

Sunday, August 17, 2025

10th Sunday after Pentecost

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshipping. Today’s service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion. *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood “in, with, and under” the bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

Coffee Hour. We hope that you will join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby following the worship service.

ST. STEPHEN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
270 South Broadway | Hicksville NY 11801
Church Office: Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
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Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StStephensHicksvilleNY

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pause for silent reflection.

P Gracious God, C **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. C **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *What Is This Place* (ELW 524)



1 What is this place where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the
2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,



win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak
we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive



when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.
what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

A reading from Jeremiah.

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 82



A - rise, O God, and rule the earth.

¹ God stands to charge the divine coun- | cil assembled, giving judgment in the midst | of the gods:

² **“How long will you | judge unjustly, and show favor | to the wicked?”**

³ Save the weak | and the orphan; defend the hum- | ble and needy;

⁴ **rescue the weak | and the poor; deliver them from the power | of the wicked. R**

⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander a- | bout in darkness; all the foundations of the | earth are shaken.

⁶ **Now I say to you, | ‘You are gods, and all of you children of | the Most High;**

⁷ nevertheless, you shall | die like mortals, and fall like | any prince.’”

⁸ **Arise, O God, and | rule the earth, for you shall take all nations | for your own. R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

A reading from Hebrews.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

...The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

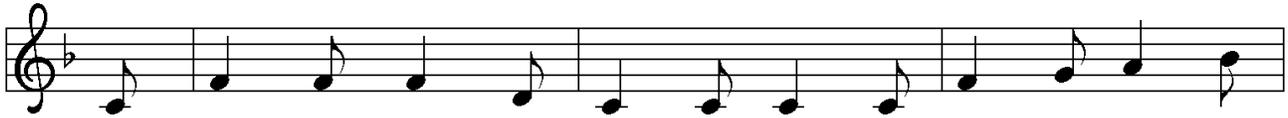
⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

...The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

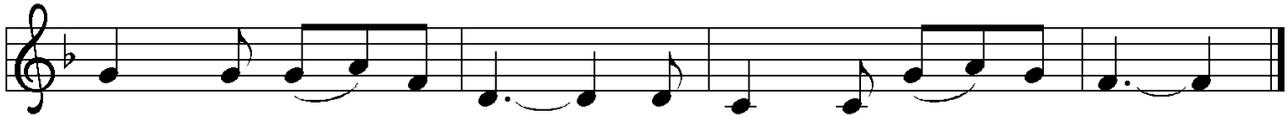
HYMN OF THE DAY: *I Come with Joy* (ELW 482)



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

C 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 INTERCESSION

A Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God. **C** **Your mercy is great.**

A Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God. **C Your mercy is great.**

A Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God. **C Your mercy is great.**

A Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound. Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God. **C Your mercy is great.**

A Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God. **C Your mercy is great.**

A With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God. **C Your mercy is great.**

A Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **C Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us off each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Carmine Barone (8/17)

BIRTHDAY SONG

He who began a good work in you (2x)

Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)

Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)

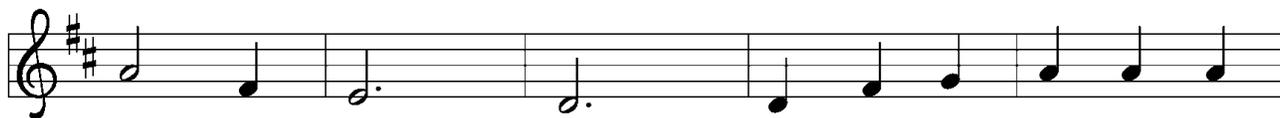
He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!

+ MEAL +

OFFERING SONG: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815)



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts. **C We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P 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



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath. **C We praise you, O God.**

P Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. C **We bless you, O God.**

P We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. C **We thank you, O God.**

P 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. Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

