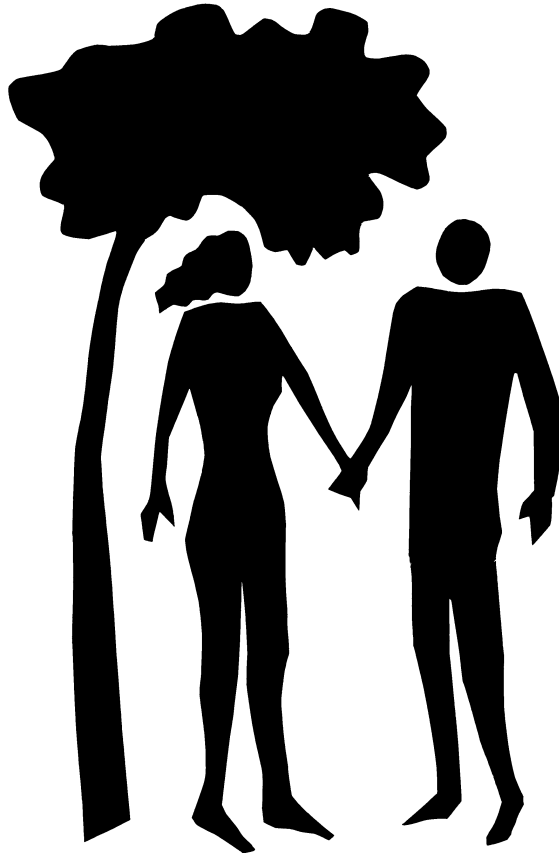


SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook



*I will make
a companion
for him.*

G E N E S I S 2 : 1 8

"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."

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 3, 2021

October 3, 2021
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

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&4)

How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



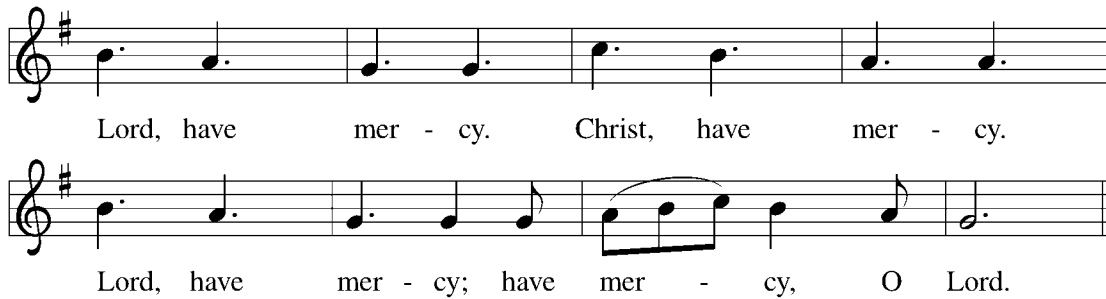
who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

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.

