

Welcome to Worship

at

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



December 1, 2024

10:30 am

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Mike Button

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.

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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.

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 *“Creator of the Stars of Night”* (Latin hymn, 9th c.)
Sung by Sarah Marino-Meehan

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world,
reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one
another. *Silence is kept for reflection.* God of mercy,

**C: We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers
and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false
comforts.**

P: God of might,

**C: We confess that we have sinned. We have turned away
from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst,

**C: We confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 241 *“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”*

***Greeting**

- page 98

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.

***Kyrie**

- page 98

***Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 1**

P: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels.

Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

Light the first candle.

***Advent Hymn**

ELW #257 ***“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*** (ver. 1-2)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

***Refrain* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. Refrain**

***Prayer of the Day**

A: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Children's Chat

Word

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

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalms 25:1-10

¹To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**⁴ Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the
day long.

**⁶ Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of
your goodness, O Lord.

**⁸ You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

**¹⁰ All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy
that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we
pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore
whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus
direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and
abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in
love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness

that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation** *“Alleluia”* - page 102

*** Gospel** **Luke 21:25-36**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come

upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — The Reverend Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day**

ELW # 438 *“My Lord, What A Morning”*

***Nicene Creed**

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray. God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or

suffering including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts . . .* , In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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 Now, O God” (ACS 902)

Sung by Sarah Marino-Meehan

***Presentation of Gifts** *(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)*

***Offertory Hymn**

ACS# 905 “We Are Waiting for Jesus”



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving** - page 107

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

***Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 108

***Thanksgiving at the Table** (*Leader continues . . .*)

***Lord's Prayer** - page 112

***Lamb of God** - page 112

***Invitation to Communion** - page 112

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

ACS # 967 ***“This is Christ’s Body”***

ACS # 962 ***“In This Feast of Love”***

ACS # 966 ***“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”***

ELW # 250 ***“Blessed Be the God of Israel”***

***Table Blessing**

Post Communion Hymn** ***“Now Lord . . .” - page 113

***Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

*Blessing

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, † bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW # 244 *“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant—Steve Moyer

Ushers – Barbara Horinko / Lois Anne Calloway

Reader – Lynn Kutch

Advent Candle Lighter – Diane Coker

Altar Guild – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

Video Team – Chris Orem

This Week at St. John's December 1st – December 8th

Today (12/1/24) – First Sunday of Advent, 10:30 am

Today (12/1/24) – Following Worship: Finance Meeting - Office

Today (12/1/24) – Gallery Holiday Show Opening, 12:00 pm

Monday (12/2/24) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm

Monday (12/2/24) – Council / Call Committee Meeting, 5:30 pm

Wednesday (12/4/24) – Council Reports Due

Wednesday (12/4/24) – Bible Study 11:00 am – Hospitality Room

Wednesday (12/4/24) – Advent Dinner 6:00 pm / Worship – 7:00 pm
@ Arndt's Lutheran Church

Sunday (12/8/24) – Sunday School / Adult Forum – 9:00 am

Sunday (12/8/24) – Second Sunday of Advent, 10:30 am

Sunday (12/8/24) – Following Worship: Congregational Meeting



**Thank you, Sarah Marino - Meehan
for sharing your special music with us
today. What a special way to start the
Advent Season . . .**

Week 47, 12/1/24 - Attendance: 46

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$1,359.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,126.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$95,718.00
Behind Budget	-\$4,204.00

Prayer List: Chuck, Clark, Don, Joe, Kara, Christine, Bill, Michael, Shelley, Jan, Paula, Keith, George, Matt, Carolyn, Charles, Julia, John, Kirk, Donald, Terry, Lenny, Emily, Bill, Mary, Bucky, Jim, Shirley, Jeff, Karla, Debbie, Pastor Orem, Peggy, Tony, George, Joan, Krista, Addison, Cooper, Karen, Tammy, Our Homebound Family & Friends, the St. John's Call Committee, Our Future Pastor, and the Family and Friends of William M. Calloway III, Shirley Edwards, and Clifford Smoke.

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1. "Creator of the Stars of Night" (ELW 245, Text: Latin Hymn, 9th century.; tr. Hymnal 1940, alt. © 1940 Church Pension Fund.)
2. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (ELW 257, Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Koln, 1710; tr. composite © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.)
3. "Come Now, O God" (ACS 902, Text: David Bjorlin © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Finnish folk tune.)
4. "We Are Waiting for Jesus" (ACS 905, Text & Music: John Helgen © 2013 Augsburg Fortress.)
5. "This Is Christ's Body" (ACS #967, Text & Music: Anne Krentz Organ © 2020 Augsburg Fortress.)
6. "In This Feast of Love" (ACS #962, Text & Music: Jarkko Maukonen, tr. & arr: Mark Sedio, © 2017, 2020 Jarkko Maukonen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.)
7. "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken" (ACS #966, Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr. © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Marty Haugen © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.)
8. "Blessed Be the God of Israel" (ELW 250, Text: Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company; Music: English folk tune.)

Remaining music is from the public domain.

*Bible Study is Back . . .
Beginning December 4th @ 11:00 am
in the Hospitality Room.
Topic: The New Testament*

(Bible Study will meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the Month.)

*The Gallery at St. John's
"Holiday Show" - Opens Today !!
December 1st—December 22nd, 2024
12:00 - 3:00 pm*



*"The true light, which gives light to
everyone, was coming into the world."*

John 1:9

Midweek Advent Worship:

*Join us for a light Soup Supper at 6:00 pm,
followed by Worship at 7:00 pm*

December 4th—Arndt's Lutheran Church

December 11th—St. Paul's Third Lutheran Church

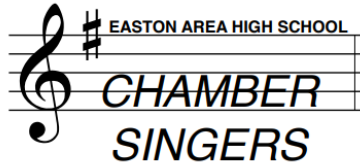
December 18th—St. Andrew's Lutheran Church



For your Information:



**Congregational Meeting Date change to:
December 8th, 2024 - Following Worship
Hope to see you at this important event.**



Present:

“A Christmas Celebration”

7:00 PM, Saturday, December 14, 2024

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
330 Ferry St., Easton, PA 18042

(A free-will offering will be taken)

Come enjoy the sounds of the season!



***St. John's is looking for
Volunteers to visit Our Homebound
Members this Holiday Season.***

*St. John's has 10 Homebound Members and
is looking for 5 volunteers to visit 2
members each.*

***Why not let our members be
Thankful for "You" ! and let
"You" be the gift they cherish this year.***

*Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet for the
Membership Homebound "Cookie Drive"*



ORDER YOUR
POINSETTIAS



May the Righteous Flourish,
and Peace Abound—Psalm 72:7

*Every year we decorate our sanctuary with poinsettias for
our Christmas Eve Worship Service.*

*We invite you to purchase a flower to remember special
people in our lives, past or present.*

\$9.00 each / Deadline December 8th, 2024

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Dedication: _____



Number of Flowers: _____

*Poinsettias can
be taken home following the
Christmas Eve Worship Service.*