

## “Lord, Have Mercy”

*“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.” – Ephesians 2:4-5*

As God makes abundantly clear in the opening verses of Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, the word *mercy* describes an attitude in the heart of God that we have caused, not by our goodness but by our wretchedness, not by our beauty but by our ugliness, not by what we have to offer Him but by the need of our souls to receive this precious gift from Him.

God’s response to our wretchedness is MERCY. God’s heart is so deeply moved by our sorry state that He chooses to be “rich in mercy”. His mercy is so rich that it swings into action in the work of His Son Jesus Christ on the cross to remove the death that made us “sacks of maggots” (Martin Luther’s words) in our sins and transgressions and children of God’s anger according to our corrupted nature. Jesus became the child of His Father’s anger to bear in His body our sins, our transgressions, and our failings. Then bursting from the grave, our Father sets us even now in the heavenly places in Jesus Christ, so that for time and eternity He can show us rich mercy for our every need.

The fact that the rich mercy of God has already set us in the heavenly places has profound significance for the way we look at our lives here on earth. This does not mean that we are already in heaven, but everything God allows to enter into our lives, the good and the bad, is happening to bring us to that heavenly goal. Do

we still have temptations? God’s mercy allows them. Do we still have doubts and uncertainties, pain, sicknesses, and fears? God’s mercy allows them. Do we still have struggles that never seem to end; and when they do, are replaced by still other struggles? God’s rich mercy often sends them. Augustine, one of the Fathers of the Early Christian Church, suggested that God always allows us to be in need and in temptation, so that He may always be able to give us something more – more strength to struggle, more patience to endure, and more awareness that our only real need is God’s rich mercy and amazing grace.

In the liturgy we regularly sing “Lord, have mercy”. The next time you sing these words think about how spiritually significant that word MERCY is. When you sing the words of the Kyrie, offer this prayer:

“Heavenly Father, You see that I am nothing but a bag of needs even on my best day. All around me are sickness and death. Yet each day You send me legions of angels to protect me in my every need because You are so very rich in mercy. You will not allow me to suffer anything more than what is for my ultimate good. How often I forget my need because You are so rich in mercy that You anticipate and remove most of the dangers before I am ever aware of them! Lord, have mercy.

Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, have mercy. My sins still pile up to heaven and the devil still accuses me. Satan and my own sinful flesh work day and night to plot my ruin, to lead me into shame and vice, and then into despair and the darkness of sin. While I was still a sinner, You died for me –even for

me. Such a fool I am, so evil and ungrateful, that I play with temptations and count as nothing the sins for which You paid such a steep price. Do not cast me off as I deserve, but look on my wretchedness without You. Show Yourself still rich in mercy to me, a sinner who needs it more than any other. Lord, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, have mercy. Look upon Your church, the bride of Christ, of which I am an unworthy member. Have mercy on me when I am too lazy to take Your inspired Word seriously. Have mercy on me when I look on the faults and failings of others and decide I am so much better. Have mercy on me when, because of my carelessness and indifference, my laziness and love of comfort, I do not share the Gospel with others as I should. Lord, have mercy.”

Of our need to cry out to God for mercy there is no doubt. Of His eagerness to show mercy, to rescue us from every danger to body and soul, there is no doubt. Our God indeed is rich in mercy. Therefore, in the certainty of our need, and, in view of the abundance of His mercy, let us never get tired of crying out for it, trusting in His promise. Then, as ones who have abundantly received God’s rich mercy, let us eagerly share it with one another and with the world.

Lord, Have Mercy On Me,  
*Pastor Riley*

### OFFICIAL ACTS

**Baptized** on July 1: Evangeline Victoria Luoma, daughter of Antonio and Brianna (Bell) Luoma.

**Buried** on July 21: Jeanette Griffin who received her Crown of Glory on July 13, 2018.

**Buried** on June 25: Mildred DuBois who received her Crown of Glory on June 20.

## Orphan Grain Train New England Branch Corrected Date

Our annual cook-out and open house which will be **August 18** this year will be at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Terryville, CT. from noon to 3:00 p.m. There will be lots of food, activities for children and adults alike! There will also be warehouse tours to show what we do and how we do it! Cash and/or material offerings will be accepted.

Orphan Grain Train collects the following items for donations:

\*MEDICAL SUPPLIES - (hospital gowns, linens, gloves, needles, orthopedics, ostomy, IV items, Laboratory, feeding, respiratory, surgical, urological, diapers for \*infants and adults, blood pressure devices, etc.)

