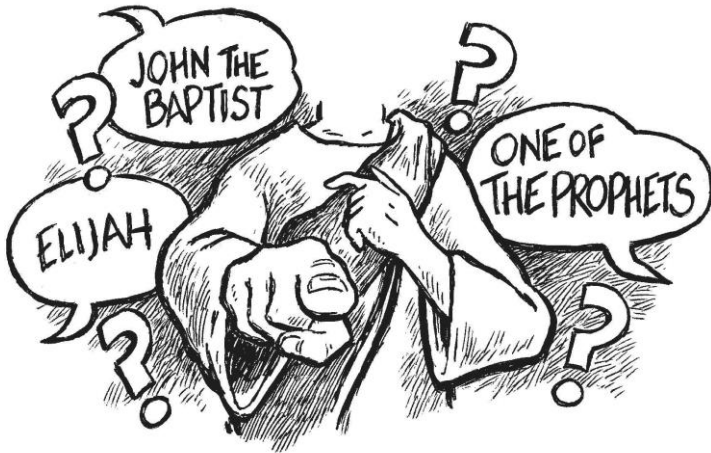


Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

a reconciling in Christ congregation



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 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 *“Fanfare and Trumpet Tune”* arr. Wayne Wold
(from Suite on *“Oh, Praise the Gracious Power”*)

*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 # 1068 *“The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe”*

*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. O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

Children’s Chat

Word

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

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he awakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 116:1-9

¹I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the Lord has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

**⁴Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”**

⁵Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

**⁶The Lord watches over the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the Lord has dealt well with you.

**⁸For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Second Reading

James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of

priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — The Reverend Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day —**

ELW # 651 ***“O Praise the Gracious Power”*** (vv. 1-5)

**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. We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts . . .* Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We remember our beloved dead, who with the great cloud of witnesses' bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in 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 *“Christ Is the Life” (OBS 52)*
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

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

***Offertory Hymn** *(following page)*

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

***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

(purple hymnal)

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

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

ACS # 962 ***“In This 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 - 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

ELW # 810 *“O Jesus, I Have Promised”*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude *“Oh, Praise the Living Christ”* arr. Wayne Wold
(Finale from Suite on *“Oh, Praise the Gracious Power”*)

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant–Chris Orem

Ushers – Barbara Horinko / Volunteer

Reader – Karla Lake

Altar Guild – Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

Video Team – Pete Lake

This Week at St. John's September 15th – September 22nd

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

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

Today (9/15/24) – Gallery Open – 12:00 -3:00 pm

Monday (9/16/24) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm - Sanctuary

Friday (9/20/24) – Newsletter Deadline

Sunday (9/22/24) – Sunday School / Adult Forum – 9:00 am

Sunday (9/22/24) – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 am

Sunday (9/22/24) – Meetings Following Worship: Rachel's Circle

Sunday (9/22/24) – Gallery Open, 12:00 – 3:00 pm

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

Week 36, 9/8/24 - Attendance: 53

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$2,263.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,126.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$72,991.00
Behind Budget	(\$3,545.00)



Prayer Concerns: Chuck, Don, Joe, Kara, Christine, Bill, Paul, Chris, Michael, Shelley, Jan, Carolyn, Lois Anne, Sarah, Bob, Donald, Rita, Lenny, Stephen, Terry, Butch, Jim, Shirley, Jeff, Maria, Debbie, Charlie, Peggy, Tony, Mike, Arlene, 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



**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 find the Christmas Ingathering Envelopes in today's bulletin. This year Outreach is collecting funds instead of items to donate to the Bethlehem / Easton Mission District Ingathering in December. Thank you - Outreach



**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**

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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