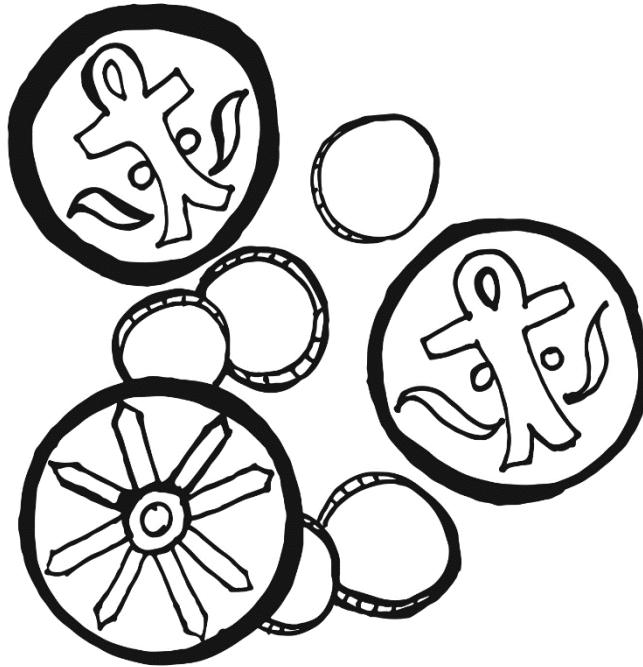


September 17, 2023
10:45 a.m.
16th Sunday after Pentecost



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

North Versailles, Pennsylvania

A Place for Everyone



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

*A Reconciling in Christ congregation
of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Greway, Pastor



Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church!

We are happy to have you with us today!

- You will find the entire worship service printed on the following pages. Words spoken or sung by the people are **in bold type**. Explanations of the structure and content of the service are *written like this*. Large print bulletins are available in the narthex (lobby).
- When asked to stand, please do so only as you are able and comfortable.
- **At St. John's, we practice an open table for communion.** All who seek God from any tradition or denomination are welcome to receive communion. If you prefer to have a blessing instead of communion, come forward and cross your arms over your chest or ask the pastor for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you have an alcohol sensitivity you may receive bread alone. If you would like communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.
- **Children are always a welcome part of worship** at St. John's, and the "Sermon for Young Disciples" is especially for them. You are invited to send (or bring) little ones to the front of the sanctuary at the appropriate time. Children's bulletins are available in the narthex (lobby) providing activities based on today's scripture readings.
- If you need to step out of the sanctuary with your child(ren) during worship, please know that you will still be able to hear the service from the narthex (lobby). If you wish, you may also make use of the un-staffed nursery room, where you can also hear the service.
- St. John's records and shares our worship services as a ministry to those who are unable to join us in person. Please be aware that videography, livestreaming, and other recording may be in progress during this service, and that we sometimes feature photos of church activities on our website and social media.
- **Hearing assistance devices** are available from an usher to enhance your worship experience.

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 2023 10:45 a.m.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minute for Mission: Sherie Cannin

PRELUDE *Quietly center your heart and mind for worship.*

*All may make the sign of the cross ✝, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

*Worship begins
with a chance to
prepare our
hearts and
minds to
encounter God.
Turn off your
electronic
devices and
bring your
conversations to
an end.*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

We stand, as able.

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✝ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God, **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

As We Gather at Your Table

*We stand,
as able.*



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast

*We turn to face
the
processional
cross
continually
facing it on its
way to the front
of the church.*



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

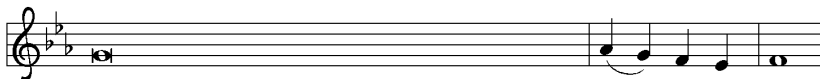
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



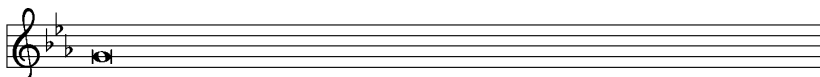
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



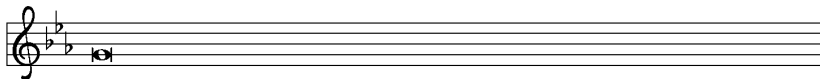
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

With the faithful through the ages, we pray for God's mercy to bring peace, salvation and unity in ourselves, the church, and the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY


The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SERMON FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Sherie Cannin

This is Where Children Belong James Ritchie



This, this is where chil dren be-long, wel comed as part of the wor-ship-ing throng.
Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be - long.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALTER: Psalm 103

*We sing one of
the ancient
scriptures found
in the Bible.*

Pastor sings verses, congregation joins on the refrain.

