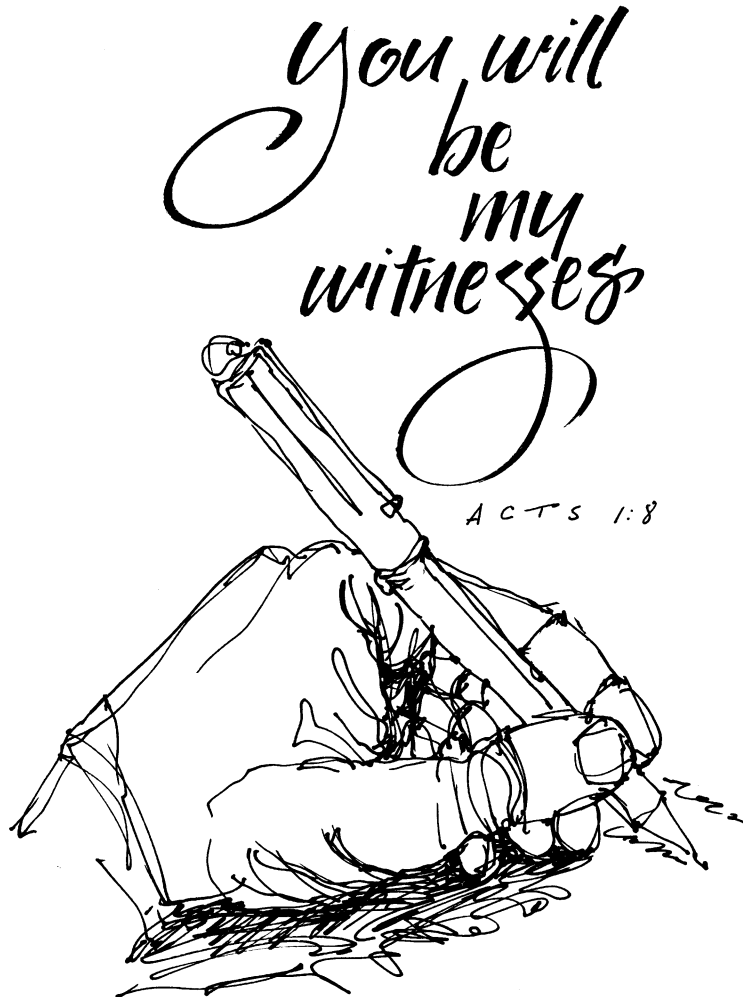


SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
MAY 29, 2022

May 29, 2022
Ascension of Our Lord

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *At the Name of Jesus* (all verses)

At the Name of Jesus



- 1 At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
- 2 At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
- 3 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a name
- 4 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
- 5 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain



ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him king of glo - ry now.
all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.
on the clouds of glo - ry, with his an - gel train;



It is God's good plea - sure we should call him Lord,
thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,
faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last;
Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed.
let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
and our hearts con - fess him king of glo - ry now.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817–1877

Music: KING'S WESTON, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Music from *Songs of Praise*, © Oxford University Press 1925.

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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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

MAJESTY

Maj - es - ty, wor-ship his maj - es - ty: un - to

Je - sus be all glo - ry, hon - or, and praise.

Maj - es - ty, king - dom au - thor - i - ty

flows from his throne un - to his own; his an - them

raise. So ex - alt, lift up on high the name of

Je - sus. Mag - ni - fy, come glo - ri -

fy Christ Je - sus, the king.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. There are several triplets marked with a '3' and a bracket. Chord symbols are present above some staves: 'Am G/D' above the third staff, 'G/B' above the fourth staff, and 'C/D' above the fifth staff. The score ends with a final chord of D major.

Maj - es - ty, wor - ship his maj - es - ty:

Je - sus who died, now glo - ri - fied, King of all

kings; Je - sus who died, now glo - ri - fied,

King of all kings.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

A reading from Acts.

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during

forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

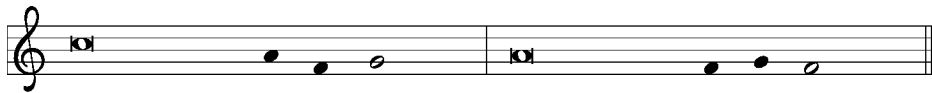
⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 47

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



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹Clap your hands, | all you peoples;
shout to God with a | joyful sound.

²**For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:**
a great king over | all the earth,

³who subdues the | peoples under us,
and the nations un- | der our feet;

⁴**who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,**
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves.

