St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Sunday, January 2, 2022

229 South Broad Street

Jersey Shore, PA 17740 Second Sunday of Christmas

570-398-1676



**CHILDREN’S CHURCH in social room at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child downstairs before worship begins.**

**Introduction to the Day**

*Within the gospel reading’s profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God’s grace and truth.*

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL 2022**

**Prelude**

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who sends the word with angels,

who is made flesh among all peoples,

and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**C: Amen.**

P: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**C: we confess our sin before you.**

**We replace compassion with competition.**

**We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.**

**We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.**

**We have not put on love in harmony with you.**

**Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.**

**Swaddle our hearts with your peace,**

**that all we do, in word or deed,**

**may reflect your love born among us.**

**Amen.**

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

☩ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: *O Come, All Ye Faithful 283***

**Greeting**

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: p.138**

**Hymn of Praise: p.139**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Word**

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

### First Reading:  Jeremiah 31:7-14

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God’s gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

 7Thus says the Lord:
 Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
  and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
 proclaim, give praise, and say,
  “Save, O Lord, your people,
  the remnant of Israel.”
 8See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
  and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
 among them the blind and the lame,
  those with child and those in labor, together;
  a great company, they shall return here.
 9With weeping they shall come,
  and with consolations I will lead them back,
 I will let them walk by brooks of water,
  in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
 for I have become a father to Israel,
  and Ephraim is my firstborn.

 10Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
  and declare it in the coastlands far away;
 say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
  and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”
 11For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
  and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
 12They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
  and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
 over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
  and over the young of the flock and the herd;
 their life shall become like a watered garden,
  and they shall never languish again.
 13Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
  and the young men and the old shall be merry.
 I will turn their mourning into joy,
  I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
 14I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
  and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm:  Psalm 147:12-20

 12Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
  praise your God, O Zion,
 13**who has strengthened the bars of your gates**
  **and has blessed your children within you.**
 14God has established peace on your borders
  and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
 15**God sends out a command to the earth,**
  **a word that runs very swiftly.**
 16God gives snow like wool,
  scattering frost like ashes.
 17**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.**
  **Who can stand against God’s cold?**
 18The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;
  the wind blows, and the waters flow.
 19**God declares the word to Jacob,**
  **statutes and judgments to Israel.**
 20The Lord has not done so to any other nation;
  they do not know God’s judgments. Hallelujah!

### Second Reading:  Ephesians 1:3-14

*In Jesus, all of God’s plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God’s children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *p. 142***

 *Alleluia Lord to whom shall we go?*

 *You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

P: The holy gospel according to John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Gospel John 1:1-18

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

[1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
  6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]
  10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
  14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. 15(John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ”) 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day:  *Of the Father’s Love Begotten 295***

**THE NICENE CREED**

**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: Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

 those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need (*especially*). Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities (*especially*). As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Gracious God, in this New Year, we remember and uplift the ministry of Global Health. Their mission is committed to improving the lives of the poor in developing countries through healthcare services and education. Bless their work as they work with grassroots neighborhood programs and may the lives they touch be improved so they know that God is near. Hear us, O God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

 *Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service (*especially Wilhelm Loehe, whom we commemorate today*). Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## Responding in Love

**Our Offerings** *This is our response to God's grace.*

**Our Offering of Music**

**CHOIR ANTHEM *Wise Men Saw the Light***

**OFFERTORY**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

**Offering Prayer**

A: Gracious God,

your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.

As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,

prepare us to receive the grace and truth

you offer at this table

and renew in us the song of your salvation,

in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**gREAT THANKSGIVING *p.144*** *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

 **Dialogue**

 **Preface by the Pastor**

 **Holy Holy Holy**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

**Words of Institution**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. **AMEN**

**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**

**SIT**

**Invitation to Communion**

P: In Christ’s manger, at Christ’s table,

come, see what God makes known for you.

**Communion**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God You Take Away p. 146***

**Song after Communion *Jesus, Name Above All Names***

 (repeat twice)

 *Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,*

 *Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word*

**Prayer after Communion**

A: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,

God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.

As we have shared this feast of love,

strengthen us to share your love with all the world.

In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

P: The God of hope

fill us with all joy and peace in believing,

so that we may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit,

through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

**Sending Song:*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 270***

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***Announcements***

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice “open Communion” here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ”.

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Dave Barner, Mike Cervinsky, Jacob Crane, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Ryan Mundrick, Julie Saar, Bill Saar, Pastor Larry Silkanen, John Truax, Bob Wehler, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jake Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

Special thanks to today’s helpers: Lector – Kathy Brundick; Assisting Minister – Deb Heydrich, Ron Brundick; Head Usher—Bob Wehler; Teller – Lon Myers; Bulletin Sponsor – Cynthia Breon; Children’s Church – Pam Wehler.

