened through our participation in the body of Christ.

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

(Leader 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 #469 *“By Your Hand You Feed Your People”*

ELW #465 *“As the Grains of Wheat”*

ELW #464 *“Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal”*

* Prayer after Communion

A: 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

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

C: Amen.

*Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant – Chris Orem
Ushers – Judy Kalapay / Jacob Ruggles
Reader – Cindy Black
Altar Guild – Sue Glenn / Carolyn Moyer

This Week at St. John's: July 25th – August 1st

Today (7/25/21) – Worship, 9:30 am

Today (7/25/21) – VBS Orientation, following worship - Chapel

Today (7/25/21) – Fine Arts Comm., following worship - Gallery

Wednesday (7/28/21) – Mission District Ingathering, 10:00 am,

Sunday (8/1/21) – Worship, 9:30 am

Sunday (8/1/21) – Finance, following worship, Chapel

Sunday (8/1/21) – Altar Guild, following worship, Sanctuary

Monday- Friday (8/2/21 – 8/6/21) – VBS, 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Altar Flowers are dedicated in thanks to God for 45 years of marriage by Pastor & Roger Ruggles



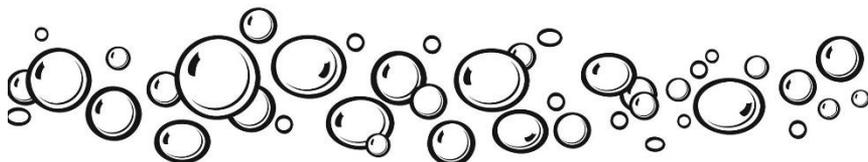
Altar Flower Sponsors are needed for many August dates. Please think about sponsoring flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or event.

Thank you to Steve Moyer for leading us today!



Attendance: 7/18/21 –49 people

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,524.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,255.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$57,483.00
Year to Date amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$65,395.00



The Bethlehem / Easton Mission District Ingathering
is this week 7/28/21, at 10:00 am at

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Leithsville, PA.

Please see Patsy Woodson if you are interested in
going or have questions.

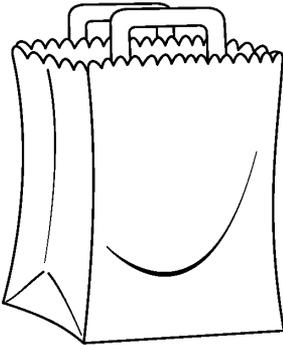
We are looking for
volunteer parking
attendants to work during
the Lebanese Heritage Days
on 8/7 & 8/8. Please see
the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. This is
a great fundraiser for our youth.



+++++

*Thank you to all who came out to the "Church
Workday" We had a great turn out, and lots of
work got done!*

-Michelle & Tyler



We are currently collecting
grocery shopping bags to
distribute to those in need
who utilize the food pantry.
If you have an extra in good
shape, or remember in the
check out line, please pick one
up.

Thanks!



Still Time to Sign-Up for 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.



VBS Volunteer Orientation

(following worship in the Chapel)

Come Join the Fun!!!



We are a Praying Church!

Prayer Concerns: Marcia, Chuck, Bob, Josh, Wendy, Helen Anthony, Shirley, Karen, Derrick, Sandy, Serena & baby, Nevaeh, Bob, Lisa, Don, Dave, Jane, Walter, Jim & Shirley, Karen, Reverend Kock, Kevin, Carmen, Jim, Pastor Bruce, Gail, Matthew, and the Family and Friends of: Kathryn Johnson

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.)