

**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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When your host  
sees you,  
he will say,



*Friend,*  
move up higher.

L u k e 1 4 : 1 0

*"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."*

**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**AUGUST 31, 2025**

**August 31, 2025**  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

*Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORGAN PRELUDE**    *Now We Join in Celebration*    -    Donald Busarow

**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 *O God beyond All Praising* (ELW 880)**



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day  
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,  
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;  
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;  
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,  
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-  
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:  
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:  
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,  
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,  
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,

we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.  
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.  
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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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 God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Anthem:** *Blessed Assurance* - Phoebe P. Knapp

**Congregation is invited to join on each of the refrains:**

This is my story, this is my song,  
 Praising my Savior all the day long:  
 This is my story, this is my song,  
 Praising my Savior all the day long.

## FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

A reading from Proverbs.

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.*

- <sup>6</sup> Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great,  
<sup>7a</sup> for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 112

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

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD  
and have great delight in <sup>1</sup> God's commandments!
- <sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty <sup>1</sup> in the land;  
the generation of the upright <sup>1</sup> will be blessed.**
- <sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be <sup>1</sup> in their house,  
and their righteousness will <sup>1</sup> last forever.
- <sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness <sup>1</sup> for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion.**
- <sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be gener- <sup>1</sup> ous in lending  
and to manage their af- <sup>1</sup> fairs with justice.
- <sup>6</sup> **For they will nev- <sup>1</sup> er be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlast- <sup>1</sup> ing remembrance.**
- <sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any <sup>1</sup> evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.
- <sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and <sup>1</sup> will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up- <sup>1</sup> on their enemies.**
- <sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands <sup>1</sup> fast forever;  
they will hold up their <sup>1</sup> head with honor.
- <sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and <sup>1</sup> pine away;  
the desires of the wick- <sup>1</sup> ed will perish.**

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

A reading from Hebrews.

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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.

Music: Caribbean traditional

## **GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.*

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

<sup>8</sup> “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** Rev. Martin Horn

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* (ELW 461)**



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.  
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.  
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.  
We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

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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: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.*

**\*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.

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## COMMUNION HYMN *Now We Join in Celebration* (ELW 462)



- 1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
- 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;  
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing  
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,  
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,  
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.  
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' - n - ly glad - ness.  
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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## \*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, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* (ELW 545)



- 1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
- 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
- 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

## **\*DISMISSAL**

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

## **\*EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER**

**POSTLUDE** *Sicilian Mariner's Hymn* - Benton Price

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## **SERVING TODAY**

Supply Pastor.....	Rev. Martin Horn
Church Office Email Address .....	<a href="mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org">office@solomonslutheran.org</a>
Organist .....	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher .....	Frances Reichard
Acolyte .....	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Rich McEntire
Securing Offering .....	Frances Reichard & Kathy Bowen
Communion Set-Up.....	Becky Pecha
Communion Clean-Up .....	Becky Pecha
Communion Bread .....	Janice McEntire
Communion Assist .....	Martie Veilleux
Attendance last Sunday.....	25

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God.

**Please welcome Rev. Martin Horn** 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!

**Special thanks to Martie Veilleux and Glenn Wildeson** for their willingness to offer their musical anthem during worship this morning. We thank them for sharing their talents with us today.

**Prayer requests for the following:** *Norm Kuykendall, Phil Johnson, Nancy Deardorff, Susie Bingaman, Patsy Wildeson, Glenn Wildeson, James Bersch, Evelyn Gomez, Kristen Hardman, Brandan DeShong, Kaitlyn Dovey, Charles Carl, Marty Wenger, 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:**

September 3 - W&M 6pm

4 - Finance Noon

**Many thanks to my church family** for the cards, phone calls, visits, and prayers. Nancy Deardorff.

**The October/November/December edition of Our daily Bread** is available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex.

**We will have an outdoor worship service in the Woods on September 21 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-H bring a salad type dish
- Last name beginning with J-R bring a dessert type dish
- Last name beginning with S-Z bring a main dish (meatballs, ham, chicken, etc.)

**Qigong/Tai Chi** Class will be starting **Sept 10th, Wednesdays at 7:00pm** at Solomon's Church main Sunday school room. This is an open class. If you can walk independently, you will survive the class. All exercises are mild. For more information contact: Colleen Johnson.

**"God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday is Rally Day September 7.** Solomon's is participating with thousands of other congregations across the country to serve our communities on *"God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday*. Join Social Ministry in the Fellowship Center immediately following worship to assemble the world relief personal care kits.



**Power Pack Meals:** We are once again collecting nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need during the 2025-2026 school year. Please place the items you donate in the tote in the Sunday School room. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church and put Power Pack Meals in the memo of your check.

**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 Coldsmith or Janice McEntire or the church office (or Pastor Mike directly) be aware of such situations.

**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.

### **Music Notes/Hymn Notes:**

“O God beyond all praising,” our gathering hymn this morning, was written specifically for the melody THAXTED in 1982 by Michael Perry, a British hymnwriter. The early 20th-century British composer Gustav Holst (1874-1934) wrote the tune, which is normally associated in the U.K. with a more patriotic text, “I Vow to Thee My Country.” Perry composed this new text, he said, “in response to a call for alternative words that would be more appropriate for Christian worship.” Rarely is a symphonic theme taken in its entirety and used for a hymn tune. The ranges are usually too wide and the phrases may be too long for congregational singing. The melody THAXTED, named for a small town in the Uttlesford district of Essex, comes from the middle section of the “Jupiter” movement in Holst’s orchestral suite, *The Planets* (1914-1916). In 1921, Holst adapted the theme to fit a patriotic poem “I vow to thee my country” (1908), referenced above. It is often sung at Remembrance Day services, and Princess Diana requested it for her wedding in 1981 and it was repeated for her funeral in 1997. Perry turned the tune into a majestic hymn that is rooted in Scripture: verses from Psalms 116 and 130, as well as a text in Hebrews and James. We hope the hymn adds meaning to your worship this morning. ([umcdiscipleshipministries.org](http://umcdiscipleshipministries.org)).

Our sending hymn this morning, “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your (Thy) Blessing,” was written by John Fawcett (1740-1817), and was included in the *Shawbury Hymn Book*, 1773. Fawcett, best known for his hymn “Blest Be the Tie that Binds,” probably intended for this hymn for the last Sunday of the year, asking God’s blessings on the new year ahead. However, it is generally sung at the conclusion of worship as a choral benediction or a closing hymn. Fawcett was an English minister who wrote over 160 hymns, mostly to be sung after his sermons. Of those 160 hymns, only “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing,” and “Blest Be the Tie that Binds,” are included in our ELW hymnal.

The prelude this morning, “Now We Join in Celebration,” was arranged by Donald Busarow (1934-2011) a well known Lutheran musician, teacher, professor, and composer. The prelude uses the tune “Schmucke dich,” which is the tune for our communion hymn and also for an additional communion hymn in our hymnal, #488, “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness. The tune was composed by Johann Cruger (1598-1662).