

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



**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023**

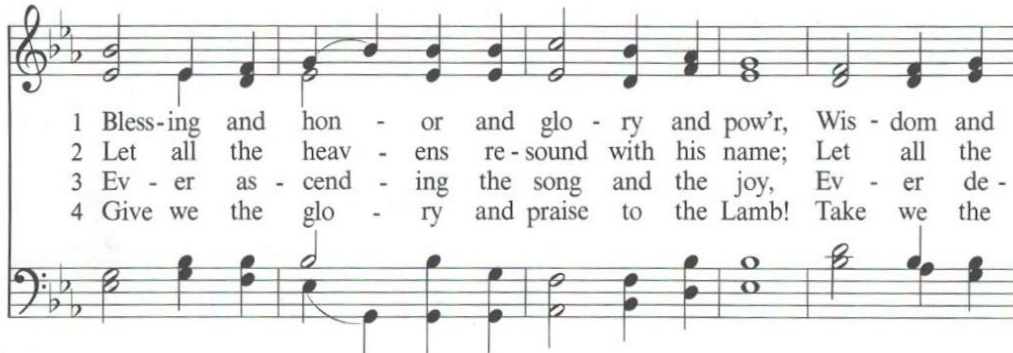
**PRELUDE
WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*HYMN ~ *Blessing and Honor*

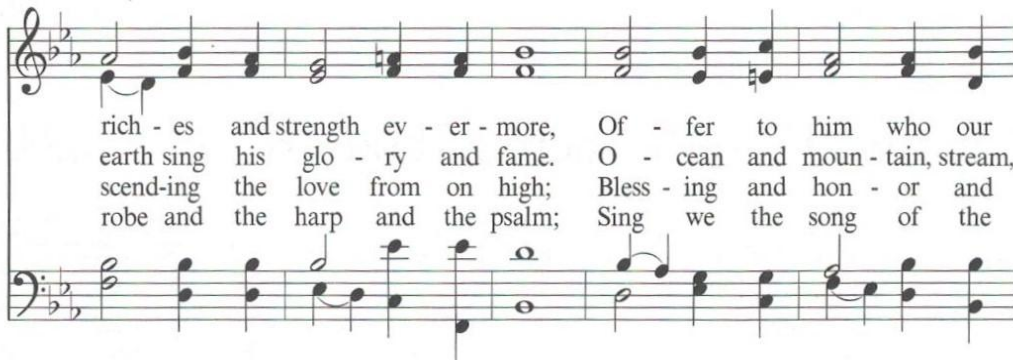
LBW # 525

525

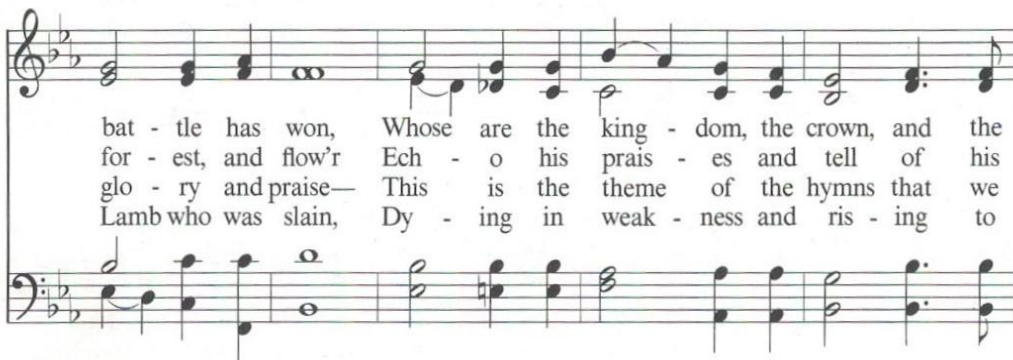
Blessing and Honor



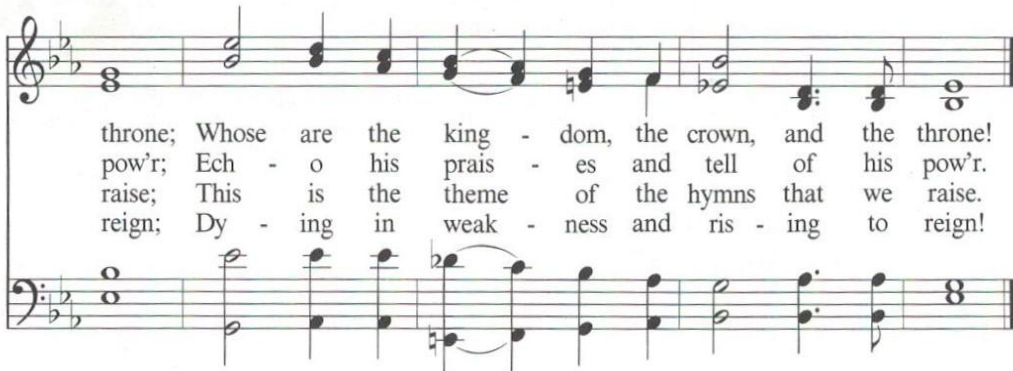
1 Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and pow'r, Wis - dom and
2 Let all the heav - ens re - sound with his name; Let all the
3 Ev - er as - cend - ing the song and the joy, Ev - er de -
4 Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb! Take we the