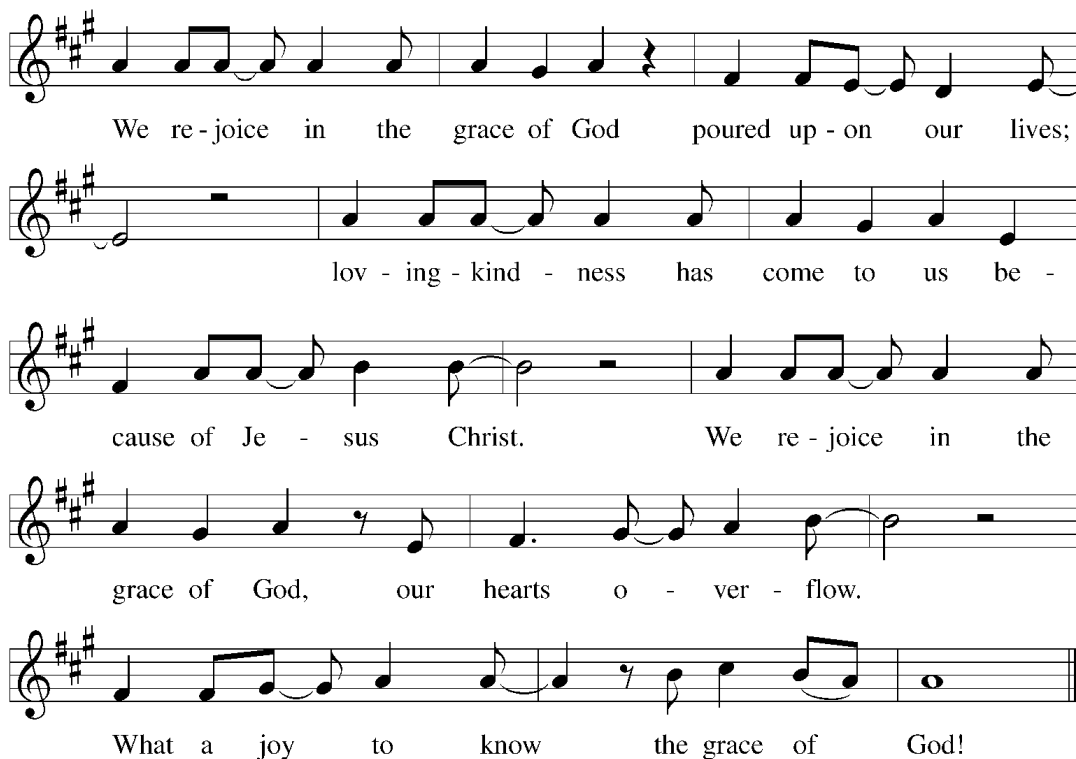
Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie
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CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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.

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:18-24

A reading from Genesis.

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other “one flesh.” The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 8

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

¹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;**

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works¹ of your hands;
you have put all things un-¹der their feet:**

⁷all¹ flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts¹ of the field,

⁸**the birds of the air, the fish¹ of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths¹ of the sea.**

⁹O¹ LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in¹ all the earth!

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

A reading from Hebrews.

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels.

⁶But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?”

⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
⁸subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

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 10:2-16

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR BILL

HYMN OF THE DAY (verses 1&4)

Blest Be the Tie That Binds



- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
- 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
- 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
- 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

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)

The musical score is written on six staves of music. It begins with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line.

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.

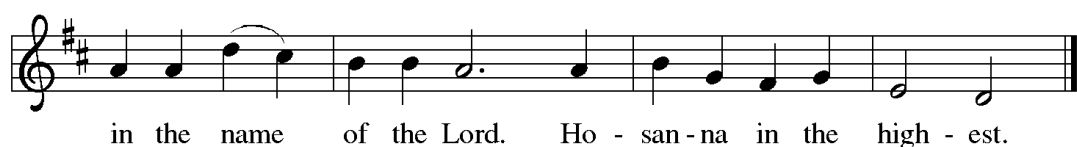
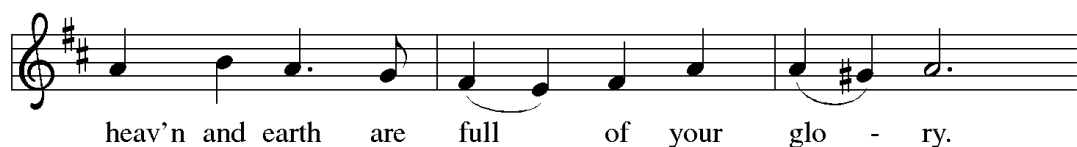
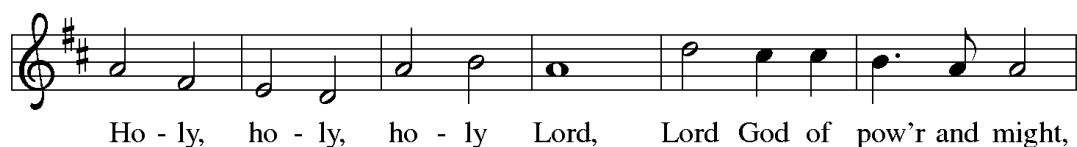
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 (verses 1&3)

