



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021

10 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

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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.

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Order for Worship

Prelude ~ "Come, Let Us Make A Joyful Noise" Duet - Deborah Swider and Joy Schauer

Come, let us make a joyful noise, unto Thee, O Lord, our God;
Unto Thee I sing a song of praise unto our God, with the angelic, holy choir.

Come, let us serve the Lord with gladness, wake the song of praise;
Wake the song and worship the Lord, our God.

Text: adap. from Psalms
Music: G. F. Handel

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 † 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 ~ "Praise to the Lord"



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.

All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been

Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?

Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Prayer of the Day

- P: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 35: 4-7a

- A: Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
 "Be strong, do not fear!
 Here is your God.
 He will come with vengeance,
 with terrible recompense.
 He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
 and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
 and the thirsty ground springs of water.

- 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: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
(Repeat Alleluia)

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

P: Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So, she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn of the Day ~ "Light Dawns on a Weary World"



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Presentation of New Members~ Amy and Daniel Pfeiffer

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

A representative of the congregation or the presiding minister may introduce each new member.

P: Amy and Daniel Pfeiffer have come to our congregation from other corners of the church catholic.

Apostles' Creed

The presiding minister may introduce the Creed.

P: With the whole church and our siblings here, 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.**

Address and Questions

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

*Sister and brother in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism
among God's people in this place?*

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

- P: People of God,
do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?
C: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Welcome

Those being welcomed face the assembly. The presiding minister congregation addresses the assembly.

- P: Let us welcome this sister and brother in Christ to this community of faith.
C: **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

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: Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

- C: **hear our prayer.**

- A: You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Comfort and help all those affected by the powerful force of water this past week. Lord, in your mercy,

- C: **hear our prayer.**

- A: You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. Unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Bring equity in healthcare and Covid aid. Lord, in your mercy,

- C: **hear our prayer.**

- A: You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times, especially our siblings in Afghanistan. We pray for all who are sick especially Tom, Kimberly, Jim, Joshua, Caroline, Bruce, Jean, Karen, Lois, Dick, George, Robert, Tim, Kate, Cheryl, Susan, John, Randy, Dorothy, Robert, and Donna. Lord, in your mercy,

- C: **hear our prayer.**

- A: Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

- C: **hear our prayer.**

A: We give you thanks for our new members, Amy and Dan, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others. Lord in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. 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.**

Anthem~ " For Everyone Born"

Duet - Deborah Swider and Joy Schauer

For ev'ryone born, a place at the table, for ev'ryone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for ev'ryone born, a star overhead.
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song.
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong.
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For ev'ryone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for ev'ryone born, the right to be free!
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Brian Mann/arr, T. Trenney

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed 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.

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~ "Here is Bread"



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.
We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

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HERE IS BREAD

3 3 4 4 3 3 5 and refrain

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~ “Eine schöne Melodie.”

Einige talentierte Komponisten

Assisting with Worship

Pastor
Director of Music
Lector
Cantors

Pastor Rachel Manke
Lawrence Baker
Linda Maurer
Deborah Swider, Joy Schauer

Announcements

Welcome Amy and Daniel Pfeiffer (and baby Julia!) officially to our St. John family!

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 10:00 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. 12** - Blessing of the Backpack and prayer of installation for Ray Hopkins in worship
- **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 23** - Evangelism will host a Beer Tasting event (ticket info upcoming)
- **Oct. 31** - Trunk-or-Treat, following worship