\*MEDICAL EQUIPMENT - hospital beds, mattresses, wheel-chairs, lifting devices, crutches, commodes, shower chairs, tray tables, risers, etc.)

\*HYGIENE KITS & SCHOOL KITS- (List on website)

\*BLANKETS, QUILTS, BED LINENS - new or used in good condition

\*PILLOWCASE DRESSES

\*MENS, WOMENS or

\*CHILDREN CLOTHING/

SHOES - new or used clothing that must be cleaned with no tears or stains.

\*NEW UNDERWEAR/SOCKS

*Please bring items to church by August 12 or bring to picnic.*

Our meetings are open and welcome to all. Please contact Bill Schneeloch if you would like to carpool. He will leaving St John's parking lot at 8:30 a.m. If you would like to support financially, Donations can be mailed to:  
Orphan Grain Train – New England, c/o LCMS – NED  
400 Wilbraham Road  
Springfield, MA 01109-2723  
*Please keep OGT in your prayers.*



Summer is often a time when people are on vacation and not in their typical routine. Our weekly radio broadcast may be the only time some folks hear the Word. Please consider supporting this mission effort.

There are many Sundays coming up that are available for sponsorship. Please help in the continuing outreach mission project of our radio broadcast of Sunday morning Worship. Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN (560 AM). The cost for the program is \$125 per week. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast (or a part of a broadcast) in memory of or in honor of anyone please call the church or sign up on the sheet outside the office door. Donations of any amount are welcome. Additionally, we have posted previous weeks' broadcasts on our website along with the associated bulletin.

Just log onto <http://stjohnswestfield.org>; links to the broadcasts and the weekly bulletins are on the main page. If anyone would like a CD copy of any radio broadcast, please contact Bill Schneeloch.

Please see/call Bill Schneeloch (413-568-4906 or 860-604-5264) or e-mail at [radio@stjohnswestfield.org](mailto:radio@stjohnswestfield.org) with any questions.

### From the Elders:

Richard Conroy is Elder of the Month for August. The lay readers are as follow:

August 5 - Rich Conroy

August 12 - Tom McClure

August 19 - Erika Slozak

August 26 - Rebecca Conroy

If you would like to read for the month of September, please speak to Dan Provost.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AUGUST 6-10 9:00 a.m.-Noon



Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and more. Plus, you'll venture onto an uncharted island where kids survive and thrive. Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms. Can't wait to see you there!

Register now for Shipwrecked Vacation Bible School! Go to our church's website:<http://stjohnswestfield.org>, or call Jane McClure at 562-0492.

If you have any questions, please contact Jane McClure (562-0492) or Erika Slozak at (579-4962).

### Bells? Birds? ...In The Choir Loft?

You may occasionally hear a strange twinkling or chirping sound coming from the organ. Don't worry, nothing is broken! The sounds you are hearing are two so called "toy stops:" a Cimbelstern and a Vogelgesang. Both of these "toy stops" were mainly found on organs in Germany during the 17th and 18th centuries. The Cimbelstern ("cymbal star") is a wind-driven wheel of high-pitched bells. When it spins, the bells ring continually, adding a climatic sparkle to the music. In the Lutheran liturgical tradition, the Cimbelstern is used at the end of a piece such as the prelude or postlude, or on a verse about the Trinity. A Vogelgesang ("bird song") is simply a pipe that is partially submerged in water. When the pipe is activated, wind bubbles through the water and creates a sound very similar to that of a bird chirping. Indeed, today organists continue to use these stops to enrich the congregations worship and praise of the one true God!

**"...the glory of the Lord filled the house of God." Choir Begins Thursday, September 6th!**

As the choir season is about to begin this coming fall I am reminded of two verses from 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles, verses 13 and 14: *"...it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD, and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD, "For He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever,"*

*the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God."*

When the singers sang praise to God, the house of the LORD was filled with a cloud. The cloud did not appear when they offered sacrifices, but when they sang the praises of God. It was in this singing that God, the maker of heaven and earth, showed His favor to the people. For the sacrifice of praise pleases the LORD better than that of an animal.

As we go through the upcoming weeks, I invite everyone to reflect in thanksgiving upon the blessings our the Triune God has given and continues to give to you, your family and the congregation of St. John's. As you reflect, I ask that you also pray about using your voice through the gift of music to join in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The choir at St. John's is open to all ages from children to adults.

