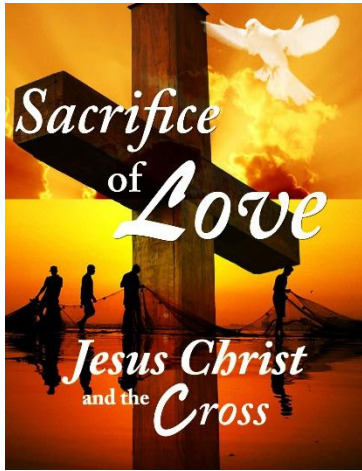




Sunday, August 30, 2026
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Service of the Word

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

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*)

Kate Lenzo, Parish Administrator (*email 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 Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

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.

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

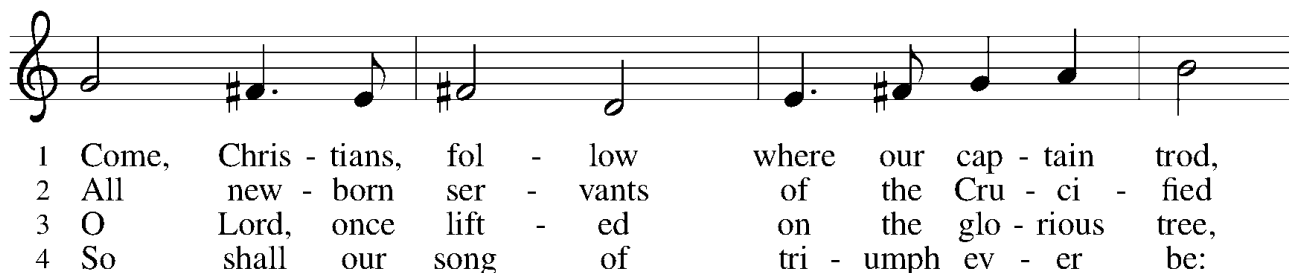
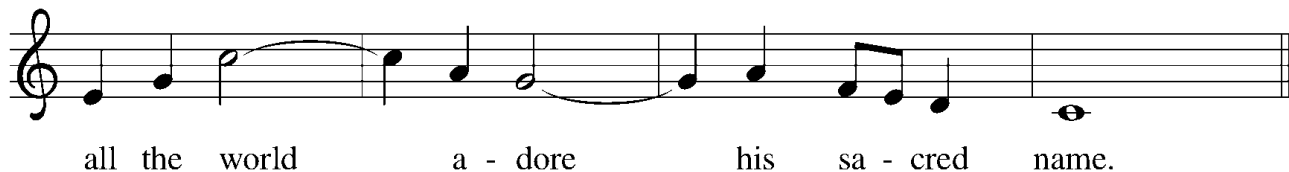
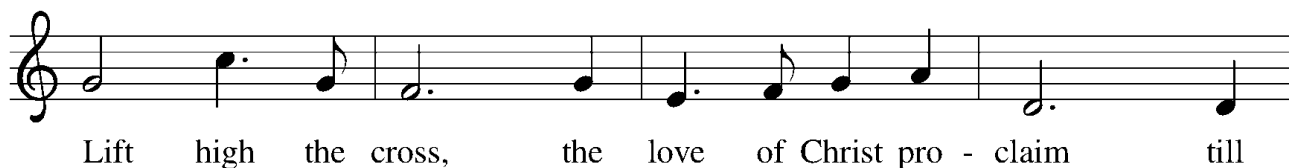
Pause for silent reflection.

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.**

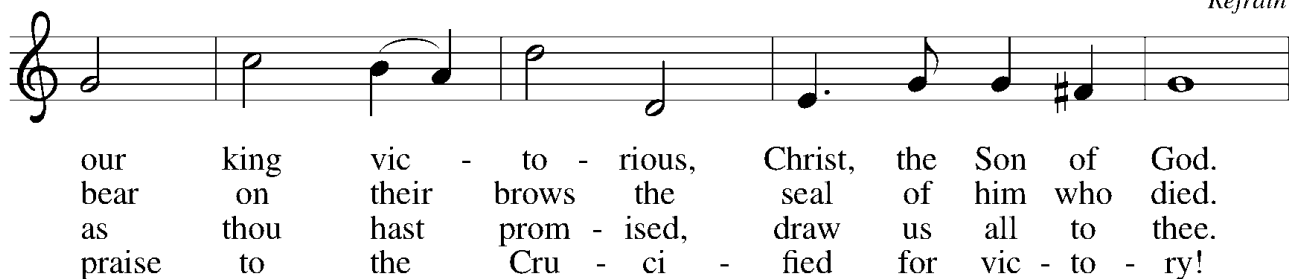
A God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *LIFT HIGH THE CROSS* (ELW 660)



