

25th Sunday after  
Pentecost  
November 19, 2023

**A HEARTY** welcome to all! If you are visiting this morning, please take a moment to sign the guest register at the entrance. We invite you to worship with us, learn about our life in Christ, and consider this congregation for your church home. You are welcome to speak with Pastor Bob Schmitt about membership.



**CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**, Bible storybooks, crayons, and coloring books are available in the back of the church for young children to use during the service. Parents and guardians are encouraged to help their children select age-appropriate books and materials. At St. John, all children are valued and nurtured, and we are committed to helping them learn to worship. They may not always understand what is going on or being said, but they can understand this is a place where they are loved, accepted, and needed.



**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S LITURGY:**

MINISTERS: The People of St. John

PRESIDING MINISTER: The Rev. Dr. K. Robert Schmitt

ASSISTING MINISTER: Leslie Schell

LECTOR: Dennis Schell

CRUCIFER/ACOLYTE: Dennis Schell

USHERS: Ray Yost, Hal Baesch, Dennis Schell, and Stan Sieradzki

ORGANIST: Drew Taliaferro

ALTAR GUILD: Kathy and Laura Taliaferro



**LAST SUNDAY** the altar flowers were given to the glory of God, and in the joyous recognition of our 38th wedding anniversary at St. John Lutheran on November 16, by Leslie and Dennis Schell.

**Today** the bread, wine, and candles are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of our uncle, Thomas G. Harnen, on the anniversary of his birth, November 22, 1922, by Fran and Stan Sieradzki and Mollie Blum. The altar flowers are given by Fran, Stan, and Mollie to the glory of God, and in loving memory of our Aunt Laura and Uncle Tom on the anniversary of their marriage, November 22.



# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, BROOKLYN

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

THE WELCOME PLACE ... THE CHURCH THAT CARES

WORSHIPING AND SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1916

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**THE REV. DR. K. ROBERT SCHMITT, *Pastor***

Doris Anderson, *Ministry Assistant*

Drew Taliaferro, *Director of Music*

Michael McFarland, *Deacon*

The Rev. Joseph P. Lettrich, *Pastor Emeritus*

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## 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023

9:00 a.m.

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**P** = Presiding Minister

**C** = Congregation

**A** = Assisting Minister

**L** = Lector

**Please note: If standing or kneeling is difficult for you,  
please feel comfortable remaining seated during the service.**

**Ushers are available to provide directions  
or offer other assistance; they are wearing pocket badges.**

*Bless us, O God,  
with a reverent sense of your presence,  
that we may be at peace and may worship you  
with all our mind and spirit;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

OUR READINGS DURING NOVEMBER speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

## GATHERING

**8:50**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INVITATION TO WORSHIP

**A** Let us now listen to our church bells and prelude to help us enter the spirit of prayer, thanksgiving, and praise. “Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, ‘The LORD is king!’”  
(Psalm 96:9-10)

### RINGING OF CHURCH BELLS

### PRELUDE

“Come, You Thankful People, Come”

Innes/Elvey

*Time of silence for prayer and meditation.*

*Please stand, as you are able, and face the pastor  
in the back of the church.*

**9:00**

### 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,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**C** Amen.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Holy one,

**C** 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.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

**GATHERING SONG 693 ELW**(red book)

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

*Verse 1*

**GREETING**

**P** 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.

CANTICLE



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

**P** Let us pray together.

**C** Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

**A** A reading from Zephaniah.

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
“The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.”

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,

a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.  
<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.  
<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 90:1-12**

*Spoken responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and  
the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say,  
“Turn back, O child ren of earth.”

<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it  
is past and like a watch in the night;**

<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

<sup>6</sup>**in the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger;  
we are afraid because of your wrath.



**<sup>8</sup>Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

<sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**<sup>10</sup>The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength  
even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,  
for they pass away quickly, and we are gone.**

<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power of your wrath?  
Who rightly fears your indignation?