Rehearsals will be held on Thursdays from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. in the lounge beginning September 6th, and on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the choir loft prior to the Divine Service. For all God has done and continues to do in our lives how can we keep from singing and declaring His glories? As

Johann Gramann once wrote in his hymn "My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker" LSB820, "His grace remains forever, and children's children yet shall prove that God forsakes them never who in true fear shall seek His love. In heaven is fixed His dwelling, His rule is over all; O hosts with might excelling, with praise before Him fall. Praise Him forever reigning, all you who hear His Word - Our life and all sustaining. My soul, O praise the lord!" Amen! For this is most certainly true, for this is the glory of which we sing! *Jeff Windoloski*

The following have signed up for flowers for the months of August & September:



- August 5 - open
- August 12- Sienkiewicz (1)
- August 19- Caba (1)
- August 26 - Slozak (1)
- September 2- open
- September 9 - Sienkiewicz (1)
- September 16- Johnson (1)
- September 23 - open
- September 30 - open

If you would like, sign up in the 2018 FLOWER BOOK located on the round table in the church foyer or contact Jane McClure. We can do up to three bouquets per Sunday. The cost per bouquet is \$21.00. Please make checks payable to St. John's Flower Fund.

We request that all who have asked for flowers to pay for them by the Sunday before the requested date so that we can pay the florist in a timely manner. Also, flowers that are not picked up by Monday will be delivered to a shut in or at the nursing home next door.

**Volunteers** are needed to care for the altar during September, October, and December. This activity doesn't take a lot of time and is very easy to do. If you are unable to commit to a full month, a week or two is helpful. Training will be provided. If you have any questions, contact Jane McClure. At 562-0492.



**"Pipe The Piper: Bach, Buxtehude & Before"**

**Presented By**

**'Soli Deo Gloria' Concert Series**

*Sunday, September 30, 2018*

*3:00 p.m.*

Join us for the third concert of this season with an organ concert featuring music from the baroque era and before! Director of Music Jeff Windoloski will perform on St. John's Austin pipe organ with selections from Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750), Dieterich Buxtehude (1637 - 1707), Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562 - 1621), Johann Pachelbel (1653 - 1706) and more. Following the concert be sure to join us in the fellowship hall for a reception. We hope that you will join us to celebrate the majesty and splendor of this early music as it is performed on the king of instruments!

*\*Please note the concert date change*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP**



We are in need of Sunday School teachers for the fall. You do not have to be an expert to be a Sunday School teacher - just the desire to help the young people of our church grow in their faith. Teachers follow scripted lesson plans and can learn as they prepare their lessons. If you are interested in sharing your love and knowledge of Jesus with our children, please speak to Erika Slozak (579-4962) or Pastor.

**FRIENDLY REMINDER:** As people vacation throughout the summer, our attendance and our giving decline. If you're traveling, please take a moment to mail your regular donation, or perhaps give twice, if you are able, on the week before you depart. This helps us in conducting our ministries and taking care of our necessary expenses. We pray for safe travel and family togetherness as you vacation.

### **A New Start**

The soloist began to sing a special song during the worship service. It was awful! She had somehow started on the wrong note, terribly out of tune with the accompanist. She abruptly stopped and announced she needed a new start. She then began anew with a beautiful addition to the morning worship. Had she tried to limp through the first try, people would have remembered the off-key solo. Instead, by her second start, the congregation was assisted in their worship of the Lord.

That is the way it is with our lives, too. Our first start in life, our birth, is awful because of sin. We are born with a sin condition

that makes it impossible for us to please God no matter how hard we try. We are captive to disobedience of God and His Law, to “doing it our way” and the passions of sin. But unlike the soloist we cannot even recognize we are out of tune with God.

Then it is God Who comes to us by His Word to show us our sin. It is He Who offers us grace and forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ. It is He Who by His Holy Spirit gives us that new start through Baptism. Through Baptism, we are united to Christ. Because Christ died for our sins, we are baptized into the death of sin with Him, that

we may be raised to new life with Him.

The Apostle Paul tells us, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). God has redeemed and restored us into new people who live under the Lordship of Christ. We are given new hearts and a new nature. Through faith that God gives us, we live in Christ and for Him, and through faith, we serve Christ by serving others.

Now our lives can be pleasing to God, like the soloist’s second start. Not because of our work, but because of the power of God’s gracious gift to us, Holy Baptism.