

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Belleville, PA



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GATHERING SONG ~ "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

page 6

*GREETING

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

P You are the treasured people of the LORD,

C **a people holy to the LORD our God.**

P Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

C **Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,
when you lie down and when you rise.**

P One does not live by bread alone,

C **but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

*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 Isaiah 51:1-6

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

*Psalm 138 *with response*

*Second Lesson ~ A reading from Romans 12:1-8

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

***GOSPEL READING**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

***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 Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

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.

P 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**

Let us pray with joy for Logan and Stephanie Byler on this their first day as a married couple.
Continued prayers of healing for the Keller's, Metz's, Wyland's and our broader community.
A brief silence.

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 ~ "Count Your Blessings"

pages 7-8

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord **R Thanks be to God**

***POSTLUDE ~ *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 in St. John's are given to the Glory of God
By Ruth Baker in loving memory of her parents.

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 ~ Dorie Remensnyder (recovering from fall), 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.

Notes from the Pastor

Congratulations to Stephanie Wofley and Logan Byler who celebrated their wedding ceremony on Sat Aug 22. The ample blessings the Holy Trinity has bestowed upon this couple is evident in their love, commitment and good working relationship. We thank God who has been a guide for them as they planned for this day during the challenges of this time. A card is in the narthex for everyone to offer their support and blessings.

Thank you to one of Joy Byler's employers, who generously donated a printer they were no longer using for the pastor's office and to Joy for setting it up. As the church printer only serves the office computer, this was a convenience for the pastor and a savings for the congregation when the old one ceased working.

Thank you to all who participated in making our joint church radio broadcasts during the nine weeks of Easter such a professional and effective outreach. While many churches have a tech team of two to twenty, with a tech team of just one we were able to maintain a viable ministry not just to our churches but to many other people as well. I know many have missed this during June and July. When due to the Covid outbreak in our church and Belleville we had to cancel church again we were no longer able to rely on the equipment and commitment of that one man tech team, the pastor's husband, due to health issues he was experiencing.

As reported in previous bulletin announcements, people at both churches have stepped forward to help brainstorm and set up reliable good quality recordings during in church services so that they will be available on web, facebook and on CD's. Unlike other churches who already had this process set up before Covid, this has taken experimentation, consulting, collaboration and practice during several weeks to make this work.

We have always thought of ourselves as a worshipping together, people person church. Thank you to everyone of you for maintaining these connections to God and the congregation through this time of flux and unpredictability. Let's continue to make this an Awesome August with joyful outreach, positivity and thanksgiving.

Check the Upper Susquehanna Synod <https://www.uss-elca.org> for news in our Synod, at Camp Mt. Luther and for inspiring Lutheran resources.

St. John's has Meals on Wheels the next two weeks. **Still needed for Thursday, September 5 is ~ 5 dozen Whoopie Pies (purchased locally or homemade) and Applesauce (either fresh or canned/frozen from last year).** Please sign-up in the narthex or contact the church office (2032) or Sue Lynch (935-2013) if you can help in this way.

The Raystown Country Gospel Music Celebration Concert is being held this Saturday, at the Allensville Fire Co. building. The program featuring *The Detty Sisters* and *Kevin Spencer* begins at 6:00pm; food will be served at 5:00pm. Admission is free. Bring a lawn chair. There will also be a free will offering.

January thru August 20

St. John's ~ Income \$ 154,927.18 Expense \$ 137,788.71

Net Income \$ 17,138.47

Parking Lot Donations YTD ~ \$ 15,728.72 Boiler Donations ~ \$2,000.00

Daycare ~ YTD Income ~ \$ 125,747.96 YTD Expense ~ \$ 109,849.39

Net Income \$ 15,898.57

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a so - lace there.

