

November 1, 2020

9:30 AM Worship

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

**Welcome to Worship
at
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

As we resume in-person worship, please know that we will need to be flexible with worship and we will make adjustments as necessary as the pandemic continues. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding!

Please keep in mind:

- We ask that you not attend in-person worship if you have had a fever, cough, runny nose, have been in contact with anyone who has COVID-19 or have traveled outside the state of PA in the last two weeks.
- We will practice social distancing. The ushers will direct you to your seat and dismiss folks pew by pew at the end of worship. Once seated, please do not move about the sanctuary.
- The bathroom across from Pastor Becky's office is available for all to use in emergency situations only. Please follow guidelines posted on the bathroom mirror.
- Masks are required, following CDC recommendations. If you need a mask, we can provide one for you.
- If you bring your offering with you to worship, please place it in the offering baskets located at the door when you enter worship or when you exit worship.
- We ask that you take your bulletin with you or recycle it in the blue bin at the door when you exit worship.
- When communion is celebrated, please dispose of your trash using the trash can at the door when you exit.
- As we move through our worship, there will be no congregational singing. Hymn verses are provided for your prayerful reflection as the hymn is played. Any bolded congregational responses are for the entire congregation to respond with as we move through our worship service.

Online Worship continues through Zoom. The link for worship is available on the website and in the weekly email.

If you have questions or concerns, please speak with either Pastor Becky, Erika Haldeman (chair of Worship and Music and the Return to Church Taskforce) or Colleen Carlin (council president).

WORSHIP NOTES

Pentecost is the season of the church year that lasts the longest – it begins with the celebration of the Day of Pentecost, the third major festival of the church year with Christmas and Easter and continues for months. Since the season of Pentecost stretches over the entire summer into the fall, the church has labeled it Ordinary Time and the color for this season is green. Green because it's a season of growing – a season when the church focuses on how to be church in light of the Ascension of Jesus. It's also a season that focuses on our discipleship, as we seek to be committed followers of Jesus. There are a few festivals that dot the ordinary season of Pentecost – some at the beginning and some near the end. Towards the beginning, we have the Day of Pentecost, with its fiery imagery of doves and wind and Holy Trinity Sunday, the only Sunday in the church year that is dedicated to a doctrine of the church. Towards the end of the season of Pentecost, there are three festivals we lift up – Reformation, All Saints' Sunday and Christ the King Sunday.

PRAYER LIST

The following names have been added to the prayer list: Alex Kunkel, Bob Moran, Betsy Rodger, Robin Seasock, Paige Seasock, Peyton Seasock, Nancy Terpoilli, Brian Allebach, Jerry Price, Glen Van Dyke, Charles Krupp, Donna DiDio, RuthAnn Jadick, Jean Leister, Steve Gebert, Kenny Nace, Tom Ciesielka, Abigail and Eric Hails, Veronica and Alfi Marcillo, Sonny Carson, Frank Puskoskie, Michael Wheeler, Patricia Wheeler, Ann Brown Hager, Alyssa Gegan, and Steve Sanko.

Names are kept on the prayer list for three weeks unless specifically requested by the family or for those struggling through long-term illness or treatment. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 215-234-4888 or stj.stown@verizon.net.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE Deep River *and* Shall We Gather at the River – setting, Oines

WELCOME

Please rise in body or spirit.

GREETING

St. John's is a community that is

Ignited by Spirit, Growing in Love.

We begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Holy One,

we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN ELW 422 For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism in to death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

REMEMBRANCE OF ALL SAINTS

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come: We give you thanks for all your faithful people who have followed the light of your word throughout the centuries into our time and place.

In joyful expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, we remember this day those who have gone before us in faith and who now rest from their labors, especially those family members and friends who are dear to us.

Virginia Zepp

Hazel Hoot

David Manion

Glenna Mutter

Dale Miller

Marjorie Schmoyer

Eva Godshall

Catherine Hunsberger

Jack Schantz

Harvey Bossert, Jr.

Martine Hersh

Itsu Feaser

Sara Shellaway

Larry Shipe

Melanie Vermillion

Alice Gregor

Joanne Little

At this time, the congregation can name friends and loved ones that you hold dear who have died in the past year.

As we remember these people, strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life, where suffering and death will be no more. Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN ELW 422 For All the Saints

But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

ALL SAINTS' SLIDESHOW

+ WORD +

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁸ For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Becky Schanely

MUSICAL OFFERING Lead Me Lord - arr. Hayes
Cathy Texter, soprano

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Blessed are those who believe and have not seen, Jesus says to Thomas. May we be so blessed,

For we believe

That God is our Creator, the Maker of all there is, known and unknown, seen and unseen, who created and is still creating this earth, this place we call home;

That Jesus of Nazareth is our Savior, the Redeemer of all there is, known and unknown, seen and unseen, who was crucified, died and rose, who was and is with us on this earth, this place we call home;

That God the Holy Spirit is our Breath, the Source of all there is, known and unknown, seen and unseen, who watched and watches, counseled and counsels, who called and calls us from the beginning of all things, who animated and animates us on this earth, this place we call home.

