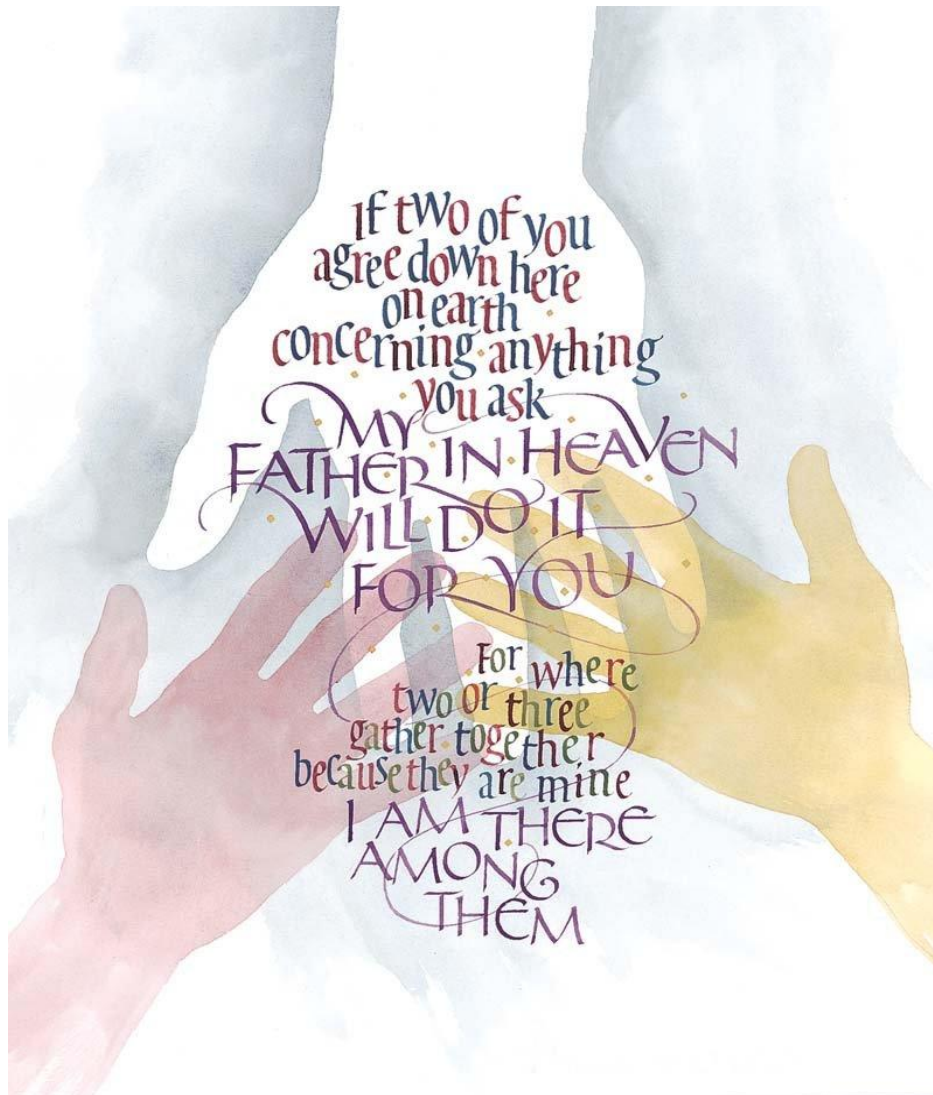


**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Belleville, PA**



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 10, 2023**

**PRELUDE  
WELCOME**

Early fall gives us new ways to appreciate God's magnificence and beauty. Tinges of red leaves are appearing on the trees and just one month ago a new glowing green comet was discovered! On a clear morning in September it may be visible before sunrise in its once every 450 years orbit near the earth. Let us join in worship with awe for the blessings and surprises God brings us this day.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*HYMN ~ *Earth and All Stars!*

