

St. John Lutheran Church

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

JOHN 13:34



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20250518-EAS5

ITEM013491

ELCA-K

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER • MAY 18, 2025

Reverent Reflection

Prelude

Welcome

Church Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

- D. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C. **Amen.**
- D. 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.**
- D. 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.**
- D. God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
- C. **Amen**

Gathering Hymn: I Come With Joy (#482)

Greeting

- D. 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 p. 147

- D. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- D. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**

- D. 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 mercy.**
- D. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- D. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C. **Amen.**

Canticle p. 149

- D. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia
- D. The Lord be with you.
- C. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Word

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

Response: "The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven."

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away. R**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² **young men and maidens, old and young together. R**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah! R**

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Children's Sermon

Anthem

Apostles' Creed

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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places (local or regional places may be named).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness (especially). Wipe away every tear.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love (especially Erik, King of Sweden). Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Thanksgiving for the Word p. 220

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Sending Hymn: We Are Marching In The Light (#866)

Dismissal

Postlude

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9:30 am	Regular Sunday Morning Church Service
	10:30 am	Band Rehearsal
	10:45 am	Sunday School/CIA
	11:15 am	Youth Chime/Vocal Choir
	11:30 am	Bell Choir <i>(every other Sunday)</i>
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Thursday	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Ongoing		Shelf Stable Milk Collection Collection for Baby Pantry Holy Communion Berlin
Wednesday, May 21st	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room
Saturday, May 24th	8:00 am to 2:00 pm	Church Community Yard Sale on the Church Grounds

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey	Tracey Drew	Tracey Kelly	Erica Polito	Janice Stronski
Michael Botti	Indie Fisher	Joe Kuhn	Kimberly Rickert	Bill Todt
Brian Byrnes	Rhea Fryor	Donna Leek	Wayne Roorda, Sr.	George Vaneman, Sr.
Randy Cantoral	Bob Garner	Rebecca Livingston	Ashley Rosser	Beverly Warming
Janet Cappuccio	Heidi Goff	Joanne McVelli	Dorcas Schellhas	Clayton West
Sandra DeRitis	Angela Guedes	Melanie Miles	Finn Schureman	Ryan Williams
Helen Dominic	Stan Harmer	Kent Montford	Frank Siderio III	Helen Yezusko
Frank Donovan	Ann Henning	Sue Murphy	Eric Sprengel	Bob Zielsdorf
Rosemarie Doucette	Valerie Hoffmann	Doris Piech	George Stillwell	

Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for \$30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please see Pat Reed to make payment.

ALTAR FLOWERS DEDICATION FOR SUNDAY, MAY 18th

Dedicated by Pam Tate in memory of her dad, Richard Swope on his birthday.

GRIEF

GATHERING

Wednesday, May 21st
at 7:00 pm in the Parish Tea Room.

All Are Welcome!



**HOLY COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF BERLIN BABY PANTRY NEEDS
DONATIONS OF BABY DIAPER
(especially larger sizes)**

Collection will take place in the Narthex.





JUST A REMINDER...

We are accepting donations of
Shelf Stable Milk for Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.

Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.



St. John's Church Community Yard Sale

Saturday, May 24th • 8am to 2pm • Rain Date: May 31st

To reserve your 10x8 spot for only \$15 by May 18th

(Tables are available to rent for \$5/each)

please contact Gail Oberle at (609) 313-0800.

To donate any treasures for the Church to sell at the yard sale,
please contact Stephanie Weist at (856) 912-9875 by May 22nd

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Sunday, June 8th • 11:30 am to 1:00 pm



ICE CREAM, CAKE & STRAWBERRIES
Plus HOT DOG & BEVERAGE

Music by:

ST. JOHN'S LITTLE BIG BAND

Games & Activities for All Ages

Bring your own lawn chair

Admission: Free-will Donations Accepted

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Friday, June 27th to Sunday, June 29th • 9 am to noon

To register, go to

www.stjohnselc1002.org

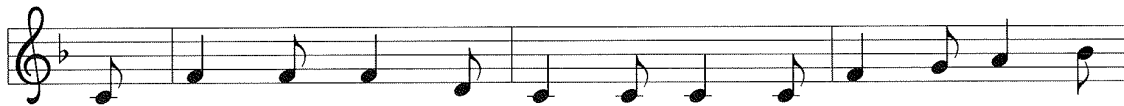
or

Scan the QR Code

or

Fill out Registration Form (attached to the Worship Bulletin) and return to the church.





