

**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."*

**HOLY CROSS DAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 14, 2025**

**September 14, 2025**

**Holy Cross Day**

*This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.*

## **GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORGAN PRELUDE** *Near the Cross* - arr. Frankin Ritter

## **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 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* (ELW 324)**



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
 love up - on my way, from the cross the  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

**\*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)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DUET** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* - Clephane/Maker

**The congregation is invited to join our musicians on verse 3 of the anthem.**

I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

## FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9

A reading from Numbers.

*When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.*

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] <sup>4b</sup> but the people became discouraged on the way. <sup>5</sup> The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 98:1-4

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

<sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, you have made | known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup> You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

<sup>4</sup> **Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

*At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.*

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**GOSPEL: John 3:13-17**

The holy gospel according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup> “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

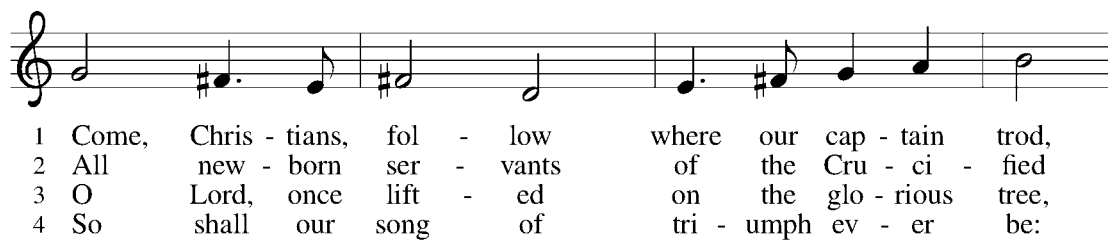
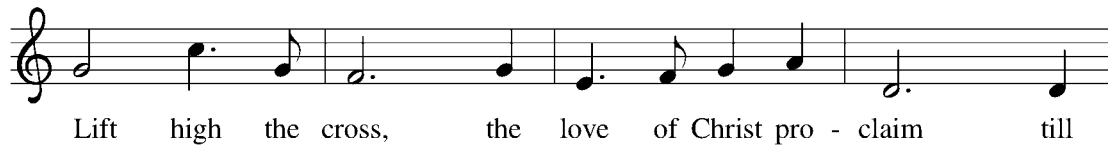
<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

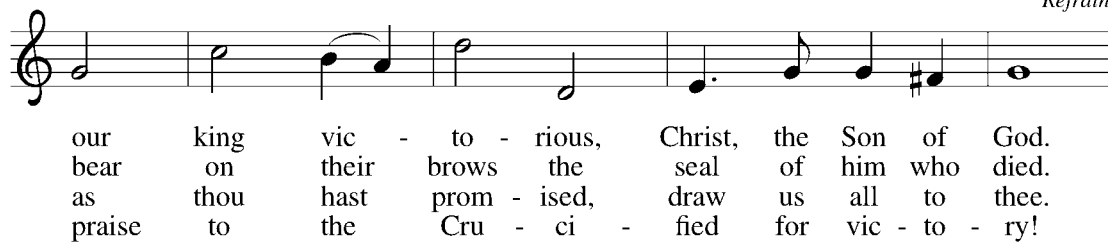
SERMON Rev Alan Wilson

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)**



*Refrain*



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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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.**

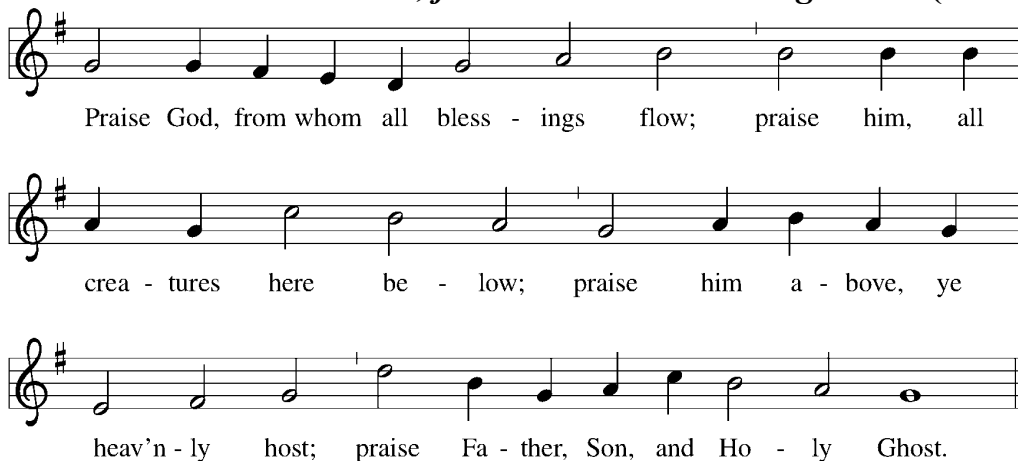
**\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** (Please respond)

*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)



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



## **\*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)**

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

The first system of the musical score for 'HOLY, HOLY, HOLY' by Franz Schubert. It features a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'.

