

# E-Pistle

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



## XX Pentecost

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

<a href="#">Jeremiah</a>	<a href="#">23:23-29</a>
<a href="#">Psalm</a>	<a href="#">82</a>
<a href="#">Hebrews</a>	<a href="#">11:29-12:2</a>
<a href="#">Luke</a>	<a href="#">12:49-56</a>

**Faith Practices** - You may wish to take some time during the week to reflect on this Sunday's texts. Read and re-read them slowly. Pray between readings. Prayerfully read the Gospel out loud and ask yourself "*How can we help one another see Luke 12 not as judgment from Jesus, but as his desire for the world's well-being?*"

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today, in the assembly, we are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses." In the



### Monday

- 12.00pm Feeding America
- 6.30pm Zumba
- 6.30pm Finance
- 8.00pm Men's Basketball

### Tuesday

- 5.00pm Good Food Box

### Wednesday

- 10.30am Prayer Ministry
- 12.00pm Feeding America
- 8.00pm Men's Basketball

### Thursday

- 8.00pm AA

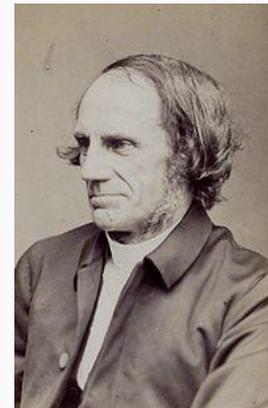
### Saturday

- 11.30am Lord's Lunch

### Sunday

#### XXI Pentecost

- 9.15am Eucharist
- 10.30pm Sunday School
- Planning Meeting & Child Protection Policy Training



### Weekly Words of the Saints

Hark! The sound of holy voices chanting at the crystal sea, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord, to Thee.

Multitudes which none can number like the stars in glory stand, Clothed in white apparel, holding palms of victory in their hand.

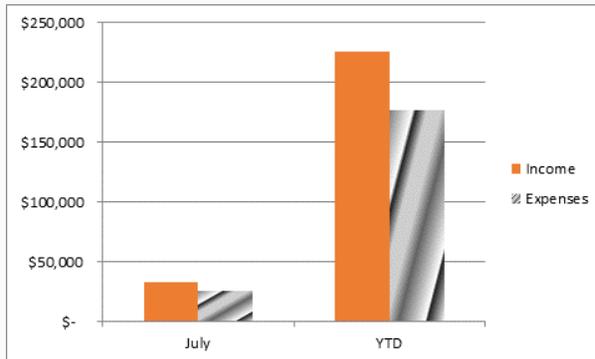
Patriarch and holy prophet, who prepared the way of Christ, King, apostle, saint, confessor, martyr, and evangelist,

Saintly maiden, godly matron, widows who have watched to prayer, Joined in holy concert, singing to the Lord of all, are there.

They have come from tribulation and have washed their robes in blood, Washed them in the blood of Jesus: tried they were, and firm they stood.

word and in the holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

If you want to learn how to cultivate Bible study in your home, you can use this simple [Starter Kit](#).



## July Giving Totals

Thank you for your generous stewardship during the month of July!



## The Reality of Division

Throughout the Gospel of Luke, Jesus calls on his hearers to turn their hearts away from greed and instead to generosity, to turn away from anxious self-preservation and instead to faithful self-giving. But such practice rubs against humanity’s deepest-seated sin, so conflict is born out of Jesus’ peace-filled activity. Jesus’ words and actions had already pitted him against the religious leaders and will lead him to the cross. Now, in today’s gospel, Jesus speaks to the reality of that division.

His words unsettle us, yet they are spoken for a reason. In the reading from Jeremiah, God challenges the prophets who dole out lies and deceit and asks, how long until they turn their hearts back to me? This is a question of compassion and yearning for a restored relationship. Likewise, although Jesus’ words are incendiary and speak of broken relationships, they are meant to prompt the people’s faithful response: to lay aside anxiety and greed and to turn their hearts to the treasures of God’s promised kingdom, where Christ takes division upon himself on the cross.

