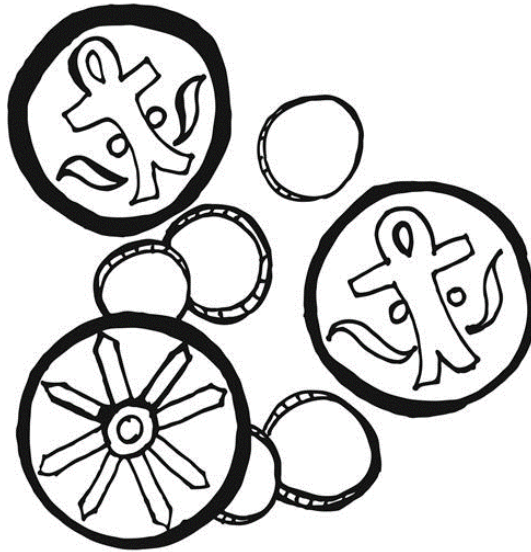


**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 24, 2023**  
**9 am**



**Saint John Lutheran Church**  
**Fairfield, Pennsylvania**  
**Rev. Scott Zimmerer, Pastor**  
**Carol Garman, Organist/ Music Director**

**St. John Lutheran Church  
13 East Main St.  
Fairfield Pa 17320  
717-642-5822**

Pastor Scott Zimmerer, Interim Pastor

Email: [szmmrr@gmail.com](mailto:szmmrr@gmail.com)

Cell: 214-918-4444

Carol Garman, Director of Music Ministries

[www.stjohnfairfield.net](http://www.stjohnfairfield.net)

Email: [office@stjohnfairfield.net](mailto:office@stjohnfairfield.net)

Like us on Facebook

Office Hours

Monday 8:30am-12:00pm

Wednesday- 8:30am-12:00pm

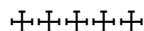
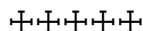
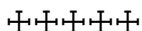
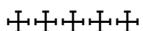
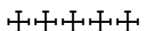
Thursday 8:30am-12:00pm

***Our Mission is to make Christ known.***

We welcome all guests this morning.  
We are very pleased to have you worship with us.  
All are welcome to receive communion.

Pastor leads an adult bible study during Sunday School.  
Sunday School for all ages meets 10:15.  
Everyone is welcome! Grab some refreshments and join us!

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**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**     *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*     Arr. Rogers

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.**

**GATHERING HYMN**     *When Morning Guilds the Skies*     ELW 853 Vs. 1,2,4,5

**INVOCATION**

**P:** May 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:** Lord have mercy

**C:** **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**P:** Christ, have mercy;

**C:** **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**P:** Lord, have mercy;

**C:** **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

## *Now the Feast and Celebration ELW 167*

**Vs. 1 unison; Vs. 2 men; Vs. 3 women**

### Refrain

Now the feast and celebration,  
all of creation sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and freedom;  
praise and glory forevermore!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,  
whose blood has freed and united us  
to be one great people of God. *Refrain*

2 Power and riches, wisdom and might,  
all honor and glory to Christ forever.

### *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us,  
to make us people of God;  
to make all things new. *Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: 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.**

## FIRST READING: : **Philippians 1:21-30**

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*The Word of the Lord...Thanks be to God.*

**\*GOSPEL VERSE ~ please stand if able**

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

*Repeat alleluia*

P: *The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew... **Glory to you O Lord***

**GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

*The Gospel of Our Lord...**Praise to You O Christ.***

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

THE MESSAGE *If I Were God, I'd do Things Differently*

Pastor Scott Zimmerer

HYMN *Lord of All Hopefulness*

ELW 765

APOSTLES CREED

Inside back cover of hymnal

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

PEACE

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

**C: 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**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: On the night in which he was betrayed ... for as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes again.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**LAMB OF GOD**



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.

## DISTRIBUTION

### COMMUNION HYMNS

*As the Grains of Wheat*  
*Give Me Jesus*

ELW 465  
ELW 770

### COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.**

### BLESSING

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

### SENDING HYMN

*Go Make Disciples*

ELW 540

*Children are invited to play percussion instruments which are at the back of the sanctuary on either side.*

"Go, make disciples, baptizing them, teaching them.  
Go, make disciples, for I am with you till the end of time.  
Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.  
Go, be a city on a hill, so all can see that you're serving me.  
Go, make disciples."

### DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *How Majestic is Your Name*

Smith/Doran

## 9-24-2023 Announcements

**No Sunday School for children and adults today due to Pippinfest festivities.**

**Wednesday Bible Study-** Pastor's Wednesday 9:30 study group is doing "the Gospel according to Dr. Seuss" Come join us as we look at some spiritual and biblical insight into these timeless stories.

**Hand Bells, With One Voice-** WOV singers meet at 6:45 and Hand Bells meet at 7:30. Both groups are open to teens & adults. Music reading skills not required. New members welcome! Contact Carol Garman for more information (717-476-0923)

**Offering Counters** are needed for October, November, and December. Sign up in the Gathering Area.

**Name Tags-** If you need a name tag (so Pastor Zimmerer can commune you by name) please fill out a card in the narthex area.

**Those for Whom We Pray-** Milly, Essie, Audrey, Jim, Jim & Mary Lou, Ken, Charles, Savannah, Garnetta, Ruth. **Help us keep the prayer list updated. Please let the office know of any names that should be added or that can be removed. Names will stay on the list for 30 days.**

**Flowers-** The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Linn Wichowski

Vital Statistics	9-17-2023
Offering Received	\$ 2,474.00
Offering Needed	\$ 2,341.00
Attendance	67

Happening this week at St. John Lutheran Church...		
Today	24	9am Service of Holy Communion Pippinfest
Monday	25	
Tuesday	26	10-12 Hall in Use
Wednesday	27	9:30am Bible Study 6:45pm WOV Choir 7:30pm Handbells

	9-24-2023	10-1-2023
Lector	Dawn Cool	Linn Wichowski
Communion Asst.	Tammy Deardorff	David Thomas
Usher	<b>Volunteer</b>	<b>Volunteer</b>
Flower Sponsor	Linn Wichowski	<b>Volunteer</b>
Offering Counters	Chris & Dawn Cool	<b>Volunteer</b>
Altar Guild	Ruthie Fitzgerlad	<b>Volunteer</b>
Bread Sponsor	Chris & Dawn Cool	Bret & Becky Robinson
Bulletin Sponsor	Tom & Linda Sanders	Dave & Barb Booz