

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

Sunday, June 16, 2024  
4th Sunday after Pentecost  
Father's Day



**INTRODUCTON** *The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.*

#### **PRELUDE**

**GATHERING SONG** *This Is My Father's World* 824

#### **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.**

### **Litany for Father's Day**

P: For fathers everywhere, who have given us life and love, that we may show them respect and love.

**C: Holy God, hear this prayer for our fathers.**

P: For fathers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them

**C: Holy God, hear this prayer for our fathers that mourn.**

P: For men who may or may not have children of their own, but act like a father to someone in need of advice, support, nurturing, and love.

**C: Holy God, hear this prayer for our father figures.**

P: For step-fathers who have assumed that role with love and joy, who have loved the children of another as their own, and created a new family.

**C: Holy God, hear this prayer for step-fathers.**

P: For adoptive fathers, who have heard the call of God to lovingly step forward for those that need their care.

**C: Holy God, hear this prayer for adoptive fathers.**

P: For fathers who have been unable to be a source of strength, who have not responded to the needs of their children, and have not sustained their families.

**C: Holy God, have mercy on absentee fathers.**

P: For fathers who struggle with temptation, violence, or addiction. For those who do harm, and for those whom they have harmed.

**C: Holy God, have mercy on fathers that struggle.**

P: For new fathers, full of hope. For long-time fathers, full of wisdom. For the fathers yet to be, and fathers soon to be.

**C: Holy God, hear our prayer for the fathers of your Church.**

P: For those that have shaped our lives without claim of family or kinship. For those who have taught us, guided us, shaped us and molded us into servants of Christ our Lord.

**C: Holy God, hear our prayer for the fathers of our faith.**

P: God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** *Open Now the Gates of Beauty* 533

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, 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 Ezekiel

**First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24**

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.  
I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;  
I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel  
I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.  
Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.

<sup>24</sup>All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the LORD.  
I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;  
I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.  
I the LORD have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

**Psalm: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love in the morning  
and your faithfulness at night;**  
<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and on the lyre,  
and to the melody of the harp.  
<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.  
<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD  
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**  
<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit in old age;  
they shall be green and succulent;  
<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how upright the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

L: A reading from Second Corinthians

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17**

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ] <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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 4:26-34**

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

*The assembly will stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY How Great Thou Art 856**

**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.*

Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God,

relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for our sisters and brothers in our companion synod, the Ansbach-Wurzburg Kirchenkreis in Bavaria, Germany. Support Dr. Gerard Gronauer, the chair of their Companion Synod Committee, and Bishop Bornowski, Bishop of their Kirchenkreis. Strengthen our other's church history. Be with their youth as they go to their summer camps and our youth as our youth go to Camp Mt. Luther this summer. Help us build relationships in Christ's name. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God, our everlasting Father; God of Adam, made in your image, God of Abraham and Isaac,

God of Joseph, guardian of Jesus: we ask your blessing upon all men of this congregation. Help them to be good sons and brothers, good friends and spouses, good fathers and grandfather, good men of faith. In the midst of struggles, give them patience and strength. In the midst of persecution, keep them steadfast in your Word. Help them stand firm, and not submit to the yoke of any slavery. Through the word and sacrament in the community of faith, may they be renewed in body, mind, and spirit, though Jesus Christ our Lord. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: With gratitude, we remember (*the Emanuel Nine martyrs and all*) the saints who are now at home with you. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. 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:** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing 547*

### **Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

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***We extend our sympathies to the family of Agnes Cryder who died on June 11, 2024. Service announcements will be posted later.***

### **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, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Beth Good, 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 –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers --Gary Johnson, Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Deb Heydrich; Teller–Gina Johnson; Bulletin Sponsor--Betty Allen.

**Next week’s helpers:** Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers--Joyce Braucht, Carl Shaefer; Head Usher –Deb Heydrich; Teller–Gina Johnson; Bulletin Sponsor--Betty Allen; Flowers --

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Betty Allen

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](http://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.

**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 found near the bulletins at the entrances 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!

**Jersey Shore Care and Share** In the last few months, we learned from various sources that the New Love Center leadership voiced plans to close the Food Pantry that is located at St. John Lutheran Church. After 8 ½ years of operation, serving 260 households per month, and costing very little to operate, local residents in Jersey Shore were expected to travel to another county for food. We were approached and asked if we would be willing to continue to serve the residents of the Jersey Shore area. So effective July 1, a new food pantry “Jersey Shore Care and Share” will



continue to operate as we have been with a drive-through the second Friday of each month and Pantry Choice on the third Monday of the month. We will also provide emergency food as needed. The services will not change. In fact, we plan to offer new and innovative services to our clients in the coming months. For the month of July, we are seeking donations of cheerios, August canned vegetables, September pudding cups, and October canned fruits. All food donated to Jersey Shore Care and Share will remain here and distributed to people in the Jersey Shore area. Jersey Shore Care and Share will operate with only volunteers. While we are starting off with zero dollars, our expenses are very low. Your donations of food, volunteers, and money are greatly appreciated. Jersey Shore Care and Share, 229 South Broad Street, Jersey Shore PA 17740. Checks can be made out to St. John Lutheran Church and write on the memo line "Jersey Shore Care and Share."

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, and we walked a total of 50 miles for Phase One. Phase Two 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!!!

We are looking for **Corn Hole games for the church picnic**. If you have one and would be willing to let us use it that day, please let Ken Daugherty or Molly Hollick know. Thank you!

### Calendar

Sunday, June 16, 2024 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 11:30 Fellowship at Shore Diner

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 *Sound of Hope* movie

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

Sunday, June 23, 2024 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, June 30, 2024 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, July 7, 2024 9:30a.m. Worship at pavilion at Antes Fort followed by a picnic honoring fathers. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. The congregation is asked to bring a dish to share, your own tableware, and a folding chair.

