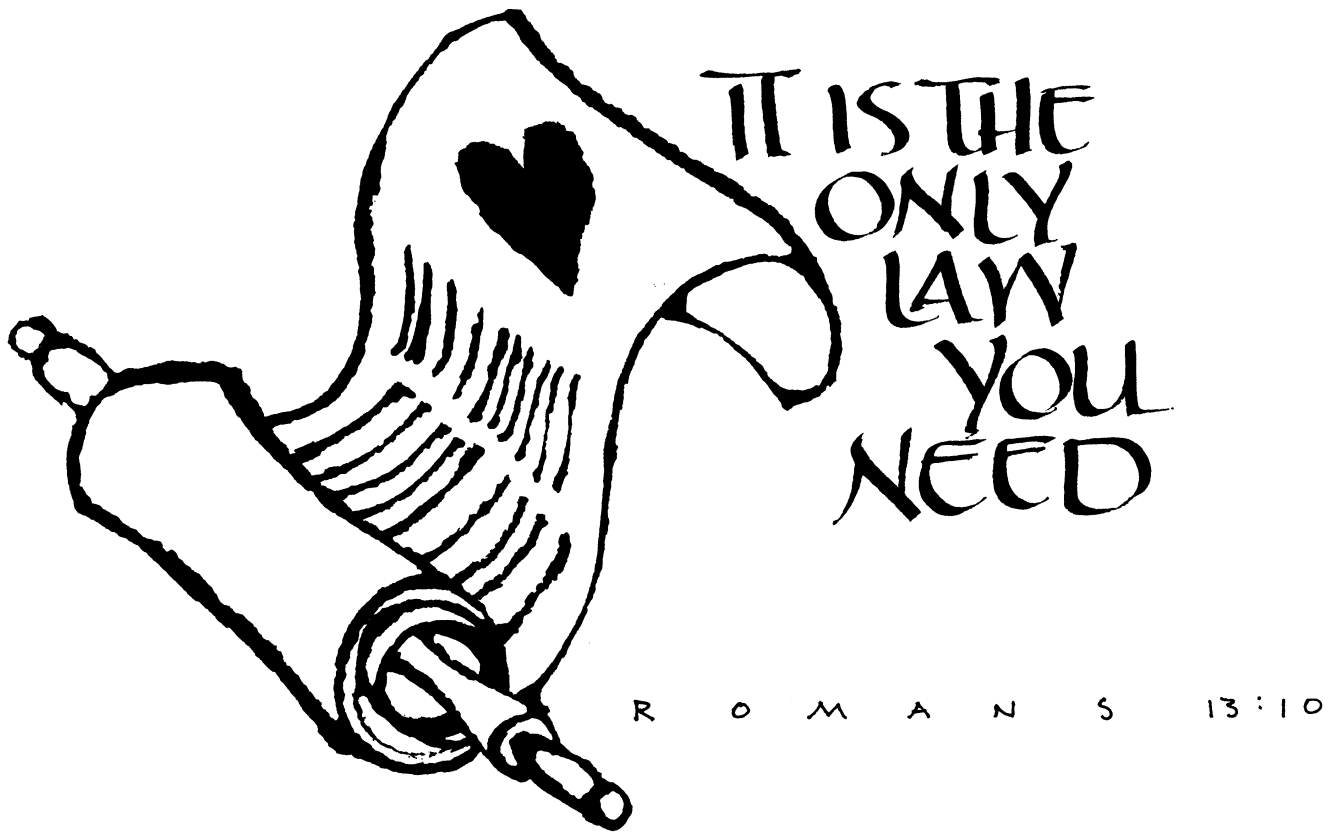


**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**4856 WAYNE ROAD**  
**CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202**  
**(717) 267-2266**

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FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook



*"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."*

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**

**September 10, 2023**  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God,  
the one who forms us,  
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.  
**Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility,  
confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.**  
**We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.**  
**We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.**  
**For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.**  
**For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.**  
**For the ways we turn away  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**  
**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *As We Gather at Your Table* (ELW 522)



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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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 (Sung Twice) *He Is Exalted* (W&P 55)**

He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high; I will praise him.