rich - es and strength ev - er - more, Of - fer to him who our
earth sing his glo - ry and fame. O - cean and moun - tain, stream,
scend-ing the love from on high; Bless - ing and hon - or and
robe and the harp and the psalm; Sing we the song of the



bat - tle has won, Whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the
for - est, and flow'r Ech - o his prais - es and tell of his
glo - ry and praise— This is the theme of the hymns that we
Lamb who was slain, Dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to



throne; Whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the throne!
pow'r; Ech - o his prais - es and tell of his pow'r.
raise; This is the theme of the hymns that we raise.
reign; Dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to reign!

***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,

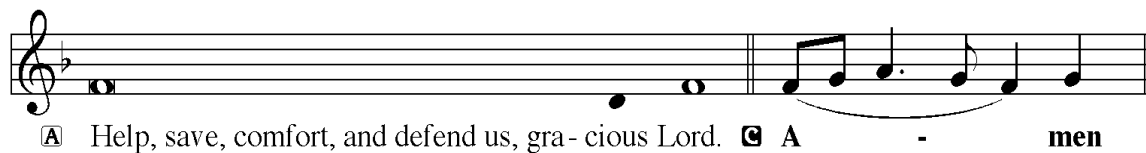
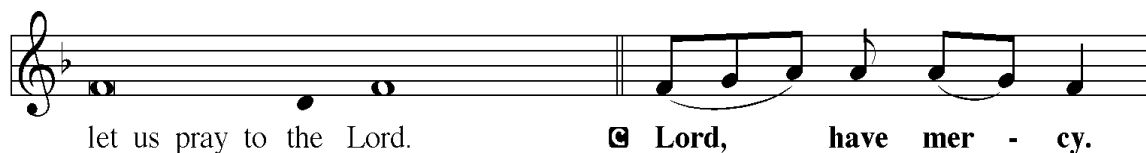
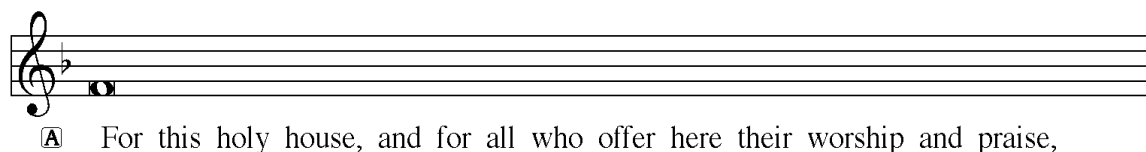
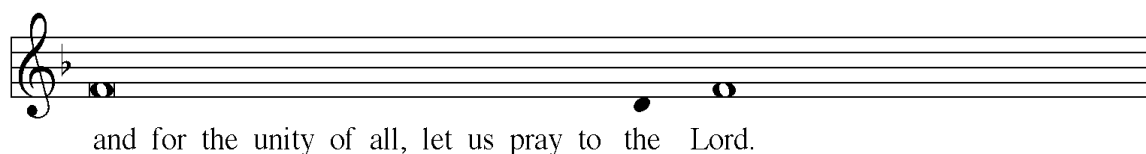
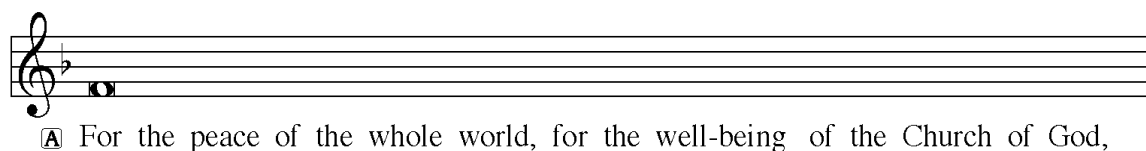
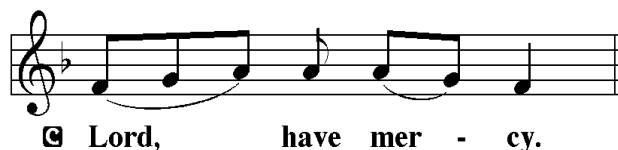
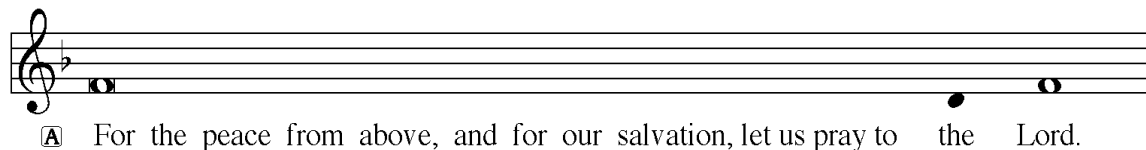
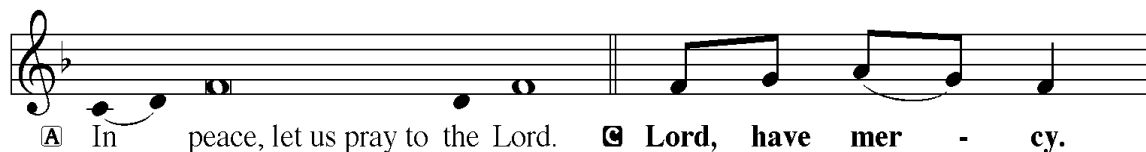
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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**

