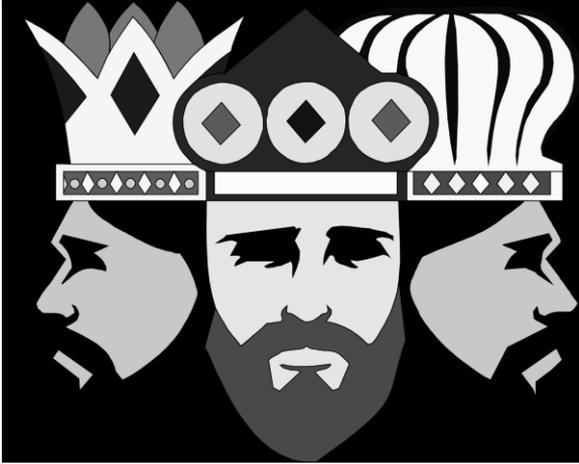


Welcome to Worship

at

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



*Epiphany of our Lord*

January 8, 2023

10:30 am

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

**Vicar:** Vanessa Storlie

**Director of Music:** Jessica Madow

330 Ferry Street; Easton, PA 18042-4500

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## 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 as you are able.

# Gathering

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

## Announcements

## Installation of 2023 Council Members

Prelude      *“Wie schön leuchtet”* by Philipp Nicolai

## \*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

God of life,

**C: You promise good news of great joy for all people and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

C: Amen.

### \*Gathering Hymn

ELW # 301 *"Bright and Glorious is the Sky"* (vs. 1-5)

### \*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.

### \*Canticle of Praise

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1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a-lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre-a-tion, Fa-ther of sur-pass-ing worth:

Ho-ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## \*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Word

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

### First Reading

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of

your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Reading:**

**Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

**<sup>6</sup>Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no  
more.

**<sup>10</sup>May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

**<sup>12</sup>For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.

**<sup>14</sup>From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

## *Second Reading*

## **Ephesians 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace

was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,<sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;<sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.<sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,<sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

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Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Children's Chat

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

**\*Hymn of the Day –**

ELW # 715 *“Christ Be Our Light”*

**\*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.**

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

**A:** Let us pray. Revealing God, guide the whole church with your wisdom. Nurture ecumenical and interreligious understanding around the globe, especially in places of ethnic and religious strife. We pray for organizations that provide humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and health care. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Creating God, restore your glory to the earth. Protect fragile ecosystems: rain forests, coral reefs, wetlands, prairies, and shorelines. Guide us to treasure the rich variety of animals and plants that share the world with us, especially those that are endangered. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Delivering God, help those who have no helper. Rescue any who suffer from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Deliver adults and children who are caught in cycles of poverty. Watch over those who suffer from illness or pain or other afflictions including those we mention on our prayer list, . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . . God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Abiding God, accompany the ministries of this congregation in the coming year including the Church Council Members we installed today. Inspire those who lead worship, teach, visit, pray, volunteer, and serve. Keep us mindful of the needs of others in our communities and neighborhoods. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

**C: Amen.**

## \* *The Sharing of the Peace*

P: 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**      “*When a Star is Shining*” (ACS #915)  
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

## \**Presentation of Gifts*

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

## \*Offertory Hymn

ELW #292 *“Love Has Come”* (vs. 2)

2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.

## \*Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C: Amen



**\*Communion Form**

*(Pastor continues ... )*

**\*Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.**

**\*Lamb of God**

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1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**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.*

*\*At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion. Please remain at the front until the entire table has communed and you are dismissed.*

*Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.*

### **Communion Music—**

ELW #461 ***“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”***

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

ELW #471 ***“Let Us Break Bread Together”***

## \*Post Communion Canticle

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Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the  
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions  
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## \*Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

# Sending

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

## \*Blessing

P: God bless you and keep you, +Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## \*Sending Hymn

ELW # 815 *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”*

## \*Dismissal

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *“Brightest and Best of the Stars”* by James Harding

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

**Worship Assistant**– Jim Heck

**Ushers** – Barbara Horinko / Dee Caul

**Reader** – John Fritchman

**Altar Guild** – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

**This Week at St. John's: January 8<sup>th</sup> – January 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (1/8/23) – Epiphany of our Lord, Worship, 10:30 am

**Today** (1/8/23) – Following Worship: Intern Comm. - Office  
Membership Mtg. - Chapel

**Monday** (1/9/23) – Choir, 1:00 pm

**Monday** (1/9/23) –Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, Chapel

**Tuesday** (1/10/23) – Bible Study, 11:00 am – Hospitality Room

**Tuesday** (1/10/23) – Year End Reports Due

**Thursday** (1/12/23) – Prayer Group, 9:30 am - Chapel

**Saturday** (1/14/23) – Archive Meeting, 10:00 am

**Saturday** (1/14/23) – Ice Cream & Conversation w/ Vicar Vanessa

**Sunday** (1/15/23) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany, Worship 10:30 am

***Annual Meeting, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023***

***– following Worship***

***(Committee Reports Deadline: January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.)***

***Join us for this Important Event.***

***\*The Membership Committee will be providing the main lunch,  
and asks that the congregation bring a  
side dish or dessert to share.***



# **New Members of Council for the 2023-2024 term:**

**Panama Crozier  
Wayne Docker  
Laura Genn  
Rob Smith (2nd Term)**



***Thank you, Diane Coker, Carol Faulkner &  
Chris Orem for your service.***

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2. "Christ, Be Our Light" (ELW #715, Text & Music: Bernadette Farrell © 1993, admin. OCP Publications.)
3. "When a Star is Shining" (ACS #915, Text: Sylvia Dunstan © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Bob Moore © 2003 GIA Publications, Inc.)
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5. "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" (ELW #461, Text: Sylvia Dunstan © 1991 GIA Publ., Inc.)
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