

Sunday, August 31, 2025 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual

love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

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
Church Office: 516.931.0710

Barbara Barcavage, Church Council President (*email* ststephenstreasurer1@gmail.com)

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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: *As We Gather at Your Table* (ELW 522)



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

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, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

A reading from Proverbs.

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble. ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 112:4



The righ-teous are mer-ci-ful and full of com-pas-sion.

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who ¹ fear the LORD and have great delight in ¹ God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty ¹ in the land; the generation of the upright ¹ will be blessed. R**

³ Wealth and riches will be ¹ in their house, and their righteousness will ¹ last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness ¹ for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full ¹ of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be gener- ¹ ous in lending and to manage their af- ¹ fairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will nev- ¹ er be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlast- ¹ ing remembrance. R**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any ¹ evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting ¹ in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and ¹ will not shrink, until they see their desire up- ¹ on their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands ¹ fast forever; they will hold up their ¹ head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and ¹ pine away; the desires of the wick- ¹ ed will perish. R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

A reading from Hebrews.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?”

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to 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 14:1, 7-14

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host,

⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

...The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Shine, Jesus, Shine* (ELW 671)

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fac - es dis -
dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain

Shine on me, shine on me:
Shine on me, shine on me:

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 For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor/Labour Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. 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.
P Let us off each other a sign of peace.

C And also with you.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ MEAL +

OFFERING SONG: *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* (ELW 843)



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

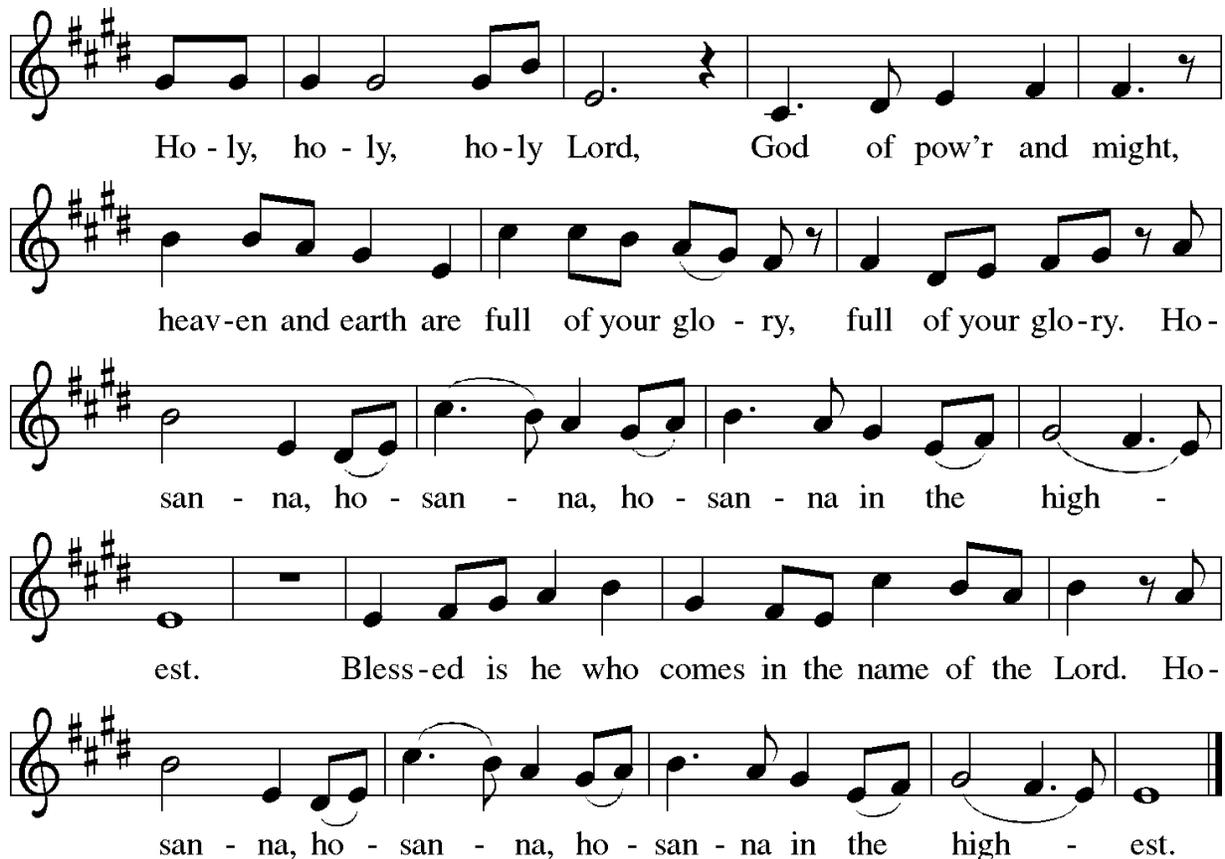
DIALOGUE

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 We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

