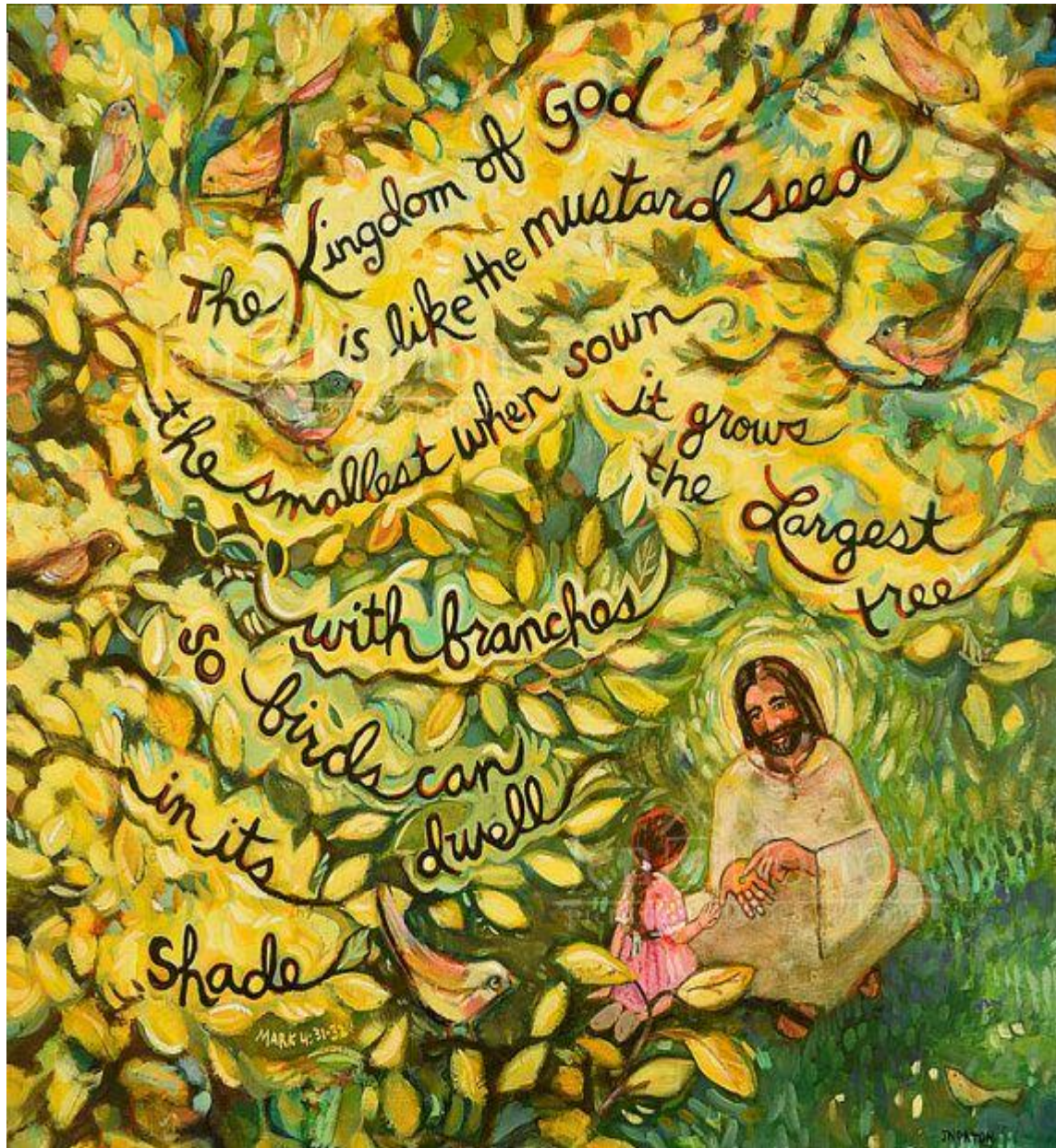


ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Belleville, PA



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

A congregational meeting will follow immediately after the service today

***GATHERING SONG – “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”**

Verses 1 and 3

479

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, Take all my
My zeal in - spire; As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
Shall o'er me roll; Blest Sav - ior, then, in love Fear and dis -

guilt a - way, Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine!
love to thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
trust re-move; Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

*Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872*

OLIVET
664 6664

***GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY ~ in unison**

Prayers and Lessons are found in Celebrate

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray...

THE LESSONS

*First Lesson ~ A reading from 1 Kings 3:5-12

after the reading R The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 119:129-136 ~ the response will be sung

*Second Lesson ~ A reading from Romans 8:26-39

after the reading R The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL READING

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE ~ Praying With the Spirit, Praying with Christ

*RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C pray in the Holy Spirit.

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation

**C Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!**

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you
in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen

*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Let us extend the Peace of Christ to those around us and into the world.

OFFERING (please leave your gifts in one of the offering plates **at the end of the front and back pews** (Mechanic St. side) on your way out)

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray. God, our Creator,

**C you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature.
With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care.
Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

***PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ~ Found in Celebrate**

P Called into unity with one another and the whole creation let us pray for our shared world. *A brief silence.*

Following the prayers

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

***THE BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN ~ "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong. *refrain*

Refrain Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! Loves me still, Though I'm very weak and ill,
That I might from sin be free Bled and died upon the tree. *refrain*

Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in. *refrain*

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord

R Thanks be to God

***POSTLUDE ~ Unless remaining for the meeting, please exit the church using the
aisle and staircase on the left (Mechanic St. side, remembering to keep a safe
distance from others)**

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Edna Chester in memory of her parents, Savilla and J. Frank Smith.

