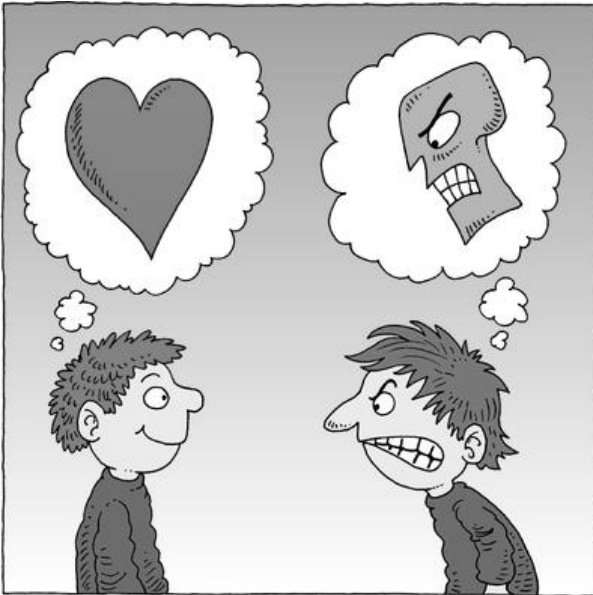


Welcome to Worship

at

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



Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

10:30 am

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Mike Button

Director of Music: Jessica Madow

Guest Pianist: Karla Lake

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

“Lead Me, Lord” by S. Wesley

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin . . .

Merciful God,

C: You speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”
In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 707 *“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”*

***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

***Canticle of Praise**

“Glory to God”

- page 99

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, 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

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of

Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

**² For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

³ Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

**⁴ Take delight in the Lord,
who shall give you your heart’s desire.**

⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,
and see what God will do.

**⁶ The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

**⁸ Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

**¹⁰ In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

**³⁹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O
Lord;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

⁴⁰ You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in
you they seek refuge.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – The Rev. Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day**

ACS # 1062 ***“Build a Longer Table”***

**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. Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care 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: Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

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 *“Wings of the Wind”* by J. M. Stevens

***Presentation of Gifts**

(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)

*Offertory Hymn

ACS# 914 “Jesus, the Light of the World” (v. 4)

4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;

Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.

Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

*Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

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

ELW #482 ***"I Come with Joy"***

ELW # 608 ***"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"***

ELW # 726 ***"Light Dawns on a Weary World"***

*Table Blessing

*Post Communion Hymn

ACS #984 *“May the God of Hope Go with Us”*

May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.
May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,
bring-ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.
Pray-ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our
joy with all; work - ing for a world that's new,
faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

***Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

***Blessing**

P: The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

ACS # 1043 *“Spirit, Open My Heart”*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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4. "Spirit, Open My Heart" (ACS #1043, Text: Ruth Duck © 1996 Pilgrim Press; Music: Irish melody; adapt. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak.)

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant–Joyce Petty

Ushers – Sue Worman / Barbara Horinko

Reader – John Fritchman

Altar Guild – Linda Kalapay / Judi Kalapay

Video Team – Bill Iacovone

This Week at St. John's February 23rd – March 1st

Today (2/23/25) – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany, 10:30 am

Today (2/23/25) – Following Worship:
Rachel's Circle – (Rachel's Circle Room)

Wednesday (2/26/25) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am – Hospitality Room

Sunday (3/2/25) – Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am

Sunday (3/2/25) – Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday, 10:30 am

Week 7, 2/16/25 Attendance - 36

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$2,838.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$1,971.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$13,934.00
Difference Compared to Budget	\$2,108.00



Thank you, Karla Lake, for filling in for Jessica while she is out. How nice to hear a familiar tune . . .

Prayer List: Chuck, Vicki, Clark, Joe, Kara, Christine, Jessica, Helen, John, Janice, Donald, Nancy, Carolyn, Lois Anne, David, Grace, Donald, Terry, Jeff, Debbie, Pastor Orem, Peggy, Tony, Ruth, Sharon, Sarah, Arlene, Joan, Karen, Our Homebound Family & Friends, the St. John's Call Committee, and Our Future Pastor

Join us for Prayer Group:
2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the Month
@ 11:00 am in the Hospitality Room

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

"Countryside Landscapes Knolls and Meadow"

*Show Opening ~ March 9th
(~runs thru April 13th~)*



Call to Artists:
*Works of Fine Art in any medium,
including Photography & Poetry
related to the show's theme.*

Deadline: March 7, 2025

**Bible Study meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
of the month at 11:00 am in the Hospitality Room.**

Please Join Us . . . Any questions, please call Rhémy: 610-365-8456



*Join us, Wednesday, March 5th
at 12:00 noon for
Mid-Day Ashes and Prayers
in the Chapel.*

~

*Traditional Ash Wednesday Worship
also offered in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm.*

**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.

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.