

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



**Blanket Sunday  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 1, 2023**

**PRELUDE  
WELCOME  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

315 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - 'ry trou - bled  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us all thy life re -  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less let us

down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful  
 breast; Let us all in thee in - her - it; Let us find thy  
 ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy  
 be; Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re -

mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; Vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
 Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, Pray, and praise thee  
 Till in heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our

*Continued on next page*



**\*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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

**\*GREETING**

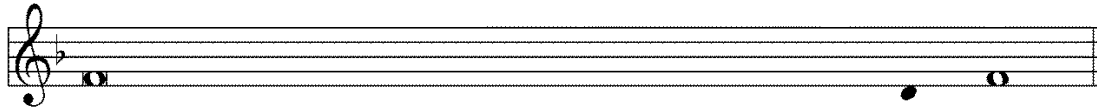
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

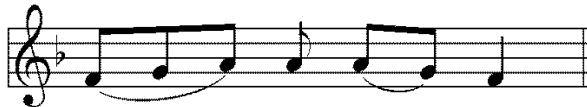
**\*KYRIE**



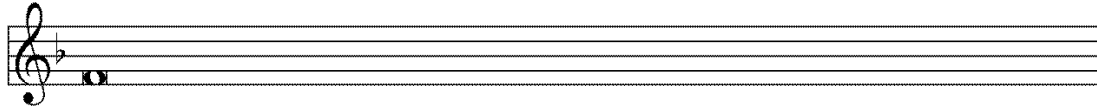
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



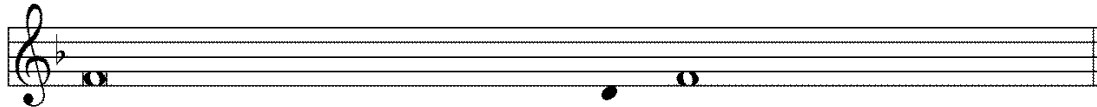
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



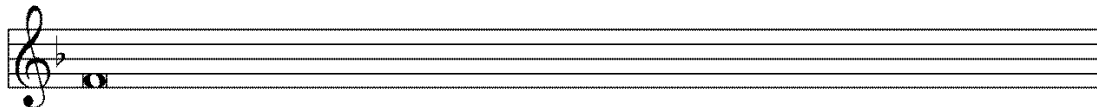
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



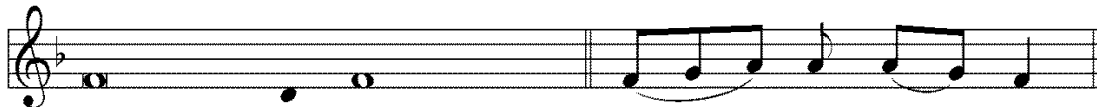
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



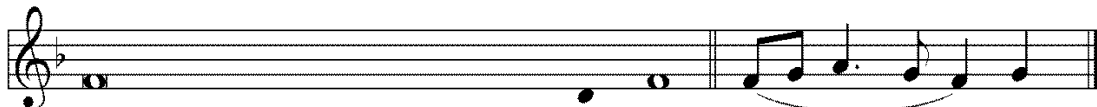
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

**\*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)**

Ⓟ The Lord be with you.      Ⓞ And al - so with you.

P Let us pray...

**God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**LESSONS**

First Lesson ~ A reading from Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

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

\*Psalm 25:1-9 ~ *with response*

\*Second Lesson ~ A reading from Philippians 2:1-13

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

\*Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter:

Ⓞ Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

*After the reading*

P The Gospel of the Lord



**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE** ~ *Scott Yetter*

**\*HYMN** ~ *O Living Bread from Heaven*

**LBW #197**

197

**O Living Bread from Heaven**

1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well you feed your guest!  
 2 My Lord, you here have led me With - in your ho - liest place,  
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can death de - stroy.  
 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n - ly food, while here

The gifts that you have giv - en Have filled my heart with rest.  
 And here your - self have fed me With trea - sures of your grace;  
 And you have free - ly grant - ed The cup of end - less joy.  
 My course on earth is length - ened, To serve with ho - ly fear.

