

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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**if anyone wants
to be a follower
of mine. let him
deny himself and
follow me. MATT. 16:24**

"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."

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

September 3, 2023
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**
**We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.**
**We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.**
**For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.**
**For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.**
**For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**
**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (ELW 836)



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

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 (Sung Twice) *He Is Exalted* (W&P 55)

He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high; I will praise him.

He is ex-alt-ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed, and I will praise his

name. Je - sus is Lord, for - ev - er his truth shall

reign; hea - ven and earth re - joi - ce in his ho - ly

name. He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high.

Chords: F, F/A, B♭, C/B♭, B♭/C, C, Dsus, D/C, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, Am, B♭, F/A, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, Am, B♭, F/A, Gm, B♭/F, E♭M⁷, B♭/C, F, B♭/F, F.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from Jeremiah.

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

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



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¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived ¹ with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and ¹ have not faltered.

²**Test me, O ¹ LORD, and try me;**
examine my heart ¹ and my mind.

³For your steadfast love is be- ¹ fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- ¹ ly with you.

⁴**I have not sat ¹ with the worthless,**
nor do I consort with ¹ the deceitful.

⁵I have hated the company of ¹ evildoers;
I will not sit down ¹ with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in inno- ¹ cence, O LORD,**
that I may go in procession ¹ round your altar,

⁷singing aloud a song ¹ of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- ¹ derful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in ¹ which you dwell**
and the place where your glo- ¹ ry abides.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

A reading from Romans.

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are

thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.”²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Open Our Eyes, Lord* (W&P 113)

The musical score is written in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with corresponding lyrics and guitar chords. The chords are: D, G², G, Em⁷/A, A⁷, G/D, D, A/C#, Bm, D/A, GM⁹, Em, A⁷, G/D, D², D, DM⁷, A/G, G, Em⁷, A⁷, G/D, D, A, Bm⁷, D/A, GM⁹, Em⁷, A⁷, Em/D, D.

O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see
Je - sus, to reach out and touch
him, and say that we love him.
O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to
lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,
Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

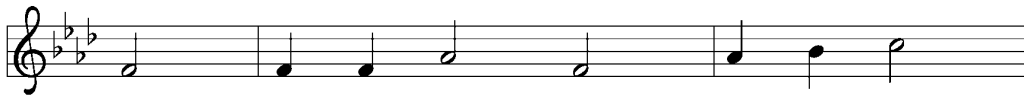
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON PASTOR BARB

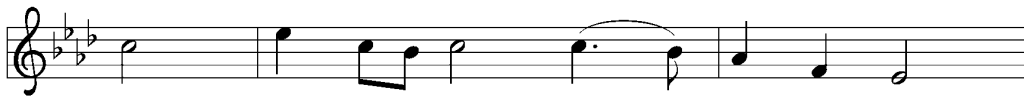
HYMN OF THE DAY *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said (BOURBON) (ELW 667)*



1 “Take up your cross,” the Sav - ior said,
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,



“if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
 per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
 nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
 nor think till death to lay it down;



for - sake the past, and come this day,
 his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
 for you the Lord en - dured the cross
 for those who hum - bly bear the cross



and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.”
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
 to save your soul from death and hell.
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

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: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY *Create in Me a Clean Heart (Hopkins) (W&P 35)*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
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OFFERING PRAYER