Refrain:

The Lord is kind and mer - ci - ful, _____ the
Lord is kind and mer - ci - ful. _____ (Last time)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits. **Refrain.**

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals ev'ry one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion. **Refrain.**

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in
mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west, so far from us does he remove our
transgressions.
As a father has compassion on his children,
the Lord's compassion is on those who fear him. **Refrain.**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*We stand as if
to welcome
Jesus himself
into our midst
for the reading
of the gospel,
a message of
good news from
Jesus.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O LORD.

*When Peter asks
about the limits
of forgiveness,
Jesus responds
with a parable
that suggests
human
forgiveness
should mirror
the unlimited
mercy of God.*

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;

²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave,

as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have

patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his

fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his

lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows.

*We stand,
as able.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 716

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide thy chil - dren,
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less
4 Give me thy cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er
5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son may I
Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -
act and thought - less word. Make me to see the wrong I
strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self the vic - tim
Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, wher - e'er I



see my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by thee.
sue; let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.
do will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.
be, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring thee.
be, may be di - vine - ly touched by thee.

APOSTLE'S CREED

Throughout history, Christians have presented the basic beliefs of the church in documents called creeds.

We respond to the good news presented in the scriptures and sermon by reciting one of the church's creeds, proclaiming our faith in the God who creates us, saves us, and makes us to be holy people.

**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.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

We kneel as able, or sit. A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray about what is happening in the world.

*Hildegard,
Abbess of
Bingen, died
1179*

*A mystic who
was widely
influential
within the
church,
Hildegard
advised and
reproved kings
and popes,
wrote poems and
hymns, and
produced
treatises in
medicine,
theology, and
natural history.
She was also a
musician and
artist.*

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy, especially those we name before you now... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world, like Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, whom we commemorate today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

Preparing for receiving the bread and wine of Holy Communion, we make sure there are no disagreements or grudges within the gathered group.

The peace of the LORD be with you always.
And also with you.

We sit.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Fellowship Pads and Offering

During the offering, we pass the fellowship pad to each person in the pew. Print your name and check the appropriate blocks, especially of communing. As the pad returns to its place by the center aisle, note the names of other worshippers, and greet them after the Service.

We stand and sing a song of joy and hope as the congregation's gifts to God are brought forward including bread and wine that we will share in Holy Communion.

OFFERING HYMN

ELW 186

Create in Me a Clean Heart Offering Song

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

We stand as able.




The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**


The pastor leads us in singing or speaking these joyful words.



Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resur - rec - tion
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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HOLY HOLY HOLY

This song which combines words sung by angels in heaven and words sung about Jesus on earth, is based upon Isaiah 6: 3 and Matthew 21:

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

The pastor offers thanks for the many ways God has blessed us throughout history.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

*After describing
God at work
through history
we use words
spoken by Jesus
at the last
supper that he
had with his
disciples.*

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*In the meantime
we are reminded
that we are
called to work
and make God's
will a reality in
our world.*

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

*Jesus teaches
this prayer to his
disciples in
chapter six of
Matthew's
gospel.*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,**

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,**

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.



DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

All who seek God and a deeper and stronger life in Christ are welcome to receive Communion. You may also come forward for a blessing instead: keep your hands folded if you want a blessing. Parents should indicate if children receive Communion.

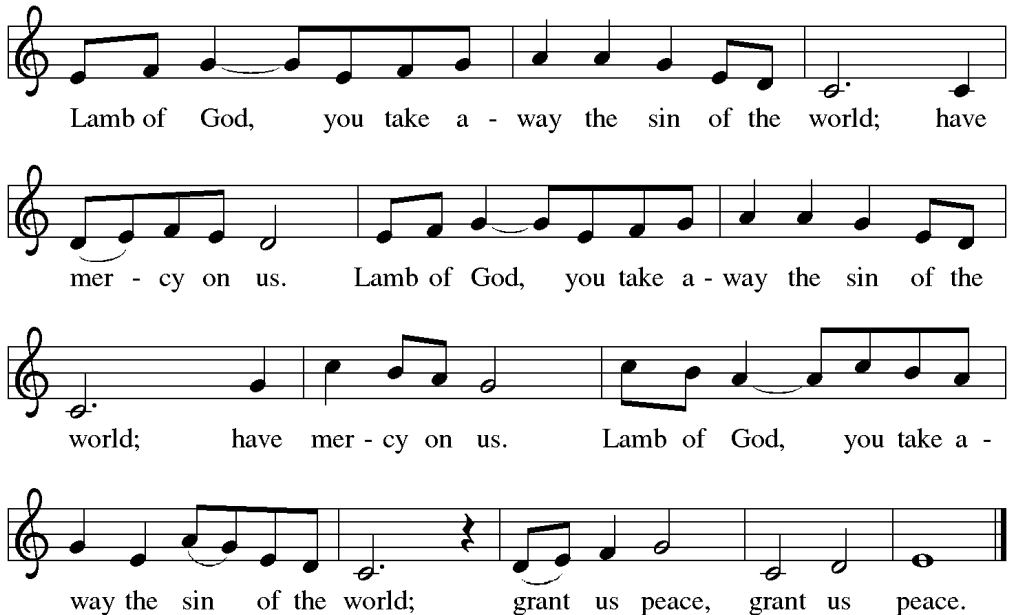
Communion is distributed by intinction.

