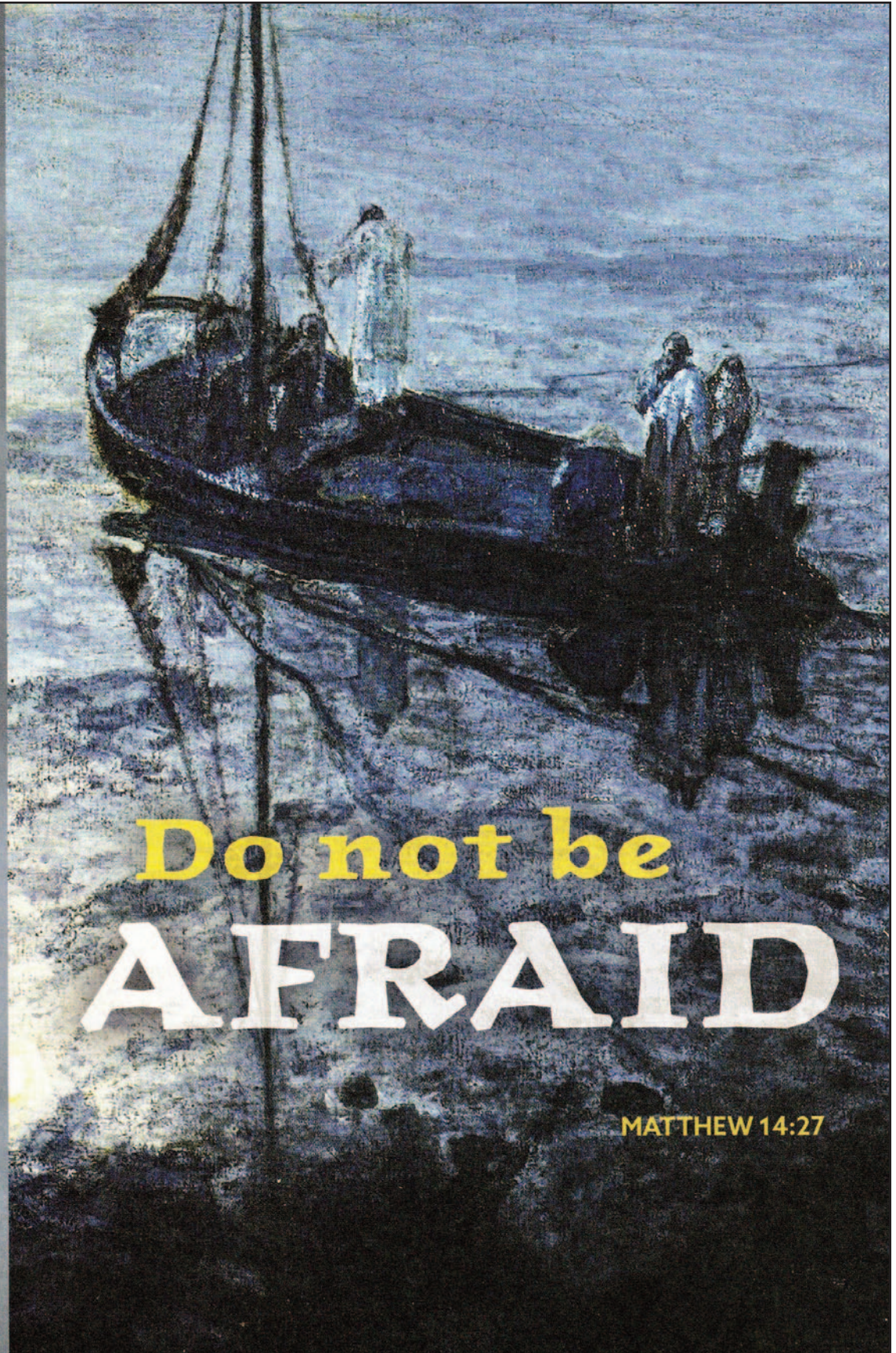


St. John Lutheran Church



Cover: *The Disciples See Christ Walking on the Water* by Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1907. Photo by xennex. WikiArt. Public domain.

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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • AUGUST 9, 2026

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: Eternal Father Strong To Save (#756)

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 God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Word

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake,

¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵

Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:8-13

Response: "I will listen to what the Lord God is saying."

⁸ I will listen to what the Lord God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land. R**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹² The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the Lord and shall prepare for God a pathway. R**

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them."⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

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: Matthew 14:22-33

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.

²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer (especially).