**We believe that this One God in Three Persons was and is and always will be.
Amen.**

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION – Jeff and Kristie Faust

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear our prayer, O God,
save us from all our troubles.

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to you, O God, forever and ever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

+ SENDING +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 423 Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robery Lowry, 1826-1899
Music: Hanson Place, Robert Lowery

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Praise! – Martin

As the postlude is played, you will be dismissed from your pew. Please follow the instructions of the usher as to when and where to exit the sanctuary. Please take your bulletin with you and either take it home or place it in the blue recycle bin by the door.

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Tue 11/3 -Election Day

Fri 11/6 - Blood Drive 2-7 pm (sign up at www.redcrossblood.org)

Sat 11/9 - Soup & Stew drive for Open Link, 9-11am back of church

Sun 11/8 - In-Person Worship 9:30 am

WORSHIP NOTES

Are you worshipping with us in-person? Are you comfortable serving as a **reader** within worship? We have started using readers again for the first reading. Readers would be permitted to remove their mask to do the reading at the lectern, but must wear the mask while moving to and from the lectern. If you are willing to serve, please contact Vikki in the church office (215-234-4888 or stj.stown@verizon.net).

Usher teams will resume serving in worship in November. If you are currently on the usher list but do not feel comfortable serving at this time, please contact Vikki in the church office by October 11th. A schedule for November and December along with revised usher duties will be sent out to all ushers willing to serve.

Sponsoships for November 1st:

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of my mother Elsie (Oct 22) and my aunt Elsie Fries (Nov 18) by Mary Jane Dzurenda.

The bulletins are given in memory of William Radcliff from his wife Cindy.

The boutonnières are given in honor of the birthday of Brian Gegan (11-8) by his wife Alyssa and son Daniel.

OPEN LINK FOOD PANTRY FOOD COLLECTION

To maintain our commitment as the **Soup and Stew Congregation** in the Upper Perkiomen Valley, the first weekend of the month this fall will be designated as Soup and Stew weekend! Donations of soup and stew are encouraged on those weekends.

Please bring your donations at the following times:

Saturdays—9-11 AM to the back entrance— Nov 7, Dec 5

Sundays—to 9:30 AM worship—Nov 8, Dec 6

The third weekend of the month will be a general food collection for the most needed items on Open Link’s list. Those donations can be brought at the following times:

Saturdays—9-11 AM to the back entrance— Nov 21, Dec 19

Sundays—to 9:30 AM worship—Nov 22, Dec 20

If you don’t feel comfortable going to the grocery store, monetary donations are always welcomed and then we can do the shopping for you! Place donations for Open Link Thanksgiving Collection in an envelope – make checks payable to Open Link.

Thank you for helping to feed the hungry in our local community!

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE

Worship Attendance 10/25/2020 - In Person - 36, Zoom - 34 households		
Giving Amounts	Total received between 10/11 -24/2020	Amount Needed between 10/11-24/2020
General Fund	\$8,174.00	\$10,918
Building Fund	\$462.50	
<p><i>Weekly average is based on the 2020 budget. A weekly building fund amount needed is no longer reported as the building fund has been used for the mortgage, which has been paid off. All other building expenses are included in General Fund budget and giving.</i></p> <p><i>The above numbers include electronic giving.</i></p> <p><i>Mint duty is being done every other week for the time being.</i></p>		

Capital Campaign Activity Update	
Capital Campaign Contributions Pledged	\$ 260,000.00
Capital Campaign Contributions received between 8/30-9/12/2020	\$102.50
Capital Campaign Contributions received to date	\$ 247,584.90



*Ignited by Spirit
Growing in Love*

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Reader - Cathy Sweeney

Ushers - Justine Quinn, Barry Long, Paul Barndt

ST. JOHN'S LEADERSHIP

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Colleen Carlin, President

Bob Conrad, Property

Erin Eisenhart, Worship and Music

Kristie Faust, Communications and Marketing

Matt Hoh, Vice President/ Staff Support

Elaine Keller, Secretary/ Faith Formation

Noreen Kelly, Finance

Barry Long, Member Engagement

Kathy Weidner, Outreach

Rev. Rebecca L. Schanely, Pastor

(pastorbecky74@gmail.com, 215-234-4580)

Vikki Shelor, Office Administrator (stj.stown@verizon.net)

Janet Aldinger, Director of Music (jeald@yahoo.com)

Michele Peart, Bookkeeper

Julie Hovanec, S.S. Superintendent

Bob Ernst, Facilities Manager

Michael Herm, Treasurer

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