⁵God has gone up | with a shout,
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.

⁶**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;**
sing praises to our | king, sing praises.

⁷For God is king of | all the earth;
sing praises | with a song.

⁸**God reigns o- | ver the nations;**
God is en- | throned on high.

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from Ephesians.

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR BARB

HYMN OF THE DAY *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!* (all verses)

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the
4 "You see him now, as-cend-ing high up to the por-tals of the
5 O ris - en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol-l'wers
sky?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav-ior!" thus they
sky." Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
see their Lord as-cend in maj - es - ty.
say, "this is his glo-rious tri-umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -
see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



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

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

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

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

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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: God, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

PEACE

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

OFFERING RESPONSE



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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OFFERING PRAYER

Living God,
you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together
in your peaceable reign,
and you welcome us all at your table.
Reach out to us through this meal,
and show us your wounded and risen body,
that we may be nourished and believe
in 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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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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

The risen Christ dwells with us here.
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, 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. Please notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar. The Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.
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 *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd* (all verses)

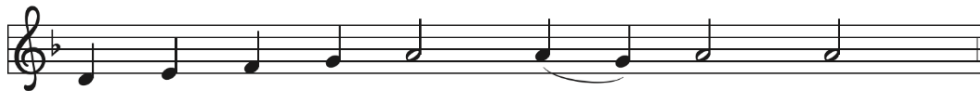
You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



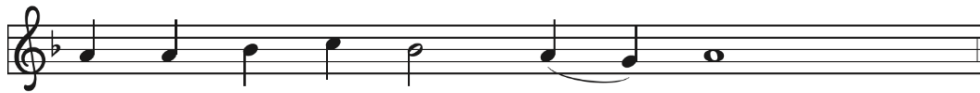
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



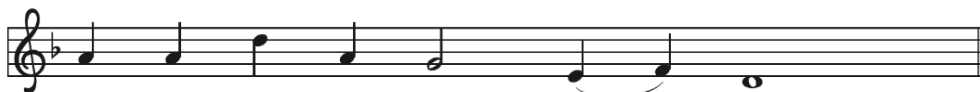
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim guide.
you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Rev. Barb Barry
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Church Office Email Address office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist Doug Mummert
Head Usher Kathy Bowen
Acolyte Aaron Shreiner
Lector Sam Mull
Securing Offering Becky Mull & Larry Socks
Communion Set-Up Bill & Lilly Chiado
Communion Clean-Up Bill & Lilly Chiado
Bread Cubes Bill & Lilly Chiado
Communion Assist Becky Mull
Attendance last Sunday 54

Stewardship Thought - May 29, 2022 (Ascension of Our Lord) John 17:26—I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them. The foundation of generosity is the abundant love of God in Christ Jesus. It has the power to inspire and inform every aspect of our lives, including decisions about the most faithful use of our time, talent, and resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God with thanks and praise for all military past and present given by Jere & Phyllis Brehm.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Prayer requests for the following *Rich Plummer, Jean Jackson, Mark Gayman, Annamarie Schwartz, David Johnson, Joe and Karen Wolfinger, Jennie Matthews, Kristen Hardman, Becky Pecha, Patricia Yetter, Baby Warren Baker, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World, Carol Locke, Aurora Shultz and her parents David & Brittany, Linda Wepking, Frances Kramer, Connie Bikle, Darrell Veilleux*. 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.

For now, the offering plate will continue to be placed in the back of the church in front of the Baptismal Font. Thank you for your continuing support of the ministries of Solomon's as we join God in the work of sharing Christ's love.

Office Hours for Pastor Barb are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon or call for an appointment.

Pentecost Sunday, June 5: The day the church celebrates God's gift of the Holy Spirit.

- **Wear red to the worship service** to remind us of the tongues of flames as seen by the apostles.
- This celebration will be an **OUTSIDE SERVICE**. In the interest of safety for our older more unsteady family members, the Worship and Music team is planning a **Service of the Word to keep walking to a minimum**.
- **Food assignments** for the picnic lunch after worship are listed by the beginning letter of your last name: A-H desserts (cake will be provided), J-R meat/main course, S-Z veggies/salads

Volunteers are needed for nursery duties during the summer months. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Sunday School Room.

Power Pack Meals: We will not be collecting food during June or July. The program will resume in August for the 2022-2023 school year. Please place the items you donate in the gray tote in the Sunday School room. Monetary donations are also accepted, write your check to Solomon's and put Power Pack in the memo line.