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide council members, elders, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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: Shout To The Lord (#821)

Dismissal

Postlude

ALTAR FLOWERS DEDICATION FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th

In memory of Taylor Renee Torbik on her birthday, with love Mom and Dad

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday Morning Worship Service (Summer)
	After Worship Service	Coffee Hour continues through the summer
	After Worship Service	Summer Sundays (casual youth activities) thru Sept. 6th
	11:30 am	Band Rehearsal
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Ongoing		Shelf Stable Milk Collection
		Diaper Collection for Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin
Monday, August 10th	7:00 pm	Council Meeting in the Parish House
Tuesday, August 11th	7:00 pm	Bible Study in the Parish House
Wednesday, August 19th	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room
Thursday, September 10th	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir rehearsal resumes
Sunday, September 13th	12:00 pm	Visit to Edelman Planetarium at Rowan University

Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey	Marie Lentine Douglas	Quincy Jones	Sue Murphy	Frank Siderio III
Krystal Booras	Tracey Drew	Ed Kagen	Bill Murray	Bill Steel
Michael Botti	Indie Fisher	Tracey Kelly	Renate Murray	Carol Taylor
Brian Byrnes	Stephanie Friant	Carl Knopp	Erica Polito	Henry Tesone
Meadow Cantoral	Rhea Fryor	Deb Kuhn	Samantha Reed	Bill Todt
Randy Cantoral	Ashley Fuhrman	Donna Leek	Kimberly Rickert	George Vaneman, Sr.
Debbie Capasso	Bob Garner	Doug Levandowski	Ashley Rosser	George Van Wagner
Janet Cappuccio	Angela Guedes	Tim McCarthy	Dorcas Schellhas	Beverly Warming
Joe Condoli	Stan Harmer	Joanne McVelli	Jean Schlotz	Mary White
Sandra DeRitis	Michelle Walk Hewitt	Melanie Miles	Finn Schureman	Helen Yezusko
Helen Dominic	Valerie Hoffmann	Kent Montford	Gladys Sheppard	Bob Zielsdorf
Frank Donovan	Makenzie Jack	John Muller	Meilani Showell	

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 leave payment in the Church Office.

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEDICATION

Dedicated by Henry and Marie Fickenschier in memory of and in honor of their loved ones,



GOOD NEWS!

COFFEE HOUR will continue through the summer!

Join us for food, beverages and fellowship every Sunday after the Worship Service!

church council **MEETING**

Monday, August 10th
7:00 pm in the Parish House

Bible Study

Tuesday, August 11th
7pm in the
Parish House

GRIEF GATHERING

Wednesday, August 19th
7:00 pm in the Parish House Tea Room

All Are Welcome!



CHOIR REHEARSAL

Resumes on Thursday
September 10th at 7:00 pm!
All are welcome to join!

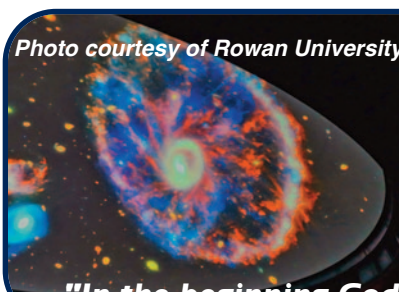
Every Sunday now
through September 6th
after the Worship Service
in the Ed. Building.



Activities every
Sunday with crafts
and outdoor games.

Please come and join the fun!

Photo courtesy of Rowan University



"In the beginning God

On Sunday, Sept. 13 @ 12 pm
St. John's Church will visit the

Worlds Beyond Earth (grade 6 to adult)

Cost: \$10 per person

Sign up by August 16 (registration sheet in the narthex)

Pay by August 30 (see Andrea)

