

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740

Sunday, June 2, 2024
2nd Sunday after Pentecost



“This morning we are led in worship by, Mr. Gary Johnson, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leaders have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist in specific situations.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committed to ordained ministry as the primary means for filling the needs of this church for Word and Sacrament, but at this place in the church’s pilgrimage, the church’s inability to provide all congregations with full-time ordained pastoral ministry presents a challenge. On any given Sunday, congregations have needs that cannot be met by available ordained ministers. Therefore, because it is the bishop’s responsibility to meet the Word and Sacrament needs of the congregations in this Synod, synodically authorized lay worship leaders are trained to meet this need. On behalf of the whole church, Bishop Miller is deeply gratified by the ministry of these servants of the Gospel.”

INTRODUCTON *Deuteronomy makes clear that sabbath-keeping is meant for the welfare of all. God delivered the Israelites out of slavery, so they should observe this freedom with a day of rest. No one should work seven days a week; even slaves and foreigners should be able to rest. Yet human beings can turn even the most liberating religious practice into a life-destroying rule. Jesus does not reject sabbath-keeping, but defends its original life-enhancing meaning. Our worship and our religious way of life are to lead to restoration: the hungry being fed and the sick being healed.*

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG *Gather Us In 532*

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Here I Am, Lord 574*

PRAYER OF THE DAY Almighty and ever-living God, throughout time you free the oppressed, heal the sick, and make whole all that you have made. Look with compassion on the world wounded by sin, and by your power restore us to wholeness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

L: A reading from Deuteronomy.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 5:12-15

This portion of the Ten Commandments instructs the Israelites to keep the sabbath. The Israelites are to rest, and they are to allow their slaves, their livestock, and the foreigners living among them to do the same. They were once slaves, and so they are to treat their own slaves justly.

¹²Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁴But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

Psalm: Psalm 81:1-10

¹Sing with joy to God our strength
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

²**Raise a song and sound the timbrel,
the merry harp, and the lyre.**

³Blow the ram's horn at the new moon,
and at the full moon, the day of our feast;

⁴**for this is a statute for Israel,
a law of the God of Jacob.**

⁵God laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph, going out over the land of Egypt,
where I heard a voice I did not know:

⁶**"I eased your shoulder from the burden;
your hands were set free from the gravedigger's basket.**

⁷You called on me in trouble, and I delivered you;
I answered you from the secret place of thunder and tested you at the waters of Meribah.

⁸**Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you:
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!**

⁹There shall be no strange god among you;
you shall not worship a foreign god.

¹⁰**I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**

L: A reading from Second Corinthians

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

When we carry out God's ministry we do so not for our glory but for the sake of Jesus Christ whom we proclaim as Lord. The power for ministry comes from God, not us, so that we persevere no matter what, trusting in God's power and promises at work through us.

⁵We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142

Alleluia, Lord, to who shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 2:23—3:6

Jesus challenges the prevailing interpretation of what is lawful on the sabbath and tells his critics that the sabbath was made for humankind, not the other way around. Healing the man with the withered hand is work that cannot wait until the next day.

²³One sabbath [Jesus] was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?” ²⁵And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? ²⁶He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.” ²⁷Then he said to them, “The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; ²⁸so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.”

^{3:1}Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ²They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³And he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come forward.” ⁴Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. ⁵He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

SERMON

The assembly will stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *The Church of Christ, in Every Age* 729

APOSTLES CREED (*p. 105 at the beginning of the hymnal*)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

Guide your church to expressions of faith that bring rest and release. Teach your faithful people to be attentive to the spiritual, physical, and societal weariness of our neighbors, that we proclaim your grace through tangible acts of mercy and justice. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Keep us mindful of the rhythms of nature as the days lengthen and the seasons shift toward summer. Grant relief to areas facing flooding or drought and bring favorable weather for the flourishing of crops, gardens, and orchards. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Where there is affliction in our world, bring healing. Where world leaders are perplexed, bring clarity of vision. Give a spirit of discernment to political advisors, institutional researchers,

economic analysts, and all vocations that inform the work of governments and policymakers (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Provide wholeness and respite to all who are weary: those who struggle in any way and those who care for them (*especially*). Strengthen first responders and health care workers in their times of exhaustion or frustration. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Stir our hearts toward abundant generosity among neighbors who experience hunger and food insecurity. Bless feeding ministries and community food efforts, especially community gardens, farmers markets, food pantries and Little Free Pantries. Open both our hearts and our tables. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We give you thanks for the many schools supported by the Lutheran Church in Liberia and the impact that they are making on the lives of the children, their families and their communities. Each of these little ones is a precious child of yours. Fill them with confidence of knowing that you have created them just as they are, and that this is enough. Empower them to be leaders and agents of change in their communities. Fill their hearts with love and compassion for you and for those they serve. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We remember the communion of saints whose lives made visible the saving life of Jesus Christ. Guide us by their example to embody the treasure of your love for the sake of our world, until we come to our final rest in you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Once the Table is Prepare, the assembly will stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

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

The Lord's Prayer p. 145

Invitation to Communion

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

The assembly is seated.

