

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."

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

September 20, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE *Lord of All Hopefulness* - Mark Thewes

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 *Voices Raised to You* (ELW 845)**



1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
 2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
 3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
 4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -
 5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
 heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
 in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;
 thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—



for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
 we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
 for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
 through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!
 gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

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Music © 1996 Carolyn Jennings

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***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.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.

Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

A reading from Jonah.

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

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

¹ I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

² **Every day | will I bless you**
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.

³ Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works | to another**
and shall de- | clare your power.

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,**
and I will re- | count your greatness.

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians.

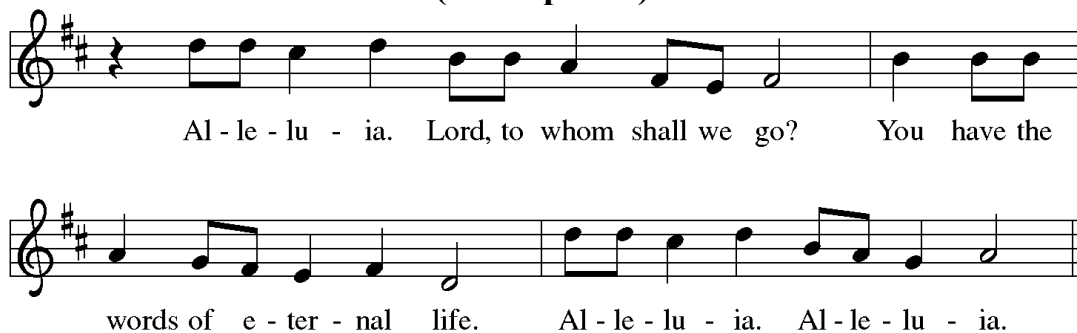
Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)



***GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

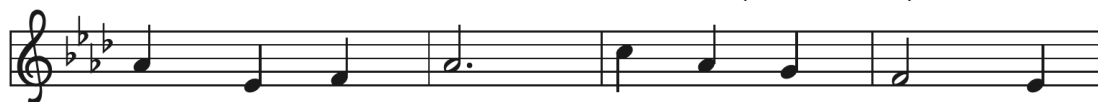
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Mike Ross

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

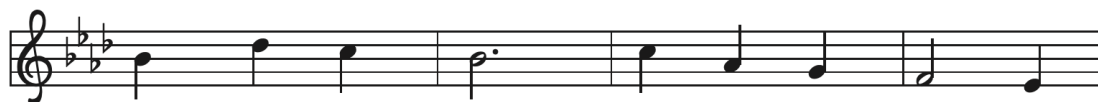
HYMN OF THE DAY *God's Work, Our Hands* (ACS 1000)



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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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.

CHOIR ANTHEM Come to the Table of the Lord - Jay Althouse

***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.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

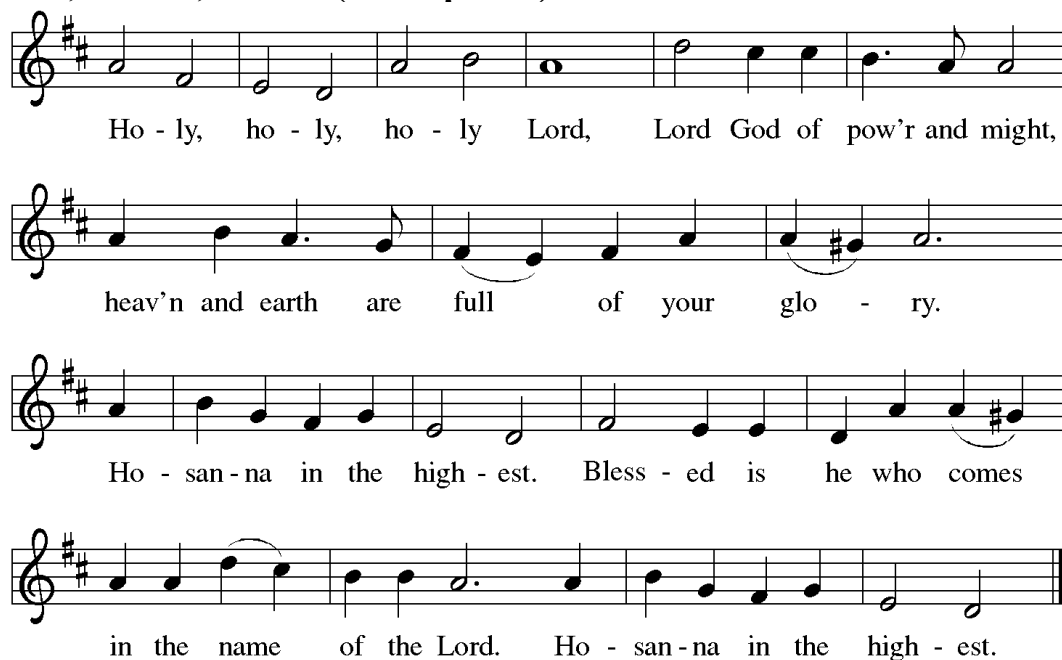
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***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.**

