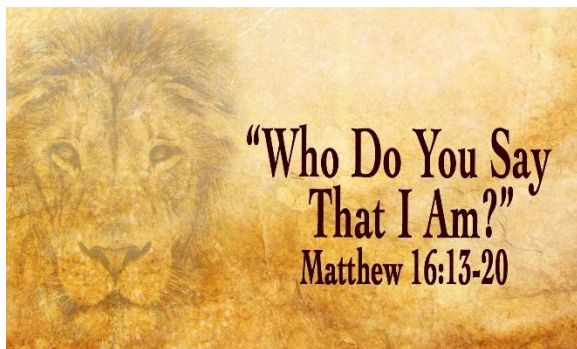




Sunday, August 23, 2026
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Service of the Word

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith.

God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

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.

Coffee Hour. We hope that you will join us for cold drinks, treats 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](mailto:ststephenstreasurer1@gmail.com))

Kate Lenzo, Parish Administrator ([email office@ststephenshicksville.com](mailto:office@ststephenshicksville.com))

Mason Griffin, Minister of Music

Church Website www.ststephenshicksville.com

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StStephensHicksvilleNY

✠ GATHERING ✠

As the prelude begins we invite you to conclude your conversations and join us in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship together.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

A In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

A 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.**

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

Pause for silent reflection.

A 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.**

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

GATHERING SONG: *TO BE YOUR PRESENCE* (ELW 546)



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your



pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the



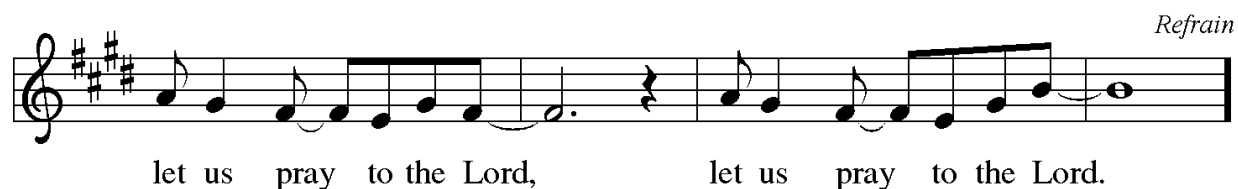
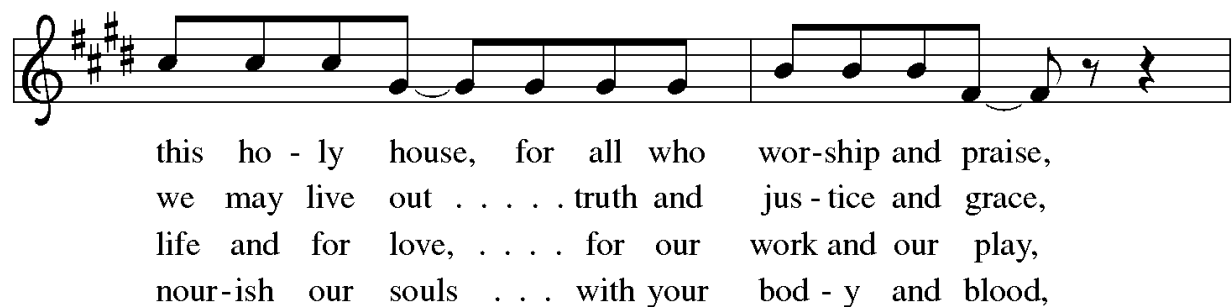
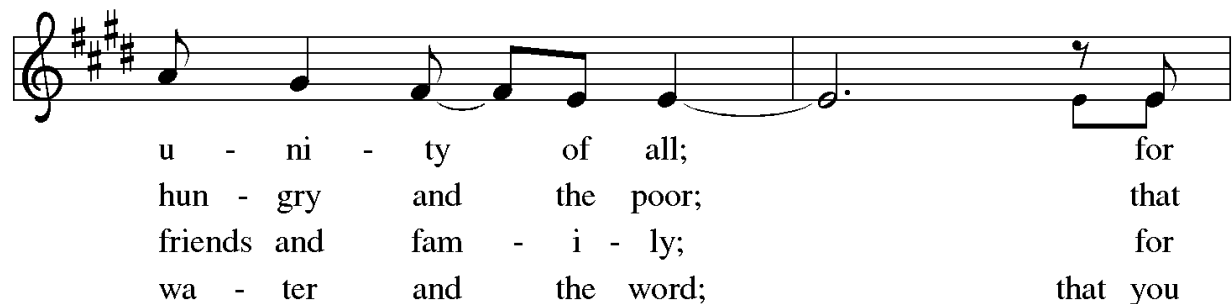
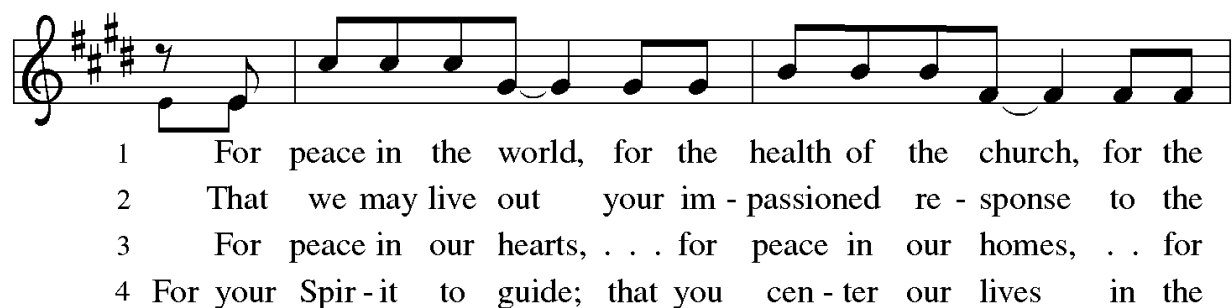
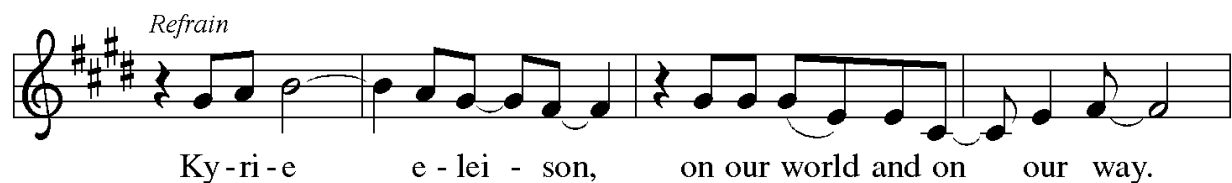
ev - er near,
right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!
love ex - pressed,
church, re - joice,

