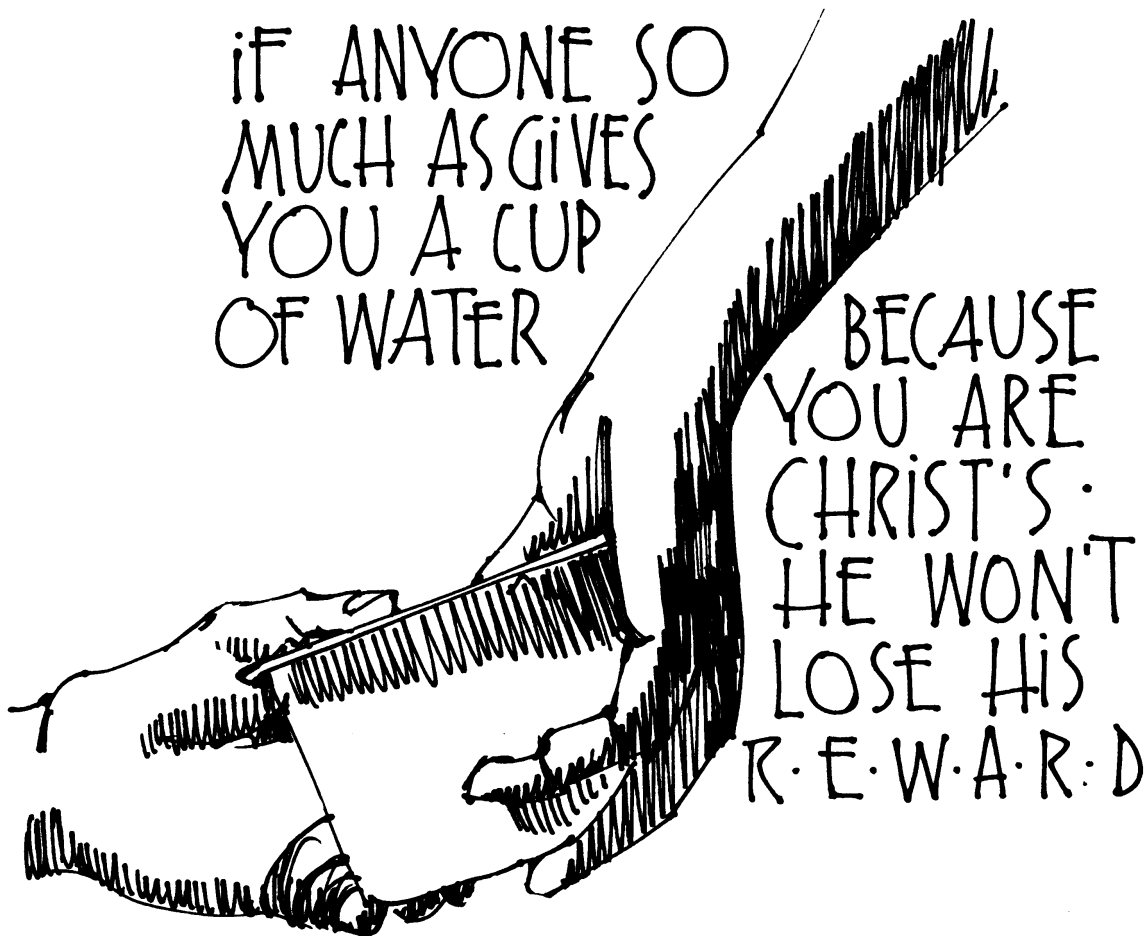


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M A R K 9 : 4 1



*"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."*

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

**September 26, 2021**  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

**Free us from our sin, gracious God.**

**Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ✠ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG (verses 1&5)

### O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True



1 O Christ, our light, O Ra - diance true, shine forth on  
2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the wan - d'ers  
3 Lord, o - pen all re - luc - tant ears and take a -  
4 Lord, let your mer - cy's gen - tle ray shine down on  
5 Make theirs with ours a sin - gle voice up - lift - ed,



those es - tranged from you, and bring them to your home a -  
lost in er - ror's maze. Set free all those whose hearts and  
way the need - less fears of those who trem - ble to ex -  
oth - ers strayed a - way. To those in con - science wound - ed  
ev - er to re - joice with wond - 'ring grat - i - tude and



gain, where their de - light shall nev - er end.  
minds some deep de - lu - sion haunts and binds.  
press the faith their in - most hearts con - fess.  
sore show heav - en's wait - ing, o - pen door.  
praise to you, O Lord, for bound - less grace.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite

Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## 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.**

## KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie

Music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)

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## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

### We Rejoice in the Grace of God

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-joyce 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-joyce 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

Text and music © 1988 Integrity's Hosanna! Music and PDI Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved. International © secured.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

A reading from Numbers.

*What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?*

<sup>4</sup>The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, “If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”

<sup>10</sup>Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. <sup>11</sup>So Moses said to the LORD, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? <sup>12</sup>Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors’? <sup>13</sup>Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ <sup>14</sup>I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup>If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

<sup>16</sup>So the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.”

