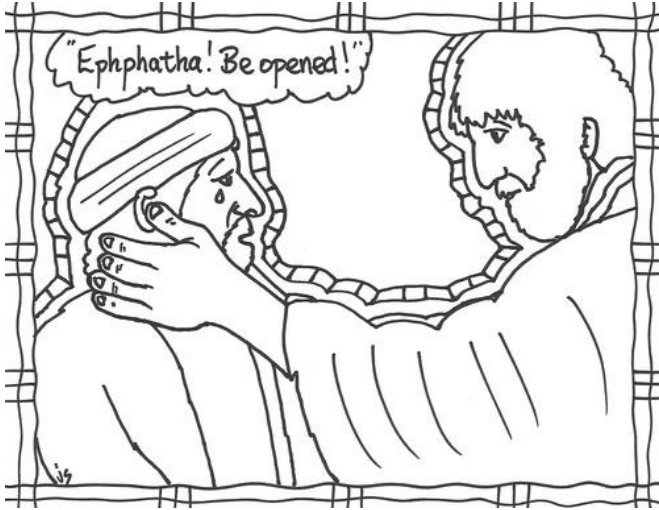


Welcome to Worship

at

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



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

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

E-mail : Admin@stjohnseaston.org

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.

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 *“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*
(Tune: “Azmon” by Carl Gläser)

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.
(*silent reflection . . .*) Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

(purple hymnal)

ACS # 1000 **“God’s Work, Our Hands”**

***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. Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

C: Amen

Children’s Chat

Word

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

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 146

¹Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**²I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

³Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.

**⁴When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those
who hunger.

The Lord sets the captive free.

**⁸The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those
who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

⁹The Lord cares for the stranger;
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow but frustrates the way of
the wicked.

**¹⁰The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading

James 2:1-17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag

you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation* *“Alleluia”* - page 151

** Gospel* **Mark 7:24-37**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.

³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — The Reverend Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day –**

ELW # 612 *“Healer of Our Every Ill”*

***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. Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Help the sick or in pain including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts . . .* Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, 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 “Our Hope Is in the Lord” by Jad Wolm

***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: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 # 486 *“God Extends an Invitation”*

ELW # 675 *“O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True”*

ELW # 716 *“Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace”*

*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 - joice 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. Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

***Blessing**

P: God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

(purple hymnal)

ACS # 1067 ***“For the Wholeness of the Earth”***

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude “Variations on “O Jesu Christe, wahres Licht”” (Music from Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1676)

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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant—Steve Moyer

Ushers – Barbara Horinko / Volunteer

Reader – Chuck Lewis

Altar Guild – Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

Video Team – Monica Weiss-Nolen

This Week at St. John's September 8th – September 15th

Today (9/8/24) – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 am

Today (9/8/24) – Following Worship: Special Congregational Meeting

Today (9/8/24) – Gallery Open – 12:00 -3:00 pm

Monday (9/9/24) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm - Sanctuary

Monday (9/9/24) – Church Council, 7:00 pm - Chapel

Wednesday (9/11/24) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am – Hospitality Rm.

Sunday (9/15/24) – Sunday School / Adult Forum – 9:00 am

Sunday (9/15/24) – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 am

Sunday (9/15/24) –Meetings Following Worship: Property – Office,
Outreach - Chapel, Spiritual Life – Pastor's Office,
Membership – Hospitality Room

Sunday (9/15/24) – Gallery Open, 12:00 – 3:00 pm



Altar Flowers today are dedicated to

"The Glory of God"

By Karla & Pete Lake

Prayer Concerns: Chuck, Don, Joe, Kara, Christine, Steve, Paul, Chris, Michael, Shelley, Jan, Carolyn, Lois Anne, Sarah, Bob, Donald, Rita, Stephen, Terry, Jim, Shirley, Jeff, Maria, Debbie, Charlie, Peggy, Tony, Mike, Arlene, Pastor Mike, Our Homebound Family and Friends, the St. John's Call Committee, our Future Pastor and the Family and Friends of David Voellinger, Beatrice Fisher and Marion Trach

Week 35, 9/1/24 - **Attendance:** **55**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$3,350.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,126.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$70,728.00
Behind Budget	(\$3,682.00)

Attention:

*A special congregational meeting will be held.
Today - following worship.*

*This meeting will pertain to the Repair of the Elevator and the Porch Restoration at 320 Ferry Street
(The ProJect of Easton office building.)*

Please make it a priority to attend.

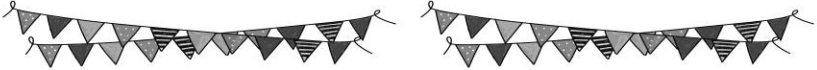


Get your singing voices ready ...

Choir Is Resuming - TOMORROW !!

Monday, September - 8th @ 1:00pm

All Are Welcome !!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT FORUM HAVE BEGUN!
COME JOIN US . . . 9:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL - UPSTAIRS / ADULT FORUM - GALLERY

ADULT FORM CURRENT TOPIC:

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER: PASTOR, NAZI RESISTER, MARTYR.

IF YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, JOIN US IN THE
SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM AND GET TO KNOW ONE OF THE
MOST CONSEQUENTIAL CHRISTIANS OF THE MODERN ERA.
WE MEET EVERY SUNDAY AT 9 A.M. IN THE GALLERY.

**Please Note: Tuesday Bible Study is on HOLD
for the time being. Stay tuned for details.**

The Summer Gallery Show New Hours:
Sundays 12:00-3:00 pm
"The Seas, The Shores, and it's Community

~

New Show begins - September 29th
"Attention to Details" - Diane Horoschock



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
WHERE NEEDED MOST

ELCA.org/disaster

In the face of disaster, Lutheran Disaster Response shares relief today and builds resilience for tomorrow. From wildfires to hurricanes to refugee crises, we are present when disaster strikes, ready to accompany communities through relief and recovery. We are also in communities when there are no impending disasters, preparing people to mitigate the effects of a disaster and enabling them to bounce back more quickly.

Lutheran Disaster Response relies upon strong partnerships with global companion churches, ELCA synods and Lutheran

social service organizations. We recognize that every disaster is local and responses need to be rooted in community. Our partners know their communities the best and can address local needs.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response share healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disaster. Together, we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need. Give today to support survivors in the United States and around the world, wherever and whenever a disaster may strike.

.....
Yes, I want to help!

Lutheran Disaster Response: Where needed most \$ _____ DDG0060

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009** and write "Where needed most" on
your check's memo line.



Lutheran Disaster Response