He is ex-alt-ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed, and I will praise his

name. Je - sus is Lord, for - ev - er his truth shall

reign; hea - ven and earth re - joi - ce in his ho - ly

name. He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high.

Chords: F, F/A, B♭, C/B♭, B♭/C, C, Dsus, D/C, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, Am, B♭, F/A, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, Am, B♭, F/A, Gm, B♭/F, E♭M<sup>7</sup>, B♭/C, F, B♭/F, F.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM      *MORE LIKE YOU LORD***

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11**

A reading from Ezekiel.

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

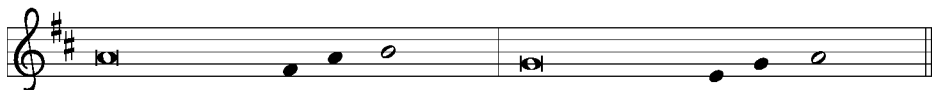
<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. <sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40**

(Sung responsively between choir and congregation, beginning with the choir)



<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it | to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of | your commandments,  
for that is | my desire.

<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to | your decrees  
and not to | unjust gain.**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;  
give me life | in your way.

<sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,  
which is for | those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach | that I dread,  
because your judg- | ments are good.

<sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for | your commandments;  
by your righteousness en- | liven me.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

A reading from Romans.

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. <sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Open Our Eyes, Lord* (W&P 113)

D G<sup>2</sup> G Em<sup>7</sup>/A A<sup>7</sup>  
O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

G/D D A/C# Bm D/A GM<sup>9</sup>  
Je - sus, to reach out and touch

Em A<sup>7</sup> G/D D<sup>2</sup> D  
him, and say that we love him.

DM<sup>7</sup> A/G G Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup>  
O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

G/D D A Bm<sup>7</sup> D/A GM<sup>9</sup>  
lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup> Em/D D  
Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON REV. MARTIN HORN**

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace* (ELW 716)



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all  
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide thy chil - dren,  
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less  
4 Give me thy cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er  
5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son may I  
Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -  
act and thought - less word. Make me to see the wrong I  
strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self the vic - tim  
Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, wher - e'er I



see my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by thee.  
sue; let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.  
do will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.  
be, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring thee.  
be, may be di - vine - ly touched by thee.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, b. 1916, alt.  
Music: BEATUS VIR, *Šamotulský Kancionál*, 1561  
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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: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.*

**PEACE**

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

**OFFERTORY** *Create in Me a Clean Heart (Hopkins) (W&P 35)*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve  
you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that  
I might be re - newed. So fill me and  
heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre -  
ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

*Chords: C/D mn Dm/C, C<sup>7</sup>sus C<sup>7</sup> F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C, Gm F/A F/Bb C F Am<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup>, Am<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> Gm/D C<sup>7</sup>sus C<sup>7</sup>, F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C Gm F/A F/Bb C F*

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of power, God of plenty,  
all things belong to you.  
We bring your gifts to the table,  
that all might be fed.  
Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

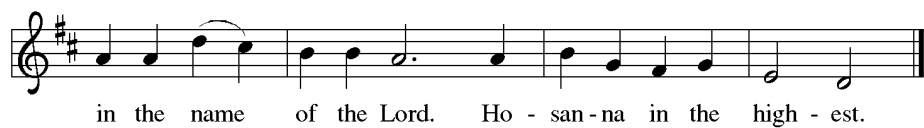
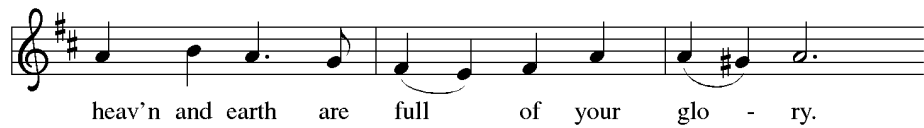
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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

Jesus invites you to this table.  
Come, eat and live.