LBW # 558

558

*Earth and All Stars!*

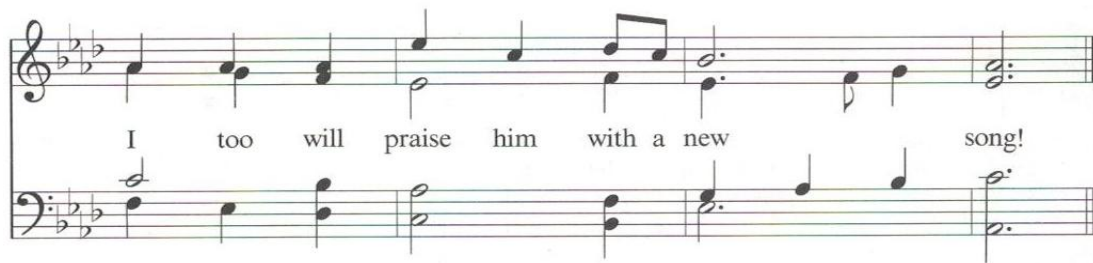
1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets! Sing to the  
 2 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm! Sing to the  
 3 Trum-pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the  
 4 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers! Sing to the

Lord a new song! Oh, vic - to - ry!  
 Lord a new song! Flow - ers and trees!  
 Lord a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre!  
 Lord a new song! Lime-stone and beams!

Loud shout - ing ar - my! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Loud rus - tling dry leaves! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Loud hum - ming cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Loud build - ing work - ers! Sing to the Lord a new song!

*Refrain*  
 He has done mar - vel - ous things.

*Continued on next page*



5 Classrooms and labs!  
 Loud boiling test tubes!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Athlete and band!  
 Loud cheering people!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

6 Knowledge and truth!  
 Loud sounding wisdom!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Daughter and son!  
 Loud praying members!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