Come forward by the center aisle. Gluten free wafers are available. After receiving the wafer, you may dip it partially into the wine before eating it. You may eat just the wafer as Christ is fully present in each element.

Let an usher know of your need for communion to be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONGS

During the distribution we sing "Lamb of God" and hymn ELW 359.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*The witness of
John the Baptist
in John 1:29
becomes our
witness and
prayer as we
receive Jesus
in the
communion
meal.*

Where Charity and Love Prevail



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



Amen
amen
amen

*In preparation
for departure,
we turn as the
cross is carried
past us and face
the back of the
church.*

SENDING SONG

ELW 482

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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DISMISSAL

Listen for peace. Look to see who needs that peace. Share your peace
and watch it grow.

Thanks be to God.

*Join us for Coffee Fellowship in the narthex to welcome guests
and to visit with one another.*

OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED

OUR SERVICE BEGINS

Time and Abilities: It's that time again! You will hear from Sherie Cannin this morning concerning the "Time and Abilities" forms from your Stewardship Committee. Please find paper forms on the table in the narthex. This form is also available on our website or can be accessed using the QR Codes below:

Youth and Children



Adults



Please complete the form in either format by October 8, 2023. Place the paper form in the offering plate, drop it off or mail it to the office.

Nursery Attendant: St. John's is looking for someone who is able to assist with the Nursery during our Sunday worship service. Please see Sherie Cannin with any interest or questions.

Online Worship Team: The Online Worship Team is looking for hosts to assist with the virtual streaming of our Sunday worship service! Job duties include hosting the chat on Facebook, assisting with the sound system, and streaming on the computer software. Anyone is welcome to learn! See David Lundie or Matt Thomas with any questions.

Coffee and Conversation: A two-week series on Spiritual Autobiographies led by Pr. Kimberly began this morning and will continue next week, **Sept. 24, beginning at 9:30 a.m.** We'll explore and discuss some classics such as Augustine's *Confessions* as well as some more modern examples like Elizabeth Gilbert's *Eat, Pray, Love*. Then we'll begin to map out the path that our own spiritual biography would take. You might simply enjoy seeing how your spiritual journey has meandered over the years. Or you may end up with a book you want to write in the end! Join us to explore the history, influences, and challenges of spiritual autobiographies.

Kid's Club at Linway: Linway Church is hosting **Kid's Club** for kids in grades kindergarten through 6th grade. There will be Bible lessons, crafts, games and snacks. The group met for the first time this week (9/13), and will meet the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Parents don't need to be members of Linway for the children to participate. If you are interested in having your child attend, you are asked to use the James Street entrance at the back of the church for drop-off/pick-up. Registration forms will be available at the first session.

St. Afterschool: St Afterschool will begin the Fall 2023 semester this Wednesday, **September 20**, and **we are still in need of a few more volunteers.** St Afterschool meets on Wednesdays from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. and serves children who are in kindergarten through 3rd grade. The program includes

social time & snacks, homework help, crafts & games, dinner, and story time. We could also use a kitchen helper to prepare drinks, distribute snacks, help serve dinner, and help with kitchen clean up. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Cindy Haag at 412-614-2010.

Spaghetti Dinner: Our congregation is invited to the annual Spaghetti Dinner on **Sunday, Oct. 1**, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. See the poster on the bulletin board in the hall!

Lunch and Learn: Join representatives from Banker's Life after worship on **October 8**, for lunch and eye-opening information! These folks have information to help you get the most out of your Medicare plan and have answers to questions that we all have. Attendees will be entered in door prize drawings!

Open House: Our congregation has been invited to attend an Open House at Holy Trinity in East Pittsburgh on **Sunday, October 15** from noon to 3:00 p.m. Holy Trinity is the home base for St. John's Youth Group. They have refurbished their fellowship hall, their bathrooms and their kitchen. Lunch will be served!

Youth Group: St. John's is excited to participate again this year in Holy Trinity's Youth Group (ages 12-19) in their Fellowship Hall the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month **beginning October 18th**. Holy Trinity is in East Pittsburgh, right off the Westinghouse Bridge. For more information, please see Sherie Cannin who can put you in touch with Pastor Dave Jones.