<sup>24</sup>So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. <sup>25</sup>Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

<sup>26</sup>Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup>And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” <sup>28</sup>And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” <sup>29</sup>But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 19:7-14**

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

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-<sup>l</sup>ives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to<sup>l</sup> the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and re-<sup>l</sup>joice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light<sup>l</sup> to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and en-<sup>l</sup>dures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous<sup>l</sup> altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than<sup>l</sup> much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey<sup>l</sup> in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your ser-<sup>l</sup> vant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is <sup>l</sup> great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's <sup>l</sup> own offenses?**

**Cleanse me from my <sup>l</sup> secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion <sup>l</sup> over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a <sup>l</sup> great offense.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable <sup>l</sup> in your sight,**

**O LORD, my strength and <sup>l</sup> my redeemer.**

## **SECOND READING: James 5:13-20**

A reading from James.

*Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.*

<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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: Mark 9:38-50

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.*

<sup>38</sup>John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup>“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>“For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

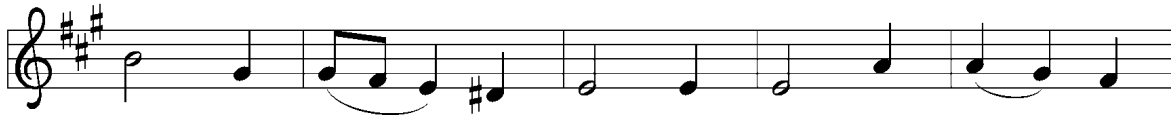
**PASTOR BILL**

# HYMN OF THE DAY (verses 1&6)

## Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed  
3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man  
4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the  
grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from  
fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.  
lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside  
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
among these restless throngs abide;  
oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,  
and follow where your feet have trod;  
till glorious from your heav'n above  
shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850–1935, alt.

Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815

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*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

God of abundance,  
you cause streams to break forth in the desert  
and manna to rain from the heavens.  
Accept the gifts you have first given us.  
Unite them with the offering of our lives  
to nourish the world you love so dearly;  
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.**

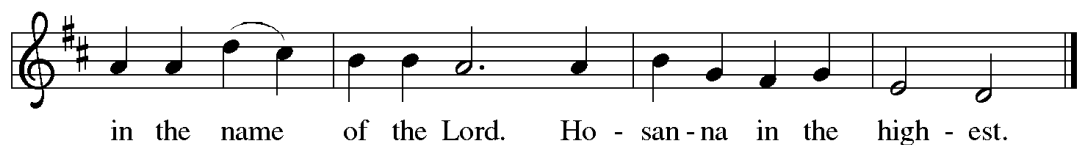
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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,  
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**

All who hunger and thirst, come.  
The table is ready.

## **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.**

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

### Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life,  
in the gift of your body and blood  
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.  
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,  
bearing witness to the abundance of your love  
in 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

### Go, Make Disciples

“Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tiz - ing them, teach - ing them.

Go, make dis - ci - ples, for I am with you till the end of time.

Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.

Go, be a cit - y on a hill, so all can see that you're

serv - ing me. Go, make dis - ci - ples.”

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final line of the score ends with a double bar line.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GO, MAKE DISCIPLES, Handt Hanson

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

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## SERVING TODAY

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Church Office Email Address .....	<a href="mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org">office@solomonslutheran.org</a>
Organist .....	Doug Mummert
Head Usher .....	Linda Berberich
Acolyte .....	Katy Nienstedt
Lector.....	Sam Mull
Securing Offering.....	Becky Mull & Zoe Mummert
Communion Set-Up.....	Peggy Craven & Richard Graven
Communion Clean-Up .....	Peggy Craven & Richard Graven
Bread Cubes .....	Frances Reichard
Communion Assist .....	Janice McEntire
Attendance last Sunday .....	45

**Stewardship Thought - Sept. 26, 2021** (18th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B) **Psalm 19:14**  
– Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. When we live fully to God, we want not just our outside appearance to meet with God’s approval, but even our thoughts and words. This is the prayer of a true steward/disciple.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of Scott McKenzie & Thomas Eichhorn, Jr. given by LaRue McKenzie.

**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 *Peggi Norman, Minnie Tom, Sandy Reichard's Family, Bonnie Creager Youcum, Sandy Chilcote, Sandy Bream, Linda Keller, Alan Johnson, Beth Floyd, Charles and Mary Jo Bedsworth, Linda Wepking, Raelynn Tarman, Susie Alleman, Rev. Peter Emig, Clif Rau, David Riggleman, Thelma Briggs, Patricia Yetter, 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.

**If you would like to sign up for altar flowers** for a Sunday during the month of October or November, the following dates are still available: 10/24, 10/31, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28. Please email or call Kimberly ([office@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org) / 717 267-2266).