### \*CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

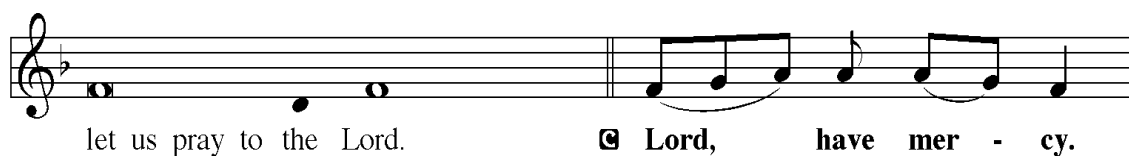
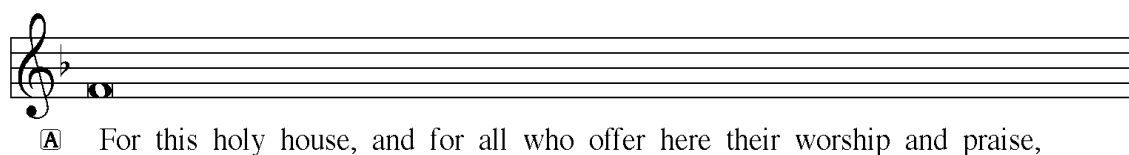
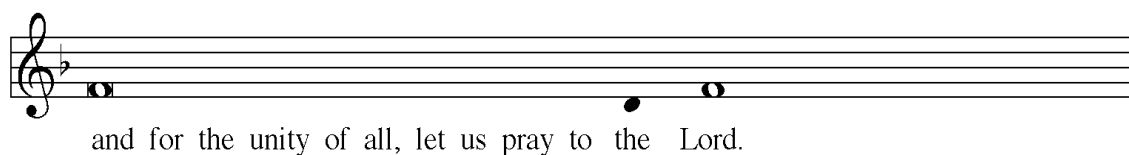
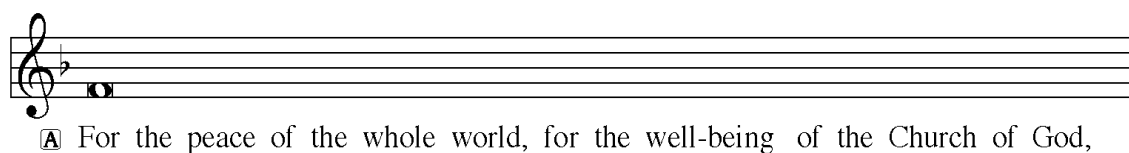
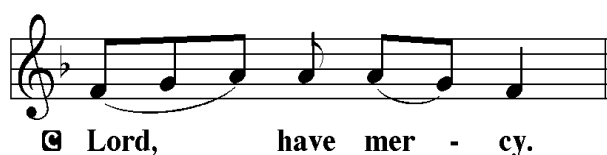
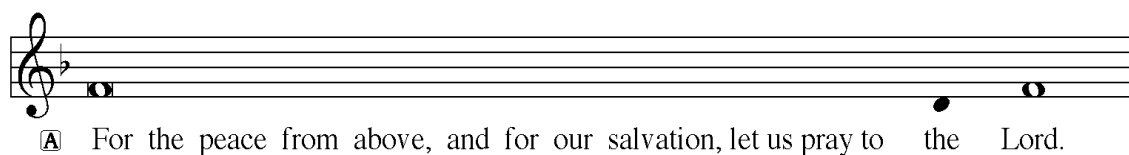
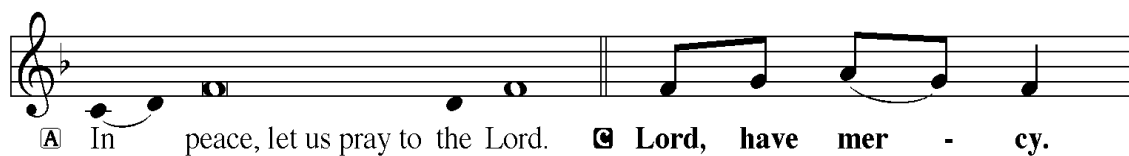
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

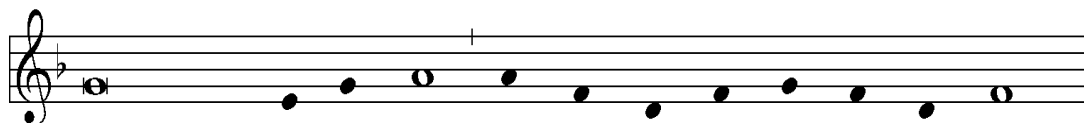
C **Amen**

**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.

### \*KYRIE



**\*HYMN of PRAISE**

♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



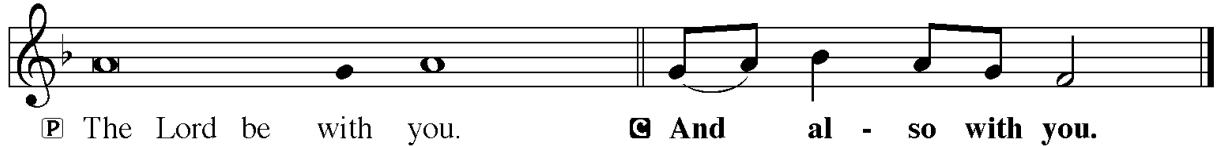
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

**\*PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison)**

P Let us pray...