created the heavens and the earth." — Genesis 1:1

Edelman
Planetarium
at Rowan University

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

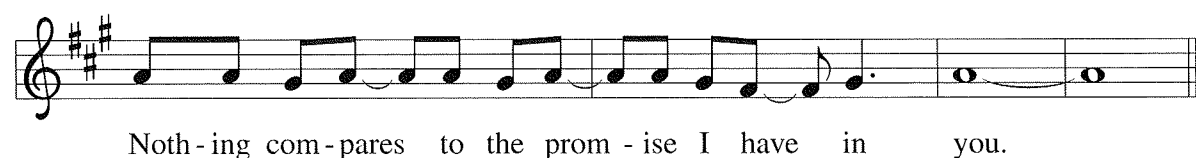
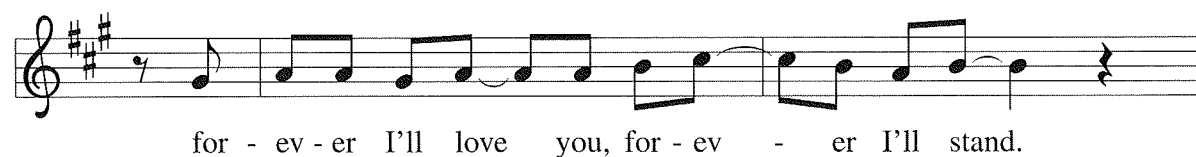
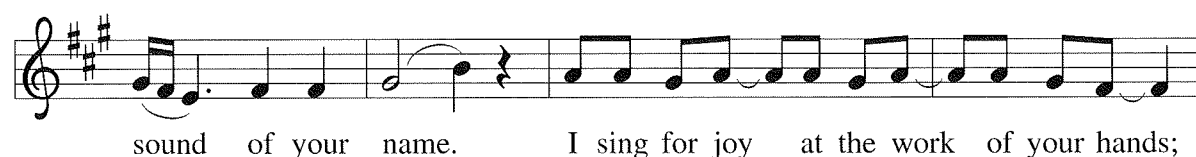
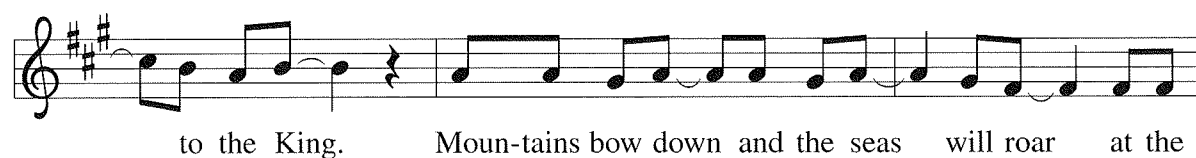
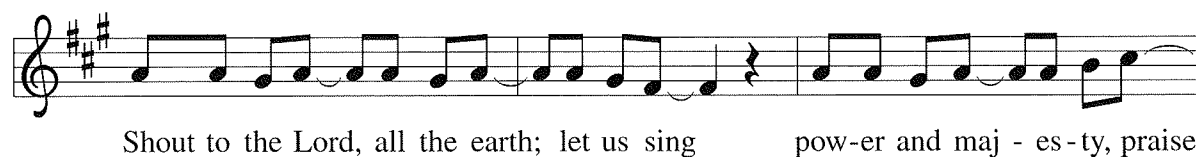
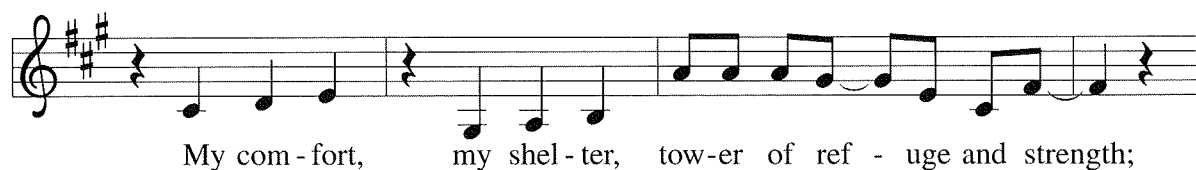
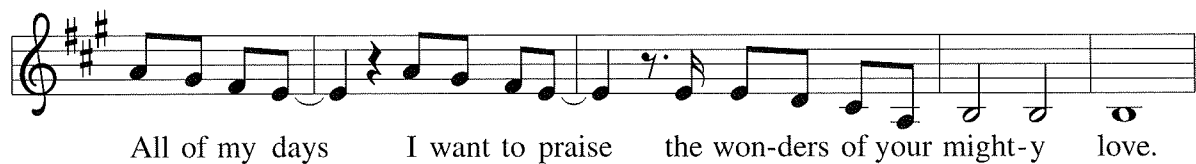
756

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.



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



Holy Communion Lutheran Church of Berlin Baby Pantry need:



BABY DIAPERS
(especially larger sizes)
Collection is in the Narthex.



Please help us . . .

**Donate Shelf Stable Milk for
Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.**

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

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094

Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer

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

Website: www.stjohnselc1002.org

ST. JOHN'S STAFF

Deacons: Betsey Eley/Ken Weaver

Treasurer: Henry Fickenscher

Music Director/Choirmaster: Janice Smith

Instrumental Music Director: Ken Weaver

Head Usher: Ted Adams

Sexton: Betsey Eley

Webmaster: Tom Schofield

Publications Director: Marie Fickenscher