God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

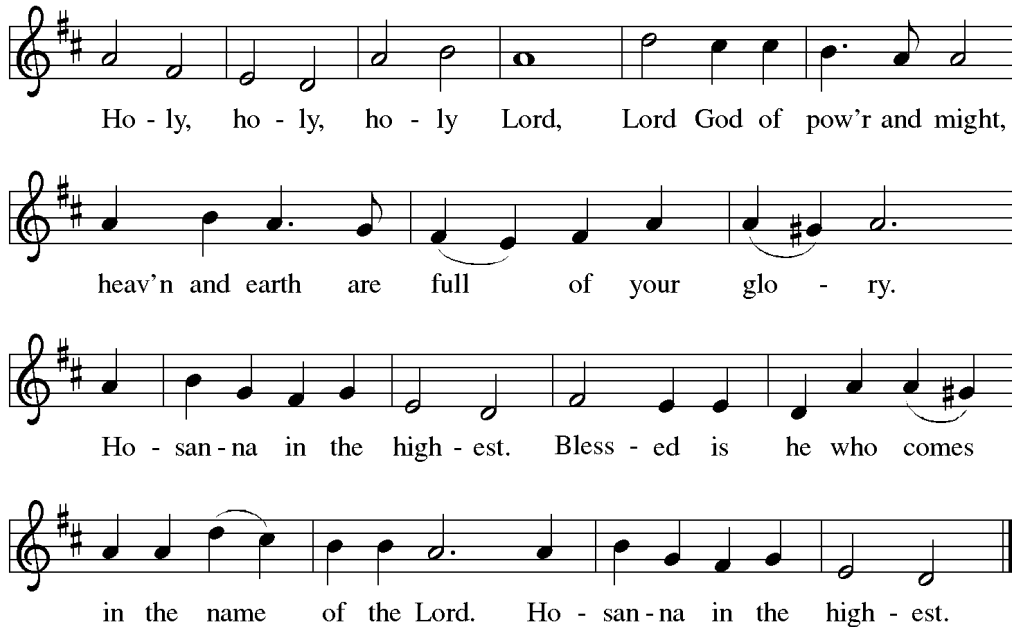
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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. 153)



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.

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 (sung)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray in song 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

Jesus invites you to this table.
Come, eat and live.

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. 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



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.

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song: Jésus, je voudrais te chanter* (ELW 808)



1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

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HOMEBOUND TEAM BLESSING

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *We Rejoice in the Grace of God* (W&P 151)

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are: We re-joice in the grace of God poured up - on our lives; lov - ing - kind - ness has come to us be - cause of Je - sus Christ. We re - joice in the grace of God, our hearts o - ver - flow. What a joy to know the grace of God!

Text: Steve Cook and Vicki Cook

Music: WE REJOICE IN THE GRACE, Steve Cook and Vicki Cook

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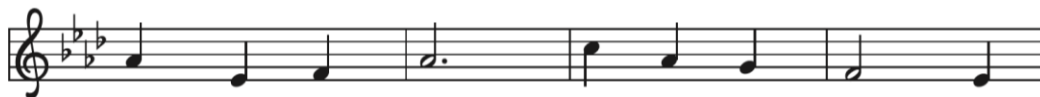
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.
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.

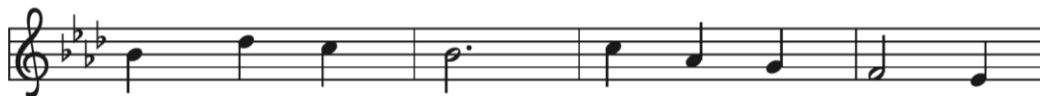
SENDING SONG *God's Work, Our Hands* (ACS 1000)



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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SENDING IN SERVICE

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

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Organist Doug Mummert
Head Usher Phil Johnson
Acolyte Sarah Aldrich
Lector..... Richard Graven
Securing Offering.....Marjorie Dale & Larry Socks
Communion Set-Up..... Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Clean-Up Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion BreadJanice McEntire
Communion Assist Janice McEntire & Peggi Norman
Coffee Station..... Richard Graven & Peggy Craven
Attendance last Sunday.....52

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of Connie and Ferd Bikle given by Kathy, Matthew, Lexi & Brooke Bowen and Marie & Todd Dovey.

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, Catherine Plummer, Bonnie Hudson, Marty Wenger, Virginia Detwiler, 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.**

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

September 3 - Coffee Hour Fellowship after worship

7 - Finance 6PM

Choir Practice 7PM

If you are in need of pastoral care, please notify Ron Coldsmith, Council President.

Pastor Jane Nicholson, pastor of First Lutheran, Chambersburg, has agreed to provide this care for Solomon's until such time as an interim or settled pastor is called to serve.

We will have an outdoor worship service in the Woods on September 17 at 10:15 a.m., weather permitting. Following the service, we will gather in the picnic shelter for a potluck lunch. Beverages, plates, napkins, and cutlery will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and a camp chair. If it rains, we will worship in the church and eat in the Fellowship Center.