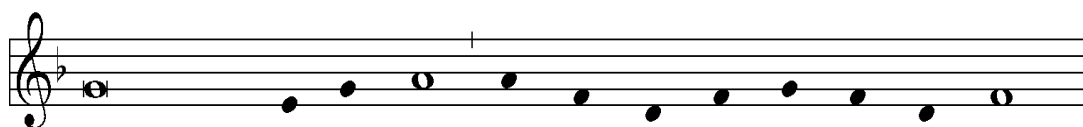
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son,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

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



B 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.



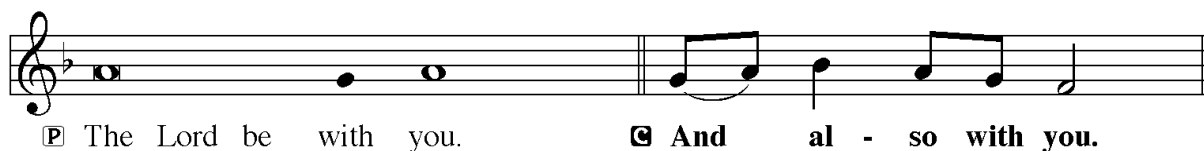
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



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...

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LESSONS

First Lesson ~ A reading from Jonah 3:10-4:11

after the reading

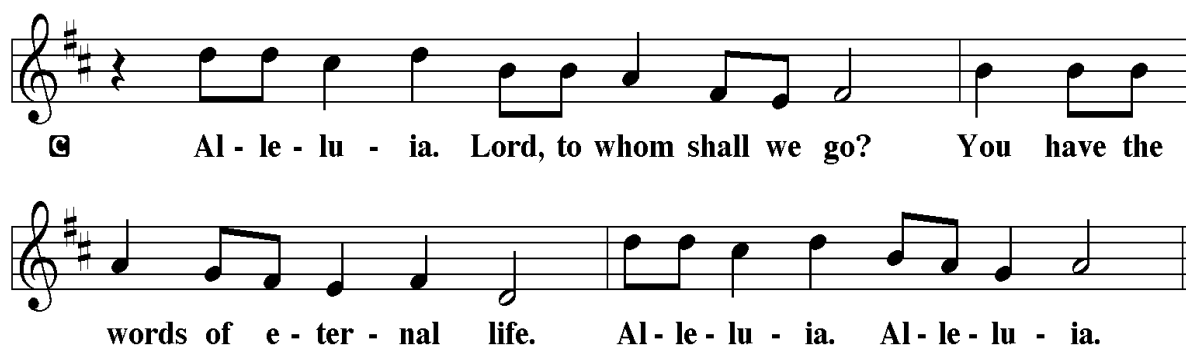
R The word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:1-8 ~ *with response*

Second Lesson ~ A reading from Philippians 1:21-30

after the reading

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

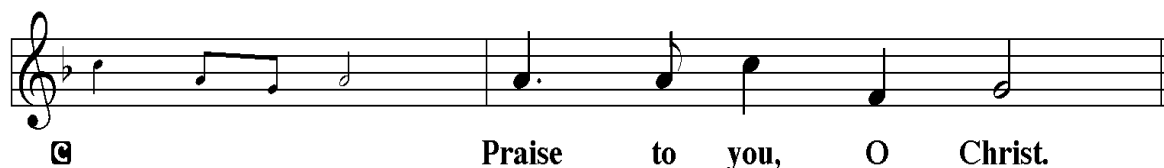
***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter.