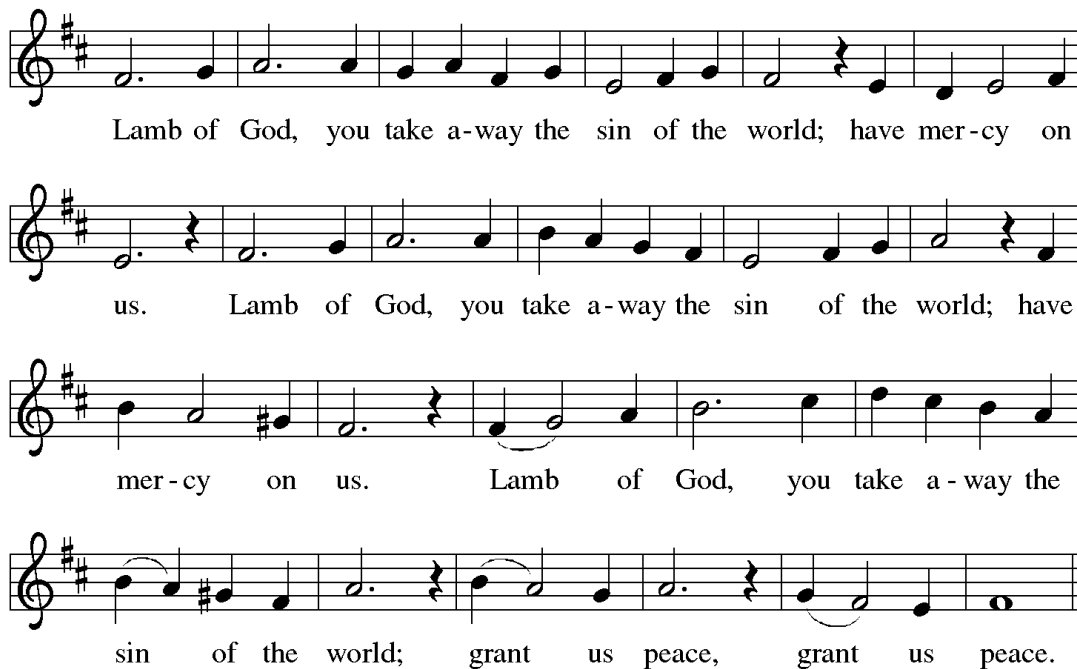
***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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. 154)



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 TIME FOR QUIET MEDITATION

*COMMUNION BLESSING

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
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 *Lord of All Hopefulness* (ELW 765)



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE *Choral Song* - Samuel Wesley

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SERVING TODAY

Supply Pastor.....	Pastor Mike Ross
Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher.....	Janice McEntire
Acolyte	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Martie Veilleux
Securing Offering.....	Janice McEntire & Linda Berberich
Communion Set-Up.....	Becky Pecha
Communion Clean-Up	Becky Pecha
Communion Bread	Frances Reichard
Communion Assist	Martie Veilleux
Attendance last Sunday.....	36

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the glory of God in memory of the Garvin Twins, Hazel McKenzie and Edna Biesecker given by Wayne and Marjorie Dale.

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: *friends and family of 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 24 - Choir 7pm

26 - Fall Picnic 5pm

Please welcome Pastor Mike Ross with a warm “thank you” for leading our worship service this morning.

Social Ministry is collecting items for personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Kits will be assembled today, September 20th following service.

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.

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 Coldsmitth 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*.

Social Ministry Committee will be assembling care kits immediately following service today. Monetary donations: check payable to Solomon's Lutheran church (mark memo line "care kits"). Cash: place in an envelope and mark "care kits".

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, “Voices Raised to You,” uses a text written by Dr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. (1923-2007), and a melody composed by Carolyn Jenings. Dr. Stuempfle lived most of his life in Gettysburg, where at one point he served as President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary (now United Lutheran Seminary) in Gettysburg. Another prolific hymn writer, Dr. Stuempfle was a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Gettysburg. A beautiful hymn of praise, the text praises the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Triune God, as we offer our thanks and praise for all we have been given as part of God’s creation. (hymnary.org) We will be using additional hymns written by Dr. Stuempfle in the months ahead.

Our sending song this morning, "Lord of All Hopefulness" is a Christian hymn written by English writer Jan Struther, and published in the enlarged edition of *Songs of Praise* (Oxford University Press) in 1931. The hymn is used in liturgy, as we do today, at weddings, and at the beginning of funeral services. It is one of the most popular hymns in the United Kingdom. "Lord of all Hopefulness" is commonly set to the melody of an Irish folksong, *Slane*. (Note the title of today’s prelude).The melody is named after the Hill of Slane, the site where St. Patrick lit an Easter fire in defiance of the pagan king, Lóegaire, near the village of the same name in County Meath, Ireland. The hymn is included in a few popular Christian hymn books, including the *New English Hymnal* and *Hymns and Psalms*. It is also sometimes included in Christian children's songbooks. An interesting note, this hymn was the opening hymn at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on May 19, 2018. (Wikipedia.com)