

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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...the person who hears
the word and under-
stands it. MATT. 13:23

"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 AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 12, 2026

July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE *Open Now the Gates of Beauty* - Heinrich Fleischer

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* (ELW 533)**



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thic - ken, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* (ELW 414) VS 1,4**



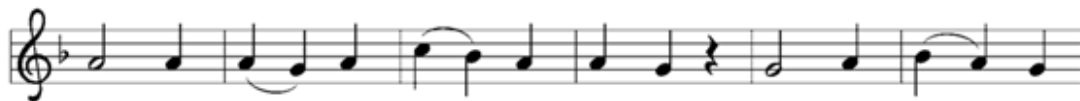
1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we

4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,

three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your

un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.

bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900
Music: GROSSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from Isaiah.

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

PSALM: Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13

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

¹ You are to be praised, O ^l God, in Zion;
to you shall vows ^l be fulfilled.
² **To you, the one ^l who answers prayer,
to you all ^l flesh shall come.**
³ Our sins are strong- ^l er than we are,
but you blot out ^l our transgressions.
⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your ^l courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness ^l of your
temple.**
⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of ^l our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans ^l far away.
⁶ **You make firm the mountains ^l by your power;
you are girded a- ^l bout with might.**
⁷ You still the roaring ^l of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor ^l of the peoples.
⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your ^l marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to ^l sing for joy.**
⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of
God is ^l full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide ^l for the earth.

¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth^l out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and^l bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year^l with your goodness,
and your paths over-^l flow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be^l rich for grazing,
and the hills be^l clothed with joy.**

¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them-^l selves
with grain;
let them shout for^l joy and sing.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

A reading from Romans.

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

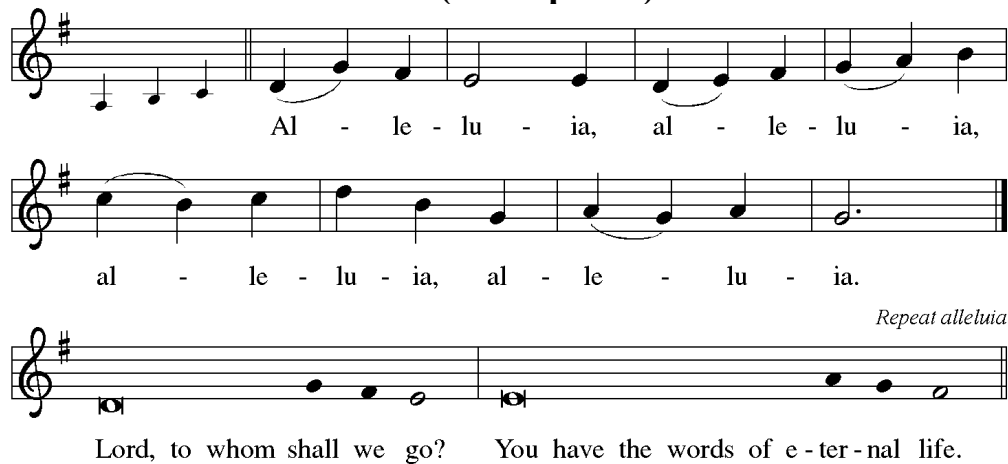
¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 102)**



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: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Moses Severt

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

HYMN OF THE DAY *As Rain from the Clouds* (ELW 508)



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

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: hear our prayer.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

***OFFERTORY** *We Give Thee but Thine Own* (ELW 686) VS 1,2



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

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

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✝ one God,

bless, heal, and hold you

today and always.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* (ELW 551)



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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*DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE *Rigaudon* - Andre Campra

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SERVING TODAY

Supply Deacon Moses Severt
Church Office Email Address office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher Becky Pecha
Acolyte Aaron Shreiner
Lector Martie Veilleux
Securing Offering Janice McEntire & Tana Vance
Attendance last Sunday 34

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the glory of God in memory of Ruth Gayman given by Mark, Sally, Abby & Joy.

Please welcome Moses Severt with a warm “thank you” for leading our worship service 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!

Any pastoral care or concerns can be addressed to Pastor Julia Brown by email to pastor@solomonslutheran.org or phone 703-434-9220.

Prayer requests for the following: *Matt Pecha, 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:

July 13 - Council 7pm

14 - Christian Ed 7pm

15 - Bible Study 10am

Bible Study - Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the fellowship center conference room.

Good News Camp is still in need of the following supplies: pencils, paper towels, crayons/coloring pencils, Lysol wipes, toilet brushes, 13/40 gallon trash bags, Lysol disinfectant spray, Graham crackers, cases of water. **Christian Ed will deliver the items.**

During the months of June, July, and August, Social Ministry will be collecting items for personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Kits will be assembled on Rally Day, September 13th. Display of items needed will be in the sanctuary. Anyone wishing to give a monetary donation can make a check payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church and mark personal care kits on memo line.

You are invited to attend a fellowship lunch with Solomon's UCC every month on the fourth Thursday at 12:00 PM. July's luncheon will be on July 23. Please RSVP to Marvin Shew at marv_joyce@yahoo.com so that he can update you when a restaurant is chosen.

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.

Hymn / Music Notes

Our gathering song this morning, "Open Now the Gates of Beauty," was written by Benjamin Schmolck (1672-1737) and translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). The hymn, entitled "Appearing before God," is only one of more than 1000 hymns written by the Lutheran pastor in predominantly Catholic Schweidnitz, where he was severely restricted in his work. He was a popular preacher, and despite poor health and eyesight carried on a vigorous and successful ministry, aided in part by his fine hymns. The hymn expresses a longing for divine presence and worship. It invites believers to enter a sacred space, symbolized by the gates of Zion, where they can connect with God in prayer and adoration. The lyrics emphasize the joy and grace found in this communion, portraying the place of worship as a haven filled with solace and light. The hymn reflects themes of

reverence, spiritual fulfillment, and the beauty of encountering the divine in a communal setting. (Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins; Austin C. Lovelace, p. 85).

Our sending song this morning, “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve,” was written by Sister Delores Dufner (b. 1939), a member of St. Benedict’s Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota. She has published over 155 hymns in her lifetime and is considered to be one of the foremost Roman Catholic female hymn writers in the US. The hymn, based on Isaiah 61:1-4 and Luke 4:16-22 highlights our Christian mission here on earth by challenging us to live out the Gospel. It is filled with action verbs: bring, comfort, help, and serve. Sr. Dufner cleverly reiterates the first stanza through the last stanza, as she sends the congregation forth in Jesus’ name through the working of the Holy Spirit. Dufner’s modern English writing style is simple and dynamic, calling the church into vibrant prayer and action. As we leave worship this morning, do so ready to serve in Jesus’ name as the hymn states in the final line! (DiscipleshipMinistries.org).