GREETING

A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 51:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug.

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

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

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

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

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

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 138:8 (*READ RESPONSIVELY*)

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

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

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

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O LORD, when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways ¹ of the LORD, that great is the glory ¹ of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares ¹ for the lowly, perceiving the haughty ¹ from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹ keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right ¹ hand shall save me.

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

SECOND READING: ROMANS 12:1-8

A reading from Romans.

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

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

...The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *CELTIC ALLELUIA* (ELW 174)



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 16:13-20

A The holy gospel according to Matthew.

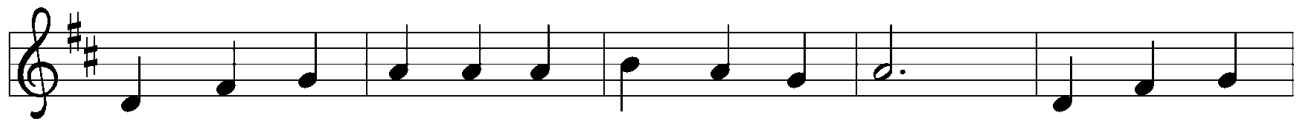
C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

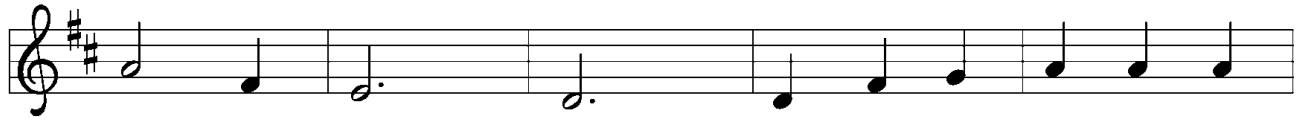
...The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *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