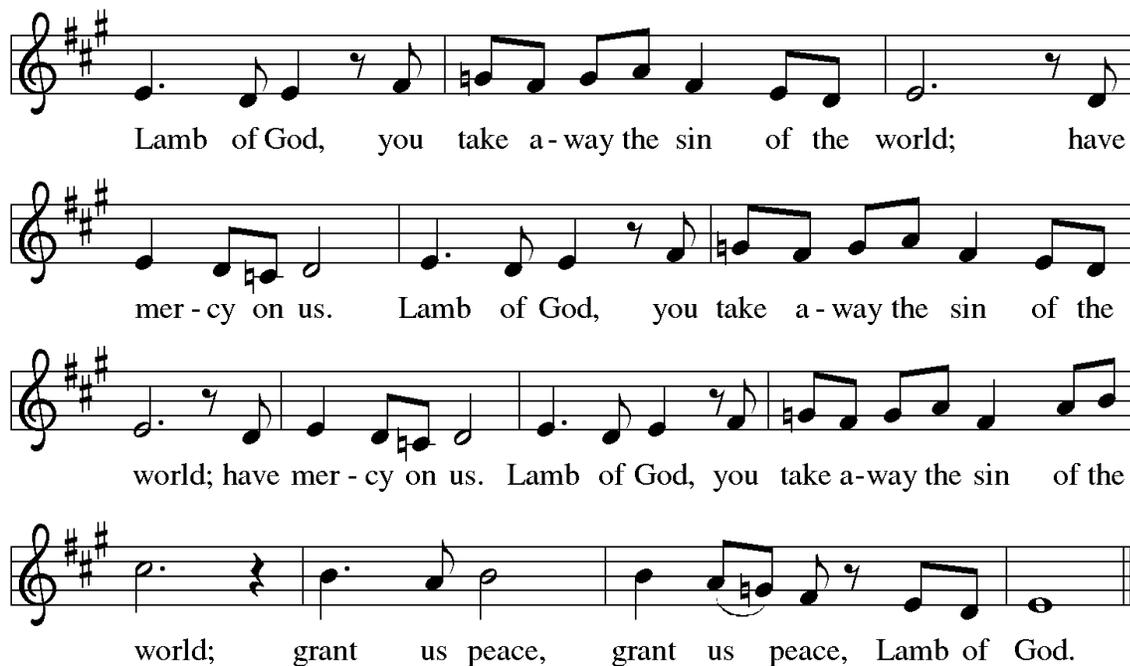
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **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

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C **Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD



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, Lamb of God.

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *Bread of Life from Heaven* (ELW 474)

Refrain



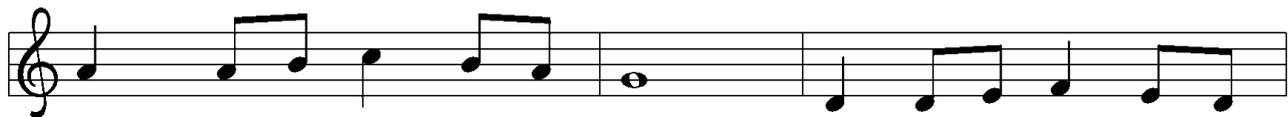
Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----|------|-------|------|------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 | Break | now | the | bread | of | Christ's | sac - ri - fice; | giv - ing |
| 2 | Seek | not | the | food | that | will | pass a - way; | set your |
| 3 | Love | as | the | one | who, | in | love for you, | gave him - |
| 4 | Dwell | in | the | one | who | now | dwells in you; | make your |
| 5 | Drink | of | this | cup | and | de - clare | his death; | eat this |



thanks,	hun - gry	ones,	gath - er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,	and	be		
hearts	on	the	food	that	en - dures.	Come,	learn	the	true	and	the	
self	for	the	life	of	the	world.	Come	to	the	one	who	is
home	in	the	life - giv - ing	Word.	Know	on - ly	Christ,	Ho - ly				
bread	and	be - lieve	Eas - ter	morn;	trust	his	re - turn	and,	with			



sat - is - fied;	in	Christ's	pres - ence	the	loaves	will	a - bound.			
liv - ing	way,	that	the	full - ness	of	life	may	be	yours.	
food	for	you,	that	your	hun - ger	and	thirst	be	no	more.
One	of	God,	and	be - lieve	in	the	truth	you	have	heard.
ev - 'ry	breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you	are	re - born.	

Refrain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

P The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **C Amen.**

P The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **C Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Beautiful Savior* (ELW 838)



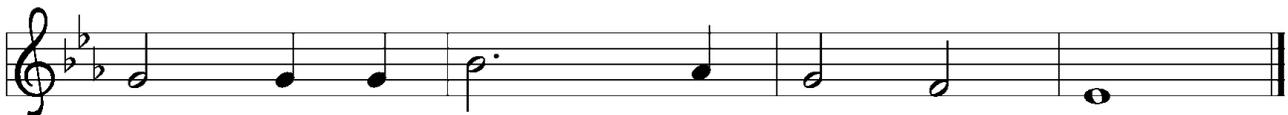
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.

