



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell

Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com

610-277-1086

Staff:

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker, Director of Music

Ray Hopkins, Director of Youth and Family

Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator

Carrie Engel, Nursery School Director

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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 252 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2021.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

This service is livestreamed on our Facebook page and posted to YouTube.

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Order for Worship

Prelude ~ "Take Up Your Cross"

Duet – Kurt Klinger-Wilensky and Jonathan Oehler

"Take up your cross," the Savior said, "if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me."

Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up, and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and let your foolish pride be still;
the Lord for you accepted death, upon a cross on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.
Take up your cross and follow Christ.

Text: Charles William Everest

Music: Thomas Keesecker

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

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: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive 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 us, and for his sake God 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 \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Greeting

P: The grace and peace 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.**

Hymn of Praise ~ "Immortal Invisible"

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;
in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;
most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876

Prayer of the Day

- P:** O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C:** **Amen.**

Installation of Youth & Family Director and Blessing of the Backpacks

- P:** After prayerful deliberation,
we, here at St. John's Lutheran Church
have appointed *Ray Hopkins*
to serve in the position of *director of youth and family ministry*.
- P:** Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You come among us as one invited to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.
- P:** *Ray*, in the presence of this assembly
will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility,
in the confidence that it comes from God?
- Ray:** I will, and I ask God to help me.
- P:** Will you carry out this ministry in following your baptismal promises?
- Ray:** I will, and I ask God to help me.
- P:** Will you, trusting God, commit to this ministry in love and service, following the example of Jesus?
- Ray:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things,
graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

C: **Amen.**

P: People of God, will you Ray *into* this ministry
as one sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ?

C: **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

P: Will you pray for him, help and honor *him for his work's* sake,
and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

C: **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

P: *Ray*, I now declare you installed as *director of youth and family ministry*.
Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace,
that you may be a faithful servant of Christ.

Amen.

P: Almighty and ever-living God, as you called apostles and evangelists, pastors and teachers
to instruct, comfort, admonish, and care for us, so you have called *Ray*. Fill *him* with
wisdom and patience, with love, and with faithfulness to your word, that *he* may with
gladness teach, comfort, counsel, and guide your people to maturity in Christ Jesus, your
Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: People of God, let us welcome *Ray* in the name of Christ.

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A: The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116

(Cantor, then ALL)



I love the Lord, for the Lord has heard the cry of my appeal.
The Lord was attentive to me in the day when I called. **Refrain.**

They surrounded me, the snares of death, with the anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name. O Lord, my God deliver me! **Refrain.**

How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts; I was helpless, so God saved me. **Refrain.**

The Lord has kept my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. **Refrain.**

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

A: Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also, the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine yield fresh.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Sung Once by All.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Choir: Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. **(Repeat Alleluia)**

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

Hymn of the Day ~ "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied tree,
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947
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Apostles Creed

P: *Together, let us confess our faith:*

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

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

A: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Loving God, you dwell among all who experience hardship and the depths of distress. Twenty years on, there are still so many loose threads and upended lives on account of the terror attacks of 9/11. Empower people of good will everywhere to be weavers of our collective life and uplifters of the downtrodden. Relieve every heart that rages and mourns and will not be settled. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of all people, we continue to pray for relief, medicine, compassion and an end to this pandemic. Inspire scientists, comfort healthcare workers. Bring peace, bring healing, bring aid. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. We pray for all who are sick especially Melissa, Tom, Kimberly, Jim, Joshua, Caroline, Jean, Lois, Dick, George, Robert, Tim, Kate, Cheryl, Susan, John, Randy, Dorothy, Robert, and Donna. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

This cross is the tree in which I take delight.
I take root in its roots; I am extended in its branches.
In my tent I am shaded by its shade; its flowers are my flowers;
I am wholly delighted by its fruits.
This cross is my nourishment when I am hungry,
My fountain when I am thirsty, covering when I am stripped.
For my leaves are no longer fig leaves, but the breath of life.
This cross is the ladder of Jacob, the way of blessed angels.

This cross is my tree, wide as the firmament,
extending from earth to the heavens.
This cross is the tree of life.

Text: Anonymous Good Friday Sermon

Music: Mark Mummert

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During this time, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:

- 1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this (stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com).*
- 2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.*
- 3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).*
- 4. You may make use of the offering plate located on a table near the church building.*

For communion: *Prepackaged elements are available on tables nearby. Be sure to take one. The chalice shaped cups are wine and wafer. There are purple topped cups with red and also cups with white grape juice. There are some GF cups with red grape juice that are labeled on the tab. All are welcome.*

Offertory Prayer

P: Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.

C: **Amen.**

The Meal

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also 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 our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

The meal is shared together with the pastor leading with the words, "The body of Christ, given for you." then, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Communion Hymn~ "We Eat the Bread of Teaching"

Refrain

We eat the bread of teach-ing, drink wine of wis - dom, are
 giv - en here a taste of the king - dom. To - geth - er
 joined, the great - est and the least, we all are
 one at Wis - dom's ho - ly feast.

- 1 Wis - dom calls through - out the cit - y, knows our
- 2 Sim - ple ones whose hearts are yearn - ing, come and
- 3 En - ter with de - light and sing - ing, for her

hun - ger, and in pit - y gives her lov - ing in - vi -
 gain from Wis - dom's learn - ing; bread and wine she is pre -
 rich - ness now is bring - ing us this joy - ous cel - e -

Refrain

ta - tion to the ban - quet of sal - va - tion.
 par - ing, know her lov - ing in the shar - ing.
 bra - tion; eat and drink in ju - bi - la - tion.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997
 Music: WISDOM'S FEAST, Jerry Ray Brubaker, b. 1946
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Benediction

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of all grace † bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You extend the grace of God to all.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude~ "Oh, Praise the Gracious Power"

Aaron David Miller

Assisting with Worship

Pastor
Director of Music
Lector
Cantors

Pastor Rachel Manke
Lawrence Baker
Diane Stein
Kurt Klinger-Wilensky and Jonathan Oehler

Announcements

Our next Food truck night will be September 29 from 4-8 p.m.

Spirit Walkers- Next meet-up will be Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Wentz Run Park.

Weekly Outdoor Services will continue Sundays at 10 a.m. These services will continue to be live streamed on YouTube as well as shared via email on Sunday evenings.

Do you get our emails? We send out important announcements and notifications through a weekly email. If you are not on our list, you are missing important things! Contact the office for help signing up.

Covid Team Update – We sent out a simple update in our weekly email last week, this includes new guidance for indoor masking for gatherings based on advice of CDC, Montgomery County and various other informed authorities.

When it Rains - A reminder that when our Praise Lot services are rained out, we do not meet in person. However, you can stream the service online on our Facebook or on YouTube later in the day and we'll see you again when the sun is out!

Save the Date Reminders:

- **Sept. 26** - Sunday School resumes
- **Sept. 29** - Food Truck Fellowship continues with the return of Roll M' Up Truck!
- **Oct. 3** - Blessing of the Animals
- **Oct. 10** – *The Arts at St. John's* ~ Music for Trumpet and Piano
- **Oct. 23** - Evangelism is host a Beer Tasting event. Tickets available after worship.
- **Oct. 31** - Trunk-or-Treat following worship

