

**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**4856 WAYNE ROAD**  
**CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202**  
**(717) 267-2266**

EMAIL: [info@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:info@solomonslutheran.org)  
WEB SITE: [www.solomonslutheran.org](http://www.solomonslutheran.org)  
FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook



*"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."*

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**MAY 17, 2026**

**May 17, 2026**  
Seventh Sunday of Easter

*In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORGAN PRELUDE** *Crown Him with Many Crowns* - arr. George J. Elvey

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.  
 Break down barriers that divide us.  
 Fill us with the breath of peace.  
 Blessed are you.  
**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
 and for making us a new creation.  
 We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
 now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (ELW 855)**



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

**\*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 *Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!* (ELW 382) Vs 1**



1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.

*Refrain*



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM *Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise* - Carl Schalk Congregation joins on vs. 5



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise  
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be  
3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest  
4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise  
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread  
thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee  
thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be  
thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways  
thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup  
gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry  
then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war  
thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least  
then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.  
thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
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## FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

A reading from Acts.

*Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>6</sup> When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

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

<sup>1</sup> Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered;  
let those who | hate God flee.

<sup>2</sup> **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;  
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres- | ence of  
God.**

<sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;  
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.

<sup>4</sup> **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the clouds;  
I AM is that name, rejoice | before God!**

<sup>5</sup> In your holy habita- | tion, O God,  
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;

<sup>6</sup> **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom;  
but the rebels shall live in | desert places.**

<sup>7</sup> O God, when you went forth be-<sup>1</sup> fore your people,  
 when you marched<sup>1</sup> through the wilderness,  
<sup>8</sup> **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the<sup>1</sup>**  
**God of Sinai,**  
**at the presence of God, the<sup>1</sup> God of Israel.**  
<sup>9</sup> You sent a bountiful<sup>1</sup> rain, O God;  
 you restored your inheritance<sup>1</sup> when it languished.  
<sup>10</sup> **Your people found their<sup>1</sup> home in it;**  
**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision<sup>1</sup> for the poor.**  
<sup>32</sup> Sing to God, O kingdoms<sup>1</sup> of the earth;  
 sing praises<sup>1</sup> to the Lord.  
<sup>33</sup> **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the<sup>1</sup> ancient heavens;**  
**you send forth your voice, your<sup>1</sup> mighty voice.**  
<sup>34</sup> Ascribe pow-<sup>1</sup> er to God,  
 whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is<sup>1</sup> in the skies.  
<sup>35</sup> **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O<sup>1</sup> God of Israel,**  
**giving strength and power to your people!<sup>1</sup> Blessed be God!**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

A reading from 1 Peter.

*Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.*

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>5:6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

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

*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

<sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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

**SERMON** Rev. Julia Brown

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song* (ELW 403)



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her  
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the  
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the  
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our  
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937  
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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.)**

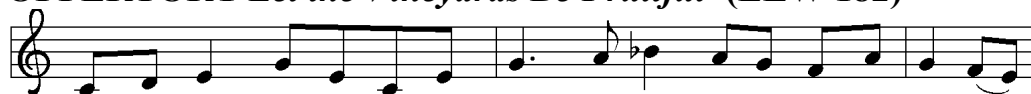
P: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**\*OFFERTORY *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* (ELW 182)**



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,

that goodness and mercy may follow us

and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

**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.

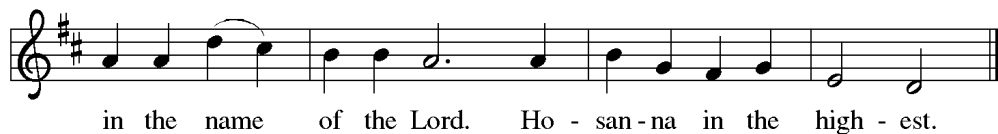
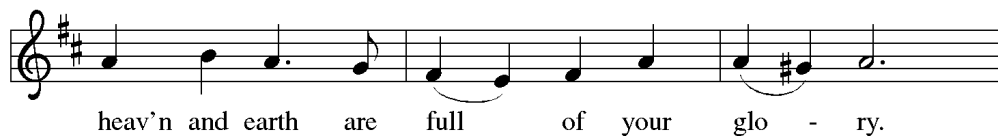
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## \*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,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## **\*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**

Come to the table of new life.  
Receive the risen Lord.

## 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 (ELW p. 208)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN *Bind Us Together***

*refrain*  
F Dm Gm

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

C<sup>7</sup> F F

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

Dm Gm C F

bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

F C<sup>7</sup> F F C<sup>7</sup> F

1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.  
2 You are the fam-'ly of God. You are the prom-ise di - vine.

*Refrain*  
F C<sup>7</sup> F F C<sup>7</sup> F B<sup>b</sup>/C

There . . is on - ly one Bod-y; that . . is why we can sing;  
You are God's cho-sen de - sire, you are the glo-rious new wine.