- Last name beginning with A-G bring a side dish
- Last name beginning with H-N bring a dessert
- Last name beginning with O-Z bring a main dish

Solomon's Relay for Life Team: Is having a Hammer & Stain Fundraiser – “Stained Resin Wine Glasses or Metal Tumblers Workshop” on Sunday, October 22, 2023 from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm at: Hammer & Stain, 31 South Main Street, Chambersburg. Go on-line to register & pay at: hammerstainchambersburg.com. Scroll down on the home page until you see our listing. – “Click on” 10/22/23 Relay for Life Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church Fundraiser; then you pick which item you want to make; pay directly on the site. **Sign-up deadline is October 8, 2023.** If you have any questions please see Becky Mull or Zoe Mummert. Snacks and Water will be provided. Join us for a fun afternoon!

Apple Butter and Candy Order forms are here! Candy Making – Mark your calendars – **Thursday October 26, 2023 & Friday October 27, 2023.** We will be setting up for candy making on Thursday October 26 at 10:00 am. We will be making candy on Friday October 27 at 8:00 am. Apple Butter & Candy Order Forms are in the newsletter and on table in the Sunday School Room. **Apple Butter & Candy orders will need to be turned in by Sunday, October 8, 2023.** Sign-up Sheets are on the bulletin board in the Sunday School Room. Candy can be picked up Saturday Oct. 28th 9:00 – 11:00 am and Sunday Oct. 29th after Church.

The September/October issue of the Living Lutheran is available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex.

The October/November/December issue of the Our Daily Bread devotional is available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex.

Help is needed to assemble the Personal Care Kits during God's Work Our Hands on Rally Day Sunday, September 10th. Any questions see Linda Berberich.

If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, the following Sundays in September are still available: 9/17 & 9/24.

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.

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.

Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants for July – December 2023 are on the bulletin board in the Sunday School room. Communion: bread, set-up, clean-up, and assistant will be on a monthly basis. If you can't commit to the entire month, please see if you can share the month with someone else. Acolytes and Lectors are on a weekly basis. If you find you can't fulfill a chosen date, please call someone to take your place. Let Kimberly in the office know so the bulletin and newsletter info stays up to date. Thank you for your commitment to help provide opportunities for meaningful worship at Solomons. Kimberly will publish the schedule for each month in the newsletter.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Following Jesus is not an easy path.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 16:21-28	Take up your cross and follow
Monday	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Jeremiah is reassured
Tuesday	Romans 12:9-21	Rules for Christian living
Wednesday	2 Timothy 4:1-5	Paul's instructions to Timothy
Thursday	Philippians 1:27-30	Live your life in a worthy manner
Friday	1 Corinthians 12:12-26	One body with many members
Saturday	Psalms 26:1-8	Prayer of an innocent person
Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." **Matthew 16:24 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to pick up our crosses, suffer, and follow Jesus for what is right, just, and loving. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the cross of Christ free you to care for all.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you experienced pain or suffering?
- How does your faith in Christ help you when you are in pain or suffering?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Just a Closer Walk with Thee



DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 16:21-28.

In general, we do our best to avoid pain and suffering. Peter wanted Jesus—and himself—to avoid suffering, and so he rebuked Jesus. However, some suffering is necessary in life. There are times when the path in life is not easy. Fighting for justice on behalf of others and God’s creation and defending God’s mercy and forgiveness when hatred and vengeance is pursued by others are examples of times when suffering is warranted. Peter failed to understand this. Jesus called him out as one who was following the path of evil. The path Jesus chose picks up a cross. Jesus picked up his cross for the salvation of all that God has created. It was a very costly cross for Jesus. It led to torment, false accusations, suffering and death. It is what is referred to as the “theology of the cross,” that is, out of suffering God brings healing, new life, and salvation.

Discuss: When is a time in your life you avoided the harder path? What happened?

Pray: **Compassionate God, give us courage and strength to follow you where truth and justice are needed, to paths that bring healing and hope through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve by risking your own comfort for the sake of others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The cross is a Christian symbol. It reminds us that Jesus is with us through hard times. We see crosses in many places in our lives. As a follower of Jesus, notice the number of crosses you see in your home and in the community this week. Each time you see one, take a moment to pray: **Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross to save us. Amen.**