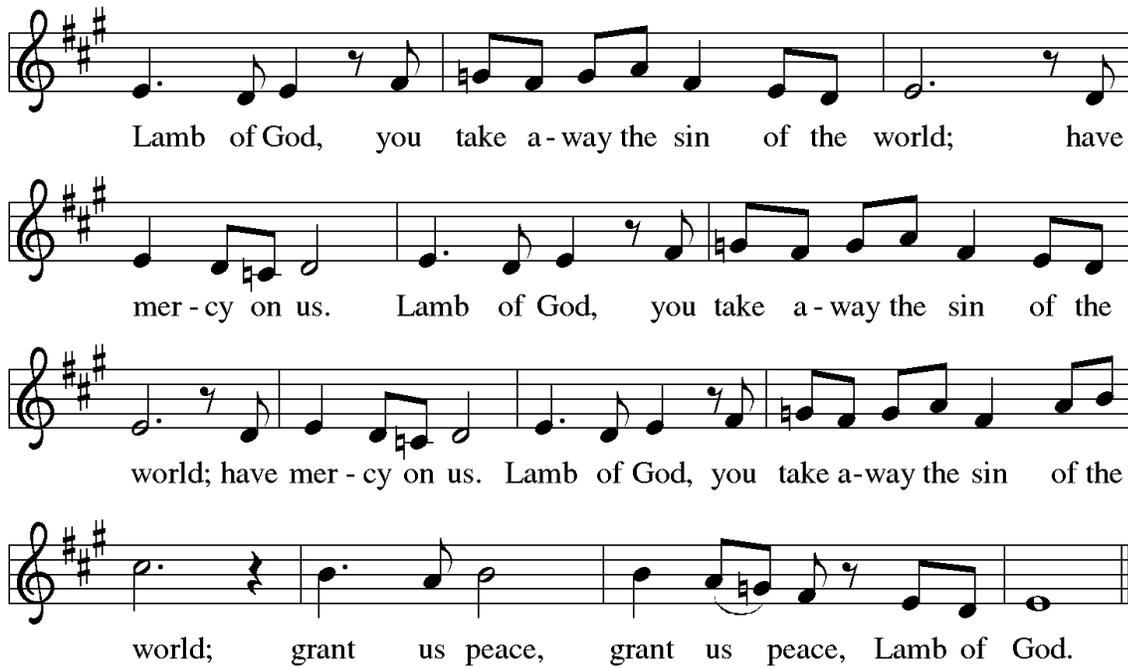
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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: *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* (ELW 461)



- 1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
- 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
- 3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake 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: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (ELW 807)



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt-or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

**Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872
Tuesday, September 2, 2025**

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

**Announcements for the week of
August 31, 2025**

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

*Altar Flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving honor of
Barbara Barcavage on her Birthday by Kate Lenzo*



Barbara Barcavage ~ September 4th

»» **Mark your calendars!!** Our annual Picnic/Brunch is coming up on Sunday, September 7th! 🌻 We'll gather in the courtyard right after our 9 AM service for good food, fellowship, and fun. Everyone is invited to sign up to bring a favorite breakfast item to share. We'll also need a few helping hands to set up before worship—many hands make light work!

»» **Ladies of the Conference Churches:** The next meeting will be at St. David's Lutheran Church in Massapequa Park on the third Wednesday of the month, September 17, 2025, from 10:00 until 11:30. The theme will be: How Do We Hear Ecclesiastes 3:1-8?

»» **Fellowship Discussion: "The Chosen"** - "The Chosen" takes an intimate look at the real and authentic loves of Jesus and all those around him through this historical drama. "The Chosen" brings the Bible to life. Join us for fellowship as we begin "The Chosen" television series. Each gathering we will watch an episode and then take a deep dive discussion about the episode and the scripture that inspired the story. **We are meeting every other Wednesday in the Pastor's Lounge at 3:00.** *Our first meeting will be on September 10th.*

»» **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 during the summer at our coffee hour!

»» **Do you love to sing?** Come add your voice to our church choir! No experience is necessary—just a willing heart and a love for music. Choir is a wonderful way to share your gifts and be part of something that uplifts the whole congregation in worship. All are welcome—join us and help fill our sanctuary with song!

»» **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 31st - September 7th)

Day	Event	Time
Sunday, August 31st	12th Sunday after Pentecost	Holy Communion 9:00 am
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
Tuesday, Sept. 2nd	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wednesday, Sept. 3rd	N.A.	7:00 pm
Sunday, Sept. 7th	13th Sunday after Pentecost	Holy Communion 9:00 am

Serving At Worship Today - Sunday, 9:00 AM

Assisting Minister.....Laureen Aiello **Usher**.....Kevin Barcavage
Lector.....Bill Artus **Greeter**.....Lynn Browning
Acolyte.....Sara LaGuarina **Audio/Visual**.....Tyler LaVorgna
Music Director.....Mason Griffin **Altar Guild**.....Christine Carlson

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

Laureen Aiello
Dottie Eberhardt
Richard Engert
Rick Mosebach
John Parrett
Ilona Riggers
Lenny Schiliro
Joe Shurman
June Waller

Ilse Zeeck

Pray For Our Families

Vinny Aiello (husband of Laureen Aiello)

Fred Barrell (brother-in-law of Paul and 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)

Neil Tingwall (husband of Tanya Maurer, son in law of Robert & Nan Maurer)

Pray For Our Friends

Sadie & Jennifer Amiruddin (friends of Maureen O'Brien)

Brianna Baldassano (daughter to dear friend of Maureen O'Brien)

Kendra Chandler (friend of Barbara & Kevin Barcavage)

Sue Eletti (friend of Christel LaVorgna)

Jeremy Gizze (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)