1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

We Are Marching in the Light

866

Siyahamba

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.

nyen' kwen - khos'.

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of God.

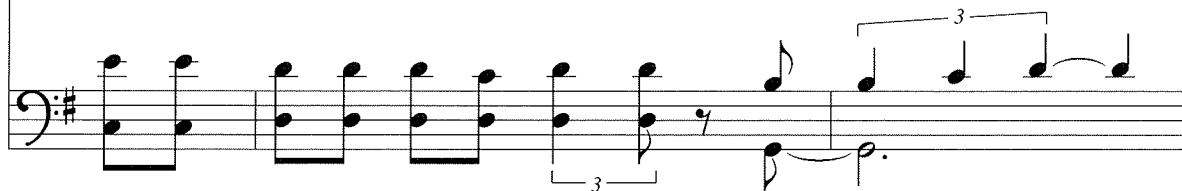
Si - ya - ham - ba

We are march - ing

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march-ing in the light of God.

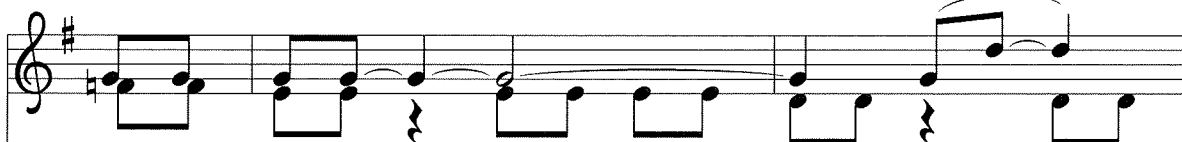


si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

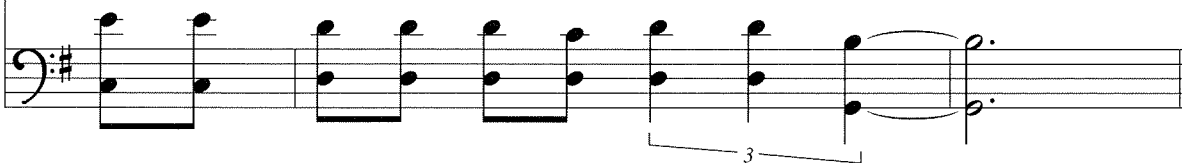
Si - ya - ham - ba _____ *oo* _____
 We are march - ing _____ *oo* _____



Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
 We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march-ing in the light of God.



Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Save Time . . . no need for checks or envelopes

ELCA-Endorsed Tithe.ly giving platform enables you to tithe online or using the app.

- From your checking account or using your debit/credit card
- One-time donation or set up for recurring giving
- Designate specific ministry for your donation
- Scan the QR code to get started
- For assistance or questions, contact Tom Schofield or Henry Fickenscher



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094

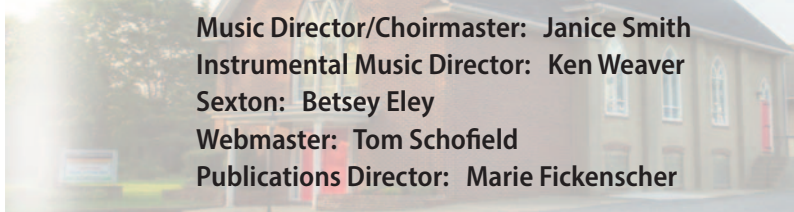
Phone Number: 1-856-875-8742 • Email: stjohnslutheran1002@yahoo.com

Website: www.stjohnselc1002.org

ST. JOHN'S STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer
Deacons: Betsey Eley/Ken Weaver
Administrative Coordinator: Pat Reed
Treasurer: Henry Fickenscher
Head Usher: Ted Adams

Music Director/Choirmaster: Janice Smith
Instrumental Music Director: Ken Weaver
Sexton: Betsey Eley
Webmaster: Tom Schofield
Publications Director: Marie Fickenscher





St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1002 Main St. Williamstown, NJ 08094

Registration Form

(One Per Child)

VBS 2025 June 27th-29th 9am-Noon

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (_____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cellphone: (_____) _____

Home email address: _____

Home church: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____



In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Registration forms can be emailed to stjohnscia@gmail.com or handed in at church by
6/8/2025