

**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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All of you are one in



**CHRIST JESUS**

G A L A T I A N S 3 : 2 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."*

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**JULY 13, 2025**

**July 13, 2025**  
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

*To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORGAN PRELUDE**     *Voluntary on "St. Columba" \* - Dale Wood*

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,  
**you free us to love others,**  
**but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**  
**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,**  
**but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**  
**You surround us with patience, kindness,**  
**and generosity,**  
**but we grow weary in doing what is right.**  
**In your mercy, forgive us.**  
**Do not give up on us.**  
**Heal us, break our bonds,**  
**and show us the path of life.**  
**Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of ✙ Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.  
**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 *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* (ELW 414) Verses 1 & 4**



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we  
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -  
 3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred  
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,  
 bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
 name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
 three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your  
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with  
 and the white-robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to  
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"  
 set of sun through the church the song goes on.  
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900  
 Music: GROSSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:9-14**

A reading from Deuteronomy.

*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.*

<sup>9</sup> The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors,  
<sup>10</sup> when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

<sup>11</sup> “Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

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

<sup>1</sup> To | you, O LORD,  
I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

<sup>6</sup> **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O

LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

<sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

## SECOND READING: Colossians 1:1-14

A reading from Colossians.

*The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup> In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup> This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* (ELW 172)

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.*

<sup>25</sup> An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?”

<sup>27</sup> He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.”

<sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**    Rev. Angela Zimmann

**\*Please stand as you are able for the final verse**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Before the Waters Nourished Earth* (ACS 1049)



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -  
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of  
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows  
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the  
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in  
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's  
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.  
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.  
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.  
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody

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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 of grace, C: hear our prayer.*

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**\*OFFERTORY** *We Are an Offering* (ELW 692)

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, 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 voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Creator God,  
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good  
and the harvest is plentiful.  
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth  
and our labor,  
that we may work for the good of all;  
through 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 *Holy, Holy, Holy: Santo, santo, santo* (ACS 1089)

San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,

. . . lle-nos es-tán el cie - lo y la tie - rra de tu glo - ria.  
your glo - ry fills all heav-en and earth. . . . You are ho - ly, God.

Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor. . . .  
. . . Bless - ed be the Sav - ior, the one who comes in your name.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. San - to e - res, oh Dios.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Traditional; English text, hymnal version  
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional  
English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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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 kingdom of God is set before you.  
Eat and rejoice.

## 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 *Come to the Table* (ELW 481)



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

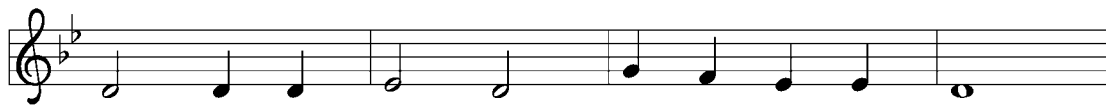
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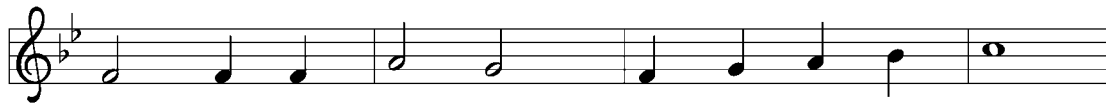
## COMMUNION HYMN *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* (ELW 800)



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,  
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;  
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.  
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!  
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780–1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841–189

### \*COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mothering God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## \*BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit

✠ bless you and give you peace.

**Amen.**

## \*SENDING SONG *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* (ELW 712)



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
- 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
- 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.  
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## \*EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE    *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*    -    David Cherwien

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### SERVING TODAY

Supply Pastor.....	Rev. Angela Zimmann
Church Office Email Address .....	<a href="mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org">office@solomonslutheran.org</a>
Organist .....	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher .....	Marjorie Dale
Acolyte .....	Aaron Shreiner
Lector.....	Martie Veilleux
Securing Offering.....	Marjorie Dale & Becky Mull
Communion Set-Up.....	Marjorie Dale
Communion Clean-Up .....	Marjorie Dale
Communion Bread .....	Marjorie Dale
Communion Assist .....	Martie Veilleux
Attendance last Sunday.....	25

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in honor of our 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary given by Mary-Jo and Chuck Bedsworth.

