

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."

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / OUTSIDE WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

September 21, 2025
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Outside Worship

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 *Son of God, Eternal Savior* (ELW 655)**



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant-ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

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

***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 113

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

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants [|] of the LORD;
praise the name [|] of the LORD.

² **Let the name of the [|] LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for- [|] evermore.**

³ From the rising of the sun to its [|] going down
let the name of the [|] LORD be praised.

⁴ **The LORD is high a- [|] bove all nations;
God's glory a- [|] bove the heavens.**

⁵ Who is like the [|] LORD our God,
who sits en- [|] throned on high,

⁶ **but stoops [|] to behold
the heavens [|] and the earth?**

⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out [|] of the dust
and lifts up the poor [|] from the ashes,

⁸ **enthroning them [|] with the rulers,
with the rulers [|] of the people.**

⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a [|] childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. [|] Hallelujah!

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Rev Herb Spomer

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

HYMN OF THE DAY *Be Thou My Vision* (ELW 793)



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

*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.**

*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 *Take My Life, That I May Be* (ELW 685)



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

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SERVING TODAY

Supply Pastor.....Rev. Herb Spomer
Church Office Email Addressoffice@solomonslutheran.org
Organist Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher Phil Johnson
Lector.....Bonney Coldsmith
Securing Offering..... Phil Johnson & Becky Mull

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please welcome Rev. Herb Spomer 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 24 - Qigong/Tai Chi 7pm

Pastor Mike Ross, Interim Pastor at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Leitersburg, Maryland, which is a free Lutheran congregation, will preach here at Solomon's on September 28, at the 10:15 a.m. service. Pastor Mike is theologically conservative, and confessionally Lutheran. He has been an interim pastor at St. Paul for the last three years.

There will be a meeting of the congregation to approve installation of block-out-blinds for the All Purpose Room in the SFC. This project is being generously funded by Beck Mull and the balance from existing memorial funds. As this investment is over \$3,000 it requires congregational approval. **Please attend this special meeting on October 5th immediately following worship.**

Starting in October, communion will be served on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month in addition to all church holidays.

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.

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.

Hymn Notes:

Our gathering hymn this morning, "Son of God, Eternal Savior," was written by Somerset Corry Lowry (1853-1932) and published in *The Christian Social Union Hymnbook* in 1895. There are social implications in the gospels which are often overlooked or ignored by those who feel that a personal relationship to Christ is all that is necessary. Lowry's hymn reminds us that we have a common bond with the whole human race through Christ, that a life of service is required of our stewardship, and that we must pray for peace to end our strife and shame our selfish greed. Our prayer should always be "Thy will be done." Austin C. Lovelace, pg. 94)

Millions worldwide have found in the humble prayer text and lyric tune "Be Thou My Vision," our Hymn of the Day this morning, a vehicle for praise and worship. It offers a singular voice of fierce devotion rooted in medieval Celtic Christianity that is still relevant today. According to legend, the story behind the hymn is as follows: St. Patrick (385-461 AD) was a man zealous for the things of God. As a missionary, he defied an Irish King's edict that restricted the lighting of candles on Easter Eve. Patrick chose to honor God in spite the threat of death. King Logaire was so impressed with Patrick's brave devotion, that he let him continue his missionary work unhindered. An 8th Century Monk, Dallan Forgaill penned the words to *Be Thou My Vision*, as a tribute to St. Patrick's wholehearted loyalty to God. The hymn was translated from Irish to English in 1905 by Mary E. Byrne. In 1912, Eleanor H. Hull arranged the song into the verse most commonly found in English hymnals today. The music to accompany the lyrics is an ancient Irish folk tune called *Slane*. (Hymnary.org)

Our sending hymn this morning, "Take My Life and Let it Be," was written by Frances R. Havergal (1836-1879) and published in *Songs of Grace and Glory* in 1874. Miss Havergal, during a visit with friends, prayed that God would use her witness to win all ten members of the family to Christ. "Before I left the house, everyone got a blessing," she wrote. On the last night of her visit, twelve couplets came to her mind dealing with true consecration, which involves mind, body, words, deeds, intellect, will, money, possessions, and the whole self. The final couplet integrates and sums up these with "Ever, only, ALL for Thee!" , Austin C. Lovelace, pg. 97).