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.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Remember Me*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

A: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song: Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing 389

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

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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 at the front or rear of the church. 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, Jim Allen, Connie Barker, Stella Barner, Danny Bennett, Maisy Boyles, Matteo Cooper, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Dawn Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Lucille

Jones, Myrtle Long, Mick Miller, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, Ben Saar, Pam Shuler, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel.

We pray for the safety of **our military troops** around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Jeremy and Haley Naugle Sorrell, Rich Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Kevin Titus, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on.

Special thanks to this weeks' helpers: Lector –Kim Myers; Assisting Ministers --Deb Heydrich and Joyce Braucht; Head Usher –Deb Heydrich; Teller–Gina Johnson; Bulletin Sponsor--Betty Allen.

Next week's helpers: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers--Bill Ely, Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Deb Heydrich; Teller–Gina Johnson; Bulletin Sponsor--Betty Allen; Flowers--JeanAnn Snyder.

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

The Sanctuary Candle in June is in honor of the children of St. Johns by Agnes Cryder.

This bulletin and more can be found on church site www.stjl.org

Vacation Bible School is coming July 14th – 18th, and is being held at the First Methodist Church from 6 pm to 8 pm. This year's theme is "*CELEBRATE the Savior, Jesus Gives Us Joy.*" VBS is open to all youth ages 3 years through 6th grade and is a joint effort with The First Methodist Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and our church participating, but it's open to all youth in our community. We work together to make this a wonderful experience for all children, but it takes volunteers from all of the churches to have a successful program. I need a couple of adults and older youth from our church to help out where needed. If you are available, your help will be greatly appreciated. If you can't be there every night, we can still use your help, so please consider being part of this event. More information about registration will follow. Molly Hollick

Anyone interested in joining a **texting prayer chain** please text Christine Barner at 570-360-0178. This texting chain will send out the prayers that are received for the calling prayer chain. This chain is a one-way chain, please do not "reply" when you receive a message.

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 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852.

Women of the Church has accepted a challenge to **collect new or gently worn shoes** for Missions. Please check your closets and bring the shoes in soon! Place them in the box near the elevator labeled for shoes.

Camp Mt Luther is having a Renovation Campaign. They will build a new bathroom facility and renovate Maple Hall. To complete this project, St Johns wants to contribute. Please place

your donation in the envelope marked Camp Mt. Luther and place it in the offering plate. Checks should be made out to Camp Mt Luther. The bulletin board near the front entrance shows details of the renovation and many pictures of St John youth enjoying the camp!

The Parks-Dean Team's **Luke Strong 2024** IS a go, with some changes and revisions this time around. We are doing a two pronged event this year: Phase One took place on Saturday, May 25, when we participated in the "What the Duck" Ultra from 7 AM to 7 PM at a park in Boiling Springs, just a few miles from our house. The majority of participants were probably runners, but we were right in the pack, walking a steady pace. We'd been doing a good amount of walking/training for this event. We planned to each walk at least 25 miles, for a cumulative total of 50 miles for Phase One. We MAY take a week off, then will get on the bikes to begin training for Phase Two. That will take place on Saturday, August 31, when we plan to ride 65 miles (from Wellsboro to Jersey Shore) on the Pine Creek Rail Trail. We are excited and looking forward to taking on these two challenges to raise funds for our friend, Luke Antolick. More details will be coming-just wanted to give you a heads up AND invite you to come spectate and cheer us on! WE ARE...LUKE STRONG!!!

Pastor and Mrs. Aucker will be on vacation Friday, May 31 to Friday, June 7
Pastoral needs will be covered by Pastor Carol Johnson 570-772-6674

Calendar

Sunday, June 2, 2024 lead by Gary Johnson, ALW

Sunday, June 9, 2024 9:30 Worship Service

Saturday, June 22, 2024 Church Work Day at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 7, 2024 Workshop at pavilion at Antes Forte followed by a picnic honoring fathers

Note a Change. The Church worship and Picnic has been moved from **June 30 to July 7** at the pavilion in Antes Fort at 9:30 am. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided to honor the Fathers and Sons in the congregation. The congregation is asked to bring a dish to share, your own tableware, and a folding chair on July 7