

Welcome to Worship

at

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



Christ the King / Harvest Home

November 24, 2024

10:30 am

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Mike Button

Director of Music: Jessica Madow

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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 “We Praise You, O God” arr. S. Ciesja

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Water may be poured into the font .

P: Ever-living God, author of creation, we give you thanks for your gift of water that brings life and refreshes the earth. We bless and praise you, for by water and the Word we are cleansed from sin and receive everlasting life. Join us again this day to the saving death of Christ; renew in us the living fountain of your grace; and raise us with Christ Jesus to live in newness of life; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C:Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 693 *“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come ”*

***Greeting**

- page 147

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 147

***Canticle of Praise**

“Glory to God . . .”

- page 148

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

⁹ As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

¹³ As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all

peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 93

¹ The Lord is king, robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The Lord has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; you are from everlasting.

³ The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

⁴ **Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea,
mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.**

⁵ Your testimonies are very sure,
and holiness befits your house, O Lord, forever and forevermore.

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4b-8

^{4b} Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the

king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — The Reverend Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day**

ELW # 689 *“Praise and Thanksgiving”*

***Apostles 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. Revive our congregations, synods, and national church body to reflect the love, justice, and kinship of your kingdom. Raise up diverse leaders who teach and serve your people. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Nourish parched lands and bring relief to flooded places. Protect wildlife habitats and endangered species, that the chorus of creation's praise resounds with joy. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Grant wisdom to the leaders who govern, legislate, and deliberate on our behalf. Advance your nonviolent reign of justice-seeking love through their work. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated. Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration. Empower activists who advocate for change. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Remind us of your enduring love in all seasons. Guide the planning efforts of worship leaders and volunteers who usher our congregation into a meaningful Advent.. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: In your eternal presence the saints sing of your majesty. Join our voices with theirs in praise to the one who loves us and frees us from sin. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts . . .* , through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 “*Rejoice the Lord Is King*” arr. Stan Pethel
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

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

***Offertory Hymn**

ELW# 531 *“The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”*

1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
Refrain
Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.
Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.
Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.
The feast is read - y to be - gin;
the feast is read - y to be - gin.

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal, you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving** - page 152

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

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

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

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

***Lamb of God** - page 154

***Invitation to Communion** - page 154

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 # 465 ***“As the Grains of Wheat”***

ELW # 484 ***“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”***

ELW # 487 ***“What Feast of Love”***

***Table Blessing**

*Post Communion Hymn

ELW# 207 *“Thankful Hearts . . .”*



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joi-ce and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

*Blessing

P: The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One, now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, † bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW # 660 *“Lift High the Cross”*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *“Now Thank We All Our God”* by Johann Crüger

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant–Chris Orem

Ushers – Bob & Cindy Black

Reader – Charlie Hanson

Altar Guild – Judi Kalapay & Linda Kalapay

Video Team – Brad Thomas

This Week at St. John's November 24th – December 1st

Today (11/24/24) – Chris the King / Harvest Home, 10:30 am

Today (11/24/24) – Following Worship: Rachael's Circle

Monday (11/25/24) – Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday (11/27/24) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am – Hospitality Room

Thursday (11/28/24) – Thanksgiving / Office Closed

Friday (11/29/24) – Office Closed

Sunday (12/1/24) – Sunday School / Adult Forum – 9:00 am

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

Sunday (12/1/24) – Following Worship: Finance Comm. - Office

Week 45, 11/10/24 - Attendance: 54

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$1,778.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,126.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$91,921.00
Behind Budget	-\$3,749.00

Altar Flowers are dedicated today to celebrate cousin
Marge Bryan, to honor our parents and grandparents, and to
cherish our Easton/Phillipsburg heritages and memories.

By Bob & Cindy (Brown) Black



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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*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" December 1st—December 22nd, 2024
12:00 – 3:00 pm*



Harvest Home / Thanksgiving



**Thank you to all who donated non-perishable food items during the
Month of November . . .**



*"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

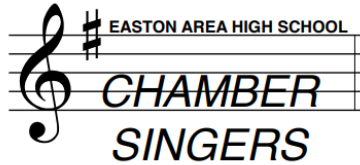
December 18th—St. Andrew's Lutheran Church



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.***