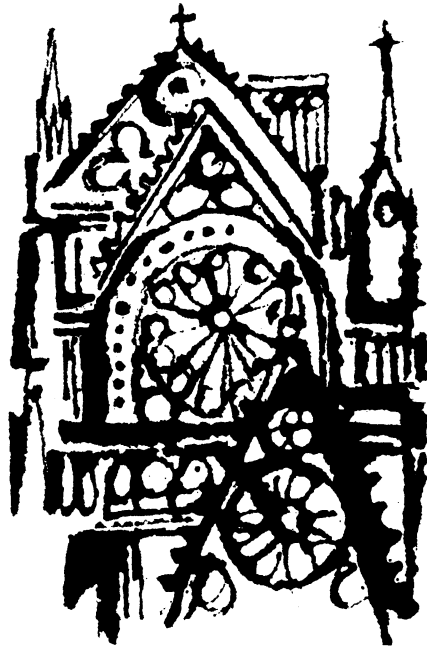


SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4856 WAYNE ROAD
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202
(717) 267-2266

EMAIL: info@solomonslutheran.org
WEB SITE: www.solomonslutheran.org
FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook



FOR MY HOUSE SHALL BE
CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER
for all peoples

I S A I A H 5 6 : 7

"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 20, 2023

August 20, 2023
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Righteous God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
you are freed and forgiven
in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ.
Amen.

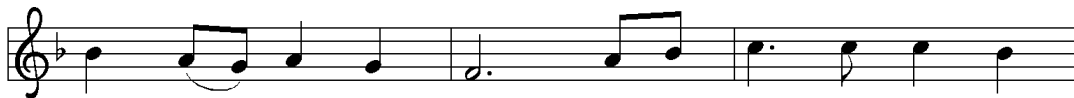
GATHERING SONG *All Are Welcome* (ELW 641)



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

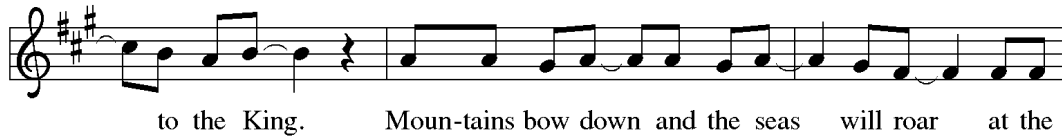
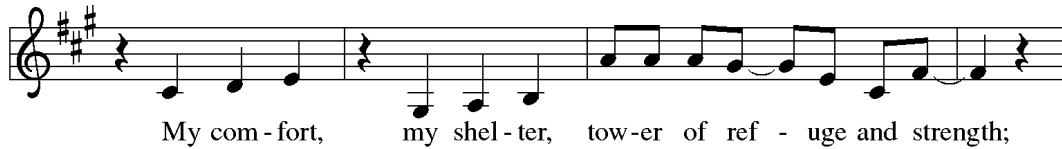
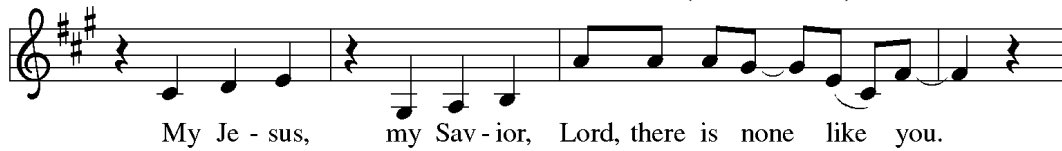
Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE #A-71900. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Shout to the Lord* (ELW 821)



Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech

Text and music © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing, admin. in U.S. and Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP).

© Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Used by Permission. CCLI #11066173

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67

(Sung responsively between women and men, beginning with the women.)



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

- ¹May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.
- ²**Let your way be known | upon earth,**
your saving health a- | mong all nations.
- ³Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
- ⁴**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,**
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.
- ⁵Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
- ⁶**The earth has brought | forth its increase;**
God, our own | God, has blessed us.
- ⁷May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

A reading from Romans.