Rise Against Hunger: Rise Against Hunger 2023 will be on **Saturday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m.** Details about set-up and donation opportunities will be coming soon – stay tuned!

MA's Pantry Items: Health and Beauty Items: The Mission Outreach committee is reminding you to include items for MA's Pantry each time you do your own food shopping. The remaining distribution date for September is 9/23, and the request for September is canned fruit and vegetables. Please help fill our collection box to overflowing!

Alter Flowers: The Altar flowers are sponsored to the Glory of God by Sandy Smith in honor of Carter's 12th birthday.

In Worship Today:

Greeters: Sue & Ed Ward
Worship Assistant: Herb Willson
Acolyte: Josh Cannin
Head Usher: Joe Lundie
Ushers: Doug & Sherie Cannin
Young Disciples Leader: Sherie Cannin
Coffee Fellowship: Joan Berresford

In Worship Next Week – 09/24

Greeters: Bob & Susan Reimer
Worship Assistant: Marlene Gumbert
Acolyte: Owen Thomas
Head Usher: Ed Ward
Ushers: Bev Motichak; Bonnie Cowan
Young Disciples Leader: Pastor Kimberly
Coffee Fellowship: Cindy Haag

Important Dates

This Week:

* Sun., Sept. 17	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Coffee and Conversation Traditional Worship
* Mon., Sept. 18	6:30 – 9:00 PM	12 Step Group – Miller Hall
* Wed., Sept. 20	3:30 – 6:00	St. Afterschool
* Thurs., Sept. 21	7:30 – 9:00 PM	Choir
* Sat., Sept. 23	9:00 – 11:00 AM	12 Step Group – Miller Hall

Coming Up:

* Sun., Sept. 24	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Coffee and Conversation Traditional Worship
* Mon., Sept. 25	6:30 – 9:00 PM	12 Step Group – Miller Hall
* Tues., Sept. 26	7:00 PM	Christian Ed via Zoom
* Wed., Sept. 27	3:30 – 6:00	St. Afterschool
* Thurs., Sept. 28	7:30 – 9:00 PM	Choir
* Sat., Sept. 30	9:00 – 11:00 AM	12 Step Group – Miller Hall
* Sun., Oct. 1	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Coffee and Conversation Traditional Worship

We Remember in Our Prayers

You are invited to use this page in your devotion and prayer time.

Names in bold are new or updated this week.

September 15 is the First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month

We thank God for the history, contributions, and rich cultural diversity of our Latino siblings. We pray for the growth and vitality of ELCA Latino Ministries, the Latino Ministries Association (Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos ELCA), and the 147 ELCA Latino ministries around the country as they work to share the gospel, encourage unity in Christ, fight racism, and promote Christian values that unite Latinos of the ELCA in a “community of communities” to do God’s work in the world. Amen.

Adapted from ELCA Prayer Ventures



Steve Grbach, recovering at home.

Nancy Cutler, health issues.

Linda Hoffman-Charlett, depression and anxiety.

Janet Davis, recovering from fall;
(grandmother of Jessica Katchur)

Judy Jamison, recovering from knee surgery.

Stephen Kennedy, colon cancer; (cousin of
Judi Rogers)

Sally, Marty, and Samantha Kerchner, on-
going prayers.

Kimmy, cancer; (niece of Ruthie Smith)

Michael McLain, recovering after
hospitalization; (nephew of Debbie Sharp)

Sue Lydon, health issues; (friend of Ruthie
Smith)

Mark Pascarella, primary care giver of his
wife, Lynn who has MS, is bedridden and has
had a bed sore for 7 months; (friend of Sally
Kerchner)

Dotty Sites, Alzheimers disease.

Ruthie Smith, health concerns.

Tanya, cancer; (friend of Ruthie Smith)

Fran Thompson, knee and ankle issues.

Lew Thompson, Alzheimers disease.

Sharyn Jo Vargo, rehab because of stroke;
(sister of Debbie Sharp)

✝ We pray that peace can be restored to the people of Ukraine and Russia.

✝ We pray for loved ones who are homebound, in care facilities, or in need of on-going prayer, including: Sarah Haag; Sally & Marty Kerchner; Ron Kramer; Dan McNamar; Ron Nerger; Craig Peterson; Ruthie Smith; Ed Ward; Janice Winkles; Joy Young; Edith Zoric.

✝ We pray for ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; SWPA Synod Bishop Kurt Kusserow, and the synod staff.

Names in bold are new or updated this week.

To have friends or loved ones placed on the prayer list, contact the church office by email or phone; complete the blue prayer list form found on the table in the lobby; or complete the form on the website at stjohnsnorthversailles.com If appropriate, include a brief reason and relationship. This list is cleared and updated monthly.