

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"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."

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 7, 2021

November 7, 2021

All Saints Sunday

Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

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 (all verses)

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more
3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye
4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su -



ser - apts, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:
glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:
pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia!
per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia!



"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
"Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal
Al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs
Al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the



pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:
Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:
strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:
Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:



"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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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
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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.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from Isaiah.

Isaiah sees a vision of the end of days, when God will gather all people on God's holy mountain and will prepare for them a rich feast. At this banquet God will wipe the tears from all eyes. And there will be no more sorrow, for God will destroy death itself.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 24

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

¹The earth is the LORD's and all ¹ that is in it,
the world and those who ¹ dwell therein.

²**For the LORD has founded it up- ¹ on the seas
and established it up- ¹ on the rivers.**

³Who may ascend the mountain ¹ of the LORD,
and who may stand in God's ¹ holy place?
⁴**Those of innocent hands and puri- ¹ ty of heart,**
who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by ¹ what is false.
⁵They shall receive blessing ¹ from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of ¹ their salvation.
⁶**Such is the generation of those who seek ¹ you, O LORD,**
of those who seek your face, O ¹ God of Jacob.
⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- ¹ lasting doors,
that the King of glory ¹ may come in.
⁸**Who is this ¹ King of glory?**
The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, might- ¹ y in battle!
⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- ¹ lasting doors,
that the King of glory ¹ may come in.
¹⁰**Who is this ¹ King of glory?**
Truly, the LORD of hosts is the ¹ King of glory.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6a

A reading from Revelation.

Here is a vision of the new heaven and new earth in which God resides fully with God's people so that mourning, despair, and pain have been eradicated. These renewing words from the God who spans all of time are trustworthy and true.

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ^{6a}Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

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 11:32-44

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Through the raising of Lazarus, Jesus offers the world a vision of the life to come, when death and weeping will be no more.

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR BILL

HYMN OF THE DAY (verses 1&4)

Give Thanks for Saints



1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -
2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere
3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling
4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -



round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so
mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the
pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an
live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their



while they live and when they die how force - ful -
true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on
in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -
hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that



ly they speak— the strong, who once were weak!
toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.
cerns they own— God's love through them is known.
we may say we share their pil - grim way.

Text: Martin E. Leckebusch, b. 1962
Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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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: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

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. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' above the 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.

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.

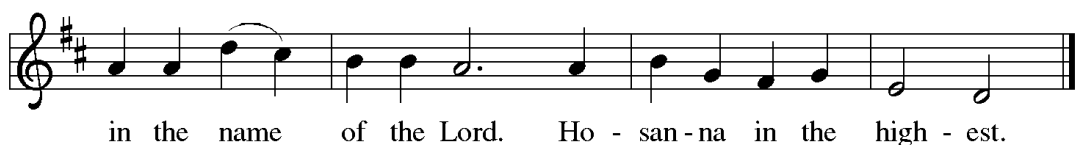
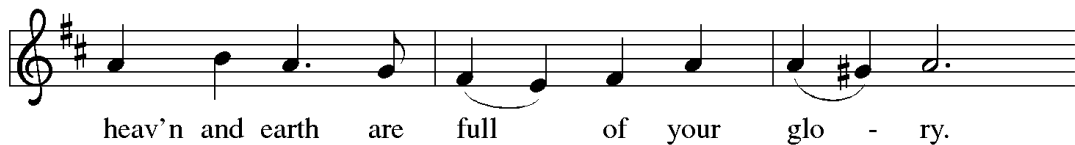
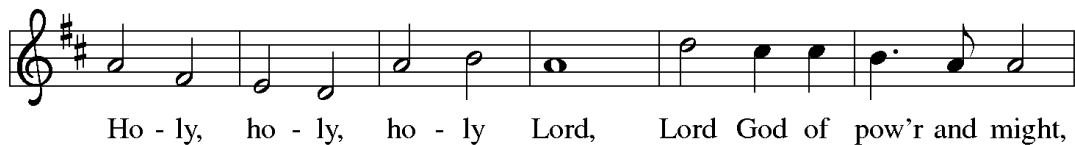
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 (SUNG)

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
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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&7)

For All the Saints



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou,
Stanzas 3-5 below.
6 But then there breaks a yet more glorious day: the
7 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through



thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; . .

saints triumphant rise in bright array; the
gates of pearl streams in the countless host, . .



