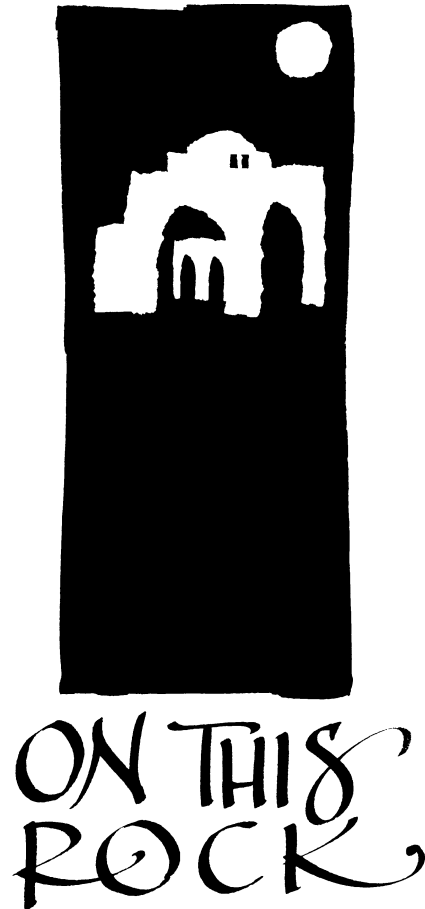


SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2026

August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE *O Holy Spirit, Enter In* - Sigfrid Karg-Elert

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

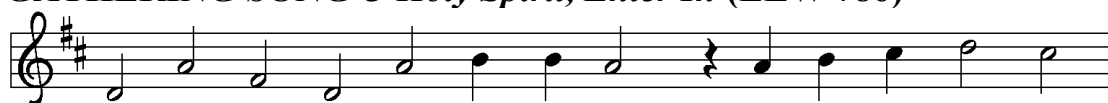
***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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** *O Holy Spirit, Enter In* (ELW 786)



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your
2 Left to our - selves, we sure - ly stray; oh, lead us on the
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in



work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell - ing. Sun of the soul,
nar - row way, with wis - est coun - sel guide us; and give us stead -
doubt and strife be in us strong - ly burn - ing, that we be faith -



O Light di - vine, a - round and in us bright - ly shine, your strength
fast - ness, that we may fol - low you for - ev - er free, no mat -
ful un - to death and live in love and ho - ly faith, from you



in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is
ter who de - rides us. Gent - ly heal those hearts now bro - ken; give some
true wis - dom learn - ing. Lord, your mer - cy on us show - er; by your



giv - en o - ver - flow - ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing.
to - ken you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.
pow - er Christ con - fess - ing, we will cher - ish all your bless - ing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

***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.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 138

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

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹ my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your
steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- ¹bove all things.**

³ When I called, you ¹ answered me;
you increased my ¹ strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise¹ you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words¹ of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways¹ of the LORD,
that great is the glory¹ of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares¹ for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty¹ from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you¹ keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right¹ hand shall
save me.

⁸ **You will make good your pur-¹pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works¹ of your
hands.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

A reading from Romans.

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 16:13-20**

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

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 *The Church's One Foundation* (ELW 654)



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms. . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900

Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

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.

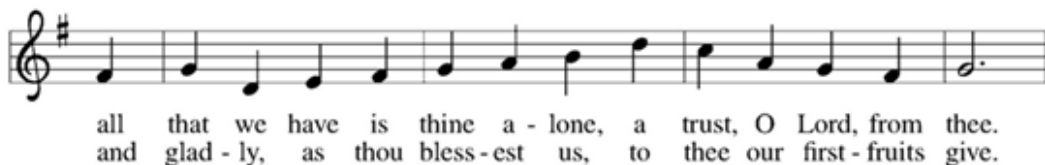
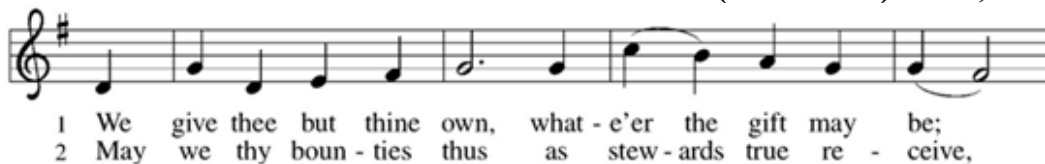
***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** (Please respond.)

P: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

***PEACE**

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

***OFFERTORY** *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 *Faith of Our Fathers* (ELW 812)**



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and
3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate
all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

Refrain



when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word.
if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,
by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.



ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain

***DISMISSAL**

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

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE *The Church's One Foundation* - Kevin Hildebrand

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SERVING TODAY

Interim Pastor	Rev. Julia Brown
Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher	Martie Veilleux
Acolyte	Aaron Shreiner
Lector.....	Martie Veilleux
Securing Offering.....	Aaron Shreiner & Wayne Dale
Attendance last Sunday.....	28

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the glory of God in celebration of our 57th Wedding Anniversary 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: *Dick Amt, Denny Helman, Phil Johnson, Betty Amt, Nancy Marshall, Marie Dovey, Amy Eichelberger, Paul Steiding, Dennis Hose, Sam Brooks, Kaitlyn Dovey, Patsy Wildeson, James Bersch, Kristen Hardman, Charles Carl, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Linda Mumaugh, 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.*

Attention members – Monday, August 24 at 6:30pm Bishop Herr will be here to discuss and answer any question on leaving the ELCA.

As the summer quickly draws to a close, it will soon be time for choir rehearsals to resume. More specifics on starting date will be in the September newsletter and bulletins in the upcoming weeks. New members are most definitely welcome to join our current members. Rehearsal will remain on Thursday evenings at 7 PM and last about an hour. Consider joining your voice with others to help lead our worship services each week.

If you would like to send a get-well card to Phil Johnson, we are sure he would greatly appreciate it. Phil Johnson, Chambersburg Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, 1070 Stouffer Ave, Room 12A, Chambersburg, PA 17201.

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

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

August 26 - Bible Study 10am

On Sunday, October 11, Worship and Music will be sponsoring a luncheon following worship to celebrate Solomon's 260th Anniversary. Pastor Michael Allwein will serve as pastor on this special day. We hope to have a display of memorabilia of years gone by at Solomon's, from the log church to our present facility. Please look through photos and other materials regarding Solomon's that you would like to have displayed. Photos would include wedding, baptism, catechism, members, and church activities. Please contact Bonney Coldsmith or any member of Worship and Music if you are willing to share items. The luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Center. Chicken will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring either a side dish or dessert to share. A sign-up sheet will be in

the Sunday School room. All members of Solomon's and previous members and their families are invited. Let's make this a special day of remembrance and fellowship.



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

“God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday is September 20. Solomon’s is participating with thousands of other congregations across the country to serve our communities on “*God’s Work. Our Hands*” Sunday. Join Social Ministry immediately following worship to assemble the world relief personal care kits.

Rally Day - Sunday, September 13. Breakfast (sausage egg casserole, sticky buns, almond bars, bacon, fresh fruit, coffee, tea & water) is at 9:30 a.m. in Solomon’s Fellowship Center followed by speaker David Rudy from Joy El Ministries from 10:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

Qigong/Tai Chi Class is cancelled for this session due to unforeseen circumstances.

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:

This morning's gathering song, "O Holy Spirit, Enter In," has a rich background rooted in Christian tradition. Originally written by Michael Schirmer in the 17th century, it was later translated into English by Catherine Winkworth in 1863. The hymn emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers inviting the Spirit to dwell within and guide all believers. The themes include spiritual renewal, divine guidance, and the importance of community in faith. The hymn serves as a prayer for the Spirit's presence and work in the hearts of the faithful. (yahoo.com).

This morning's hymn of the day, "The Church's One Foundation," was written in 1866 by Samuel Stone. The hymn was written in response to a Bishop in South Africa who challenged the "historicity and authority of many of the Old Testament books," (Quote from Hymnary.org), questioning whether Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. Stone wrote twelve hymns based on the twelve articles of the Creed, which included this hymn, based on Article 9: "The Holy Catholic (Universal) Church; the Communion of Saints; He is the Head of this Body." Now an affirmation of Christ as the foundation of our faith, we sing this hymn with those who have gone before us and with Christians around the world, declaring that beyond any theological differences, cultural divides, and variances in practice, we are all part of the same body, the body of Christ. Set to music written by Samuel Wesley

(grandson of Charles Wesley), it has become one of the church's best loved hymns. (Hymnary.org; Then Sings My Soul, Book 2; Robert J. Morgan, page 107).

Our sending song this morning, "Faith of Our Fathers," was written by Frederick William Faber (1814-1863). Raised in an Anglican parsonage, he was later educated as a young man at Oxford University, where he came under the influence of the great Roman Catholic, John Henry Newman, author of the hymn, "Lead Kindly Light." After graduation, Faber entered the Anglican ministry but said "his soul was greatly troubled." He was drawn to the historic reverent liturgy of the Catholic faith, so he announced to his church on November 16, 1845, that he was leaving the Church of England to be ordained as a Catholic priest. For the remainder of his short life (he was only 59 when he died), he endeavored to provide a body of hymns for English Catholics to sing. It is said "Faith of Our Fathers" is his most enduring hymn. His focus and meaning with this hymn is completely different from his original intention. Faber wanted to convert England to Catholicism, but Unitarians altered this hymn for Protestant use, and it is found in almost all American hymnals! Today it is said congregations enthusiastically vow to be true to the faith till death. God moves in mysterious ways! (Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins: Austin C. Lovelace, pg.30; Then Sings My Soul: Robert J. Morgan, pg. 79).