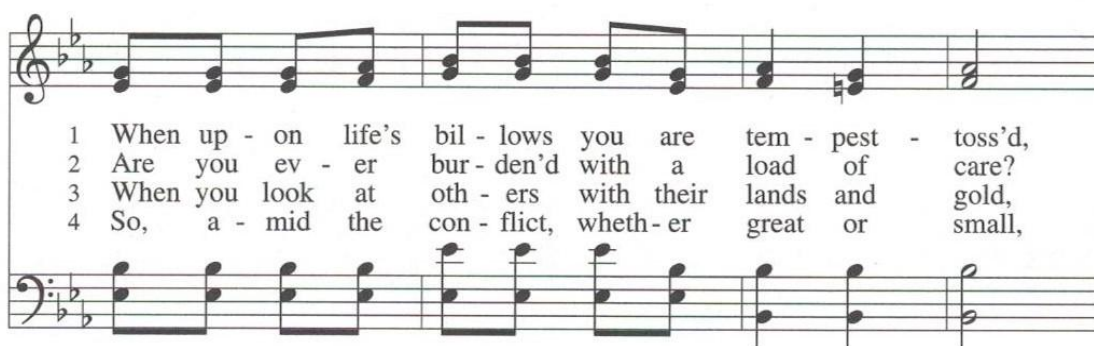
Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886
 Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918

CONVERSE
 87 87 D

When upon Life's Billows

Count Your Blessings

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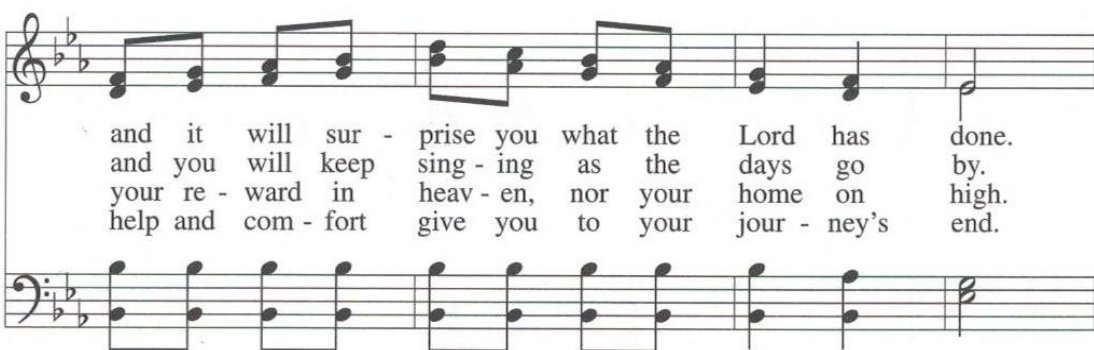
1 When up - on life's bil - lows you are tem - pest - toss'd,
 2 Are you ev - er bur - den'd with a load of care?
 3 When you look at oth - ers with their lands and gold,
 4 So, a - mid the con - flict, wheth - er great or small,



when you are dis - cour - aged, think - ing all is lost,
 Does the cross seem heav - y you are called to bear?
 think that Christ has prom - ised you his wealth un - told;
 do not be dis - heart - en'd, God is o - ver all;



count your man - y bless - ings, name them one by one,
 Count your man - y bless - ings, ev - 'ry doubt will fly,
 count your man - y bless - ings, wealth can nev - er buy
 count your man - y bless - ings, an - gels will at - tend,



and it will sur - prise you what the Lord has done.
 and you will keep sing - ing as the days go by.
 your re - ward in heav - en, nor your home on high.
 help and com - fort give you to your jour - ney's end.

Hymn continued on next page

Refrain

Count your bless-ings, name them one by one;

Count your man - y bless - ings, name them one by one;

count your bless-ings, see what God has done!

count your man - y bless - ings, see what God has done!

Count your bless-ings, name them one by one;

Count your man - y bless - ings,

and it will sur - prise you what the Lord has done.

Text: Johnson Oatman Jr., 1856-1922
 Music: Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921