The Gospel is read. After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord



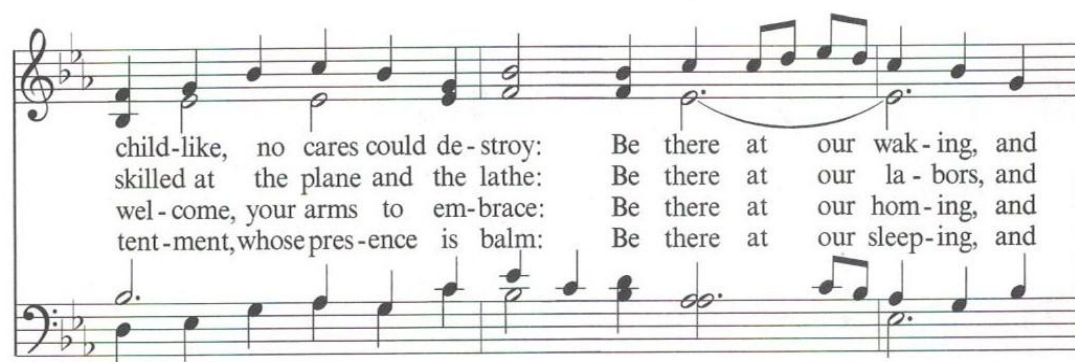
MESSAGE ~ Pastor Harold Sharp (please turn to last page of bulletin)

HYMN ~ *Lord of All Hopefulness*

LBW # 469

Lord of All Hopefulness

469



***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 ~ O Zion, Haste

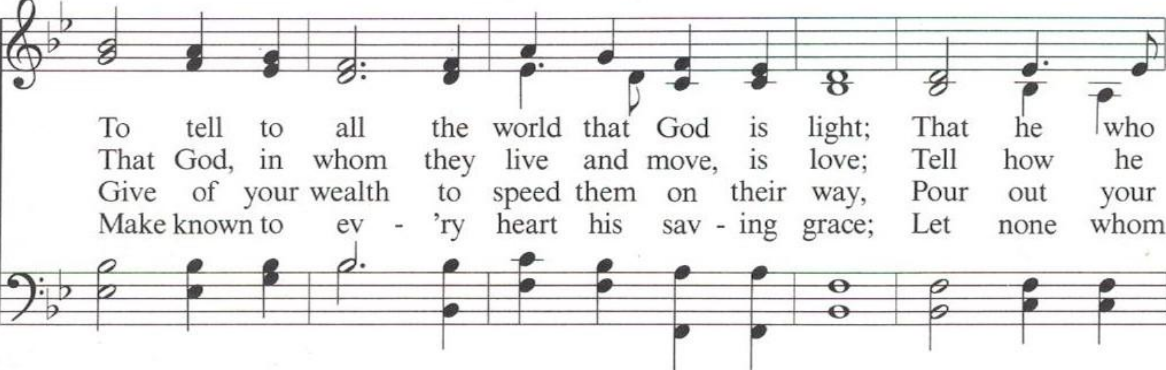
LBW 397

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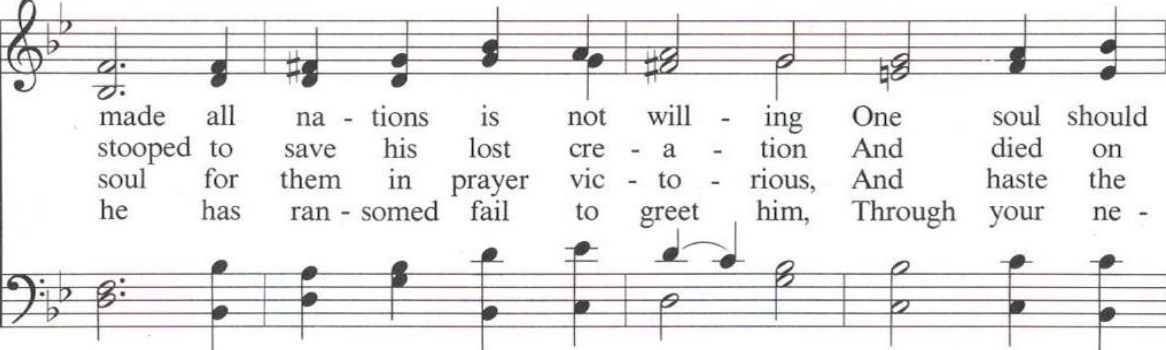
O Zion, Haste



