

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."

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL PRELUDE What Is This Place Smith/Engel ELW #524

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (ELW 858)**



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

***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 (ELW p. 204)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

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

- ¹ Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God’s | holy name.
- ² **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God’s benefits—
- ³ who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
- ⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle’s.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
- ⁷ You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;
- ⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
- ¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,**
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
- ¹² **As far as the east is | from the west,**
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
- ¹³ As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

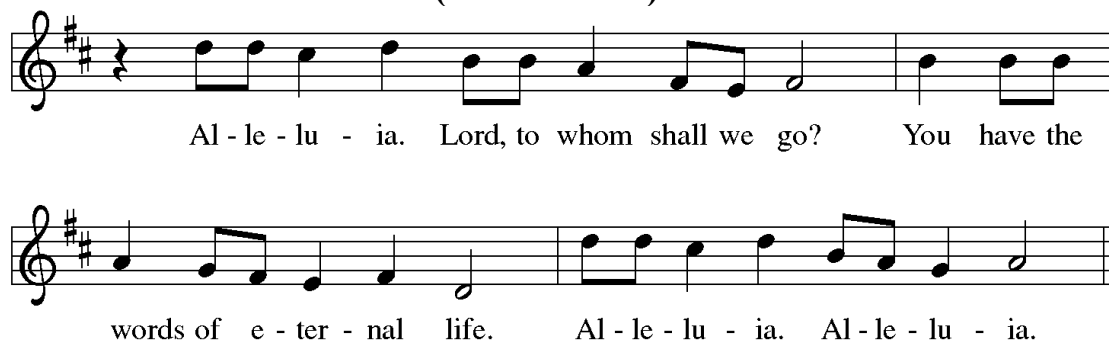
“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW S142A)



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: Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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 *Our Father, We Have Wandered* (ELW 606)



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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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: Hear us, O God. **C:** **Your mercy is great.**

***PEACE**

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

***OFFERTORY** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 884)

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
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 in us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom
with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

***BLESSING**

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death* (ELW 452)**



1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

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***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

Please be seated for the congregation meeting

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SERVING TODAY

Pulpit Deacon Moses Severt
Church Office Email Address office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher Sarge Weaver
Acolyte Wayne Dale
Lector Rich McEntire
Securing Offering Janice McEntire & Linda Berberich
Attendance last Sunday 24

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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 Christopher Frye, Dean of the Chambersburg Conference at 717-261-1213 (St. Luke's Church, Scotland).

Prayer requests for the following: *Patricia Yetter, Dick & Vicki Reichard, Dick Amt, Denny Helman, Phil Johnson, Betty Amt, Marie Dovey, Amy Eichelberger, Paul Steiding, 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.*

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

September 14 - Council 7pm
15 - Property 1pm
Christian Ed 7pm
17 - Choir 7pm

Please welcome Moses Severt with a warm "thank you" for leading our worship service this morning.

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

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

Hymn Sing: On Sunday, September 27, prior to worship, we are planning a hymn sing...your chance to select a favorite hymn from our hymnal. It can be from any section, any season, or one you think we do not sing often enough. The only request is that your hymn requests come from our red ELW hymnal. We'll begin around 10:05 AM, prior to our 10:15 AM worship time. So, take a few moments in the next couple of weeks, while you're sitting waiting for worship to start, and make your choices.

Beginning October 7, we will begin Bible Study on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Sarge will be leading the study. At our first meeting we plan to have a short lesson and then discuss what our study lessons will be. If you have any ideas, please contact Sarge.

Choir Practice - Thursdays at 7:00 PM. Rehearsals generally last about an hour. New members are most definitely welcome to join our current members. Consider joining your voice with others to help lead our worship services each week.

Social Ministry is collecting items for personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Kits will be assembled on Sunday, September 20th following service. 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 "care kits" on memo line. Cash can be placed in an envelope and marked "care kits"

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.



Power Pack Meals - Social Ministry is once again collecting nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need during the 2026-2027 school year. Please place the items in the container in the Sunday School room. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church and put *Power Pack Meals* in the memo line, or place cash in an envelope and mark *power pack*.

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

If you would like to send a get-well card to Phil Johnson, we are sure he would greatly appreciate it.

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:

Our Gathering Hymn this morning, "Praise to the Lord the Almighty," was written by Joachim Neander, known to be the first hymnwriter from the Calvinist branch of Protestantism. Neander often took walks near his home in Hochdal, Germany, walks that he called worship walks. It was during these walks that he often composed hymns. Based loosely on Psalm 103: 1-6 and Psalm 150, Joachim wrote five verses in the original hymn, published in 1680. Said to be a magnificent hymn of praise to God, he wrote this while battling tuberculosis...where he included the words: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation. O my soul praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation.* This is a hymn that has stood the test of time to remain one of the most beloved hymns in the Church. As we sing these words today, "we join the voices of millions who have gone before us and those across the world, to sing these great words of thanksgiving and honor to the God who created us, protects us, and befriends us." (Hymnary.org) (Then Sings My Soul; Robert J. Morgan, pg. 27).

Our sending song this morning, "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death, was written by F. Bland Tucker (1895-1983). This hymn is a concise poetic summation of chapters 3, 4, and 5 of Ephesians, with the opening line taken from Ephesians 5:14, which may have been part of a baptismal hymn. Stanzas 2 and 3 are creed like in nature, with emphasis on our oneness in Christ. Stanzas 4 and 5 are a call for us to follow Christ in our daily living. The author, F. Bland Tucker, was a scholarly Episcopalian priest famous for his superb translations of Greek and Latin hymnody, as well as for several original hymns, all scripturally inspired. (Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins, Austin C. Lovelace, pg. 16).