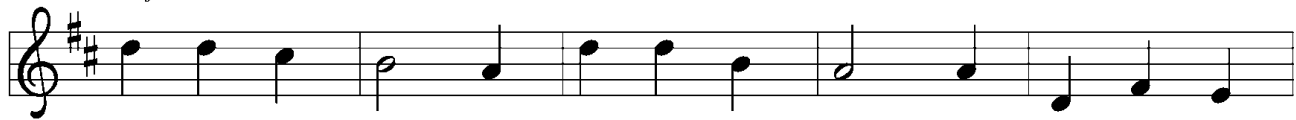


fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



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.

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 With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

A You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

A You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

A You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

A You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

A Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

A Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

PEACE

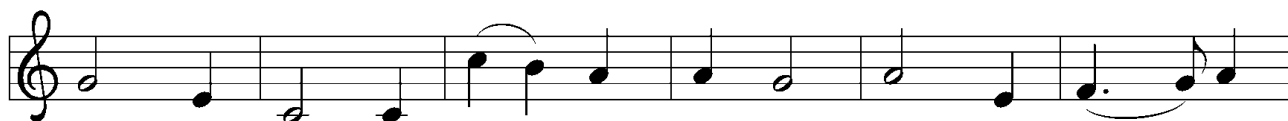
A The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**

A Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING SONG: *LORD OF LIGHT* (ELW 688)



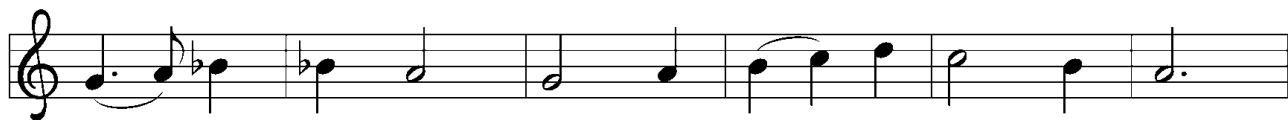
1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Refrain
 Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

A Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **C Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

A 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.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

A The Lord be with us. **C** And also with you.

A The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and our minds in ✠ Christ Jesus. **C** Amen.

SENDING SONG: *RISE, SHINE, YOU PEOPLE!* (ELW 665)



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur-round-ed, with grace un - bound-ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Bartholomew, Apostle

Monday, August 24, 2026

Mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Bartholomew's name is replaced in John's gospel by Nathanael, leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person. Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430

Friday, August 28, 2026

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria.

Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400

Friday, August 28, 2026

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

Announcements for the week of *August 23, 2026*

*Sanctuary Lamp Candle for August is given to the glory of God and
in Loving Memory of Lillian & Joe Muller, Lois Menik, and Tina & Joe Shurman
by The Shurman Family*



*We welcome Vincente Batsford as our supply pianist this morning.
We are grateful for her presence and for sharing her musical gifts in
worship today.*



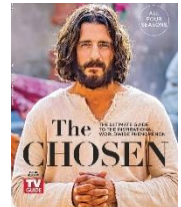
TODAY! Ice Cream Social - Sunday, August 23rd - TODAY!



Join us TODAY! for a sweet summer treat and a sweet summer movie!!
Movie of the Month: *Remarkably Bright Creatures*. While working nights
at a small-town aquarium, a widow bonds with a clever octopus and an adrift
young man in this moving drama based on the bestseller. **The movie will
start at 2:00 PM sharp!**

See the Story. Share the Conversation.

“The Chosen” offers an intimate look at the lives of Jesus and those around
him, bringing the Bible to life through this historical drama. At each meeting,
we’ll watch one episode, followed by a discussion of the Scripture that inspired
it. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 26th @ 2pm.**



Beginning After Labor Day

Beginning with worship *after* Labor Day, hymns from the Evangelical Lutheran
Worship (ELW) hymnal will no longer be printed in the bulletin. Instead, when an
ELW hymn is selected for worship, you'll find it in the red hymnals located in the
pews. Hymns and songs not from the ELW hymnal will continue to be printed in the
bulletin.