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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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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Head Usher	Kathy Bowen
Acolyte	Rebekah Aldrich
Lector.....	Richard Graven
Securing Offering.....	Ilona Laney & Sam Mull
Communion Set-Up.....	Margie & Wayne Dale
Communion Clean-Up	Margie & Wayne Dale
Bread Cubes	Margie Dale
Communion Assist	Margie Dale
Attendance last Sunday	44

Stewardship Thought - Oct. 3, 2021 (19th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B) **Psalm 8:4, 6**

–What are human beings that you [Lord] are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet. God gives us dominion over God’s creation, which means we’re in charge. But that also means we have a duty to treat the created world respectfully and use its resources responsibly. How do you think we’re doing? As steward-disciples, how can we do better?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in honor of Richard’s 91st birthday given by Peggy with love and affection.

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: *Peace and comfort for the family and friends of Muriel Dunlop, mother of Bishop James Dunlop, Family of Patsy Wagner, Earl Garvin, Jr., Minnie Tom, Bonnie Creager Youcum, Sandy Chilcote, Sandy Bream, Linda Keller, Alan Johnson, Linda Wepking, Raelynn Tarman, Susie Alleman, Clif Rau, David Riggelman, 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: 10/31, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28. Please email or call Kimberly (office@solomonslutheran.org / 717 267-2266).

Help is needed to serve a dinner on Tuesday evening, October 5th. See sign-up sheet in Sunday School room.

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.

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 91st birthday today 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.

OCTOBER 3, 2021
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jesus heals and blesses the defenseless.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 10:2-16	Jesus blesses the children
Monday	Genesis 2:18-24	God creates a human partner
Tuesday	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	God has spoken through Jesus
Wednesday	Psalms 147:1-11	Praise the Lord
Thursday	Joel 2:18-27	God's response and promise
Friday	Acts 3:1-10	Peter heals a cripple
Saturday	Psalm 8	God honors humanity
Sunday	Mark 10:17-31	A rich man goes away sad

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Truly I [Jesus] tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. Mark 10:15-16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of tender care, help us to care for creation, for human beings, and family relationships so that we may serve one another in peace. In Jesus' name, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this food we give thanks and praise that you are aware of our needs and care for us with your majesty. Amen. (Psalm 8)

A Blessing to Give:

May the glory of God bless you to live, to love, and to serve in Jesus' name.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What words would you use to describe a good relationship with someone?
- What hurts relationships with others?
- God desires us to have life-giving relationships. In what ways can you fulfill God's desire for relationships with others?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Come and Fill Our Hearts



DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 10:2-16.

When we read that the Pharisees ask Jesus about divorce, our bodies can easily tighten. Divorce has touched all of our lives. We know that at times divorce, as painful as it is, is better than remaining in a hurtful relationship. Jesus goes to the heart of the matter: God desires life-giving relationships, not divorce. Why is this so important? Because in Jesus' day women and children paid the greatest price in a divorce. Family life is foundational to our social fabric. For much of our history—and especially during Judaism of the New Testament—the protection provided by the shelter and wealth of a husband and father was essential to survival. Without it, women and children were left poor and ostracized by society. Today, men, too, can be the ones left with grief and distress. Jesus is speaking here to defend defenseless lives. He is teaching his disciples as they journey to Jerusalem to care for the helpless, the poor, and the socially dispossessed. This story in Mark about divorce, women, and children ends by caring for the two groups hurt most in a divorce in his day: women and children. He does not chastise them. He offers them his healing care, lays his hands on the children, and blesses them. How have you helped people who have been affected by divorce?

Pray: **God of life and healing, help us to care for one another and to protect one another with our words and our actions through the healing touch of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Genesis 2:18-24 has real humor woven into the story of the creation of the woman. The all-knowing God has difficulty finding a helper and partner for the human being just created. Finally, God creates the woman as the perfect match. In describing the greatest mysteries of life, the Bible can be playful. As you enjoy relationships with others, be sure to find time for play and humor with those around you this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Go outside at night this week when the night sky isn't hidden by clouds. When you go inside, talk about the beauty of the sky and the different constellations that you saw. End your time by reading Psalm 8. If you are with others, close with this blessing: **May the majesty of God bless you to live and serve others in Jesus' name.**