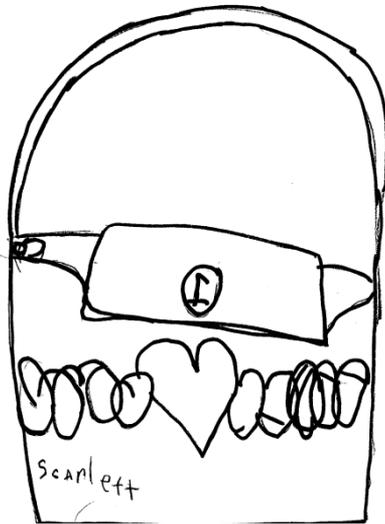


Welcome to Worship  
at  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
a reconciling in Christ congregation



## Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

August 7, 2022

9:30 am

**Pastor:** The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

**Vicar:** Vanessa Storlie

**Director of Music:** Jessica Madow

**Guest Pianist:** Ryan Neel

330 Ferry Street; Easton, PA 18042-4500

Phone: 610-258-6119

E-mail: [Admin@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:Admin@stjohnseaston.org)

[www.stjohnseaston.org](http://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, there are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

**Nursery** – A staffed nursery person is available in the nursery following Children's Chat . . .

**Service Notes** – \* (asterisk) indicates, please stand if you are able.

# Gathering

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

## **Announcements**

## **Prelude**

## **Installation of Vicar Vanessa Storlie**

P: Let us welcome Vanessa Storlie into our church family and our homes. Let us share in her learning and growth. Let us be encouraging, and supportive.

Let us pray. O God, through the Holy Spirit you illumine the minds and sanctify the lives of those who are called to be pastors and teachers. Look with favor upon the seminaries of the ELCA and upon all seminaries as they seek to instruct those preparing to serve in the ministry of your Church. Bless your people in this congregation who by word and example aid your servant in learning to do the ministry for which she is being prepared. As we diligently work together, grant that our lives may be enriched and our ministries fulfilled with joy, to the glory of your holy name.

**C: Amen.**

P: On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the office of the Vicar?

*V: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.*

P: I now declare Vanessa Storlie, installed as Vicar of this congregation. Let the people say:

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

A: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Merciful God . . .

**C: We confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

A: Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

**C: Amen**

**\*Gathering Hymn** *(please use your hymnals, sing quietly)*

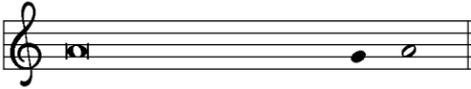
ELW # 733 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

## \*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 sing parts in bold quietly . . .*) page 147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



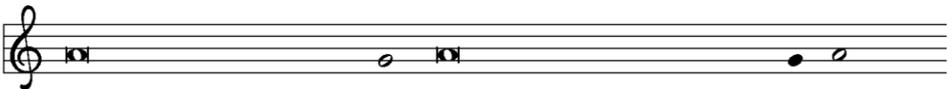
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



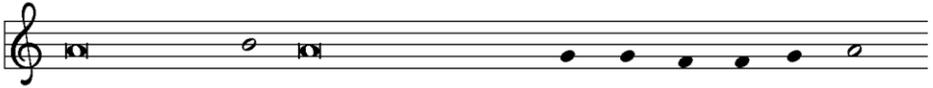
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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) page 149



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **Word**

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

### **First Reading**

**Genesis 15:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 33:12-22** *(please read responsively)*

<sup>12</sup>Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!  
Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

<sup>13</sup>**The LORD looks down from heaven,  
and sees all humankind.**

<sup>14</sup>God sits firmly enthroned and watches  
all who dwell on the earth.

<sup>15</sup>**God fashions all their hearts  
and observes all their deeds.**

<sup>16</sup>A king is not saved by the size of the army,  
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

<sup>17</sup>**The horse gives vain hope for victory;  
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

<sup>18</sup>Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,  
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup>**to deliver their lives from death,  
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

<sup>20</sup>Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,  
our helper and our shield.

<sup>21</sup>**Surely, our heart rejoices in you,  
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

<sup>22</sup>Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,  
even as we place our hope in you.