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

[¹⁰[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.”¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?”¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.”¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.”¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding?¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.”²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON PASTOR BARB

HYMN OF THE DAY *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* (ELW 759)



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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 THE CHURCH *(Please respond.)*

P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring* (ELW 691)



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE #A-71900. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

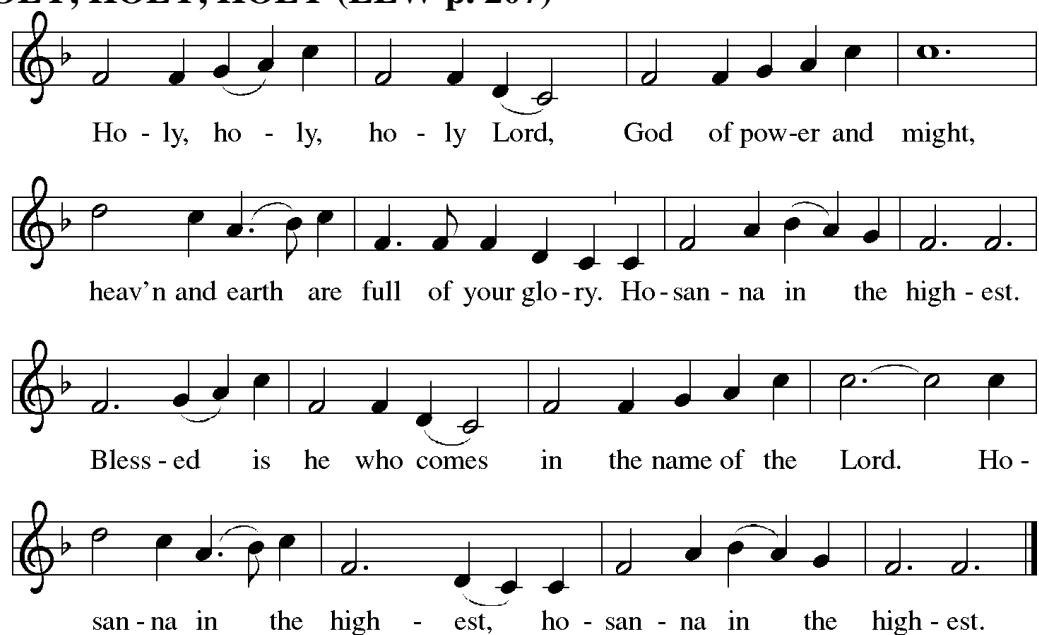
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God.
You reveal your glory
as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God,
ever to be adored in your eternal glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 207)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. Please notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar, the Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 208)



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION *One Bread, One Body* (ELW 496)



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-sing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



- | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|-----|---------|--------------|-----|--------|
| 1 | Gen - tile | or | Jew, | ser - vant | or | free, |
| 2 | Man - y | the | gifts, | man - y | the | works, |
| 3 | Grain for | the | fields, | scat - tered | and | grown, |



wom - an	or	man,	no	more.
one in	the	Lord	of	all.
gath - ered	to	one	for	all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE #A-71900. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*(ELW 538)

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain
un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;
me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Commonwealth Is God's Commandment* (ACS 1036)



1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE #A-71900. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SENDING IN SERVICE

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from ONELICENSE with license #A-719004. All rights reserved.

SERVING TODAY

Pastor	Rev. Barb Barry
Cell Phone Number	717-357-3150
Email Address	<u>Pastor@solomonslutheran.org</u>
Church Office Email Address	<u>office@solomonslutheran.org</u>
Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Martie Veilleux
Acolyte	Norm Kuykendall
Lector.....	Peggi Norman
Securing Offering	Wayne Dale & Norm Kuykendall
Communion Set-Up.....	Iлона & Jerry Laney
Communion Clean-Up	Iлона & Jerry Laney
Communion Bread	Iлона Laney
Communion Assist	Iлона Laney & Peggi Norman
Attendance last Sunday.....	57

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Prayer requests for the following: *Phyllis Brehm, Logan Peterson, Catherine Plummer, Bonnie Hudson, Marty Wenger, Virginia Detwiler, Terry Fell, Callie Mummert, Bernie Harris, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Jim & Carole Darr, Beth Floyd, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Tina Smith, Patricia Yetter, Nancy Marshall, Darrell Veilleux, Linda Wepking, Bill and Jane Brindle, Esther Gift, Jean Jackson, Marjorie McMullin, Joe Mock, Ina Shreiner, Genny Grant, Frances Kramer, Linda Russ, Carol Locke, Betty Amt, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Please Be Aware: If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.**

Office Hours for Pastor Barb are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon or call for an appointment.

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

August 22 – Social Ministry 7PM

23 – Psalms Study 10AM

Rally Day – Sunday Sept 10, 2023: Habitat for Humanity with Speaker, Mark Story.

Breakfast at 9:00am. Menu: Sausage Egg Casserole; Bacon Egg Casserole; Sticky Buns; Bacon; Fruit & Drink.

Fall Picnic/Campfire: Saturday, September 30, 2023 - In the Church Picnic Woods Starts at 5:00 pm; Eat at 5:30 pm. Menu: Roast your own Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Mac & Cheese; Chips; Watermelon; Roast your own S'mores & Drink.