**O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**LESSONS**

First Lesson ~ A reading from Ezekiel 33:7-11

*after the reading*

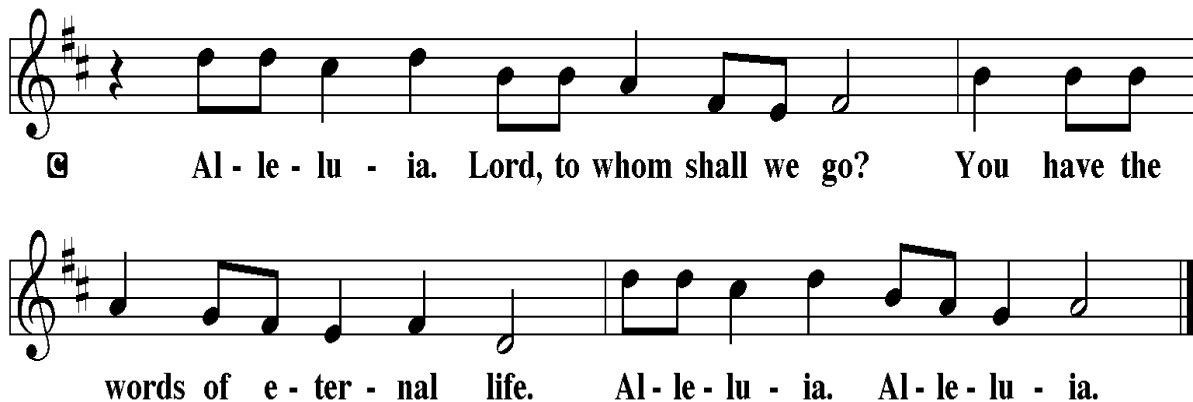
R The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:33-40 ~ *with response*

Second Lesson ~ A reading from Romans 13:8-14

*after the reading*

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

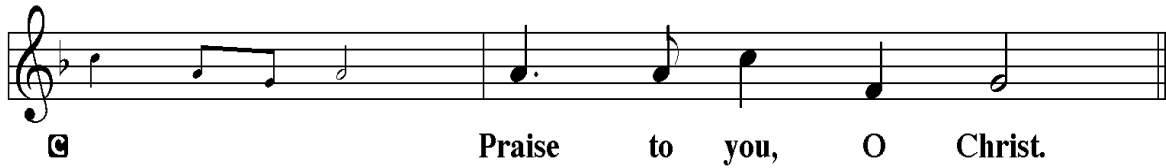
Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.





*The Gospel is read. After the reading*

P The Gospel of the Lord



## MESSAGE

HYMN ~ *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

LBW # 549

## Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven 549

Musical notation for the hymn "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven." The score is written for voice and piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To his feet your trib - ute bring.  
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor To our fore - bears in dis - tress.  
 3 Ten - der - ly he shields and spares us; Well our fee - ble frame he knows.  
 4 An - gels help us to a - dore him, Who be - hold him face to face.

Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, Ev - er - more his prais - es sing.  
 Praise him, still the same for - ev - er, Slow to chide and swift to bless.  
 In his hands he gent - ly bears us, Res - cues us from all our foes.  
 Sun and moon bow down be - fore him; All who dwell in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**OFFERING** ~ you may leave your gifts in one of the offering plates at the end of the front and back pews.

**\*OFFERTORY**


Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -

it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take

not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the

joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.



