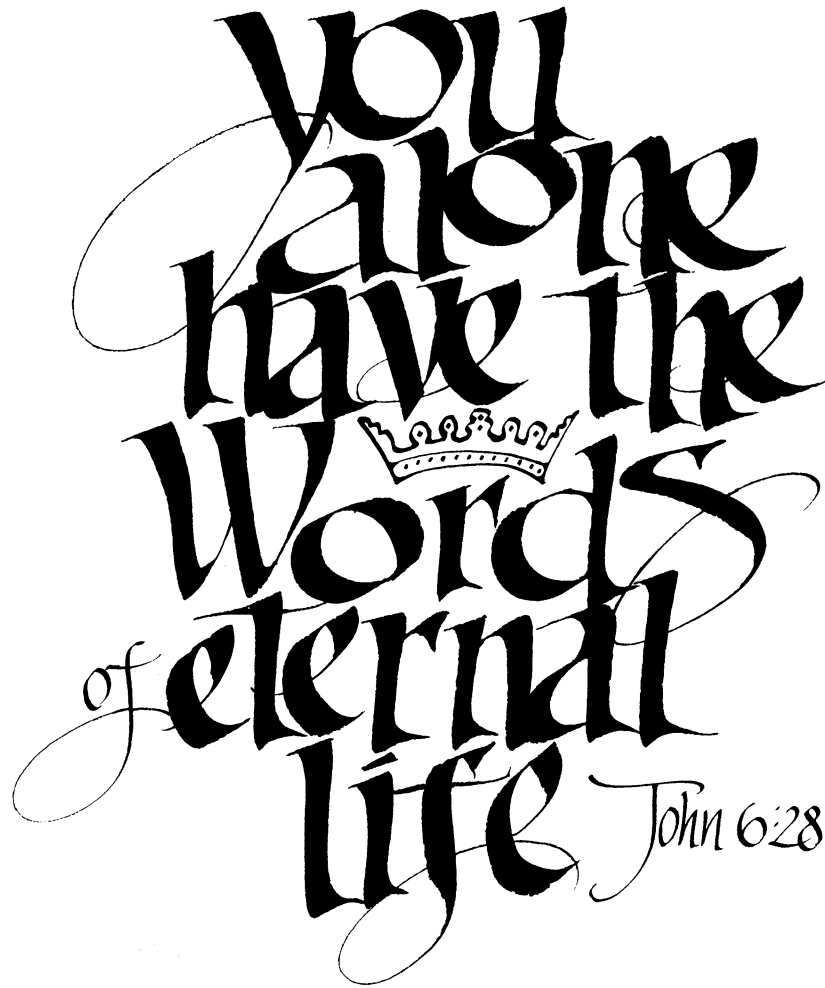


**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**4856 WAYNE ROAD**  
**CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202**  
**(717) 267-2266**

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FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook

you  
alone  
have the  
Words  
of eternal  
life *John 6:28*



*"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."*

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**AUGUST 22, 2021**

**August 22, 2021**  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

God, our provider,  
**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, ✚ the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG (verses 1&4)

### You Are the Way



- 1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
- 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
- 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.  
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.  
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.  
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

## 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 (ELW 148) We Rejoice in the Grace of God



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 OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

A reading from Joshua.

*In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

<sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22

*(Read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)*

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,  
and God’s ears are open | to their cry.

<sup>16</sup>**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,  
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them  
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup>**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted  
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles | of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

<sup>20</sup>**God will keep safe | all their bones;  
not one of them | shall be broken.**

<sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death | to the wicked  
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

<sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20**

A reading from Ephesians.

*Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.*

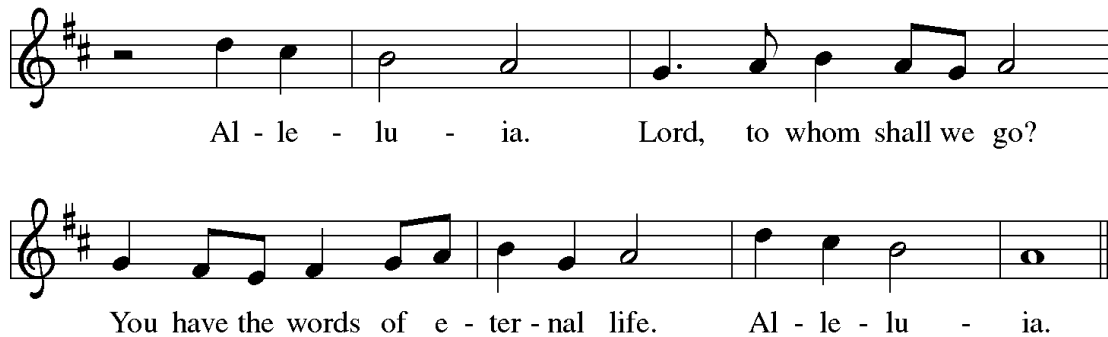
<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”*

[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY (*verses 1&3*)

Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
- 2 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
 an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis-pers of love.  
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

*Please stand if you are able.*

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: Lord, in your mercy. C: Hear our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