Today

Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler; **Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich

Next Sunday, August 2

Greeters: Jim and Georgianna Buchanan; **Lay Reader:** Jami Zook

Communion assistants will be Council members/our safety committee

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

Church Office: 935-2032 **Email us at** stjohnco@embarqmail.com

St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Our Mission Statement

We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another in our homes, church, community and the world.

Our Vision Statement

To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.

Please remember in prayer ~ Kim Aumiller, Ev Young, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Carol Yoder, Diddy Cleck, Betty Smith; Memory Lane ~ Nancy Aumiller and sister, Sally Shingler.

The Amish clinic is sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive on Monday, August 10 from 1:00-7:00pm at Locust Grove Mennonite Church that will also involve testing for Covid antibodies to see if people have had and recovered from Covid.

Appointments are recommended, and can be made at redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code "centralpaclinic", or call 1-800-733-2767. **PLEASE WEAR A MASK, CLEAN YOUR HANDS CAREFULLY. HELP US MAKE THIS A SUCCESSFUL AND SAFE BLOOD DRIVE.**

A representative of the Family Research Council will be sharing about the ministry of FRC on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, 10:00am at the Upper Room Worship Center, 4567 E Main St., Belleville, PA 17004. Coffee and donuts will be served.

If you or an interested member of your church are interested in attending please respond to Harold Sharp by email at havons@embarqmail.com or 717-935-2796.

Notes from the Pastor:

PRAYER: During the month of August I will be focusing on prayer 'For, With, and To' and also on messages in our favorite hymns. I encourage everyone to pray to God in thanksgiving for the life and creation we are able to enjoy, to pray for compassion beyond boundaries for all who are suffering and to pray with the light of Christ and the comfort of the Holy Spirit with you.

HOME BLESSINGS: For those of us choosing to stay home rather than go out on Sundays our home has become our sanctuary. In the next weeks I will be trying to visit as many at homes as possible from curb or porch, for prayer, perhaps music and for those who like a short version of the service for a Blessing of a Home may be shared.

CHALLENGES, CONTROVERSIES and ENCOURAGEMENT

As our Bishop said in our Wednesday meeting, we are a church that embraces differences - in everything from opinions to hair styles and beard lengths. Sometimes we just don't want to hear particular words, songs or messages. When we feel uncomfortable with what we hear in church we are being challenged to explore differences and hear beyond our present circumstances to the heart of Gods message for us and beyond us. As some of you do, when you let the pastor know how you are feeling, we can explore this together further and be encouraged in Christ.

CARDS: Cards, candy, flowers continue to be a great uplift to those home bound and a visible reminder of the prayers and encouragement we offer. Please check the Atrium for cards to sign and take time for other outreach as well.

Pastor Ela

The daycare yard sale is being held on Tuesday, August 4 and Wednesday, August 5. **No clothing and televisions, please.** Donations can be placed on the stage or outside the double doors (by restrooms) if you do not want to come in. Thank you!

The daycare board recently hired Lisa Lingle of Reedsville as the new director. Below is a short letter of introduction. Please pray for her, the staff and children as they navigate through these, challenging, uncertain and ever-changing times we are in.

Greetings, St. John's families!

My name is Lisa Lingle and I am the new Director for the daycare and preschool. I am honored and excited to be a part of the St. John's family!

Just a bit about me:

I grew up in a suburb of Chicago and moved to Pennsylvania when I was in high school. Shortly after earning a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Bloomsburg University, my husband and I settled in this area of PA and I was employed as a substitute teacher in several of the local school districts. I then had the privilege of staying home with my children, but during that time I also held a part-time position as one of the directors of the children's department in my church. When the Lord called our family to change churches, He led us to Calvary Bible Church where I immediately became involved in the Awana program. After serving as a leader for several years, I took over as the director of the program and have served in that role for the past 8 years. During that time, I was also blessed to be able to home school my children through their elementary years.

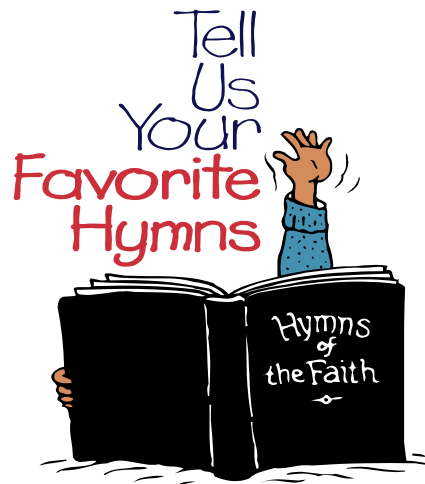
I look forward to working with the children and their families, and I am committed to upholding the high-quality, Christ-centered early education and care environment to which St. John's is dedicated.

Offering for 7/5/20 ~ \$ 1,585.00, Attendance ~ 25

St. John's ~ January thru July 23
Income \$ 144,633.17 Expense \$ 119,155.36
Net Income \$ 25,477.81

Parking Lot Donations YTD ~ \$ 13,953.72

Daycare ~ January thru July 23
YTD Income ~ \$ 109,886.75 YTD Expense ~ \$ 90,638.56
Net Income \$ 19,248.19



Title or first line of hymn ~

Please place in the offering plate.