## COMMUNION

*Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. 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 SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *The Peace of the Lord: La paz del Señor* (ELW 646)**



1 *La paz del Se - ñor, la paz del Se - ñor, la*  
 1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the  
 2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the  
 3 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the



*paz del Re - su - ci - ta - do: la paz del Se -*  
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the  
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the  
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the



*ñor a ti ya mí, a to - dos al - can - za -*  
 Lord is for you and for me, and al - so for all of God's  
 Lord is a - mong us right now, so o - pen your - selves to re -  
 Lord kept with - in can - not live, so o - pen your - selves now to



*rá; la paz del Se - ñor a ti ya*  
 chil - dren. The peace of the Lord is for you and for  
 ceive it. The peace of the Lord is a - mong us right  
 share it. The peace of the Lord kept with - in can - not



*mí, a to - dos al - can - za - rá.*  
 me, and al - so for all of God's chil - dren.  
 now, so o - pen your - selves to re - ceive it.  
 live, so o - pen your - selves now to share it.

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**COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION *We Rejoice in the Grace of God* (W&P 151)

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. 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 - joice in the grace of God, our hearts o - ver - flow. What a joy to know the grace of God!"

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 - 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 AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG *Faith Begins by Letting Go* (ACS 1004)



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,  
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ry's roots a - live  
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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## SENDING IN SERVICE

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

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## SERVING TODAY

Pastor .....	Rev Martin Horn
Church Office Email Address .....	<a href="mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org">office@solomonslutheran.org</a>
Organist .....	Doug Mummert
Head Usher .....	Phil Johnson
Acolyte .....	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Rich McEntire
Securing Offering.....	Marjorie Dale & Larry Socks
Communion Set-Up.....	Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Clean-Up .....	Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Bread .....	Janice McEntire
Communion Assist.....	Janice McEntire & Becky Mull
Attendance last Sunday.....	50

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in honor of our 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary given by Bernie & Edna Harris.

**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:** *Lilly Chiado, Bernie Harris, Phyllis Brehm, Catherine Plummer, Bonnie Hudson, Marty Wenger, Virginia Detwiler, Callie Mummert, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Jim & Carole Darr, Beth Floyd, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Tina Smith, Patricia Yetter, Nancy Marshall, Darrell Veilleux, Linda Wepking, Bill and Jane Brindle, Esther Gift, Jean Jackson, Marjorie McMullin, Joe Mock, Ina Shreiner, Genny Grant, Frances Kramer, Linda Russ, Carol Locke, Betty Amt, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Please Be Aware:** *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.*

### **Weekly Calendar Reminders:**

- September 10 - Rally Day 9am
- 11 - Council 7PM
- 12 - Christian Ed 7PM
- 14 - Choir Practice 7PM

**A special thank you to Rev. Martin Horn** for filling in as supply pastor this morning.



**If you are in need of pastoral care, please notify Ron Coldsmith, Council President.** Pastor Jane Nicholson, pastor of First Lutheran, Chambersburg, has agreed to provide this care for Solomon's until such time as an interim or settled pastor is called to serve.

**We will have an outdoor worship service in the Woods on September 17 at 10:15 a.m.,** weather permitting. Following the service, we will gather in the picnic shelter for a potluck lunch. Beverages, plates, napkins, and cutlery will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and a camp chair. If it rains, we will worship in the church and eat in the Fellowship Center.

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

**Solomon's Relay for Life Team:** Is having a Hammer & Stain Fundraiser – “Stained Resin Wine Glasses or Metal Tumblers Workshop” on Sunday, October 22, 2023 from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm at: Hammer & Stain, 31 South Main Street, Chambersburg. Go on-line to register & pay at: [hammerstainchambersburg.com](http://hammerstainchambersburg.com). Scroll down on the home page until you see our listing. – “Click on” 10/22/23 Relay for Life Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church Fundraiser; then you pick which item you want to make; pay directly on the site. **Sign-up deadline is October 8, 2023.** If you have any questions please see Becky Mull or Zoe Mummert. Snacks and Water will be provided. Join us for a fun afternoon!

