

Welcome to Worship

at

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



*Harvest Home / Sunday of Thanksgiving*

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

10:30 am

**Interim Pastor:** The Rev. Mike Button

**Director of Music:** Jessica Madow

330 Ferry Street; Easton, PA 18042-4500

Phone: 610-258-6119

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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.
- Page # indicates the front of the hymnal is used . . .
- Hymn # indicates the back of the Hymnal is used . . .

### **Hymn Book Abbreviations:**

ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book

WOV – With One Voice

ACS – All Creation Sings

# Gathering

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

## Welcome

**Prelude** “*Sing to the Lord of Harvest*” by Johann Steurlein

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*(Meditate as water is poured into the font.)*

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden.

**C: In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock.**

P: When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

**C: At the cross, you washed us from Jesus’ wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.**

P: We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, for the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers, and for all water everywhere.

**C: Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst and give us the life only you can give.**

P: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 870 *“We Praise You, O God”*

*Please follow along in your hymnals as the service continues with Setting 4 on page 147.*

**\*Greeting** - page 147

**\*Kyrie** - page 147

**\*Canticle of Praise** *“This is the Feast . . .”* - page 149

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

A: Let us pray. Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

# Childrens Chat

## Word

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

### First Reading

### Deuteronomy 8:7-18

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup>a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup>a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. <sup>10</sup>You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

<sup>11</sup>Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. <sup>12</sup>When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup>and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup>then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup>who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, <sup>16</sup>and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. <sup>17</sup>Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." <sup>18</sup>But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Reading:

## Psalm 65

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

**<sup>2</sup>To you, the one who answers prayer,  
to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you blot out our transgressions.

**<sup>4</sup>Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to  
dwell there!**

**They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the  
holiness of your temple.**

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God  
of our salvation,  
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

**<sup>6</sup>You make firm the mountains by your power;  
you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

**<sup>8</sup>Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at  
your marvelous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very  
plenteous; the river of God is full of water.  
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

**<sup>10</sup>You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys  
cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.

## *Second Reading*

## **2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

<sup>6</sup>The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup>for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup>Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, <sup>14</sup>while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\* Gospel**

**Luke 17:11-19**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>11</sup>On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup>they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” <sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. <sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? <sup>18</sup>Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon** - *The Reverend Mike Button*

**\*Hymn of the Day** –

*(purple hymnal)*

ACS #1063 ***“God of the Fertile Fields”***



## *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. Generous God, we thank you for the legacy and gift of the church. Make our proclamation clear, our generosity bold, and our community rich in welcome. We raise grateful hearts for the body of Christ where we find belonging. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Creator of the earth, the bounty of creation reveals your abundant love. Provide safety and shelter for all wildlife. Save us from the waste of natural resources. We raise grateful hearts for the earth, our home. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of all nations, make all tribes and lands places where justice and inclusion is realized and celebrated. Protect any who are vulnerable and feed all who hunger. We raise grateful hearts for civil rights and just leaders. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Healing God, you see us and are moved with compassion. Attend to those who are sick or dying, surround with love all who are lonely and despairing, and comfort those in need including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* We raise grateful hearts for your lovingkindness. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of the welcome table, you gather people to be shaped by your word. We pray for ministries that notice and respond to human needs: food banks, shelters, community resource centers and *other local ministries including the ProJect of Easton, Safe Harbor and the Third Street Alliance.* We raise grateful hearts for these organizations. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of life, you raise those who have died to new life in Christ. We raise grateful hearts for the lives and faithfulness of all the saints. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## \* *The Sharing of the Peace*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

## **Meal**

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

*(Ushers now proceed to the Altar to receive the offering plates...)*

## **Offertory**

*“Come, Sing your Thanks to the Lord”* by Terry D. Taylor  
The Wittenberg Choir with Max Hetrick, flute

## \***Presentation of Gifts**

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

## \***Offertory Hymn**

ELW #184 *“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**C: Amen**

**\*Great Thanksgiving** - page 152

**\*Preface** (*Leader continues . . .*)

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 153

**\*Communion Form** (*Leader continues . . .*)

**\*Lord's Prayer** - page 154

**\*Lamb of God** - page 154

**\*Invitation to Communion**

**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.*

*\*At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion. Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.*

## **Communion Hymns**

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

ELW #465 ***“As the Grains of Wheat”***

ELW #496 ***“One Bread, One Body”***

## **\*Table Blessing**

**\*Post Communion Canticle**    *“Now Lord . . .”* - page 113

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

**C: Amen.**

# Sending

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

## Announcements

### \*Blessing

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

**C: Amen.**

### \*Sending Hymn

ELW # 840 *“Now Thank We All Our God”*

### \*Dismissal

P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**      *“Nun danket alle Gott”* arr. Wilbur Held

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

**Worship Assistant**– Steve Moyer

**Ushers** – Bob & Cindy Black

**Reader** – Mike Thompson

**Altar Guild** – Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

**Video Team** – Steve Remel

**This Week at St. John's: November 19<sup>th</sup> - November 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (11/19/23) – Harvest Home/Thanksgiving Worship, 10:30 am

**Today** (11/19/23) – Following Worship: Property – Office  
Spiritual Life - Chapel

**Today** (11/19/23) – Gallery Open: 12-3:00 pm

**Monday** (11/20/23) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm

**Tuesday** (11/21/23) – Bible Study, 10:00 am, Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (11/22/23) – Prayer Group