Oh, won - drous food of bless - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes!  
 For you have free - ly giv - en What earth could nev - er buy,  
 My Lord, I do not mer - it The fa - vor you have shown,  
 And when you call my spir - it To leave this world be - low,

My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows!  
 The bread of life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.  
 And all my soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore your throne.  
 I en - ter, through your mer - it, Where joys un - min - gled flow.

**\* BLESSING the COMFORTS**

God of all gifts, who teaches us compassion, we are eager to share your care with our neighbors. Fill these comforts with the warmth of your love, and every fiber with the promise of your presence. Bless the hands of these women who lovingly made them, and each person who receives one. May the miracle of these simple gifts bring them joy, and the knowledge they are wrapped in your love and care.

**C Amen**

**\*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**

**\*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.*

**\*PEACE**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

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



**\*OFFERTORY**

☞ Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
 cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
 seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
 Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
 prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**\*PREFACE**

**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you O Lord Holy Father through Christ our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn...

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san- na. Ho - san- na.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

P Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C 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**

### **Invitation to Communion:**

P Partake of the banquet, for all is now ready, taste and see that the Lord is good.

P The Bread of Life: the body of Christ, given for you;

**C Amen.**

P The Cup of the Covenant: the blood of Christ, shed for you.

**C Amen.**

### *After Communion*

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen**

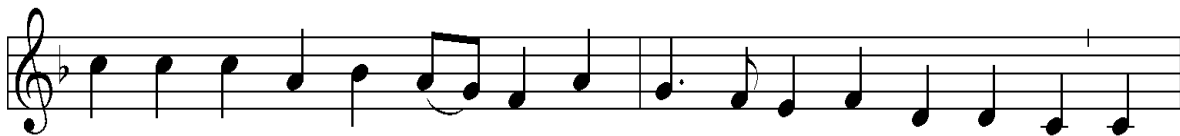
**\*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**P** Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you refresh us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C 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 Master, Let Me Walk with You**

LBW # 492

**O Master, Let Me Walk with You** **492**

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you In low - ly  
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,  
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me A clos - er,  
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

paths of ser - vice true; Tell me your se - cret;  
 win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward  
 dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith  
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, In peace that on - ly

help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.  
 feet to stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.  
 sweet and strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,  
 you can give; With you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

**\*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:** Ken and Nancy Wyland; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

**Altar Care:** Carol Fultz; **Sound:** Jay Byler

**Next Sunday, October 8**

**Greeters:** Bob and Susan Keller; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

**Altar Care:** Carol Fultz; **Sound:** Joe Kanagy

**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 Buck and Sandra Metz in memory of their parents.

Please remember in prayer ~ Fred Miller and Buck Metz (Greenwood Village for rehab), 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).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thank you to Scott Yetter, Director of the Lumina Center for delivering the message this morning, Ed Bilich for leading worship, and Pastor Rosalie for helping with communion, while Pastor Ela continues to enjoy time off.

A congregational meeting is being held following the worship service next Sunday, October 8 to discuss and vote on possibly changing our worship time. **REMINDER ~ Worship will be held at 9:00am that day, with the meeting immediately following (approximately 9:30am).**



The October newsletter can be found in the mailboxes of those members who do not receive it by email.

Pastor Robertson will be away through Wednesday, October 11. Pastor Rick Adams (717) 253-0235 is providing emergency pastoral care.

Today is Blanket Sunday. A selection of comforts which were lovingly pieced, sewn and knotted by our *Knotters*, are displayed in the narthex and sanctuary. **Envelopes were included in last week's bulletin and can be found in the narthex.**

Donations to support this mission can be made through next Sunday, October 8th.

The Alzheimer's disease fundraising recital Susie was planning for later today has been postponed due to a hand injury she sustained. We pray for God's grace and healing.