While fully aware of the realities of conflict and division, we are to live as hopeful people, praying fervently for God’s compassion and for the restoration of right relationships.



### Life Line Screening

Thursday, August 29th

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on Thursday, August 29th at St. John Lutheran Church to conduct these valuable screenings.

These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. If you register today, you will receive a \$10 discount.

Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441, [online](#), or text the word "circle" to 797979.



### Worship & Music Meeting

The Worship & Music Ministry will meet on Monday, September 23rd at 7.00pm to plan our festival worship services during the fall and winter of 2019.



### Budget Requests Due

The congregational leadership is

Mocked, imprisoned, stoned, tormented, sawn sunder, slain with sword,  
They have conquered death and Satan by the might of Christ their Lord.

God of God, the One-begotten,  
Light of Light, Emmanuel,  
In whose body, joined together, all the saints forever dwell,  
Pour upon us of Thy fullness that we may forevermore  
God the Father, God the Spirit,  
One with Thee, on high adore.

—Christopher Wordsworth



### August Special Giving Envelope

The August Special Giving envelopes are designated for our the [Heifer Project International](#).

The Heifer Project helps to provide animals to people worldwide. Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood.

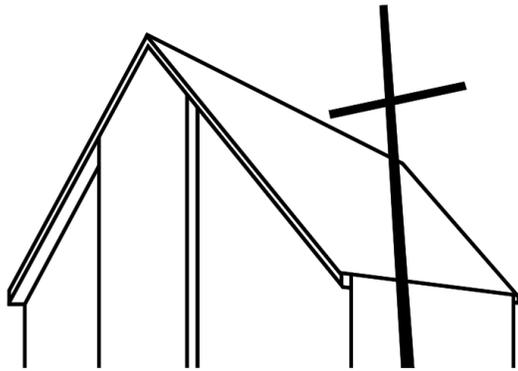


### Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, September 8th

On Sunday, September 8th we will celebrate Rally Day with a back to school blessing of the backpacks.

If you are going back to school or beginning kindergarten, bring your backpacks to have them



**St. John Lutheran Church  
New Freedom, PA**

## 150th Anniversary Dinner

On Saturday, October 19th we will gather at 6.00pm for a gala dinner to celebrate our 150th Anniversary!

The event will be catered by Tasteful Occasions and will include music and entertainment.

On September 1st tickets will be available to purchase at the cost of \$10 per meal.

currently in the process of crafting the 2020 Budget / Plan For Mission.

Please submit committee / ministry budget requests to Mrs. Linda Peterson by Sunday, August 18th.



### New Pennsylvania Regulation

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regulates commercial kitchens and recently amended its policy regarding the presence of Servsafe certified persons at events involving food.

Currently we are required to have a Servsafe certified person on call when we serve food. However, in 2020 we will be required to have a Servsafe certified person *on site* when we serve food.

Therefore, we need volunteers to attend a day long Servsafe training on either Sunday, September 29th or Sunday, October 13th.

If you would like to receive the training, St. John Lutheran Church will pay for the course.

Please contact [Pastor Schneider](#) if you are interested in being Servsafe certified.

blessed during the children's sermon.



### New Freedom Fest Volunteers Needed

Saturday, September 21st

St. John Lutheran Church is supporting this year's New Freedom Fest. We need volunteers to help with trash collection from 1.00pm to 5.00pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.



### Sunday School Meeting and Child Protection Policy Training

Sunday, August 25th

On Sunday, August 25th all Sunday School teachers and assistants are invited to meet to plan for the 2019/20 Sunday School year and to receive the mandatory Child Protection Policy Training.

We will begin at 10.30am in the Youth Room.

## Check Out Our Website!

If you are interested in learning more about the life and ministries of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, be certain to browse our website: [www.stjohnlutherannewfreedom.com](http://www.stjohnlutherannewfreedom.com).