**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."*

**Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost / Rally Day**

**September 7, 2025**

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*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul’s request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God’s grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to “choose life”—to choose life in God as our own.*

**Greetings and Announcements**

**ORGAN PRELUDE \****Variation on “Earth and All Stars” - Robert J. Powell*

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin

in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God,

**we are your stiff-necked people.**

**We trample on the needy.**

**We grumble about your grace to others.**

**We turn away from the poor.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost**

**and have been found.**

**Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**Amen.**

**\*Gathering Song *God's Work, Our Hands* (ACS 1000)**

A sheet music with black and white text

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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 (ELW p. 204)**

A sheet music with text and notes

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**  *You Are Mine*  (David Haas) Choir Women

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

A reading from Deuteronomy.

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

15 “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 1**

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

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel **|** of the wicked,  
  nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats **|** of the scornful!  
 2 **Their delight is in the law | of the Lord,**  
  **and they meditate on God’s teaching | day and night.**   
 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that **|** do not wither;  
  everything they **|** do shall prosper.  
 4 **It is not so | with the wicked;**  
  **they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**  
 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when **|** judgment comes,  
  nor the sinner in the council **|** of the righteous.  
 6 **For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous,**  
  **but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

**Second Reading: Philemon 1-21**

A reading from Philemon.

*Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.*

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,   
  To our beloved coworker Philemon, 2 to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:  
  3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
  4 I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, 5 because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. 6 I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. 7 I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.  
  8 For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, 9 yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. 10 I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. 11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. 12 I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. 13 I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. 15 Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, 16 no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.  
  17 So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. 18 If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. 19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. 20 Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. 21 Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*A sheet music with music notes

AI-generated content may be incorrect.*

**Gospel: Luke 14:25-33**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

25 Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, 26 “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** Rev. Michael Allwein*Only if your hearts . .*

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

**Hymn of the Day *Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons* (ELW 798)**

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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: receive our prayer.***

**\*Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**\*Offertory *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 884)**

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**\*Offering Prayer**

Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,

but on you, who richly provides for us.

Multiply what we have gathered

to bless all who are suffering and in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy *(Schubert)* (ELW 190)**  
****

**\*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 welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

**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  *Let Us Break Bread Together* (ELW 471) VS 1,2**

A sheet music with text

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**Communion Hymn  *O Jesus, I Have Promised* (ELW 810)**

****

**\*Communion Blessing**

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

**\*Prayer after Communion**

O God,

through this meal you have strengthened us

and appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our possessions

with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus’ name.

**Amen.**

**\*Blessing**

The God of righteousness,

who gives justice to the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry,

who sets the prisoners free,

☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Song *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways* (ELW 772)**

**A sheet music with text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Postlude** *Chaconne -* Jacques Campion de Chambonieres

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**SERVING TODAY**

Supply Pastor Rev. Michael Allwein

Church Office Email Address [office@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org)

Organist Mary-Jo Bedsworth

Head Usher Phil Johnson

Acolyte Wayne Dale

Lector Kathy Bowen

Securing Offering Phil Johnson & Becky Mull

Communion Set-Up Marjorie Dale

Communion Clean-Up Marjorie Dale

Communion Bread Frances Reichard

Communion Assist Martie Veilleux

Attendance last Sunday……………………………………………………………………26

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of the Garvin twins (Hazel McKenzie and Edna Biesecker) given by Wayne and Marjorie Dale.

**Please welcome Rev. Michael Allwein** 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***: Kaitlyn Dovey, 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 8 - Council 7pm

9 - Christian Ed 7pm

10 - Qigong/Tai Chi 7pm

**Today is Rally Day - “God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday.** 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.

**SpiritTrust Lutheran has discount cards for sale, $5 each good through August 2026.** If interested, they can be purchased from Bonney Coldsmith, Marjorie Dale, Becky Pecha, and Frances Reichard.

**Reminder to Committees.** Please have your proposed budget for 2026 completed and given to Kimberly no later than September 30, 2025.

**Christian Ed would like to invite the congregation to their Fall Picnic/Campfire in the Picnic Woods on Saturday, September 20.** Starts at 5:00pm / Eat at 5:30pm.

**Menu:** Roast your own hotdogs, baked beans, mac & cheese, chips, watermelon, roast your own s’mores, and drink.

**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.

**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.

**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:**

**\***Our prelude this morning is based on the hymn, “Earth and All Stars,” written in 1964 by Herbert Brokering for the 90th anniversary of St. Olaf College. Since then, the tune has been used in the hymnal supplement All Creation Sings, which is the source for our gathering hymn this morning, “God’s Work, Our Hands,” suggested by Sundays and Seasons, a resource we use to help plan our worship services here at Solomon’s. A very fitting hymn, as we open our worship on Rally Day!

Our offertory this morning is “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow,” also known as “The Doxology.” It was written by Thomas Ken who has been called “England’s First Hymnist.” He was born in 1637 in the outskirts of London. Orphaned at a young age, his half-sister enrolled him in Winchester College, an historic boys’ school. He was later ordained to the ministry and returned to Winchester as a chaplain. To encourage devotions among the boys, Thomas wrote three hymns in 1674. This was rather revolutionary because English hymns had not yet appeared. Only Psalms were sung in public worship. He suggested that one hymn be sung at waking, another at bedtime, and the third at midnight. All three hymns had a common verse, which was the text to what is known today as “The Doxology.” This hymn has become the most widely sung verse in the world!

Our communion hymn today is, “Oh Jesus I Have Promised,” written by John Ernest Bode (1816-1874). The hymn, based on Luke 9:57, “Lord, I will follow thee withersoever thou goest,” was written by the author for the confirmation of his three children. But it says much more and is a prayer for Christ’s presence at all times – in struggle against sin, in the midst of the world’s temptations, and the struggles with the “storms of passion.” Jesus has promised us to be with him in glory, but we must also promise to follow and serve him to the end. (Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins, Austin Lovelace, p. 78).