Dine To Donate Fundraiser - The SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary invites you to dine out at the Chambersburg Applebee's located at 1050 Wayne Ave, Chambersburg on Monday, September 18th from 4:00 to 8:00PM. Applebee's will donate 20% of your total purchase amount (alcohol not included) to the Auxiliary. All proceeds support SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge and SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice in Franklin County.

Pianists Needed - SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge is seeking pianists to play once a month at the Sunday afternoon chapel service. The service begins at 2:00pm and lasts for approximately a half hour. Please contact Linda Beaver if you are interested in helping at lbeaver@spiritrustlutheran.org

RELAY FOR LIFE Fall Mum Sale - Our RFL team will be selling mums again this year. The 9" pots are \$14.00 each or 3 for \$36.00. Colors are white, yellow, red, orange and lavender. Last day for orders is Sunday, September 3 and delivery will be Sunday, September 17th. Sign up form is on the bulletin board in the Sunday School room or see Becky Mull or Zoe Mummert. Please make all checks payable to Becky Mull. Thank you for your support!

Personal Care Kits: thank you to all who contributed to the kits so far. You still have until 9/10 to donate any of the following: One light weight dark colored bath-size towel (52" x 27"); Bath-size bars of soap (any brand) in original wrapper; One adult-size single toothbrush in original package; One sturdy comb in original wrapper ; One metal nail clipper (attached file optional). The kits will be assembled during Rally Day in September. Monetary donations are accepted as well, please write "personal care kits" in the memo of your check.

Power Pack Meals: The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need starting in September. Please consider donating individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups, individual packages of mac-n-cheese, Chef Boyardee, 8 oz bottles of water, juice boxes, and yahoo chocolate drink. Monetary donations are accepted as well, please write "power pack meals" in the memo of your check.

SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg auxiliary has discount cards available for \$5.00. Cards are good until Sept. 1, 2024. All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. Lots of great places to save. See Bonney Coldsmith, Marjorie Dale, Becky Pecha, or Frances Reichard if you'd like to have a card.

Richard Graven is teaching Adult Bible School every other Sunday. Study material is taken from the book, "Navigating Genesis" by Hugh Ross. The last class is 8/27.

AUGUST 20, 2023
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*God blesses us to go into the world
with mercy.*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 15:10-28	A woman's faith
Monday	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	God's saving power is everywhere
Tuesday	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	God saves Jews and Gentiles
Wednesday	Jude 1:17-23	Warnings and exhortations
Thursday	Jeremiah 42:7-17	The Lord will grant you mercy
Friday	Deuteronomy 4:25-31	Moses commands obedience
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, (Selah) that
your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1-2
(NRSV)*

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, you have chosen us and blessed us to bless the world. Give us
compassionate hearts to do your will through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for blessing us with the fruitfulness of the earth that gives us food each day we
give you thanks through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be gracious to you and bless you for the sake of the whole world. (Psalm 67:1-2)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How have you been blessed by others?
- How have you blessed others with the love of God?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 67.

God's mercy is shown through two distinct divine actions. First, God saves us through forgiveness, rescuing us from harm, and by saving us from death. God does a second great act that we sometimes overlook. God blesses us. God blesses us with the fruit of the earth, comfort, and joy. Psalm 67 asks for God's blessings and also affirms that God has already blessed us with abundance. God intends joy for all the earth (all the nations). We are blessed to bless the nations with joy and gladness by knowing the goodness, justice, and mercy of God. In Matthew 15:21-28 that joy is experienced by the Canaanite woman, a foreigner, who is relentless in seeking help for her daughter. Jesus, who was sent "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (v. 24) resists her requests, but her persistence gains Jesus' mercy. She is acknowledged for having great faith and Jesus' mission expands to those beyond Israel. The point of both Bible texts: God's saving work and blessings are for all.

Discuss: Like the Canaanite woman, when have you persisted in asking for God's mercy?

Pray: **Blessing God, you care for us throughout our lives. Give us your joy and gladness and the heart to bless others with your goodness and mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others who are not part of your group or nation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The prophet Isaiah declared God's intention to make God's house (a temple in Jerusalem) a "house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7). Think or talk about prayer in your home. Is there a special place to pray? Is there a special time to pray? Is there a special way to pray? Do you pray alone or with others? In what ways do you feel your own home is a "house of prayer"? Pray the Lord's Prayer and then say: **Let the peoples praise you, O God. Let all the peoples praise you.** (Psalm 67:5)