1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
 2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
 3 Give of your own to bear the mes - sage glo - rious,
 4 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,



To tell to all the world that God is light; That he who
 That God, in whom they live and move, is love; Tell how he
 Give of your wealth to speed them on their way, Pour out your
 Make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace; Let none whom



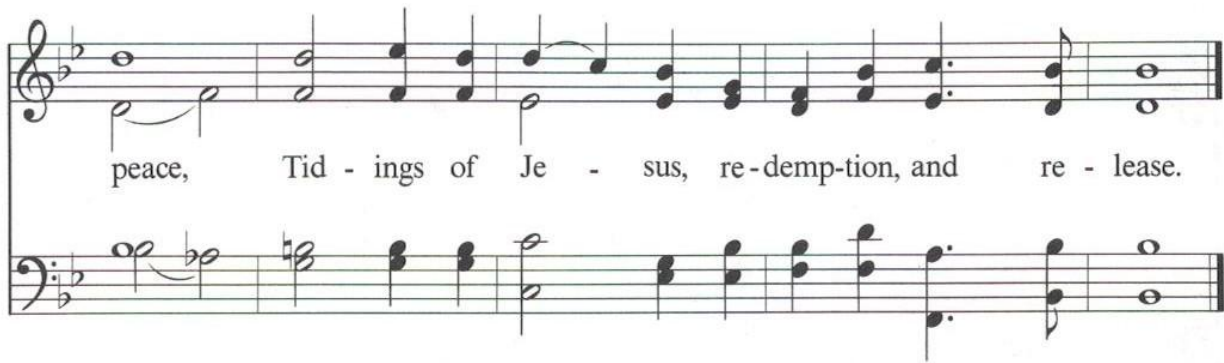
made all na - tions is not will - ing One soul should
 stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion And died on
 soul for them in prayer vic - to - rious, And haste the
 he has ran - somed fail to greet him, Through your ne -

Refrain



per - ish, lost in shades of night.
 earth that we might live a - bove. Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of
 com - ing of the glo - rious day.
 glect, un - fit to see his face.

Continued on next page



***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

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

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

Next Sunday, October 1

Greeters: Ken and Nancy Wyland; **Lay Reader:** Ken Wyland

Altar Care: Carol Fultz; **Sound:** Ed Bilich

Church Office: 935-2032; **Email us at** 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
Eleanore Rachau in loving memory of husband, Richard
and her parents, William and Marian Steffey.

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).

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.

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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Harold Sharp for delivering the message this morning, and to Ed Bilich for leading worship, while Pastor Ela enjoys some time off.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to provide desserts for Meals on Wheels this week and next. Please be sure to have your food at the Community Hall by 9am the day it is needed.

Next week is Blanket Sunday. A selection of comforts which were lovingly pieced, sewn and knotted by our Knotters, will be displayed in the narthex and sanctuary. **Envelopes are included in this week's bulletin and can be found in the narthex.** Donations to support this mission can be made through Sunday, October 8th.

A congregational meeting is being held following the worship service on Sunday, October 8. Letters were mailed out to all active members this past Thursday. If you did not receive one, please contact the church office.

REMINDER ~ Worship will be held at 9:00am that day, with the meeting immediately following (approximately 9:30am).

For anyone who cannot attend Pastor Longfield's celebration, cards may be sent to him at PO Box 127, Reedsville 17084.

The season of Advent begins in a little over 2 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.

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 21, 2023

Last week's attendance ~ 24 Offering ~ \$1,935.00

St. John's ~ Income \$184,688.65* Expense \$ 191,031.35

Net Income \$ - 6,342.70

*\$5,000.00 was transferred from the money market account to cover expenses.

Daycare ~ Income \$ 230,289.08 Expense \$ 248,283.93

Net Income - \$17,994.85

The Smell Test

Exploring our "Spiritual" senses

I. Sight:

Eph. 1:17-20 The eyes of your heart.

II Cor. 5:17 With eyes of faith, not physical sight.

Jn. 5:19 What He sees His Father doing.

II. Hearing:

Matt. 11:15 He who has ears, let him hear.

Matt. 13:16 Our ears are blessed when we hear.

III. Taste:

Ps. 34:8 Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Ps. 119:103-104 How sweet are your words from them I gain understanding.

IV. Touch:

Don't touch anything that's unclean.

V. Smell:

Does this pass the smell test?

I Pet. 2:2-3 "Crave pure spiritual milk, so you may grow up . . . now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.