**Thursday** (11/23/23) – Office Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

**Friday** (11/24/23) – Office Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

**Saturday** (11/25/23) – Gallery Open: 12-3:00 pm

**Sunday** (11/26/23) – Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am

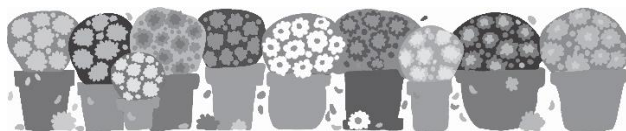
**Sunday** (11/26/23) – Christ the King Sunday, Worship, 10:30 am

**Sunday** (11/26/23) – Following Worship: Rachel's Circle

**Sunday** (11/26/23) – Gallery Open: 12-3:00 pm

**Monday** (11/27/23) – Newsletter Folding, 9:30 am

*Altar Flowers are sponsored by Charlene Fredericks  
in celebration of my sister Cheryl on her birthday.*



**Attendance: 58**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$2,493.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,234.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$99,528.00

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

### ***Crisis in the Middle East . . .***

Due to escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel, a severe humanitarian crisis is rapidly unfolding in the Holy Land.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by disasters in the region.

Donations can be made to:

***Lutheran World Relief  
PO Box 17061  
Baltimore, MD  
21297-1061***

Or visit:

<https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis>



## **THE GALLERY AT ST. JOHN'S**

**HOLIDAY SHOW HOURS: 12:00-3:00 PM**

**JOIN US ... THE GALLERY HAS EXTENDED HOURS**

**FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON !**

**CHECK US OUT SATURDAYS IN NOVEMBER,**

**12:00-3:00 PM**



*Join us at Prayer Group:  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the Month at 11:00 am*



*Prayer Concerns:* Chuck, Sandy, Pam, Adam, James, Kara, Bill, Joe, Christine, Joel, Andrew, Bill, Earl, Skip, Robin, Danny, Tammy, Carolyn, Diane, Julia, Bill, Donald, Madelyn, Ken, Gene, Judy, Judith, Cliff, Liam, Harold, Arlene, and Our Homebound Family and Friends

**Mark your Calendars:**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting,**  
**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, following worship.**



St. John's would like to thank **Max Hetrick**, for joining us with his flute today. Max is a sixth grader and is Steve and Carolyn Moyer's grandson. He attends The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, in Emmaus.

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St. John's will be participating with the Easton Cluster Lutheran Churches in midweek worship services for the Advent season .

*Mark your calendars and  
Take time to join us !*

**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

*United Fellowship Lutheran*  
2115 Washington Blvd. Easton

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

*St. Paul's Third Lutheran*  
2561 Newburg Road, Easton

**Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

*St. Andrew's Lutheran*  
3900 Freemansburg Ave, Easton

*Light Meal at 6:00 pm*

*Worship at 7:00 pm*

~ St. John's can contribute by bringing a dessert to share.

## 2023 Midweek Advent Donations / Offering

During the Midweek Advent Services this year, we are asking for donations of hygiene items that will be used to create hygiene kits. These kits are going to be donated to **Project HOPE** of the *St. Luke's AIDS/HIV Clinics of Easton and Bethlehem*. We will also be taking a monetary offering which will be provided to the clinic for the purchase of other materials they need.

### What is Project HOPE?

**Project HOPE** is a Ryan White grant-funded, comprehensive HIV program, with a focus on serving uninsured and under-insured individuals. **HOPE** provides patients with clinical care, which includes primary care and infectious disease care, along with ancillary support services such as nutritional care, behavioral health services, and spiritual care; medical case management services, which includes housing assistance; and HIV/STI prevention services, which includes a free STD clinic and HIV/STI testing in the community, outreach and education, and a linkage to care team. With full comprehensive services located in Bethlehem and Easton, and case management and housing services in Tannersville and Allentown respectively, **HOPE** strives to provide **Health, Outreach, Prevention, and Education** to patients and the community utilizing a holistic approach to end stigma and discrimination for people living with HIV.

### Hygiene Items Needed



- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Comb
- Soap
- Wash Cloth
- Wet Ones
- Sanitary Napkins
- Roll of Toilet Paper

**Help us Celebrate, Vicar Vanessa is being ordained !!**

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 - 4:00 pm

at

***Trindle Spring Lutheran Church***

14 State Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Vicar Vanessa has been called by  
*Luther Memorial Lutheran Church*  
in York, PA to serve as their pastor.

***Cards can be sent to:***

***Vanessa Storlie***

**1775 Haralson Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

For Your Information:

Rachel's Circle has made the decision to close the Saturday Clothing Closet. The Clothing Closet was open when there was a need due to the Fire on Ferry Street, now the need has become unnecessary. Rachel's Circle will be cleaning out the collected clothes and donating them. If you are available to help, please contact Dee Caul or a Rachel's Circle member.



Sunday School is working on their Christmas Program that will be presented on December 17<sup>th</sup> . . .

If you have a child or grandchild, get them involved,  
We would love to have them participate!

Sundays at 9:00 am upstairs in the Sunday School room.



***ADULT FORUM - meeting in the Gallery at 9:00 am,  
Topic: The Ten Commandments – JOIN US . . .***