**Announcements for the week of
August 17, 2025**

*Sanctuary Candle for August is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Dad by Ellen Eberhardt*



Carmine Barone ~ August 17th

»» **Save The Date #1:** The Town Hall Meeting will be on **Sunday, August 24th** following Worship, for the review/discussion of the 25/26 budget. All are encouraged to attend this informative meeting. We welcome input from everyone on this important topic!

»» **School Supply Drive:** Once again, St. Stephen’s overwhelmingly shared many blessings to the children from the Center. When Jeanne Bezko delivered a trunk load of backpacks, calculators, glue, paper, pens and pencils, etc., the Center’s Director was shocked. She realizes times are a little tougher for many Long Islanders and was really so grateful for the wonderful school supplies. Having these supplies as the children start their new classes, puts them at a big advantage.

»» **New Life Center Update:** The New Life Center of Lutheran Social Services is experiencing a slowdown in food donations. The director believes that this is due in part to summer vacations and the reduction of funding by the US Dept. of Agriculture. The USDA has cut \$500 million from the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program. This program helped state and local governments purchase food from local producers for food banks. In effect, food banks can’t offer any meat proteins such as chicken or chopped meat. Donations from Island Harvest and LI Cares have also dramatically cut deliveries to many food pantries. *The New Life Center, a 501C3 (a charitable IRS status), would greatly appreciate any financial assistance you can make.* Your check should be made payable to Lutheran Family & Community Services and mailed to 145 Franklin Ave., Franklin Sq., N 11010. If space allows, please put St. Stephens-Hicks on your check. All checks received will be used for food for the clients of the New Life Center.

»» **Altar Guild Needs You:** Help prepare our worship space for services. No experience needed—just a willing heart and a team spirit. Talk to Lauren, Bill, Beth, or Jane to learn more.

»» **Coffee Hour Sign-Up:** The April–December sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please consider hosting by providing refreshments for a given Sunday. Reminder, we offer a cold drink in the summer at our coffee hour!

»» **Altar Flowers & Sanctuary Candle:** Dedicate Sunday altar flowers (\$25) or the monthly sanctuary candle (\$15) in honor/memory of a loved one. Use the envelopes provided or contact the church office (516.931.0710).

Parish Calendar This Week (August 17th - August 24th)

Day	Event	Time
Sunday, August 17th	10th Sunday after Pentecost	Holy Communion 9:00 am
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
Tuesday, August 19th	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wednesday, August 20th	N.A.	7:00 pm
Sunday, August 24th	11th Sunday after Pentecost	Holy Communion 9:00 am
	Town Hall Meeting	Following Worship

Serving At Worship Today - Sunday, 9:00 AM

Assisting Minister.....Jane Ebersberger **Usher**.....Rich Humann
Lector.....Kevin Dolan **Greeter**.....Maureen O’Brien
Acolyte.....Gavin Barone **Audio/Visual**.....Tyler LaVorgna
Music Director.....Mason Griffin **Altar Guild**.....Bill & Lauren Artus

Parish Prayer List

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member’s name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.

Pray For Our Congregation

Lauren Aiello
Dottie Eberhardt
Richard Engert
Rick Mosebach
John Parrett
Ilona Riggers
Lenny Schiliro
Ilse Zeeck

Pray For Our Families

Vinny Aiello (husband of Laureen Aiello)
Fred Barrell (brother-in-law of Paul & Susan Portz)
Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)
James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)
Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus & John Langbehn)
Bernd Pfeiffer (brother of Christel LaVorgna)
Linda Pisano (cousin of Lauren Artus & John Langbehn)
Jean Riolo (mother of Christine Carlson)
Michael Shurman (brother of Joe Shurman)
Neil Tingwall (husband of Tanya Maurer, son in law of Robert & Nan Maurer)

Pray For Our Friends

Brianna Baldassano (daughter to dear friend of Maureen O'Brien)
Kendra Chandler (friend of Barbara & Kevin Barcavage)
Sue Eletti (friend of Christel LaVorgna)
Jeremy Gize (friend of Maureen O'Brien)
Ellen Grace (high school friend of Joan Hagner)
John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)
Larry Kahn on his successful surgery (friend & former colleague of Kate Ahlers Pendas)
Mark Kravitz (friend of John Langbehn)
Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)
Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)
Bill Schlatter (friend of the Hesse Family)
Martina Schmid (former member of the congregation)
The Schweitzer & Navaretta families on the passing of Arlene Schweitzer (friends of the Pendas family)
Mark Trommsdorff (friend of Dave & Laura Staton)