The Adult Sunday school which meets in the blue room resumed on Sunday, September 24. Michele Harshbarger and Ed Bilich are leading the weekly sessions. You are invited to come and join.

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

A special service to celebrate Rev. Ken Longfield's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination to Word and Sacrament Ministry is being held next Sunday, October 8 at Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Yeagertown, beginning at 10:45am. Those wishing to carpool, please meet in the church parking lot following the congregational meeting.

For anyone who cannot attend, cards may be sent to him at PO Box 127, Reedsville 17084.

The season of Advent begins in 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.

## Personality Retreat at Camp Mt. Luther

On Saturday, October 14, CML Associate Director and certified MBTI practitioner Rev. Jim Vitale will offer a **retreat on the intersection between personality and spirituality**. Participants will be invited to take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) assessment before the retreat and then gather at Camp Mount Luther to learn more about the true selves God has created them to be. The retreat will begin with refreshments at 9am and close with dinner at 5pm. It will include time for prayer, reflection, rest, and discussion. It is open to *everyone* over the age of 18. The cost of the event is \$85 and includes the price of the MBTI assessment. You can register here at this link: <https://forms.gle/PBUh6jzeW8SvR72t6>

Once you have registered, Jim will send you more information, including an exclusive link to the official MBTI assessment. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Jim at [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org).

January 1 thru September 28, 2023

Last week's attendance ~ 20      Offering ~ \$1,360.00

St. John's ~ Income \$185,448.65      Expense \$193,400.50

\*Net Income \$ -7,951.85

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

Daycare ~ Income \$ 233,323.99      Expense \$ 261,646.66

\*Net Income - \$28,322.67

\* Due to the budget impasse this summer, St. John's Pre-K Counts preschool program along with schools and colleges across PA, are still awaiting funding from the state. The daycare has been paying the Pre-K salaries and other expenses until the monies are paid out, which should be this month according to the last update. The net income figure will decrease once funding has been received.

## *St. John's Knotters*

Walk into our church library on a given Thursday morning, and there you will find a small group of women standing over one of the tables talking, laughing...and knotting. These women are St. John's Knotters. No one is certain when the knotters group began, but our earliest directory in 1985 includes a picture of several women in the blue room/library standing over a quilt frame. Today the women still meet there, on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from September thru May, weather permitting.

Each quilt takes five to six hours to complete, with members contributing a certain skill. While the sewing is done by some of the women with that talent, it takes the "combined efforts" of everyone involved to see each one through to completion.

Patches which have been cut and ironed are laid out to create a pattern which consists of 11 rows, with 8 patches per row. Numbered stickers are attached to each patch and they are placed in a box for sewing. The patches are sewn together by rows, which are then trimmed and assembled by row to complete the comfort top. An iron is run over them again, before being brought up to the church where they are matched with a back and placed in the cupboard to be knotted.

On knotting day, sets are selected. A pre-cut piece of batting is placed between the top and bottom piece and clamped to a table. At this point, the ladies present gather around the tables, their fingers pushing the needle in and out, as each 8" square patch is knotted. The top and batting are evenly trimmed, and the top is measured to give a 2" binding and trimmed accordingly. The binding is then sewn around the comfort.

Each of the finished comforts is functional and beautiful, with no two alike. Much of the material used for the patches and backs is donated, or picked up at yard sales and thrift stores. During the year, large rolls of batting are purchased at a local Dry Goods store. On average, twelve pieces of filler are measured and cut from each roll. Nothing useable is ever thrown away.

Boxes for packing normally come from Valley View and/or Sharp Shopper. Volunteers throughout the years have transported them to various locations. They are then sent on to the Lutheran World Relief Distribution Center, in New Windsor, Maryland until needed. No one knows where they will end up and who the recipients will be.

St. John's Knotters have turned quilting into a mission -- and a ministry. It is obvious that they are serving God, and their purpose is to show others that God loves them - in the gift of a quilt. When you have been the victim of a devastating war, hurricanes, or other disaster and literally have nothing, the gift of a comfort can be everything.

Thank you ladies!