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.

King of glory passes on his way.
sing - ing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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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Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Margie Dale
Acolyte	Katy Nienstedt
Lector.....	Rich McEntire
Securing Offering.....	Janice McEntire & Phil Johnson
Communion Set-Up.....	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Clean-Up	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Bread Cubes	Margie Dale
Communion Assist	Wayne Dale
Attendance last Sunday	54

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in honor of Jared and Emma’s 1st Wedding Anniversary today, November 7th given by Mom and Dad.

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: *Lori Baker, Connie Bikle, Mark and Georgia Moats, Nancy Bumbaugh Cook, Charles and Mary Jo Bedsworth, Rich Plummer, Minnie Tom, Bonnie Creager Youcum, Sandy Chilcote, Sandy Bream, Linda Keller, Alan Johnson, Linda Wepking, Raelynn Tarman, Susie Alleman, David Riggelman, Thelma Briggs, Darrell Veilleux, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Manny Negron, Denise Bowen, Anne English, Millie Kulkusky.* 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.

Today is *All Saints Sunday*: We give thanks for those in generations past who have been examples for God's love at work in the world. In our prayers, we know that we are surrounded by this great cloud of witnesses. Today we especially remember ***Joyce Wildeson and Nelle Mummert***, disciples of Solomon's who died in this past year. Yet, even as we name these disciples, we thank God for others we never knew or have forgotten, who showed us the meaning of life in Christ. And we remember that we are living saints, called through our baptism to proclaim the gospel in our world today.

On **Saturday, December 4, 2021**, Antietam National Battlefield will host the **32nd/33rd Annual Antietam National Battlefield Memorial Illumination** in honor of those soldiers who fell during the Battle of Antietam. Solomon's will join over 1,400 volunteers to place luminaries and light candles dedicated to those brave soldiers. Please join us this year as Solomon's celebrates 26 years of volunteering at Antietam. **Solomon's is in charge of setting out 720 luminaries beginning at 10 AM.** We will also light the candles around 2:30 PM. Sign-up sheets will be on the Sunday School room bulletin board. If you have any questions, please talk to Bonney Coldsmith.

We will be making Cranberry Relish on Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. See sign-up sheets if you are willing to help.

Help is needed for a dinner on Saturday, November 13. See sign-up sheets in Sunday School Room.

Help is needed for food preparation and serving for the Thanksgiving Dinner. Dates and times are as follows:

Wednesday	Nov 17 @ 6:00 p.m.	prepare turkeys for oven & cut up filling
Thursday	Nov 18 @ 1:00 p.m.	cut up turkeys
Friday	Nov 19 @ 9:00 p.m.	Set up
Saturday	Nov 20 @ 4:30 p.m.	help serve

If you do not wish to have contribution envelopes for 2022, please let Janice McEntire know (717 264-3702).

Youth Christmas Party: Saturday December 11, 2021, 6:00 – 8:00 in the Fellowship Center. Dinner: Chicken Fingers, Tatter-Tots, Carrots, Celery, Dip, Christmas Cookies, Ice-Cream Sundaes & Drink. Join us for Crafts, Food & Fun. Sign-up sheet will be in the Sunday School Room.

Adult Sunday School Teacher/Leader: Anyone who would be interested in helping teach/lead the Adult Sunday School Class starting January 2022 please contact Janice McEntire.

Christian Education Committee will have a meeting every 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Our Thanksgiving Dinner will be Saturday, November 20 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Menu: Roast turkey, mashed potatoes, filling, gravy, corn, peas & carrots, cranberry relish, applesauce, roll & butter, plus apple and pumpkin pie. Water, coffee, and hot tea will be served. Cost: Adults - \$14; Children 5-11 yrs. \$7.00; Under 5-free.