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



## OFFERATORY *We Are an Offering* (ELW 692)

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957  
Music: Dwight Liles  
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING  
PM

## OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.  
Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.  
Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

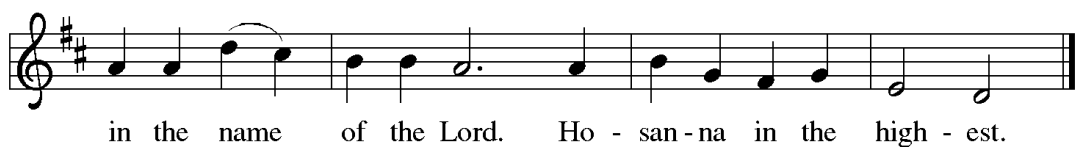
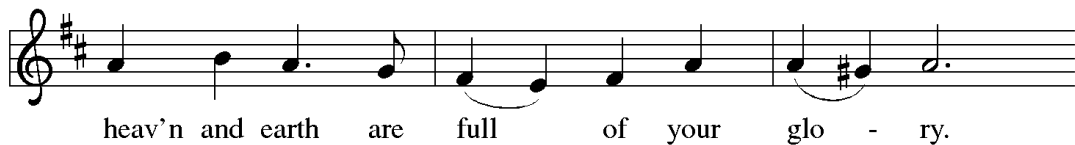
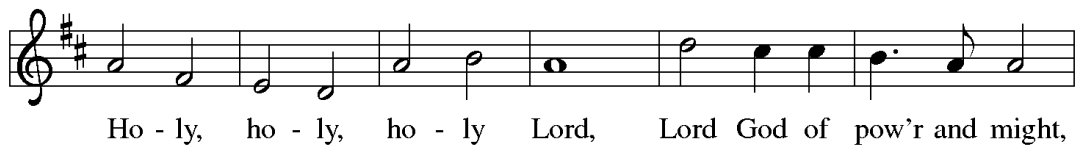
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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)



## **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**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

## **COMMUNION**

*Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher, maintaining your distance. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat.*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.  
In your 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 (verses 1&7)

### How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds in  
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole and  
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, my  
4 By thee my prayers ac - cep - tance gain al -



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,  
calms the heart's un - rest; 'tis man - na to the  
shield and hid - ing place; my nev - er - fail - ing  
though with sin de - filed. The dev - il charg - es



heals our wounds, and drives a - way all fear.  
hun - gry soul and to the wea - ry, rest.  
trea - sury, filled with bound - less stores of grace.  
me in vain, and I am owned a child.

5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,  
my prophet, priest, and king,  
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,  
accept the praise I bring.

6 How weak the effort of my heart,  
how cold my warmest thought;  
but when I see thee as thou art,  
I'll praise thee as I ought.

7 Till then I would thy love proclaim  
with every fleeting breath;  
and may the music of thy name  
refresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: ST. PETER, Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

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## SERVING TODAY

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Organist .....	Doug Mummert
Head Usher .....	Frances Reichard
Acolyte .....	Sarah Aldrich
Lector.....	Peggi Norman
Securing Offering.....	Edna Harris & Sam Mull
Communion Set-Up.....	Margie & Wayne Dale
Communion Clean-Up .....	Margie & Wayne Dale
Bread Cubes .....	Margie Dale
Communion Assist .....	Wayne Dale
Attendance last Sunday .....	43

Stewardship Thought - **Aug. 22, 2021** (13th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B) **John 6:68** – *Simon Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." We hear so many voices in our culture luring us to follow by promising us prosperity, power, fun, escape, prestige, etc. But steward disciples know that only Jesus has the words of true life, eternal life. We listen only for Jesus' words.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory and honor of God given by The McEntire Family.

**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!

**2021 Altar Flowers Chart**—Kimberly will not be posting the new altar flowers chart as usual. INSTEAD, please call her to reserve your special Sunday! **Flowers will now be purchased from Royer's Florist in Chambersburg. Please note the price will change to \$35.** For the price of two flower arrangements, you can give glory to God with the beauty of His creation on the altar; commemorate a loved one; and if you choose, have your flowers given to someone who is homebound or recovering from surgery or illness.

**Prayer requests** for the following *David Riggleman, Matt Bowen, Connie Bikle, Morgan, Nancy Bumbaugh Cook, Thelma Briggs, Patricia Yetter, Joe Mock, Darrell Veilleux, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Manny Negron, Barbara Socks, Denise Bowen, Anne English, Millie Kulkusky, Bonnie Hudson*. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. 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.

**Relay for Life:** Our team is putting together a raffle basket for the Relay event on Friday, September 17 and we are looking for donations of scratch off lottery tickets in any denomination. Please give your tickets to Becky Mull by September 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support!

**Choir Practice** begins on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

**Youth Family Campfire-Picnic:** Saturday Evening, September 18, 2021 at 6:00pm in the Picnic Woods. Hot Dogs, Mac & Cheese, Chips and S'mores. Bring your lawn chairs.

**SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary** is having a "**Michael's BBQ Chicken Dinner**" Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at Lowe's, LWE, Chambersburg. The dinner includes: 1/2 BBQ chicken, macaroni salad, baked beans, applesauce, and Martin's roll. Tickets can be pre-purchased from Marjorie Dale, Frances Reichard, or Becky Pecha for \$12.00.