**<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

**A** A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

**P** The holy gospel, according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his

master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’<sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.<sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.<sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.<sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDREN’S TIME AND SERMON** The Rev. Dr. K. Robert Schmitt

*Silence for reflection.*

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY 840 ELW** (red book)

“Now Thank We All our God”

*All Verses*

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**P** With the whole church, 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** Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Especially, inspire and guide our bishops, Elizabeth and William, our pastor Robert, our deacon Michael, and our pastor emeritus Joseph. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Especially, help us to care for our community, Maryland farmlands, Eastern Shore, Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore harbor, and Masonville Cove. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you those on our prayer list and those we name in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us,

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**P** Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith, we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**P** We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

**C** **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**R** **Peace be with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## M E A L

### OFFERING

*An offering plate can be found in the back of the church.*

### ANTHEM – CHOIR AND HANDBELLS

“Love Fills My Soul”

Wagner

*Please stand.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN 695 ELW (red book)

“As Saints of Old”

*Verse 1*

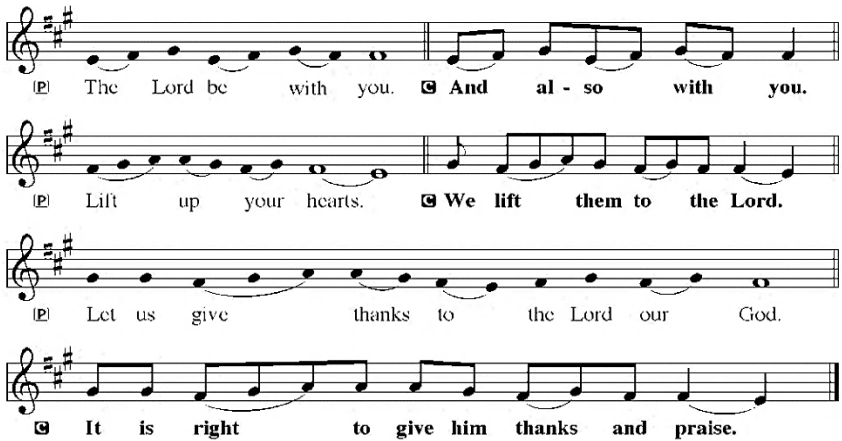
## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray together.

**C** God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.  
Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOG



**A** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

**A** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

**A** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

### PREFACE

**A** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. Through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who in the fullness of time will descend from the clouds with the new Jerusalem to restore your creation, through the proclamation of the redeeming Word. And so, with the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, with all the faithful of every time and every place, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

☩ Almighty God,

we rejoice in your goodness and in your sustaining grace,

By that grace, you chose Abraham and Sarah

and blessed their descendants as the people of your promise.

You made of them a nation

by your covenant established on Sinai's hills;

and though they often strayed from your commands,

you remained faithful to them, promising them life and peace.

Then, in love and mercy for all your creation,

you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus,

who was faithful in fulfilling your will,

as he reached out to the poor and lonely;

as he forgave sinners;

as he blessed those distressed by life;

and who, as he poured out his life upon the cross,

sealed the new covenant of life in his kingdom

for all the saints.

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.





## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(Psalm 34:8)

☑ **Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.** (Matthew 5:9)

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION

*All the faithful are welcome at the Lord's Table.*

Please come forward by the center aisle and return by a side aisle. If walking to communion is a problem, please stand in place; the bread and wine will be brought to you. Please sign a communion card and hand it to an usher. Ushers are wearing pocket badges. Adults and children who are not communing today are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing from the pastor. Individual pre-poured cups of dealcoholized wine are available in the trays for those who do not wish to drink alcohol.

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ELW Hymn 733 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

*After all have communed, please stand.*

## TABLE BLESSING

☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

☑ **Amen.**

**SONG AFTER COMMUNION HYMN 848 ELW** (red book)

“Give to Our God Immortal Praise”

*Verse 3*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A** Let us pray together.

**C** Lord Jesus,  
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.  
Sustain us on the journey,  
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,  
and give us glad and generous hearts  
as we meet you on the way.  
Amen.

## SENDING

**BLESSING**

**P** 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,  
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit  
be with you today and always.

**C** Amen.

**SENDING SONG 880 ELW** (red book)

“O God, beyond All Praising”

*All Verses*

**DISMISSAL**

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

## HOSPITALIZED/PRAYER LIST AS OF NOVEMBER 15:

Please surround those named below, and all who hold them dear, with your prayers for God's healing and wholeness. **You are kindly asked to phone or email the church office to request prayers, report any errors or omissions, and provide updates.**