**Chambersburg Area CROP Walk** - CROP Walk is the grassroots community interfaith fund-raiser sponsored by Church World Service. It is a worldwide effort to help the needy help themselves. Part of the money that is raised locally is used to assist the Chambersburg Area Food Pantry and the Salvation Army. CROP allows people from different area churches to walk hand in hand together. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to join with other people of faith to fight the good fight. This year's CROP Walk will take place on October 17 beginning at 1:30 p.m. It will commence from Central Presbyterian Church and follow a 2 1/2-mile route that circles the downtown area. For walkers, envelopes are available from Edna Harris for your donations. If you wish to contribute but not walk, see Edna Harris. Checks can be made out to Solomon's with CROP Walk in the memo line.

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU** for supporting our Personal Care Kit mission. The goal of Social Ministry was to collect enough items to fill 30 kits, but with your help we were able to complete 39 kits. Also, thanks to those of you who helped assemble the kits on Rally Day.

**Spaghetti Dinner** - Saturday, October 9, 2021, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. All you can eat: Spaghetti w/ meatballs, salad, rolls, dessert, and beverage at Solomon's Lutheran Church 4856 Wayne Rd., Chambersburg. All tickets sold at the door, Adults - \$10.00 & Children 3–10 - \$5.00. Sponsored by: SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary. All proceeds benefit SpiriTrust Lutheran programs at Luther Ridge.

**Luncheon Invitation Oct 3:** The congregation is invited to attend a light luncheon in celebration of Richard Graven's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on October 3 in the Fellowship Center after church. Meet his family and enjoy his presentation on "How I Became a Christian".



**Lutheran Disaster Response Hurricane Ida:** The hurricane caused devastation on the Gulf Coast and then caused extreme flooding in the Northeast, where over fifty people died, and thousands suffered severe property damage. LDR is on the ground, helping to rebuild communities. You may help in the effort by donating to “LDR-Hurricane Ida.” Place your donation in the offering plate or send it to the office. 100% of your donation goes to the disaster response. Thank you.

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service Aids Afghan Refugees:** The evacuation of Afghanistan has meant over 20,000 refugees have arrived in the United States. You are encouraged to go to the LIRS.org website to learn how you can help by acting, donating, advocating, and praying for Afghan allies and their families. You may donate directly or place your offering in the collection plate or send it to the office. Mark you donation “LIRS: Afghan Allies.” Thank you.

**Apple Butter:** ½ pint - \$4.00 & pints \$7.00. Orders due - Sunday, October 10, 2021. Order forms in Sunday School room.

**Candy Making:** ½ lb. bag \$7.00 & 1 lb. bag \$12.00. Orders due - Sunday October 10, 2021. Sign-up to help make candy on Thursday, October 28 & October 29, 2021. Set up: Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. Order sheets and sign-up sheets in the Sunday School room.

**Bible Study** - Join Pastor Bill in the conference room on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. for an informal Bible Study. 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** - 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.

**Youth Sunday School Classes** starting at 9:00 a.m. have resumed.

**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.

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2021**  
**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*Confess your sins and pray for one another.*



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 9:38-50</b>	<b>Avoiding sin</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Numbers 11:4-29</b>	<b>Moses and the seventy elders</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>James 5:13-20</b>	<b>The power of prayer</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalm 4</b>	<b>An evening prayer</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 Thessalonians 5:12-28</b>	<b>Final instructions</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Romans 8:18-27</b>	<b>Future glory for God's people</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 19:7-14</b>	<b>The wonders of God</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 10:2-16</b>	<b>Jesus blesses the children</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. James 5:16 (NRSV)*

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of heaven and earth, guide us in our words and actions that we may sing your praises and love all those in our care. In Christ we pray, amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, as you fill us with this meal, fill our hearts with a desire for your message of divine love and faithfulness. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the truth and beauty of God's word revive your soul and make you wise. (Psalm 19:7-11)

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- What have you heard lately that filled you with joy?
- What have you heard recently that made you sad?
- In what ways can you communicate a message of healing, joy, and peace this week?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Send Me, Lord*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* James 5:13-20.

James is concerned about speech. Speech that is not of God leads to division, chaos, hatred, and death. Speech that is of God brings peace, purity, and gentleness (James 3:16-18). It has been argued that talk and dialogue on social media has not helped humanity. There are times it has caused division, chaos, and hate rather than peace, purity, and gentleness. In James 5, prayer, confession, and songs of praise are listed as worthy ways to speak. James is concerned about the misuse of the human tongue and of human speech. James is also concerned that Christians live up to their calling and communicate God's healing, forgiveness, and peace to others. Let's join James in the Christian movement that seeks the good, the true, and the beautiful for all through faith in Christ. How can you use speech, written or oral, for the good of all and to give praise to God?

*Pray:* **God of healing and peace, use our words so that truth, hope, and healing may reign through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Access to social media can make everyone feel important. Seeing our own words can make us feel powerful and influential. The Letter of James knows that words are powerful but not always helpful. How can you use a social media platform or other means to offer words of prayer, praise, a song, or a Bible verse to bless others this week?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Mark 9:38-40, Jesus' disciples complain that someone was casting out demons in Jesus' name but was not following Jesus' disciples. Sadly, it has been the case throughout our history that people who follow Jesus in a way different "from us" are condemned. This week, take time to list Christian traditions that are different from yours. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for their faith and witness in the world in the name of Jesus Christ.