**Notice of Congregation Meeting August 29:** The congregation council has called a congregational meeting immediately following worship on August 29, to vote on the recommendation to approve a sound system upgrade in the church. This upgrade will significantly improve the sound in worship as well as on the YouTube videos. The cost of this upgrade is fully covered by a generous church member. A quorum is needed, and all voting members of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

**We will have an outdoor worship service** in the Woods on September 19 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. If it rains, we will worship in the church and eat in the Fellowship Center.

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

**Bible Study Begins September 8.** Join Pastor Bill in the conference room on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. for an informal Bible Study. Starting September 8, we will be studying the Gospel of Luke. Luke will be featured in the lectionary readings for Year B, beginning in Advent. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome.

**Adult Sunday School Begins September 26.** Pastor Bill will lead a discussion of the Sunday lectionary texts at 9:00 a.m., in the Sunday School Room. All are welcome. You can prepare by reading the Old Testament lesson, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel texts appointed for the day.

**God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is September 12.** Solomon's is participating with thousands of other congregations across the country to serve our communities on *God's Work Our Hands Sunday*. Join Social Ministry in the Fellowship Center immediately following worship to assemble personal care kits for those in need. In the meantime, consider donating items needed for the kits. A board listing items requested, and a collection box are located next to the piano in the sanctuary.

Norm Kuykendall is selling tickets to a **Smith's Chicken BBQ** (1/2 chicken, baked potato, baked beans, and choice of coleslaw or applesauce) for \$12 on September 25<sup>th</sup>. See Norm if interested.

**Personal Care Kits:** Social Ministry has extended the collection of items for Personal Care Kits through the end of August. The kits will be assembled during Rally Day in September. Items needed for each kit are:

- One light weight bath-size towel (20" x 40" or 52" x 27")

- Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand in original wrapper

- One adult-size toothbrush in original package

- One sturdy comb like the one on display in the Sunday school room

- One metal nail clipper (attached file optional)

You may purchase any part of the kit and place it in the gray tote under the display.

**No Sunday School classes** during the summer months. Classes will resume on September 26.

The **annual SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary membership drive** will continue through the summer months. Anyone can join with a minimum contribution of \$1.00. The auxiliary is grateful for the generous support we have received. This enables the Auxiliary to make donations to the many important programs and services at The Village at Luther Ridge. If you would like to join the auxiliary or need more information, contact Becky Pecha.

**Bulletin Announcement Forms** are located 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.



**AUGUST 22, 2021**  
**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



*People respond differently to Jesus.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 6:56-71</b>	<b>Many disciples desert Jesus</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Joshua 24:1-18</b>	<b>Many tribes renew the covenant</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Ephesians 6:10-20</b>	<b>The whole armor of God</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Matthew 16:1-12</b>	<b>Pharisees and Sadducees test Jesus</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Luke 7:1-10</b>	<b>Jesus heals an army officer's servant</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>John 3:1-21</b>	<b>Jesus and Nicodemus</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 34:15-22</b>	<b>The Lord is with you</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 7:1-23</b>	<b>Authentic faith</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Simon Peter answered [Jesus], "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."* **John 6:68-69 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty and living God, give us faith to trust in you that we may overcome disbelief with faith, fear with hope, and indifference with love through Christ. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, may we humbly receive this food with thanksgiving, believing that all good things come from you. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the one who redeems your life give you peace and joy.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- In an era of deliberate misinformation, what is something you hold on to without wavering?
- What is something you have heard that is hard to believe?
- What does it mean to you that Peter said that Jesus is the Holy One of God?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Gather Us In*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 6:56-71.

It is difficult to have a conversation about Jesus without a strong reaction. Many of these reactions are experienced in our text from John 6. Some people hear the news of Jesus as the bread of life and complain that the message is difficult or offensive. Others simply experience disbelief. Some reject the message of Jesus and others actively pursue a path of betrayal. In the midst all of these naysayers, Peter states words the church has sung throughout its history: *“Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God”* (vv. 68-69). If truth be told, we have likely found ourselves in most—if not all—of those various groups. Such is the humble and challenging life of faith. At different moments of our lives, we, too, respond differently to the message and the presence of Jesus in our lives. When have you or someone you know sounded like a naysayer to Jesus as the Holy One of God? What moves us from disbelief to hope and from rejection to trust?

***Pray:* Dear God, give us hearts of love and faith that dare to trust that Jesus is the bread of life, the Holy One of God, who brings to us the words of eternal life. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:18, *“Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.”* Supplication means to pray for God’s help. We can serve others by praying for them. Is there someone you know who is need of God’s help? How can you pray for them this week?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

We wear a seat belt in the car and a helmet when riding a bike to protect us from something bad happening. Ephesians 6:10-17 tells us that God helps protect us. The whole armor of God provides truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation. The sword is the word of God. Draw a picture of a sword, color it, and cut it out. Use the sword as a bookmark in your Bible and as a reminder of the importance of God’s word each time you read scripture.