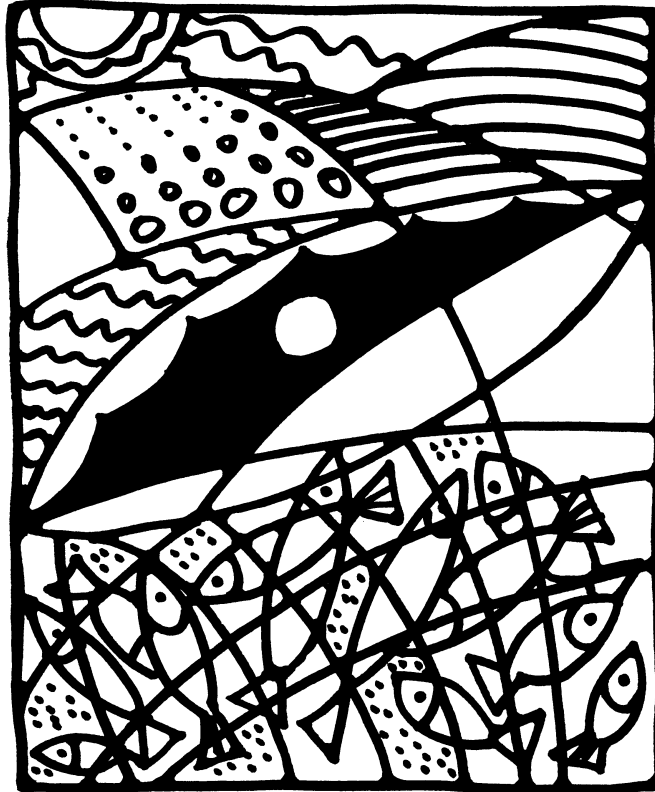


SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4856 WAYNE ROAD
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202
(717) 267-2266

EMAIL: info@solomonslutheran.org
WEB SITE: www.solomonslutheran.org
FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook



The Kingdom's treasures
R · E · V · E · A · L · E · D

"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."

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 26, 2026

July 26, 2026
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision* - Dale Wood

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 *Gather Us In* (ELW 532)**



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream - ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

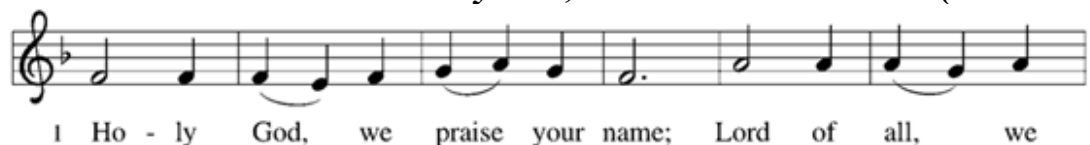
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE #a-71900. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

*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



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



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



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



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.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from 1 Kings.

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

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

¹²⁹ Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed | streams of tears,
because people do not | keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

A reading from Romans.

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 13:31-33, 44-52**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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 *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

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.

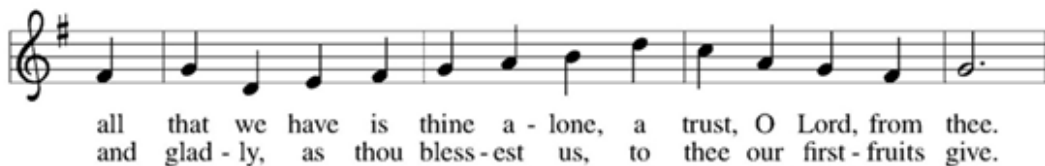
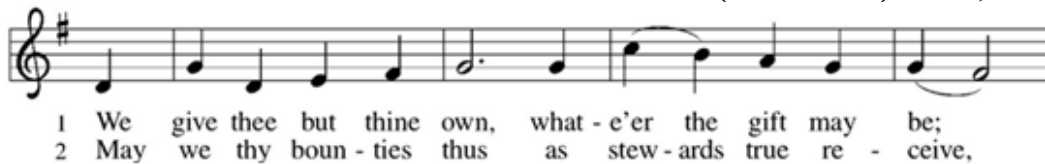
***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** (Please respond.)

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



Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.
Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

***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**

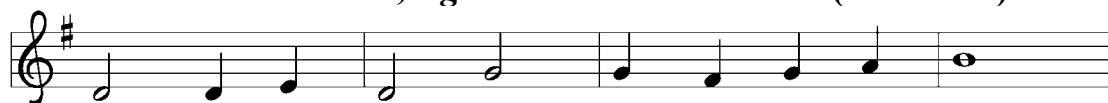
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.

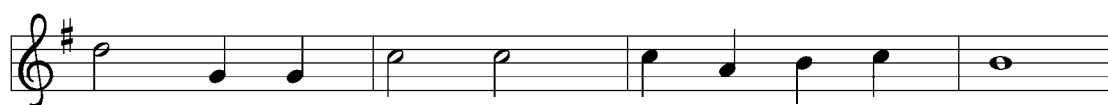
***SENDING SONG *Savior, Again to Your Dear Name* (ELW 534)**



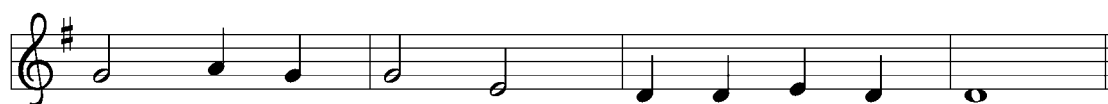
1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise
2 Grant us your peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,



with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;
for us trans - form its dark - ness in - to light.
our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;



once more we bless you ere our wor - ship cease,
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
Keep us from harm and dan - ger till the dawn;
then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.
that in this house have called up - on your name.
your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.
call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt.
Music: ELLERS, Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901

***DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE *Voluntary in D Major* - J Fischer

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
REPRINTED / PODCAST / STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE
#A-719004 and CCLI #11066173. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SERVING TODAY

Interim Pastor Rev. Julia Brown
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 25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the glory of God in honor of Rich McEntire's birthday and Brian Coldsmith's birthday given by Janice McEntire.

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: *Betty Amt, Nancy Marshall, 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 29 - Bible Study 10am

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

Attention all members - please plan to attend our first meeting on September 13 after worship to vote on leaving the ELCA.

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. August's luncheon will be on August 27. 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 Notes:

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 of the threat of death. King Logaire was so impressed with Patrick's brave devotion, 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)

England in the 19th century was famous for its choral societies. Our sending hymn this morning, "Savior Again to Your Dear Name We Raise" was written by Anglican clergyman, John Ellerton, in 1866 for a Choral Association's festival in Cheshire, England. Originally, the hymn had six verses, but Ellerton later revised it to the four verses we sing today. It first appeared in the 1868 Appendix to Hymns Ancient and Modern. Ellerton, who served parishes in England for four decades, was also a prolific hymn writer, contributing about 50 hymns to Christian worship. He wanted this particular hymn to provide a reflective and peaceful conclusion to worship, using themes of peace and guidance. The hymn has become a staple in many Christian denominations, sung at the end of a service as a prayer for the peace of God...on our way home, through the night, and at the end of our earthly life. (Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins, Austin Lovelace; pptworship.com).