**Apple Butter and Candy Order forms are here!** Candy Making – Mark your calendars – **Thursday October 26, 2023 & Friday October 27, 2023.** We will be setting up for candy making on Thursday October 26 at 10:00 am. We will be making candy on Friday October 27 at 8:00 am. Apple Butter & Candy Order Forms are in the newsletter and on table in the Sunday School Room. **Apple Butter & Candy orders will need to be turned in by Sunday, October 8, 2023.** Sign-up Sheets are on the bulletin board in the Sunday School Room. Candy can be picked up Saturday Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 11:00 am and Sunday Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> after Church.

**If you would like to sign up for altar flowers,** the following Sundays in September are still available: 9/17 & 9/24.

**Fall Picnic/Campfire: Saturday, September 30, 2023** - In the Church Picnic Woods Starts at 5:00 pm; Eat at 5:30 pm. Menu: Roast your own Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Mac & Cheese; Chips; Watermelon; Roast your own S'mores & Drink.

**Dine To Donate Fundraiser** - The SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary invites you to dine out at the Chambersburg Applebee's located at 1050 Wayne Ave, Chambersburg on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 8:00PM. Applebee's will donate 20% of your total purchase amount (alcohol not included) to the Auxiliary. All proceeds support SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge and SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice in Franklin County.

**Power Pack Meals:** The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need starting in September. Please consider donating individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups, individual packages of mac-n-cheese, Chef Boyardee, 8 oz bottles of water, juice boxes, and yahoo chocolate drink. Monetary donations are accepted as well, please write “power pack meals” in the memo of your check.

**SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg auxiliary has discount cards available for \$5.00.** Cards are good until Sept. 1, 2024. All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. Lots of great places to save. See Bonney Coldsmith, Marjorie Dale, Becky Pecha, or Frances Reichard if you'd like to have a card.

**Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants** for July – December 2023 are on the bulletin board 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.

**Bulletin Announcement Forms** are 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 10, 2023**  
**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



*Love your neighbor as yourself.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 18:15-20</b>	<b>Seeking reconciliation</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Ezekiel 33:7-11</b>	<b>God's judgment seeks repentance</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 13:8-14</b>	<b>Love for one another</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 4:5-14</b>	<b>Israel is favored by God</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Galatians 5:13-15</b>	<b>Christ gives freedom</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Leviticus 19:9-18</b>	<b>Living a holy life</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 119:33-40</b>	<b>A prayer for understanding</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 18:21-35</b>	<b>A parable about forgiveness</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." **Romans 13:9 (NRSV)***

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of goodness and mercy, give us hearts to love and to care for others as you care for us through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, with this gift of food strengthen us to delight in your law of love for the sake of all you have created through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May you long for the ways of God that teach love and mercy through Jesus Christ.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- What news have you seen or heard recently where laws have been broken?
- Jesus said, "love your neighbor as yourself." What makes it hard to love others as you love yourself?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Beloved, God's Chosen*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Romans 13:8-14.

The law of God was—and is—intended as a gift from God that we may live in peace with one another. The commandments are plain and simple: we should not commit adultery, murder, steal, or covet what others have. The law mirrors the love of God that intends goodness and mercy for people. As Deuteronomy 4:8 states, “[W]hat other great nation has statutes and ordinances, as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?” The law demands right action toward people that is merciful, especially for the less powerful who cannot otherwise protect themselves. Mercy is well summarized by saying, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Romans 13:9), a reference to Leviticus 19:18 that was quoted by Jesus, Paul, and others in the Bible. The gospel life offers mercy and acts of love for the sake of the health of individuals and communities alike.

*Discuss:* What do you think it means to show mercy through the love and care of others?

*Pray:* **Loving God, we thank you for the gift of your law and for freeing us to love others as you have loved us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you care for the daily needs of others?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Bible studies, Sunday school, and youth groups are wonderful opportunities to gather to read the Bible, have caring conversations, and learn together. Think or talk about where and how you learn God’s word. Psalm 119 is a lovely text that promotes learning God’s will and word. *Pray:* **Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Amen.** (Psalm 119:33-34)