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

The second system of the musical score. The melody continues with the lyrics 'ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'.

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

The third system of the musical score. The melody continues with the lyrics 'heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.'.

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

The fourth system of the musical score. The melody continues with the lyrics 'Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'.

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

The fifth system of the musical score. The melody continues with the lyrics 'Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'.

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

The sixth system of the musical score, concluding the piece. The melody continues with the lyrics 'Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'.

## **\*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



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

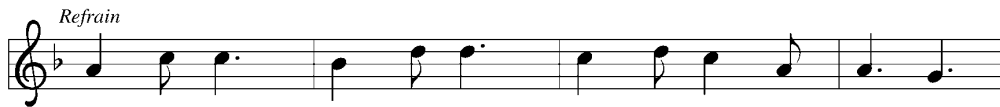
## COMMUNION HYMN *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* (ELW 335)



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

### \*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 *Go to the World* (ACS 991)



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
for I am with you till the age shall end,  
bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"  
Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

**POSTLUDE** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* - arr. John Carter

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## SERVING TODAY

Supply Pastor.....	Rev. Alan Wilson
Church Office Email Address .....	<a href="mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org">office@solomonslutheran.org</a>
Organist .....	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher .....	Phil Johnson
Acolyte .....	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Rich McEntire
Securing Offering.....	Phil Johnson & Becky Mull
Communion Set-Up.....	Becky Pecha
Communion Clean-Up .....	Becky Pecha
Communion Bread .....	Frances Reichard
Communion Assist.....	Ron Coldsmith
Attendance last Sunday.....	28

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Please welcome Rev. Alan Wilson** 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 16 - Property 1pm  
17 - Qigong/Tai Chi 7pm  
20 - Fall Picnic 5pm

**Many thanks to LaRue McKenzie and Martie Veilleux for their duet this morning.** We appreciate their willingness to sing as part of our worship service.

**Choir rehearsals are tentatively scheduled to resume on Thursday, September 25 at 7 PM in the choir room.** New members are welcome, but we are especially in need of men to help lead worship.

**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 - 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:**

It is customary when September 14 falls on a Sunday, to observe Holy Cross Day. Our hymns and duet this morning reflect this day as we celebrate the triumph of the cross.

Our Gathering Hymn this morning, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory," was written by hymnist, John Bowring. It is said that Bowring once sailed by the ruins of a magnificent cathedral on the island of Maco. Only the front wall remained and on the top was a great metal cross, blackened with age. He was supposedly so moved by this sight that he wrote the words to this hymn, "In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time." This story has been compared to a similar contemporary story: after the collapse of the World Trade Centers in 2001, Workers discovered a cross-shaped beam standing upright among the debris and ruins. This picture was published around the world and served as a symbol of hope in the aftermath of this destruction in New York City. The Cross holds deep personal meaning for us, giving us peace and joy in times of crises and disappointment. (*Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins*; Austin Lovelace)

Our Hymn of the Day this morning, "Lift High the Cross" is an English Christian hymn, written in 1887 by George Kitchin and revised in 1916 by Michael R. Newbolt. It has been said that this hymn was inspired by the story of Constantine the Great's conversion to Christianity after seeing a cross with "In hoc signo vinces" on it (translation: "in this sign you will conquer"). It was intended as a festival hymn and was first performed in Winchester Cathedral. "Lift High the Cross" was set to the tune of "Crucifer" by Sydney Nicholson. The hymn is often sung during Lent or Holy Week but is also used as a hymn in other parts of the worship service throughout the Church Year. First published in the United States in 1974, it appears in both our current hymnal and the previous Lutheran Book of Worship. (from Wikipedia)

In 1869, Fanny Crosby was shown a tune written by William Doane for which she wrote the words to our communion hymn, "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross." It was first published in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School in 1869. It is interesting to note that Crosby, born in New York, was blinded at six weeks of age through the malpractice of a doctor. She attended a school for the blind in New York, where she later became a teacher and wrote remarkable

poetry that brought considerable acclaim to the school. She attended a revival in 1850 as she felt something was missing from her life. At this revival, she accepted Jesus as her Savior and from here on, she turned her poetic skills to hymn writing, focusing on the theme of the cross. The first line of each stanza of this hymn contains the phrase “near the cross,” emphasizing the value of Christ's redeeming work on the cross. Each stanza has a slightly different aspect of the main theme. The first stanza describes redemption through Jesus' blood, and the second, the need of humanity for salvation. The third stanza is a prayer that the Christian would always remember God's love as shown on the cross, and the fourth looks forward to heaven. (Hymnary.org; Morgan: Then Sings My Soul, Part 2, pg. 121).