## Second Reading

## Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gospel Acclamation

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## \*Gospel

Luke 12:32-40

A: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### C: Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>32</sup>“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailling treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

A: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:** The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

**Hymn of the Day** – *(please use your hymnals, sing quietly.)*

ELW #771 “*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*”

## *Apostles' Creed*

**C: 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: Let us pray. Let your lovingkindness fill your church. May your Spirit be with all who proclaim the gospel. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Let your lovingkindness fill your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, teach us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Let your lovingkindness fill your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Help us to trust your promises and not be afraid. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you including those we mention on our prayer list, . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . . Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Let your lovingkindness fill this community. Help our hearts strive for peace. Strengthen the ministries of this congregation and all who care for those in need. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

**C: Amen.**

## \* The Sharing of the Peace

*(please remain in your seats and gesture a sign of peace.)*

A: The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*(Ushers now proceed forward to receive the offering plates from the Altar, and begin to pass them through the pews.)*

## Offertory

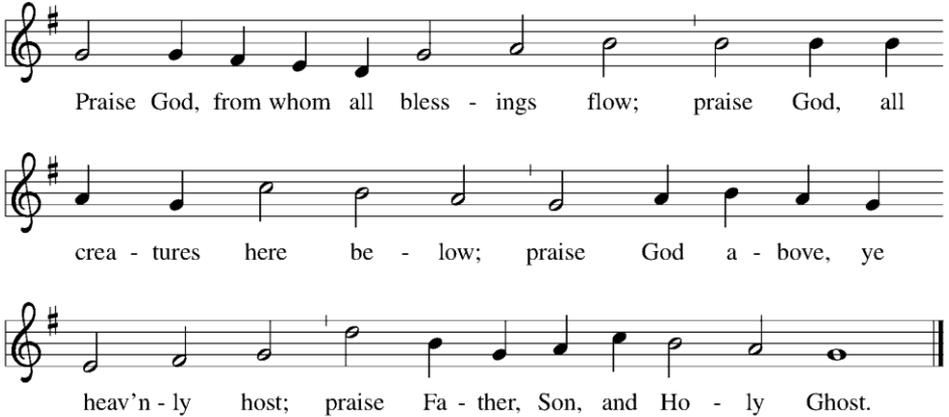
### \*Presentation of Gifts

*(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)*

## \*Offertory Hymn

ELW #885 *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

(alternate text)



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. The music ends with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDETH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## \*Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**    (*congregation sing responses in bold.*)

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.

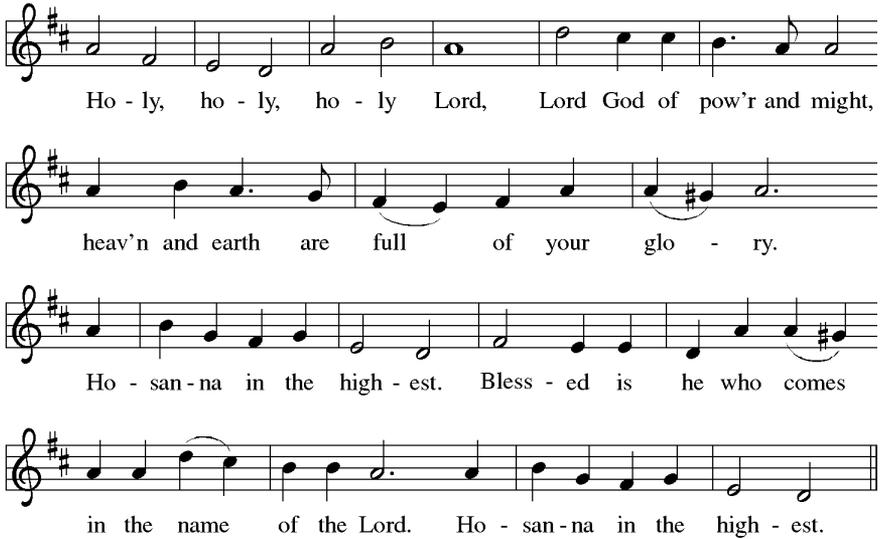
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

## \*Holy, Holy, Holy

C: (please sing quietly)

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

## \*Communion Form

(Pastor continues ... )

