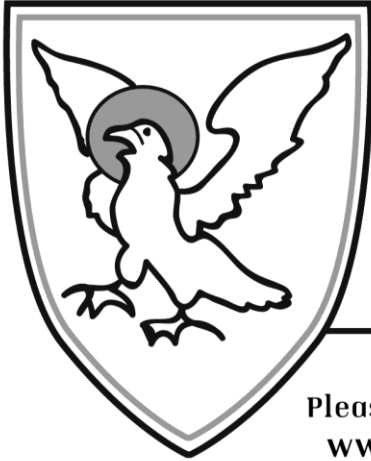


SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Saint John's Lutheran Church

Spinnerstown



Please visit our web site—
www.stjohnsofspinnerstown.org

St. John's Lutheran Church

1565 Sleepy Hollow Road | P.O. Box 120

Spinnerstown, PA 18968

215) 536-0734

General email: stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com

Welcome to worship with St. John's of Spinnerstown!

Welcome to worship with St. John's. We hope to see you in worship in our grove this week (weather and health dependent), or that you'll join us online for worship as in weeks past.

Our service this morning will be filled with scripture, proclamation, praise, and prayer. Everything you need is available in your bulletin. We're providing all of today's readings in the bulletin - but we will be only reading aloud one of the lessons from scripture, and the Gospel. Please contact the Church Office or the Pastor with any prayer concerns.

The Staff of St. John's

The People of St. John's	Ministers
Rev. Axel T. Kaegler	Pastor
(kaegax01@gmail.com or phone – 201.739.7702)	
Carol Dzurenda	Organist
Darcy McConahy	Choir Director
Becky Hinderliter	Christian Education Director
Joseph Brooke & Laurie Stoneback	Sextons
Jen Bara	Secretary

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Office Phone: 215.536.0734

Office Email: stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com

Worship Assistants today Sunday, September 13

Randy Felten	Usher Captain
Brad & Becky Hinderliter	Ushers
Maureen Potsko	Lector

Worship Assistants Sunday, September 20

Randy Felten	Usher Captain
Chester Hartley & Loretta Thorsen	Ushers
Stephen Spry	Lector

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPINNERSTOWN, PA
HOLY CROSS DAY
SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

Announcements

Prelude: *"In Thee Is Gladness"*

G. Gastoldi

+ Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

+ The 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.

+ Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: A reading from Numbers 21:4b-9.

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

[From Mount Horeb the Israelites set out,] ^{4b}but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38

¹Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

²**I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

³⁴Whenever God slew them, they would seek God,
and repent, and diligently search for God.

³⁵**They would remember that God was their rock,
and the Most High God their redeemer.**

³⁶But they flattered God with their mouths
and lied to God with their tongues.

³⁷**Their heart was not steadfast,
and they were not faithful to the covenant.**

³⁸Yet God, being merciful, forgave their sins and did not destroy them;
holding back anger many times and not giving way to wrath.

Second Reading: A reading from 1 Corinthians 1:18-24.

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

+ Holy Gospel: The holy gospel according to John 3:13-17.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

[Jesus said:] ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon



- 1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
 wash - ing off the chains of bond - age— chan - nel to a life made new.
 o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
 Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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+ The 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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give you thanks, God, for the medical workers. Be with them and provide comfort, guidance, health and strength. Bless nurses, doctors, paramedics, EMTs, and hospital workers of all kinds - from the anesthesiologists to x-ray

technicians, and from the reception desk to the janitor's closet. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for those who work on site in the days of the pandemic - our food providers, our road maintainers, our forestries, our industrial plants, mechanics and auto shop repair workers, our truckers, our telecommunications and information technology folks, those who work in residential care facilities, those who house travelers, funeral directors, and all life-sustaining workers.

Give them the courage to work, the protection they need, and the respect and dignity fitting of those who make life possible. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you (*especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for the Church's Bishops - Bishop Eaton and Bishop Davenport, for the Church's pastors and deacons, and all called by you and your people to lead and guide our congregations. Keep them strong and faithful in the power and grace of your abiding word. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

+ The Lord's Prayer

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.

+ Benediction

+ Sharing of the Peace

+ Dismissal

Postlude: *"Go, My Children"*

B. Bobb

We Remember in Our Prayers

Sara Landis, Katherine Mary Kelly (Jill McComsey's mother), Chester Hartley, Family & Friends of Erna Doerr, Michael Hoff (son of Mary Hoff), Gary Small, Walter Brader, Betty Konjusky (Peggy Hudock's mother), Debbie Lasher (Darcy McConahy's sister), Renee Georgiadis, Michael Bowers, Dorothy Brinkman, and Joe Otto (Marsha Hartley's brother)

Prayers, Please

Our Prayer List – Each week there appears in this bulletin, a list of people for whom congregation members are asked to pray. The names are read during the “Prayers of Intercession.” The names are listed for four weeks and then removed, but they can be re-added every four weeks for as long as necessary. To add a name to the prayer list - or to renew a listing - please contact Church Secretary Jen Bara at 215-536-0734, Monday, Wednesday or Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or send her an e-mail at stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com. To assure a name will be included in the next bulletin, please contact her by 10 a.m. Thursday.

St. John's Prayer Circle is ready and waiting for your requests. If you know someone in need of prayer – or if you would like to join the circle and expand our collective voice – please call Erna Doerr at [215-536-4480](tel:215-536-4480) or Loretta Thorsen at [215-679-2356](tel:215-679-2356).

Keep up with St. John's news

Now you don't have to wait a month between editions of the Spire to see what's new at St. John's. For those who use social media, we can be found on Facebook (St. John's Lutheran Church, Spinnerstown, PA), Instagram ([stjohnsspinnerstown](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsspinnerstown)) and Twitter ([stjohnsspinnerstown](https://twitter.com/stjohnsspinnerstown)). Anyone online can visit our website, www.stjohnsofspinnerstown.org. Feel free to share with your “friends” and “followers” any items you find on these sites.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome in the Name of Jesus!

**We pray that you will be blessed by your time here today,
and that God will fill you with grace and love every day.**

The bulletins are sponsored this week by
Cathy Fried in honor of Otto's birthday.

During the month of September, the cemetery grounds, primarily around headstones, will be sprayed with an herbicide to control the crabgrass. This is being done because our landscape company is struggling to keep the property looking manicured because the crabgrass is so thick. Thank you for your understanding.

Spire Sponsors needed for the rest of the year (**October** through December). It is \$30/month for one person/family, or you can split the sponsorship with another for \$15 each. *Please contact the office if you would like to sponsor!*
stjohnspinnerstown@gmail.com or 215-536-0734.

Altar Flower Sponsorships are on hold for several more months. If you signed up to sponsor flowers in October or November, you have the option of sponsoring the bulletins instead (or you could sponsor the Spire!). Contact the office at 215-536-0734 or stjohnspinnerstown@gmail.com to make a change or for more information.

Bulletin Sponsorships are also needed for October. Please contact the office at 215-536-0734 or stjohnspinnerstown@gmail.com for open dates!

Readings for Sunday, September 20

Ezekiel 2:8—3:11

Psalm 119:33-40

Ephesians 2:4-10

Matthew 9:9-13