Next week’s helpers: Lector – Karen Aucker; Assisting Minister - Bill Ely Jr. and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher – Bob Wehler; Teller Lon Myers; Bulletin Sponsor – Cynthia Breon; Children’s Church – Cathy Eisner; Flowers—Johnsons.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored in memory of Henry and Collen Hauser by Ginger Maffett.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of our son and brother Rick Snyder on the day he left us, January 5, 1987. Remembering, missing, and loving him. Mom, Dad, and Shane.

**Needed!** – Sponsors of flowers for January 23 and 30 and several Sundays in February!

The **2022 Flower calendar** has been posted on the upstairs bulletin board. The Sanctuary Candle sign-up sheet and the **Bulletin Sponsors sheets** are in the downstairs hallway.Your contributions to these items for worship are appreciated.

**Thank you** Council, Congregation and Choir for your kindness and generous Christmas gifts.

They are sincerely appreciated. Becky Ward and Kaye Long.

Thank you to the JOY class and the congregation for your Christmas gifts. They were truly appreciated. Pastor Aucker

Thank you very much to Pastor Aucker, the Church Council, and the Congregation for the very nice Christmas card and very thoughtful and generous gift. Thank you, Carl Schaefer

The Lutheran Church Women’s Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran.

Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

 Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597 Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

**Committee Meetings:** Just a reminder that on Monday, 17 January:

6:00 p.m. Christian Education 6:00 p.m. Worship Ministry

 7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry

**Update on the Rising Anew Campaign.** We continue to pay on the loan from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Currently our loan is down to $357,964 as of September 30. Thank you everyone for your support in paying down the loan and your continued commitment to the ministries of St. John Lutheran Church. For those who wish to contribute to the Rising Anew Campaign, please write your check to: St. John Lutheran, earmark on the memo line: “Rising Anew” and put it in an envelope with your name on the envelope and place it in the offering plate.

**Automate your regular offering** Do you know that over $4,000 per month is given electronically by members of St. John? St. John Lutheran Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering. Electronic giving provides convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation. Getting started is easy. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office, 570-398-1676.

**Vanco Mobile app.** St. John Lutheran offers a convenient way to support the ministries of St. John. Now you can download the “Vanco Mobile Faith” app from your app store for your cell phone. This feature is also on our web site and Facebook site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. If you have any questions, contact Scott Mitchell.

We also offer **VancoText:** Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25). Within a few minutes, you’ll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder’s name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email. For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text “repeat” to make it a recurring donation. VancoText is one of the fastest, easiest ways to give. We hope you enjoy this new way to share your generosity and we thank you for supporting your church.

**Weis Certificates.** As a special fundraiser for church projects, we are selling Weis Markets gift certificates each Sunday after worship or during office hours during the weekdays. You can buy $10, 20, 50, 100 certificates. You pay $10, take them to the store and use them like cash to buy $10 worth of groceries. The church earns 5% from Weis Markets. While that may not seem like much, if 100 families in the congregation spend $100 per week on groceries that 5% would add up to $26,000 per year with very little effort other than buying and reselling them. It is a great way to support the youth ministries of St. John.

**Calling all High School Youth!** Join us Monday evening, January 31, 6:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran, 229 South Broad Street. Dinner provided.

 Topic: “Paint a rock” Bring your friends and join us.

**Spaghetti Dinner for the Congregation**. Each year the youth of St. John provide a spaghetti dinner for the members of St. John in appreciation for the financial support we receive. **This year it will be held on Sunday, February 6, after worship**. All available youth are needed.

We are looking for volunteers to lead the Elementary and Middle School age youth groups. Please contact Cathy Eisner if you are willing to lead either of those two age groups. We are seeking parents of children in those age groups who would be willing to volunteer to lead them on Christian activities, studies, and service.

**Annual Reports** - A reminder to the chairs of all ministries of St. John Lutheran – your annual reports must be submitted to the office **by January 15** to be included in the annual report to the congregation at the annual congregation meeting on February 6, 2022.

 ***THIS WEEK’S EVENTS***

Sunday, January 2, 2022 *2nd Sunday of Christmas*

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service Installation of the 2022 Council

2:00 p.m. Catechism

Monday, January 3. 2022

 10:00 a.m. Bible Study on Ephesians

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

 10:00 a.m. Worship at Trinity Episcopal Church

 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 6, 2022

 7:00 p.m. Epiphany Service at St. James, burning of the Christmas tree and Carols

Sunday, January 9, 2022 *Baptism of Our Lord*

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts *1st Sunday after Epiphany*

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service