**\*PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ~ See Celebrate**

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

**\*THE BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

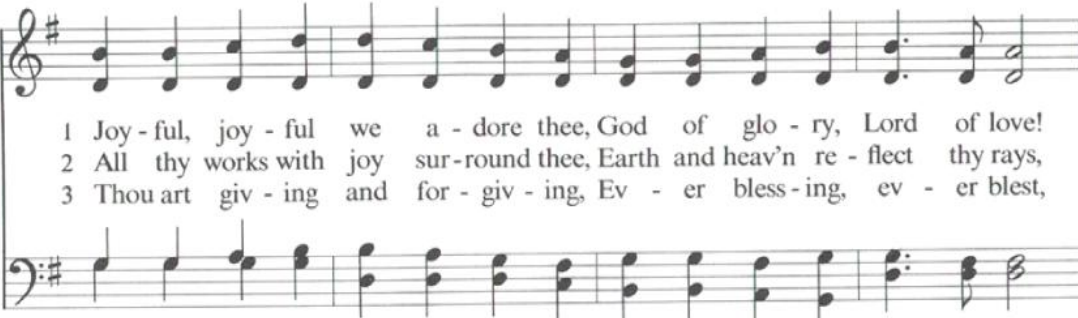
C Amen

## \*HYMN ~ Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

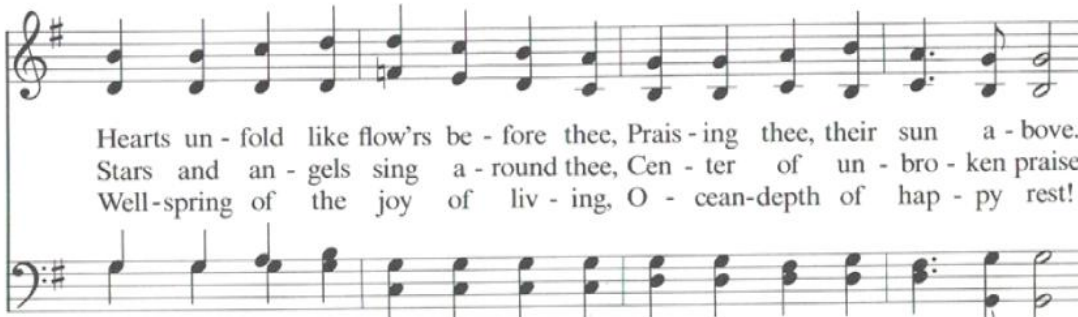
LBW 551

## Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

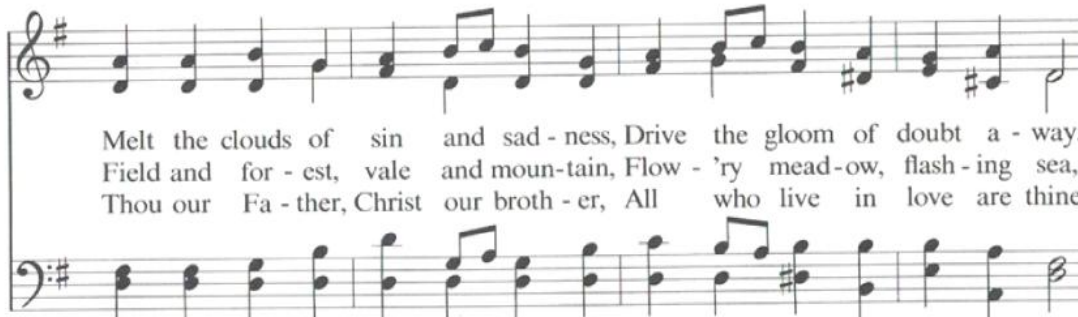
551



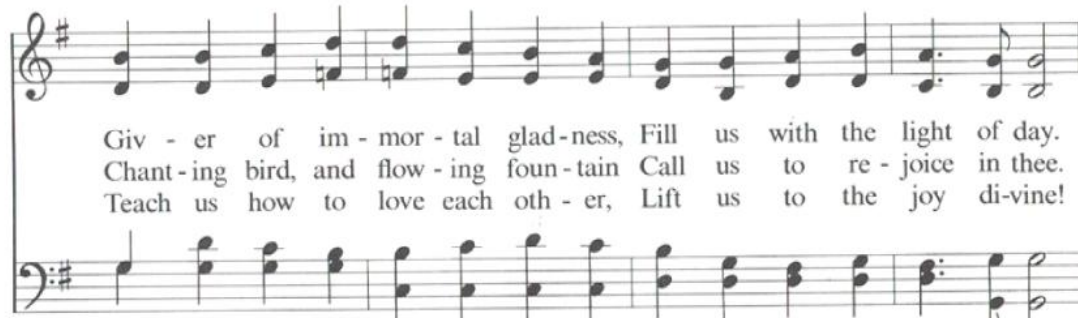
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, Prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, All who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
 Chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain Call us to re - joice in thee.  
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di-vine!