**Please welcome Rev. Angela Zimmann** with a warm thank you for preaching this morning.

**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** *Nancy Deardorff, Susie Bingaman, Patsy Wildeson, Glenn Wildeson, James Bersch, Evelyn Gomez, Kristen Hardman, Brandan DeShong, Kaitlyn Dovey, Charles Carl, Marty Wenger, Don Wildeson, Nancy Marshall, Betty Amt, our world & country, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Chuck Bedsworth, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Becky Ensinger, and all the Homebound. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire, 717-264-3702.*

**Please Be Aware:** *We wish to be a praying congregation, and especially for those who are sick or experiencing difficult times. We will continue to name person's (first name only) aloud each Sunday, and we will hold each name for a month. In order to keep our list updated we ask that by the final Thursday of the month, but please call Janice McEntire 717 264-3702 to keep the name on for an extra month. Any name can remain for as long as desired, but we need to hear from the person adding the name, or we will presume the name can be removed. Thank you for your understanding.*

## **Weekly Calendar Reminders:**

July 15 - Property 1pm

Christian Ed 7pm

**Pastoral Coverage in Time of Emergency** - Until Pastor Julia Brown begins her interim work here on November 3, the Congregation Council and Pastor Mike have agreed that Pastor Mike will cover pastoral emergencies such as hospital visits, funerals or other types of pastoral care, when he is available. Please still let Ron Coldsmitth or Janice McEntire or the church office (or Pastor Mike directly) be aware of such situations.

**There's nothing like an adult bible class to get the Holy Spirit working for you.** So please consider attending on July 20th at 9am prior to the church service and on subsequent Sundays. The subject will be on how ethics have been replaced by rules in today's society and the need to reverse this.

**This morning prior to worship is the first of several congregational hymn sings we hope to have this summer.** It's your chance to select a hymn that you really enjoy singing from our ELW hymnal in the pews. We have received papers from two people that listed their favorites...you still have that chance. Those papers are in the folder on the table in the Sunday School room where you sign up to assist in worship. Fill one out and either give it to Mary-Jo Bedsworth, or leave it in the folder. Also, if you have a favorite hymn from another hymnal, share that information on that same sheet and we will do our best to locate that hymn for one of the upcoming hymn sings!

**Power Pack Meals** - We will not be collecting food during June or July. The program will resume in August for the 2025-2026 school year. **Beginning in August**, please place the items you donate in the 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.

**Please note that you will no longer receive a 6 month contribution letter.** If you would like to have one, please contact Janice McEntire.

**If you are not taking your altar flowers home**, please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

**The 2025 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room.** The cost of the two vases will be \$60.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$60.00 with the bulletin information.

**The 2025 sign-up charts for Acolyte, Lector etc. are on the table in the Sunday School room.** Please sign up for as many as you can.



**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.

### **Hymn Notes:**

The prelude this morning, *Voluntary on "St. Columba"* uses the tune for our hymn of the day, "Before the Water Nourished Earth."

Our gathering hymn this morning, "As We Gather at Your Table," was written by Carl P. Daw, Jr (1944- ), an Episcopal priest and writer. The hymn was written by request in 1989 for the Eastern Shore Chapel (Episcopal), Virginia Beach, Virginia, which was celebrating the tricentenary of its founding in 1689. The motto for the occasion was 'Repeat the sounding joy' (from Isaac Watts\*, 'Joy to the world, the Lord is come'\*) which Daw has incorporated in the last line, the climax of this fine hymn of worship and service. The first line is simple and beautiful in its simplicity: it suggests that the hymn that follows will be a hymn for Holy Communion, and it is certainly suitable for that; but the three stanzas spread out to include the whole Christian experience of forgiveness and love. (hymnology.hymnsam.co.uk)

Our communion hymn this morning, "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart," is the work of George Croly (1780-1860, an Anglican minister whose writings included poetry, novels, history, and biography.. The words of this sung prayer are among the most passionate in the history of hymnody. From the first line, the poet entreats the Holy Spirit to "descend upon [his] heart." The prayer continues: "wean [my heart] from earth;" "move" through the very pulsing of my heart; "stoop to my weakness" and "make me love thee as I ought to love." The second verse asks the Spirit to "take the dimness of my soul away." The third verse has the image of the cross as a source of solace, seeking God through the cross. The fourth stanza looks heavenward as the poet seeks to love God "as thine angels love.," with the final line showing a perfect union with God: "my heart an altar, and your love the flame." (umcdiscipleship.org)

Written in response to a call for hymns on social welfare, our sending hymn today, "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service," is a text by Albert Bayly. It became the conference hymn for the 1961 National Conference on Churches and Social Welfare. It challenges us to reflect Christ's love not just in worship but in daily acts of service—whether in homes, hospitals, streets, or schools. Set to the American folk tune *BEACH SPRING*, rooted in the Sacred Harp singing tradition, the hymn's earthy, honest melody pairs beautifully with its message of hands-on Christianity. It reminds us that worship must lead to mission—serving others with the same selfless love shown by Jesus. (hymnsforworship.org)