Refrain



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

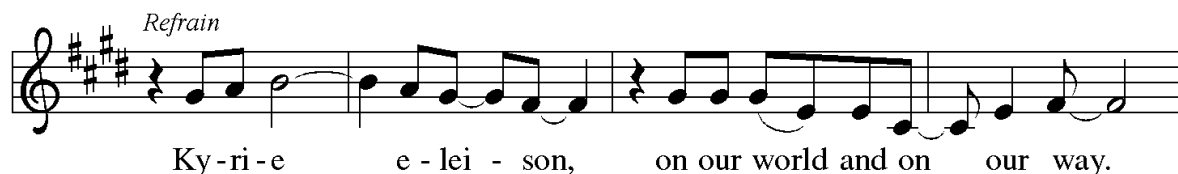
Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 15:15-21

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁵ O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

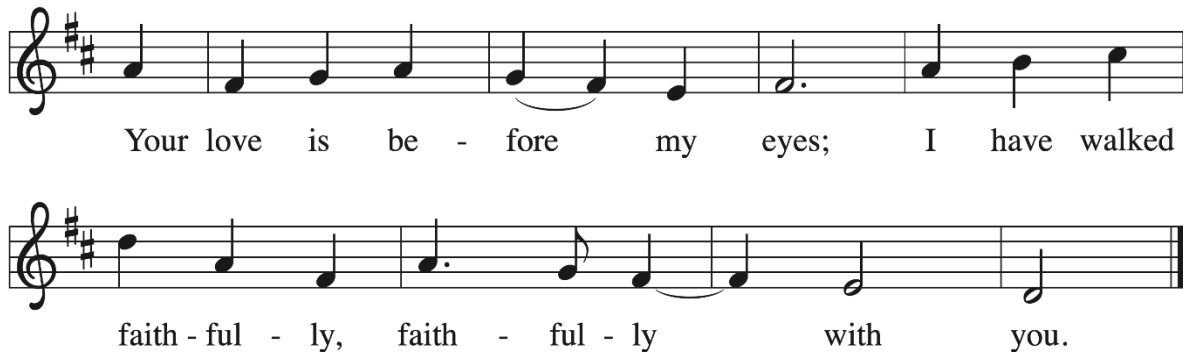
¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless. ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: PSALM 26:3

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived¹ with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and¹ have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart¹ and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is be-¹ fore my eyes; I have walked faithful-¹ ly with you.

⁴ **I have not sat¹ with the worthless, nor do I consort with¹ the deceitful. R**

⁵ I have hated the company of¹ evildoers; I will not sit down¹ with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in inno-¹ cence, O LORD, that I may go in procession¹ round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song¹ of thanksgiving and recounting all your won-¹ derful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in¹ which you dwell and the place where your glo-¹ ry abides. R**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 12:9-21

A reading from Romans.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.

¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

...The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *CELTIC ALLELUIA* (ELW 174)



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 16:21-28

A The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.

²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit

them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.” ...The gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY:

WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME: THE SUMMONS (ELW 798)