Congregational Meeting Sunday November 14: The annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on November 14. The primary purpose of the meeting is to approve a 2022 operating budget and to elect members to the congregation council. A proposed budget will be sent to all member households and will be available in the office. Please review the budget before the meeting. You may contact council president Margie Dale with any questions. *Since a quorum is needed all Solomon's voting members are encouraged to attend the meeting on November 14.*

Ministry Safety and Security briefing - The Ministry Safety and Security Team will be presenting a special Church Security Briefing presented by Chambersburg Police Department Sgt Anthony Rosenberry immediately after worship Sunday November 21st in the Sanctuary. Everyone is urged to stay after worship for this important information. Any Questions can be directed to Wayne Dale.

During the month of November, Social Ministry will be collecting paper products for Maranatha Food Pantry. You may place items in the gray totes in the Sunday School room or under the coat rack at the back door.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - Bring joy to the less fortunate by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army in front of the Butcher Shoppe on Saturday, November 27. We are asking for one hour of your time between 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Sunday school room. Any question, see Edna Harris.

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](https://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.

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.

2021 Poinsettia Order Form

Anyone desiring to remember a loved one or honor someone with Christmas Poinsettias is asked to fill out the following form and mail it to the church office or put it in the collection plate along with a check made payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church, marked "Poinsettia Order." Deadline for **red or marble (pink & white)** poinsettias is November 28. Cost is \$7.50 each. This is a 6 ½ inch pot.

*The Christmas Poinsettias in Memory and Honor of Family and Friends
have been donated by:*

(name)

Red _____ Marble _____

Total amount enclosed _____ Total Poinsettias ordered _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

Poinsettias will be in the church on December 24. If you will not be attending church on December 24, you can make arrangements to pick up your flowers by calling the church office.

NOVEMBER 7, 2021
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

We are promised a new heaven and earth.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 11:32-44	Jesus raises Lazarus
Monday	Isaiah 25:6-9	The Lord has delivered
Tuesday	Revelation 21:1-6a	A new heaven and earth
Wednesday	John 14:6-14	Jesus is the way to God
Thursday	1 Corinthians 15:42-58	The resurrected body
Friday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The coming of our Lord
Saturday	Psalm 24	Entrance into the temple
Sunday	Mark 12:38-44	The widow's generous offering

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them." **Revelation 21:3 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Living God, we thank you for those you have given us to know and to love and for the promise of life everlasting through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, all things are yours. We thank you for the fruit of the earth that gives us our food today and your word that promises us life everlasting. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ Jesus our Lord lift up your hearts for the life that knows no end.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Think or talk about someone you loved who has died.
- Why do you think it is important to take time to remember loved ones?
- What special person or persons in your life do you want to remember on All Saint's Day? Explain.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Soon and Very Soon



DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 21:1-6a.

We live in the era of the reality of global pandemics. Whether it is COVID-19, some other global virus, the news of natural disasters, civil wars, or other tragedies, we are faced with the reality of death in ways we often try to avoid. All Saints Day is one of those times to face death intentionally in a community of faith. The biblical promise is a new heaven and earth that is brought to us. We don't need to escape this world; God promises to join us. Verse 3 states, *"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God.'" That promise has already begun to happen through Jesus Christ, the Word that became flesh and still dwells among us through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. Death forces us to address human limitations and what our own future holds. Our future is held by the God who comes to conquer death and give us a new heaven and earth where death and tears will be no more. This is trustworthy and true. What comfort and hope do you find in knowing this?*

***Pray:* God of our present and our future, while we grieve the death of loved ones and reflect on our own mortality, help us to remember and trust that you are with us and promise new life in Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Think about someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one at this time. Are there ways you can reach out to help them as they mourn? Perhaps sending a sympathy card, delivering a meal, or including them in prayers? How will you let them know you care?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

All Saints Day is a time to give thanks for those we have known and loved over the years. Take time this week to think or talk about loved ones who have died recently or long ago as you look at pictures of them (if available). Light a candle for each of the people. Then pray: **God of hope, thank you for those you have given us to know and to love. Thank you for the life of [names] and for the new life they have in you forever through Christ Jesus. Amen.**