Mark your calendars!!

Our Annual Picnic/Brunch is coming up on Sunday, September 13th! 🍴



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!

Lutheran Bible Study- The Psalms

Psalms may seem like a large collection of poetry. They may seem like cries of pain to God. They may seem like songs of praise for all God's blessings. The truth is – the psalms are all these things! Throughout the history of Judaism and Christianity, the 150 psalms have been used for worship and private prayer. They express emotions and tell stories of faith. Without a doubt, Jesus himself knew the psalms and prayed with them on a daily basis! This 7-week course will explore different types of psalms and their uses in worship, private, and communal prayer. **We begin on August 3rd for four weeks.** After a two-week break (no sessions on August 31 or September 7) we will resume on September 14. Join us!

- Time: 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
- Every week on Mon until August 24 (4 weeks)
- NO SESSIONS Aug 31 and September 7
- Every week on Mon from Sep 14 – Sep 28, 2026 (3 weeks)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89440963361?pwd=3g4lqdO5A0RkCYUzycZwGz5WkBtoU3.1>

Meeting ID: 894 4096 3361

Passcode: 548772

Serving at Worship Today - Sunday, 9:00 AM

Assisting Minister.....Kevin Dolan Greeter.....Ilse Zeeck
Lector.....Laureen Aiello Supply Musician.....Vincente Bashford
Acolyte.....Gavin Barone Audio/Visual.....Livestream Team
Ushers.....Rick Mosebach & Tyler LaVorgna Altar Guild.....Beth Feeney

Parish Calendar This Week (August 23rd - August 30th)

Day	Event	Time
Sunday, August 23rd	13th Sunday after Pentecost	Service of the Word 9:00 am
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
	Ice Cream Social	2:00 pm
Tuesday, August 25th	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wednesday, August 26th	The Chosen	2:00 pm
	NA	7:00 pm
Thursday, August 27 th	Church Council Mtng	7:30 pm
Friday August 28th	Shurman/Sacco Wedding ♥	2:00 pm
Sunday, August 30th	14th Sunday after Pentecost	Service of the Word 9:00 am

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

Bill Artus
Gail Bodnar
Dottie Eberhardt
Richard Engert
John Langbehn
Jan Mosebach
Ilona Riggers
Ilse Zeeck

Pray For Our Families

Alexandra (*Stepdaughter of Vincente Batsford*)
Janet and Fred Barrell (*Sister and Brother-in-law of Paul and Susan Portz*)
Scott Berman (*Cousin of Laureen Aiello*)
Peter Denning (*Son-in-law of Lois Angstadt*)
James Ebersberger (*Brother of Jane Ebersberger*)
Helen Feeney (*Mother of John Feeney*)
Gina (*Sister of Vincente Batsford*)
Arleen Grimm (*Cousin of Maureen O'Brien*)
Bernd Pfeiffer (*Brother of Christel LaVorgna*)
Laura Panaro (*Mother of Laureen Aiello*)
Jean Riolo (*Mother of Christine Carlson*)
Cecelia and Bruce Rudd (*Cousins of Bob Maurer*)
Steve Scala (*Cousin of Laureen Aiello*)
Lynn Sicilia (*Sister of Bill Artus*)
Joann Tingwall (*Mother and Mother-in-law of Neil and Tanya Tingwall*)

Pray For Our Friends

Jennifer Amiruddin (*Friend of Maureen O'Brien*)

Alice Brahs (*Friend of Maureen O'Brien*)

Family & Friends of Bebe Chacko (*Friend of Laureen Aiello*)

Michael Garofalo (*Friend of Kerri Staton*)

Ellen Grace (*High school friend of Joan Hagner*)

Kathleen Hagen (*Friend of the Panaro and Aiello families*)

John Judge (*Friend of Jane Ebersberger*)

Rich McDermott (*Friend of the Mosebachs*)

Ellen Motoi (*Friend of Maureen O'Brien*)

Bruce Muhlenbruck (*Friend of The LaVorgna Family*)

Betty, John and Mary Beth Ott (*Friends of Jane Ebersberger*)

Richard (*Friend of Joan Hagner*)

Chet Symkowski (*Friend of Muller/Shurman Family*)