## \*Lord's Prayer

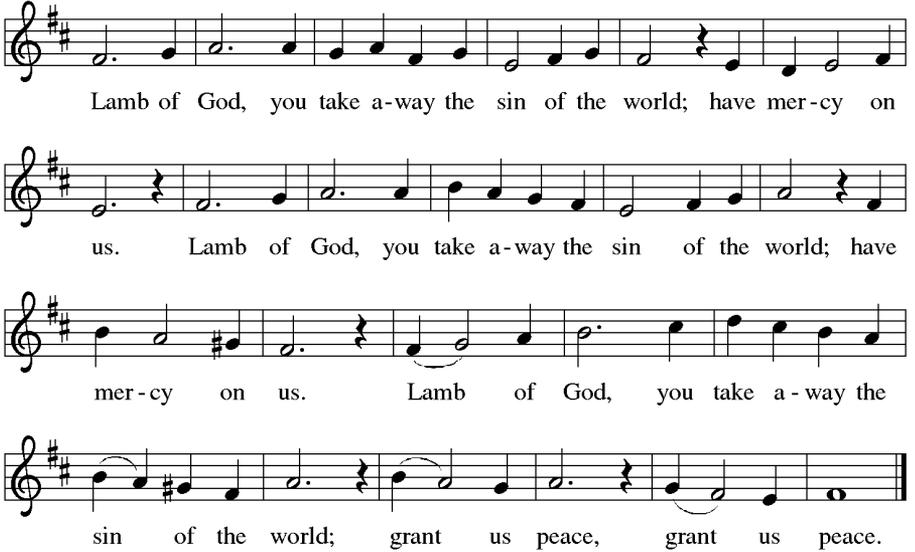
**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

# \*Lamb of God

C:

*(please sing quietly)*

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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, grant us peace.

**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

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

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

## **\*Blessing**

**Sending Hymn** *(Please use your hymnals, sing quietly)*

ELW # 547 ***“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”***

## **Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Let us begin this journey in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

**Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .**

**Worship Assistant** – Chris Orem

**Ushers** – Connie Garr / Joyce Petty

**Reader** – Charles Lewis

**Altar Guild** – Sue Glenn / Carolyn Moyer

**This Week at St. John's: Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> – Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (8/7/22) – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 am

**Today** (8/7/22) – Finance Meeting, Following Worship, Office

**Today** (8/7/22) – Gallery Open – 11:00 – 1:00 pm

**Today** (8/7/22) – Lebanese Fest, Volunteer Needed - Parking

**Monday** (8/8/22) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, Chapel

**Thursday** (8/11/22) – Prayer Group, 9:30 am, Chapel

**Sunday** (8/14/22) – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 am

**Sunday** (8/14/22) – Membership Meeting, Following Worship,  
Chapel

**Sunday** (8/14/22) – Easton Pride, Riverside Park, Noon- 7:00 pm

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1. "God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" (ELW #771, Text: Catherine Cameron © 1967 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188; Arr. © 1969 Contemporary Worship 1, admin. Augsburg Fortress.)

2. "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" (ELW #547, Text: Omer Westendorf © 1964 World Library Publications. 3708 River Road, Suite 400. Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158.)

**Attendance: 46**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,964.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,270.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$59,417.00
Year to Date amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$70,370.00

*(These totals do not include special envelopes.)*

*Thank you ~ Ryan Neel for sharing your special music with us while Jessica is out.*



*Flowers today are dedicated in loving memory of my nephew Dave Fredericks by Dee Caul*



# Join us following Worship today in the Gallery as we Welcome Vicar Vanessa . . .

Vicar Vanessa can be reached by calling the church office – 610-258-6119 or by email – [Vicar2@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:Vicar2@stjohnseaston.org)

The Vicar is moved in, and the Vicars Apartment is still in need of some necessities. . .

Please check around the house for items you no longer need or use . . .

Twin Bed / Mattress (for the spare room) /  
Twin Mattress Bedding

Area Rugs

Baking Sheets / Glass Baking Dishes / Cake Pans

Coasters / Placemats / Table Clothes

Sink Dish Pan / Dish drainer

Coffee Maker

Small Patio Set / Chairs

Bike Lock / Chain



~ Join Us in the Gallery . . .  
Check out what we can do! ~

“GALLERY APPRECIATION MONTH”  
Submissions by Members and Friends  
of St. John’s  
11:00 – 1:00 pm



*Save the Date –  
Church Picnic  
Sunday – August 28<sup>th</sup>  
@ 10:30 am*

*Join us at Penn Pump Park*

*(Bring a side dish or dessert to share!)*

*The Lebanese Heritage Day Festival  
continues today!  
The Parking Lot will be open to Festival  
goers for parking at a cost.  
If you have time, come volunteer!*

# **We are a Praying Church !**

**Prayer Concerns:** Alyssa & Family, Chuck, Nancy, Rebecca, Eleanor, Mariah, Bob, David (Folk), Kara, Joan, Pastor Steve, Walter, Jim, Shirley, Donald, Jack, Dr. Parker, Karen, Tom, our Homebound Family and Friends, and the Family and Friends of Donald Morrison, Aaron Seiple, and Helen Lake.

*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.)**