**\*DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord

**R Thanks be to God**

**POSTLUDE**

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

**Music Ministry:** Seulki Susie Yoo

**Today**

**Greeter:** Deb French; **Lay Reader:** Deb French

**Altar Care:** Georgianna Buchanan; **Sound:** Joe Kanagy

**Next Sunday, September 17**

**Greeters:** Jim and Georgianna Buchanan; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

**Altar Care:** Georgianna Buchanan; **Sound:** Jay Byler

**Church Office:** 935-2032; **Email us at** [secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org)

**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.*

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
by Ed and Lori Kirchoff and family in loving memory of  
Mike and Jane Wagner and Tom and Gladys Mahady.

Please remember in prayer ~ Sarah Robertson (neck surgery, Pastor's niece),  
Miriam Williamson, Anne Peachey, Desa Keiser, Elliana Byler, Kyung Sun Yim,  
Bob Treaster, Samantha Smith, members ~ Joyce Stuck (Greenwood Village),  
Betty Harmon (Celebration Villa) and Don Wolfe (VVH).

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Thursday, September 14 ~ 6:30pm Council meeting

Sunday, September 24 ~ Adult SS class resumes in the blue room

Sunday, October 1 ~ Blanket Sunday

## FROM the PASTOR

CHOIR: Lisa Griffith will be back and will start rehearsals for a multi-church choir on Sept 23 11AM in the West Kish choir room. A SATB arrangement of Kumbaya is one of the songs that may be sung.

### ELCA news:

Sept 10 has been designated by the ELCA “God’s Work Our Hands Sunday.” Another day may be chosen by each congregation to honor this or it may just serve as a reminder to keep our eyes out for ways to extend service into the community.

### SYNOD news:

All are invited to celebrate **Pastor Kenneth Longfield’s 50th Anniversary of Ordination**

October 8th, 10:45 at Holy Communion Lutheran Church, Yeagertown  
Worship service with Bishop Miller and Reception about Noon.

### SYNOD PRAYERS for September 10

#### *Sep. 10 Young Adult in Global Mission*

God of Light, our young adult missionaries may have the difficult task of finding ways into the communities in which they serve. They have many choices, ideas, and suggestions. Experience shows us that what works well in one place does not necessarily work in other areas. For this reason, we are asking You to guide their plans and bless the work of their hands.

Merciful God... receive our prayer.

September 27, 2023 @ 8:15 pm – 9:30 pm

A reminder that Camp Mount Luther’s Young Adult Fellowship meets via Zoom on the last Wednesday of every month. On September 27, 2023, we will meet at 8:15 p.m. for check-ins and Bible study. If you consider yourself a young adult, you can join us! Questions or want the link? Email [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The season of Advent begins in three months, and we are going to compile a devotional, with help from West Kish members **IF**, enough people are interested. This year will focus on the four themes of Advent ~ Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Volunteers are needed to write the meditations. A sign-up sheet along with scripture readings can be found in the narthex.

St. John's has Meals on Wheels the end of September/beginning of October. There is a sign-up in the narthex for desserts, along with monetary donations to purchase pies. Money can be given to Sue Lynch, or dropped off at the office.

In order to comply with state regulations, the daycare is required to upgrade the type of smoke detectors being used throughout the building. The old ones, which are still in good usable condition (replacement recommendations are 10 years from the date listed on the device), need a home to protect. A box containing the old detectors has been placed in the narthex. Please feel free to take one.

January 1 thru September 6, 2023

Last week's attendance ~ 25      Offering ~ \$ 2,575.00

St. John's ~ Income \$173,721.55      Expense \$ 183,202.33

Net Income \$ - 9,480.78

Daycare ~ Income \$ 222,613.35      Expense \$ 233,202.01

Net Income - \$10,588.66