Social Ministry: Beginning in June and continuing through August Social Ministry will be collecting items for Personal Care Kits as we have done in past years. Items needed are: One light-weight dark color bath size towel (20" x 40" to 52" x 27"); Two - three bath size bars of soap equaling 8-9 oz., any brand in original wrapping; One adult size toothbrush in original packaging; One sturdy comb; One metal nail clippers attached file optional. We are not asking that you donate an entire kit, just the items you feel you can give. Please place the items in the gray tote under the coat rack. The kits will be assembled during **God's Work Our Hands** on Rally Day Sunday in September.

VBS Celebration Sunday June 26, 2022 – We are asking all members to bring canned food items to our VBS Celebration Sunday Service. During the week of VBS we are asking the kids to donate a canned food item. We will be building a canned food pyramid with the items donated. All donations will then go to Maranatha Ministries of Chambersburg.

Monumental VBS 2022: Monday June 20th – Friday June 24th; 6:30pm – 8:30 pm. Ages: 3yrs – 6th Grade. Celebration Sunday: June 26th at 10:15 am. See Barbara Aldrich or Janice McEntire for registrations forms.

Annual Auxiliary Membership Drive - The annual SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary membership drive will take place during the month of May. Anyone can join with a minimum contribution of \$1.00. Your support allows the auxiliary to continue to make generous contributions to SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge, including donations to the Inn Endowment Fund and Homecare & Hospice Endowment Fund. These funds are essential to providing continued benevolent care. If you would like to join the Auxiliary or need more information, please contact Becky Pecha, your congregational representative.

Volunteer Opportunities - Volunteers are currently needed to assist residential living residents and team members on off-campus outings to restaurants, concerts, theater performances, and educational presentations. Please contact Linda Beaver at lbeaver@spiritrustlutheran.org if you are interested in this or would like to explore other volunteer opportunities at The Village at Luther Ridge. Volunteers play an integral role in providing compassionate care and support to those we serve.

The council is forming a media ministry team where all things computer will be cared for under one umbrella. This includes the worship services, office computers, Facebook account, etc. The more people who help, the less work for everyone. Is God calling you to learn new ways of preaching the Good News boldly following the example of Jesus Christ? Wayne Norman has agreed to lead this group. Call him if you feel called to this ministry.

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

MAY 26, 2022
ASCENSION OF OUR LORD



Disciples are given power from on high.

ASCENSION DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Ascension Day observance.

Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is taken to heaven
Psalms 47		God rules the nations
Ephesians 1:15-23		Paul's prayer for the people
Luke 24:44-53		The ascension of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR ASCENSION DAY

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **Acts 1:8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Ascension Day:

Almighty God, we thank you for bringing us your Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Help us to be witnesses of God's love in our lives as we remember Jesus' death and resurrection. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

For life and health and every good, we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ give you hope.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- If you had the power to do anything, what would you want to do?
- How have you been empowered by God's love to care for others?

HYMN FOR ASCENSION DAY

Lord, You Give the Great Commission



DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 1:1-11.

Although Ascension Day is a significant festival day in the church year, it is strikingly overlooked in our telling of the good news. It's part of our creeds, but not part of our imagination as essential to the Christian faith. The Ascension is not about Jesus moving away from us but, rather, about leading us forward. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are to bear God's redeeming presence through the one who suffered, died, and rose again. In a world where it is so common for people and nations to dominate and control others, the church can too easily—as the disciples did—turn Jesus' resurrection into a triumph that will now *"restore the kingdom of Israel"* (v. 6) and miss a larger task. Instead, Jesus' followers are sent out as Jesus' witnesses to forgive and love in his name. This is a global ministry that begins in *"Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,"* and goes *"to the ends of the earth"* (v. 8).

Discuss: How does the Holy Spirit empower you to be Jesus' witnesses of forgiveness and love in the world today?

Pray: **Ascended Lord, may your death and resurrection empower us through the Holy Spirit to go out to witness to your rule of forgiveness, love, and new life. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Ascension Day Bible Readings and theme for this day, how will you be a witness to God's presence in the world?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Celebrate Ascension Day by making cookies. Make sugar cookies and add blue frosting for the sky and mini marshmallows for the clouds. As you make and eat the cookies talk about Jesus' ascension and what it means that Jesus wants us to be witnesses of love and forgiveness to everyone we meet. End your time by praying: **Come Holy Spirit, help us to be witnesses of your love and to extend forgiveness to all. In Jesus name, amen.**