

Welcome to Worship

at

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



May 19, 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 *“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”* arr. J.Madow

*Call to Worship *(as sung by the Wittenburg Choir)*

*Gathering Hymn

ELW # 396 *“Spirit of Gentleness”*

*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.**

***Dialogue**

P: Come, Holy Spirit, come;

C: and sustain us with your gifts.

P: The spirit of wisdom;

C: Come, Holy Spirit!

P: The spirit of understanding;

C: Come, Holy Spirit!

P: The spirit of counsel;

C: Come, Holy Spirit!

P: The spirit of might;

C: Come, Holy Spirit!

P: The spirit of knowledge;

C: Come, Holy Spirit!

P: The spirit of the fear of the Lord;

C: Come, Holy Spirit!

P: The spirit of joy in your presence;

C: Come, Holy Spirit!

P: Come, Holy Spirit, come;

C: and sustain us with your gifts.

***Canticle of Praise**

“This is the Feast . . .”

- page 149

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through 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

Acts 2:1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes,

Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ ”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 104:24-35b

²⁴How manifold are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your
creatures.

²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many
to number,
living things both small and great.**

²⁶There go the ships to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

²⁷**All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.**

²⁸You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

²⁹**When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their
dust.**

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

³¹**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

³²You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

³³**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

³⁴May these words of mine please God.
I will rejoice in the LORD.

^{35b}**Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Hallelujah!**

Second Reading

Romans 8:22-27

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia”

- page 151

*** Gospel**

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:4b}“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — The Rev. Mike Button

**Hymn of the Day* —

ELW # 627 *“O Day Full of Grace”*

**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. We pray for the church universal, for its ministries, and for the spread of the gospel. Shower your Spirit upon Sunday school students, confirmands, and the newly baptized everywhere. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: For the earth, our precious home. We give thanks for the diversity of plant and animal life on our planet. Empower us by your Spirit to be wise and faithful stewards of all you have made. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: For the nations and those who govern. Give those in authority understanding hearts, that they work together to bring justice and peace on earth. Grant all who vote in elections wisdom and discernment. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: For those in need around the world: for victims of crimes, for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, for those who are incarcerated. For all who suffer in any way due to sickness or pain including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: For this congregation and its ministries: for those who plan and lead worship, for acolytes and communion servers, for readers and ministers, for all who prepare and clean our worship space. May our worship be pleasing in your sight. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We remember the faithful departed. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us in the faith. At the last day, breathe new life into our dry bones, that we might feast forever with all the saints in light. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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

“When You Send Forth Your Spirit” (ACS #945)

Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

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

***Offertory Hymn** ELW #184 *“Let the Vineyards”*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

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

ACS #962 *“In This Feast of Love”*

ACS #943 *“As the Wind Song”*

ACS #944 *“O Spirit All-Embracing”*

***Table Blessing**

*Post Communion Hymn

ELW #207 " *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* "



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. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

*Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW # 400 *“God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”*

*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Steve Moyer

Ushers – Nancy Ducey / Connie Garr

Reader – Karla Lake

Altar Guild – Joyce Petty / Connie Garr

Video Team – Pete Lake

This Week at St. John's May 19th – May 26th

Today (5/19/24) – Pentecost Sunday, 10:30 am

Today (5/19/24) – Following Worship: Property, Office

Today (5/19/24) – Gallery Open, 12-3:00 pm

Monday (5/20/24) –Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

Tuesday (5/21/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

Wednesday (5/22/24) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am – Hospitality Rm.

Friday (5/24/24) – Newsletter Folding, 9:30 am

Sunday (5/26/24) – Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am

Sunday (5/26/24) – Holy Trinity Sunday, 10:30 am

Sunday (5/26/24) – Following Worship: Rachel's Circle

Sunday (5/26/24) – Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm

Monday (5/27/24) – Office Closed – Memorial Day Holiday

Monday (5/27/24) – No Choir (*Choir will begin again in September.*)

Altar Flowers Sponsored

"To the Glory of God"

by the Karla & Pete Lake



Attendance: 64

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$1,355.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,126.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$37,938.00

Prayer Concerns: Chuck, James, Kara, Christine, Donald, Janice, Steve, Maria, Matt, Tammy, Carolyn, Julia, Charles, Rita, Donald, Terry, Jim, Shirley, Madelyn, Jeff, Bill, Charlie, Caitlin, Mike, Arlene, Our Homebound Family and Friends, and the St. John's Call Committee



The Gallery at St. John's presents . . .



The works of *Mary Button*

Open – Sunday's 12:00 – 3:00 pm

Mary is a teacher, writer, designer, speaker, illustrator, and daughter of Pastor Mike and Carolyn Button. Come see the liturgical and devotional art she creates and get inspired.

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