### St. John, Brooklyn:

*Anne Arundel Medical Center:* **Jerald Lulie** and  
**Emily Eiermann**

Please pray for **Steven Isaac** and **Ty and Sandy Isaac**, **Diana Beecher**, **Doris Anderson**, **Stephanie Haigis**, **Claudia Hickman**, **Michele Huggins**, **Remie Danielson**, **Ray Yost**, **Catherine Bacot**, **Patricia Kirby**, **Jim Horst**, **Laurie Anderson**, **Sidney Ford**, **Lillie Rhoades**, **Angie and Don Smith**, **Marie Pledger**, **Pat Dearing**, **George (Al) Mangerino**, **Shirley Quaskey**, **Ginny Yost**, **Susan Brown**, **Carol Fehrmann**, and **Holly Kinstler**. Continue praying for **F. Marie Jacobs**, **Geraldine (Jerri) Mooney**, **Dorothy Trott**, **Catherine Brecht**, **Bev Schweitzer**, and **Nancy Squires**.

Dennis Schell requests prayers for **Paul Fitzgerald**, his college friend. Please also pray for **Devan Schell**, his great-nephew, who has suffered a spinal cord injury as a result of a diving accident; **Devan** has had additional back surgery. Pastor Schmitt requests prayers for his brother-in-law, **Kevin Hackett**, recently diagnosed with cancer.

**Randy Hart** is recovering from a fractured femur. Please pray for **Dolores Biemiller**, mother of Lisa Hart, and for **Travis Wright**, son-in-law of Randy and Lisa. Kindly pray for **Russell Trosterud**, grandson-in-law of Claudia Hickman, who was severely injured in a mountain biking accident. Claudia also asks you to pray for Russ' wife **Jessica** and their entire family. You may send cards to **Russell Trosterud, 1401 Porter Street, Baltimore, MD 21230**.

**Doris Burkman** is at Morningside House of Friendship, 7548 Old Telegraph Road Room 202, Hanover, MD 21076; phone 410.766.9189. **Henry Fischer's** new address is Brightview Senior Living, 469 Jumpers Hole Road Room 24, Severna Park, Md 21146.

**Rose Macknovitz** is living at 634 Jasontown Road, Westminster, MD 21158. Her son, **Mark Macknovitz**, is at Cadia Healthcare, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis, MD 21403. **Patricia Isaac** is at

Complete Care at Severna Park, 310 Genesis Way Room F12A,  
Severna Park, MD 21146-1762.

Angie Smith asks for prayers for **baby Lily Frank** who is in intensive care at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Angie adds, “Thanks and blessings to all; we miss everyone.”

Remember in prayer **Shirley Kuchera** and **Penny Ericson**, dear friends of Fran Sieradzki. Please pray for **Mary Peters**, Claudia Hickman’s friend and neighbor; and for **Frances Cornish and her family**. Please also pray for former members **Janet and Bill (Skip) Burkman**. Kathy Riley requests prayers for her stepdaughter, **Michelle Smith**, diagnosed with a heart condition; for **Tim Mauritzen**, son of Kathy’s dear friend Joan, struggling with kidney disease; for **Carol Szlechtka** recovering from COVID-19 at home; and for **Wanda Conway**.

Grace Planalp requests prayers for **Sandy Kohlway**. Adeline Lang asks for prayers for her nephew, **David Lang**. Please pray for **Katie McNey**, the twin sister of Holly Kinstler’s daughter-in-law. Holly also requests prayers for her cousins, **Kim Meyer** and **Barry Martin**, and for **Brian Eigenbrode**.

Brittany Danielson asks you to pray for **Jack Norris**. Kathy Harris requests your prayers for **Wayne Watson**. Prayers are requested for **Tony Morris**, husband of Connie and father of Hunter and Camryn. Please pray for **Andrea**, neighbor of Floyd Musk.

Marie Pledger asks for prayers for her friend, **David John Leimbach**. Remember in prayer **Thomas (Tommy) Kelch**, husband of Karen Rainey Kelch. Lillie Rhoades asks for special prayers for **Diane Hogan**; Diane is the sister of Lisa Smith, Lillie’s daughter-in-law.

Holly Hatfield asks for prayers for **Kathy and Nick Spurlock**, her aunt and uncle. Kindly pray for Shirley Quaskey’s granddaughter, **Kara**, who is serving on a three-year mission trip to the Middle East. Please pray for Carol Fehrmann’s nephew, **Zachary Curry**. Please pray for Monette Obzut’s cousins, **Suzanne Carroll** and **Carol Iafate**, and for **Sharon Dillon, Len and Diane Z.**, and **George and Becky Young**.