1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



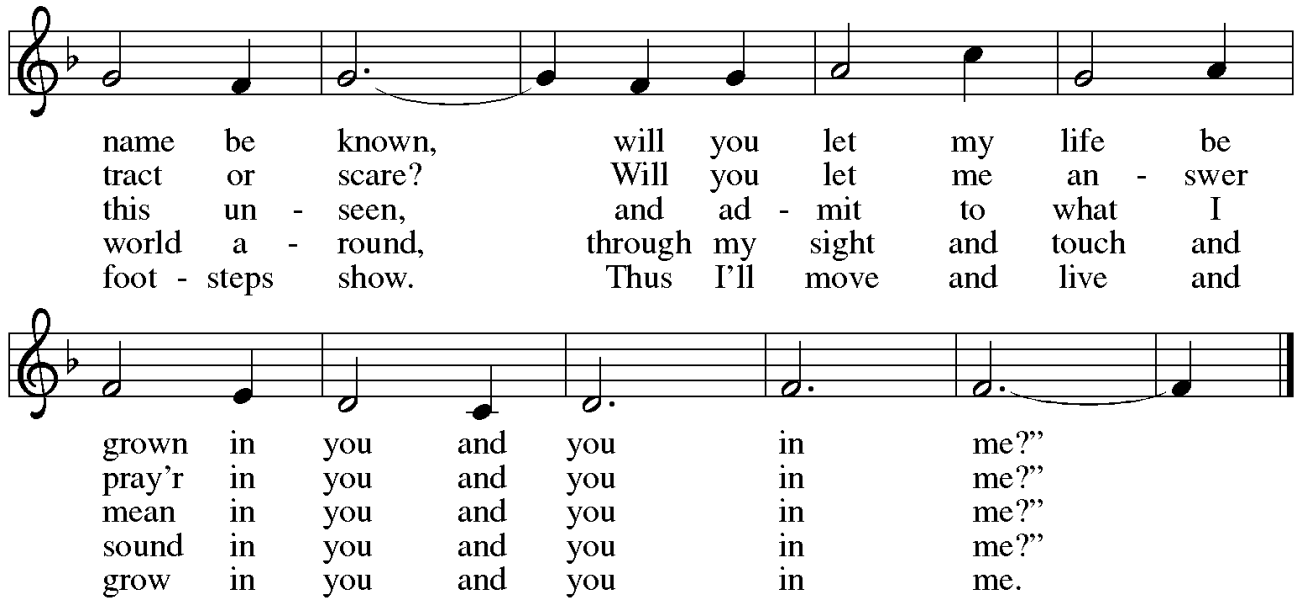
your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
 Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
 www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,
 C receive our prayer.

A For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God,
 C receive our prayer.

A For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

A For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

A For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

A For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. 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

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Barcavage - September 4th

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!

OFFERING SONG: *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.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 you.

C And also with you.

A The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine on us with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon us with favor and ✠ give us peace. C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS* (ELW 802)



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

DISMISSAL

A Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

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 30, 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*

*Altar Flowers for today are given to the glory of God and
in Celebration of the Marriage of Jaclyn Shurman and Anthony Sacco
by The Shurman Family*

Mark your calendars!!

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



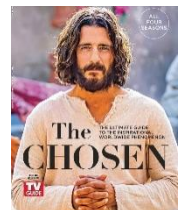
We'll gather in the courtyard right after our 9 AM service for good food, fellowship, and fun. Everyone is invited to sign up to bring a favorite breakfast item to share. We'll also need a few helping hands to set up before worship—many hands make light work!

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.

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, September 9th @ 2pm.**



Lutheran Bible Study- The Psalms

Psalms may seem like a large collection of poetry. Throughout the history of Judaism and Christianity, the 150 psalms have been used for worship and private prayer. 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
- NO SESSIONS Aug 31 and September 7

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89440963361?pwd=3g41qdO5A0RkCYUzycZwGz5WkBtoU3.1>

Meeting ID: 894 4096 3361

Passcode: 548772

Serving at Worship Today - Sunday, 9:00 AM

Assisting Minister.....Jane Ebersberger **Greeter**.....Lynn Browning
Lector.....Christine Carlson **Musical Director**.....Mason Griffin
Acolyte.....Sara LaGuarina **Audio/Visual**.....Livestream Team
Ushers.....Lauren Artus & Kevin Barcavage **Altar Guild**.....Jane Ebersberger

Parish Calendar This Week (August 30th - September 6th)

Day	Event	Time
Sunday, August 30th	14th Sunday after Pentecost	Service of the Word 9:00 am
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
Tuesday, Sept 1st	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wednesday, Sept 2nd	NA	7:00 pm
Sunday, September 6th	15th Sunday after Pentecost	Holy Communion 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	John Langbehn
Gail Bodnar	Jan Mosebach
Dottie Eberhardt	Ilona Riggers
Richard Engert	Ilse Zeeck

Pray For Our Families

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*)
Arleen Grimm (*Cousin of Maureen O'Brien*)
Sam Maurer (*Grandson of Nan and Bob Maurer*)
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 & Gertrude Abele (*Friends of Joan Hagner*)

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