Text: Bob Gillman, b. 1946  
Music: Bob Gillman, b. 1946  
©1977 Thankyou Music, admin. (in Western Hemisphere) Integrity's Hosanna Music

**\*COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.  
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus,  
**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!* (ELW 393)**



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall  
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives  
3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the  
4 "You see him now, as-cend-ing high up to the por-tals of the  
5 O ris - en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol-l'wers  
sky?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they  
sky." Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall  
cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
see their Lord as-cend in maj - es - ty.  
say, "this is his glo-rious tri - umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -  
see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."  
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
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**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER**

**POSTLUDE** *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing* - Patricia Lou Harris

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## SERVING TODAY

Interim Pastor .....	Rev. Julia Brown
Church Office Email Address .....	<a href="mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org">office@solomonslutheran.org</a>
Organist .....	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher .....	Sarge Weaver
Acolyte .....	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Kathy Bowen
Securing Offering.....	Sarge Weaver & Colleen Johnson
Communion Set-Up.....	Becky Pecha
Communion Clean-Up .....	Becky Pecha
Communion Bread .....	Marjorie Dale
Communion Assist .....	Martie Veilleux
Attendance last Sunday.....	30

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the glory of God in memory of Marvin and Steve McKenzie given by LaRue McKenzie.

**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!

**Any pastoral care or concerns can be addressed to Pastor Julia Brown** by email to [pastor@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:pastor@solomonslutheran.org) or phone 703-434-9220.

**Prayer requests for the following:** *Marie Dovey, Amy Eichelberger, Paul Steiding, Clif Rau, Dennis Hose, Sam Brooks, Kaitlyn Dovey, Patsy Wildeson, James Bersch, Kristen Hardman, Charles Carl, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Becky Ensinger, all the Homebound, and our world & country. 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:**

- May 19 - Property 1pm
- 20 - Bible Study 10am
- Qigong/Tai Chai 7pm
- 21 - Choir 7pm

**You are invited to attend a fellowship lunch with Solomon's UCC every month on the fourth Thursday at 12:00 PM.** May's luncheon will be on May 28. Please RSVP to Marvin Shew at [marv\\_joyce@yahoo.com](mailto:marv_joyce@yahoo.com) so that he can update you when a restaurant is chosen.

**Pentecost Sunday is May 24.** It is a beloved tradition to wear red on that day.

**The Power Pack Program ends in May.** Social Ministry thanks all who participated in this ministry to help those in need. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Bible Study - Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the fellowship center conference room.**  
May 20 - The Gospel of John.

**Qigong/Tai Chi Class** - Wednesdays at 7:00pm at Solomon's Church main Sunday school room. This is an open class. All movement is done standing. Sitting can be an option. All exercises are mild. For more information contact: Colleen Johnson.

**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 2026 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.

**The 2026 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.

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

Our gathering song this morning, "Crown Him with Many Crowns," was written by two separate authors, Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903), each version with six verses. Most hymnals make a selection from the twelve stanzas. The tune used is "Diademata," suggesting diadems or crowns, and matches the striking first line of poetry with an equally memorable first line of music. "Crown Him with Many Crowns," is a hymn that declares we are to crown our Lord with many crowns. Christ was not simply a prophet, He was not simply the carpenter's son, and He was not simply human, nor simply divine. Rather, this call to "crown him with many crowns" is a simple and yet profound declaration that Christ is many things, and everything. He is Lord of all. Each crown represents a different aspect of who Christ is – Lord of life, Lord of love, Lord of years, Lord of heaven, the Lamb upon the throne. Christ is King, Servant, Lamb, Shepherd, and we celebrate this all-encompassing nature of our Savior by crowning Him the Lord of all. (hymnary.org; and [Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins](#), Austin C. Lovelace, pg 27).

Our communion song this morning, "Bind Us Together," was composed in 1974 by Bob Gillman, (a Christian songwriter since age 13 with interests in folk music), during a period of spiritual renewal in the United Kingdom known as the Charismatic movement or Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The movement began in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This awakening affected various denominations, including the Church of England, and featured ideas such as prophecy, healing, and speaking in tongues, which fostered greater liturgical spontaneity and the rise of house church gatherings that echoed early Christian practices. Gillman wrote the song spontaneously at a small Tuesday evening prayer meeting held at the home of friends. The inspiration arose from an emotional impulse regarding the unity of God's people, with the core phrase "Bind Us Together" emerging first, then adding the lines "With cords that cannot be broken" and "Bind us together with love," which he set to a folk-style melody. Gillman stood and sang it immediately during the prayer session. Encouraged by his host that more verses would follow, he meditated on the theme over subsequent weeks, composing three original stanzas that expanded on his initial chorus. The song's themes are rooted in biblical calls for unity, drawing primarily from Colossians 3:14, which states, "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity" ( Additional influences include Jesus' prayer for oneness in John 17:22-23 and the exhortation in Ephesians 4:1-6 to maintain "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" through shared faith elements like one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all). (Grokikipedia.com)

A note about our anthem this morning: "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise" is a popular 20th century Lutheran hymn written by Herbert F. Brokering (1926-2009) and set to music by Carl Schalk (1929-2021). It is celebrated for its stream-of-consciousness, poetic style focusing on the Eucharist, resurrection, and the "eternal wedding banquet" of the Lamb. The hymn links the "breaking of the bread" on earth to the ultimate celebration in heaven. The phrase "Thine the..." runs through the entire hymn, offering different aspects of life, victory, and praise to God. (Augsburg and ELCA notes). **Please join the choir on the final verse.**