Sue Calvert asks you to pray for her niece, **Amy Gilliss**; for **Harry McCrory**, husband of Jan McCrory; and for Jan’s friend, **Maria Tydings**. Please pray for Laura Taliaferro’s good friend, **Jourdan Davis**. Kindly remember in prayer Denise McCumbers’ sister, **Darlene**. Susan Brown asks that you pray for her niece, **Beth B. Bowie**.

**St. Paul's, Curtis Bay:**

Henrietta Bond continues is undergoing chemotherapy and radiation. Prayers are requested for Terri Otes, Joe and Louise Amrhein (at UM-BWMC), Jeanette Johnson, David Deibel, Tony Amrhein, Annie Lutz, June Coughlin, Amy Stroh Purdy, Mary Strachan, George and Wendy Kester, and George Lang.

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**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN**

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**25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, November 19**

9:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. – Annual Congregational Meeting

**MONDAY, November 20**

12:00 noon – Alcoholics Anonymous

**TUESDAY, November 21**

7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous

**WEDNESDAY, November 22**

12:00 noon – Alcoholics Anonymous

4:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, November 23, Thanksgiving Day**

*No Community Meal or Clothing Closet*

*Church Office Closed Thursday and Friday*

**SATURDAY, November 25**

9:00 a.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous

7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous

**CHRIST THE KING, SUNDAY, November 26**

9:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School, Coffee Hour, Handbells

11:0000 a.m. – Sour Beef Dinner Follow-up Meeting

**LAST WEEK'S FIGURES:**

**ATTENDANCE: 38**

**OFFERING:**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
General Fund	\$1,737.00
Mortgage Fund	160.00
Mortgage Principal	69.00
Utilities	101.00
Abiding Memorials	50.00
Coffee Hour	6.00
All Saints Flowers and Candles	50.00
Christmas-at-Sea Gifts	135.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,308.00</b>

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**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

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The **annual congregational meeting** of St. John Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, Baltimore, Maryland, will be held on Sunday, **November 19, 2023**, right after the **9 a.m. service [approximately 10 a.m.]** in the church sanctuary.

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Among items on the agenda will be adoption of the church budget for 2024, election of congregation council members, and election of voting members for the 2024 synod assembly.

If you are a confirmed, active (communing, and contributing) voting member, you are welcome to run for one of the seats on the congregation council.

*✂Clip and save. Share it with your family.*

**EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE**

**PASTOR BOB SCHMITT**

can be reached at **410.746.0236**  
or [k.robert.schmitt@comcast.net](mailto:k.robert.schmitt@comcast.net)

## **SOUR BEEF DINNER FOLLOW-UP MEETING:**

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Thanks again to everyone who helped to make this year's Sour Beef Dinner a success. Our profit, to date, is about **\$6,200**, which is one of the best profits that we have ever had.



**On Sunday, November 26, 2023,** there will be a **follow-up meeting at 11:00 a.m.** in the confirmation room (confirmation class is in session until 10:40.) to discuss this year's dinner and to make plans for the 2024 dinner.

Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. For more information,

**St. John Lutheran Church,  
Brooklyn, Baltimore, Maryland**



## **WHO'S GOT TALENT?**

**J**on Bloom is a cofounder of the Desiring God organization. Speaking to the parable of the talents, he suggests that being given one talent can appear unfair, can wound our pride. He is regularly tempted, he says, to covet his neighbors' talents. And isn't that always the way? Discounting our own gifts, we envy the abilities of others. And yet, Bloom points out, such behavior is, at its core, the sin of pride.

Our love of God can get eclipsed and our loving relationships with others can be damaged by such pride, which costs us any desire to be a good steward of the gifts God has given us. Hence the description of the last servant as "wicked" and "lazy" (Matthew 25:26). Being given a single talent means less of a chance to really impress the master and improve the servant's own position. Therefore, the servant believes, the master is harsh and unjust.

Pride infects all of us, no matter how many talents we have. In a number of parables, Jesus takes aim at people with a generous amount of prestige, wealth, and power. That's why this parable stings so much. Jesus is talking to all of us. We can and must be on the lookout for the sin of pride, which is at the root of so many unhealthy behaviors. Pride takes so many forms, including discouragement, self-pity, and hopelessness.

Every single one of us is a cherished and deeply loved child of God—and God has blessed every single one of us, richly, with talents. Making the effort to be good stewards of the talents we have is a fine way to shut down self-pity and the sin of pride. God has reasons for giving us exactly the talents we have.

