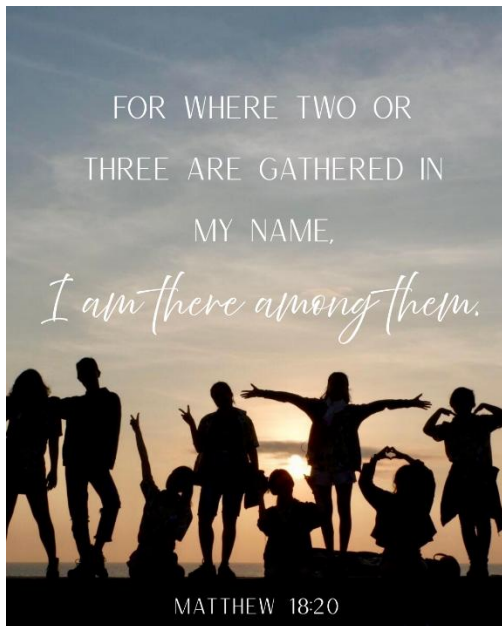




Sunday, September 6, 2026

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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 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 ststephentreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:ststephentreasurer1@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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

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 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: *AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE* (ELW 522)



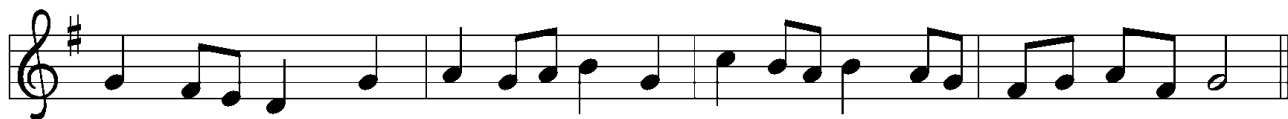
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



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.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

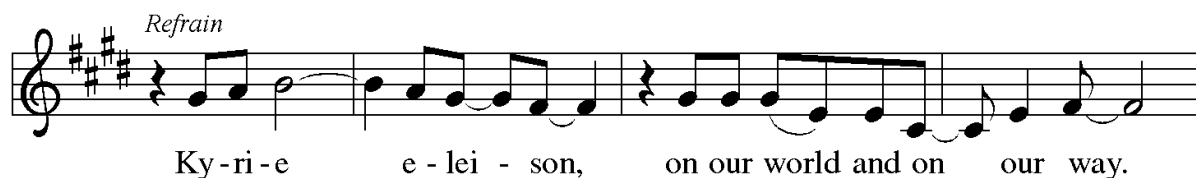
Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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GREETING

P 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 (ELW P. 184)



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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 33:7-11

A reading from Ezekiel.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?
...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: PSALM 119:33-40



- ³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes, and I shall keep it | to the end.
³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching; I shall keep it with | all my heart.**
³⁵ Lead me in the path of | your commandments, for that is | my desire.
³⁶ **Incline my heart to | your decrees and not to | unjust gain. R**
³⁷ Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood; give me life | in your way.
³⁸ **Fulfill your promise | to your servant, which is for | those who fear you.**
³⁹ Turn away the reproach | that I dread, because your judg- | ments are good.
⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for | your commandments; by your righteousness en- | liven me. R**

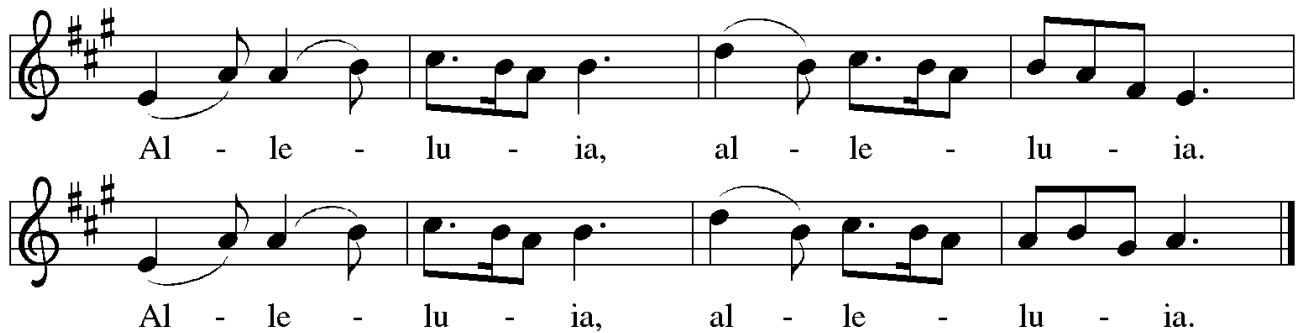
SECOND READING: ROMANS 13:8-14

A reading from Romans.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: CELTIC ALLELUIA (ELW 174)



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:15-20

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”
...The gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *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.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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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 Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING SONG: *SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING* (ELW 608)



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

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 (ELW P. 190)

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 You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

P We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation. 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.

P For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

P To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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.

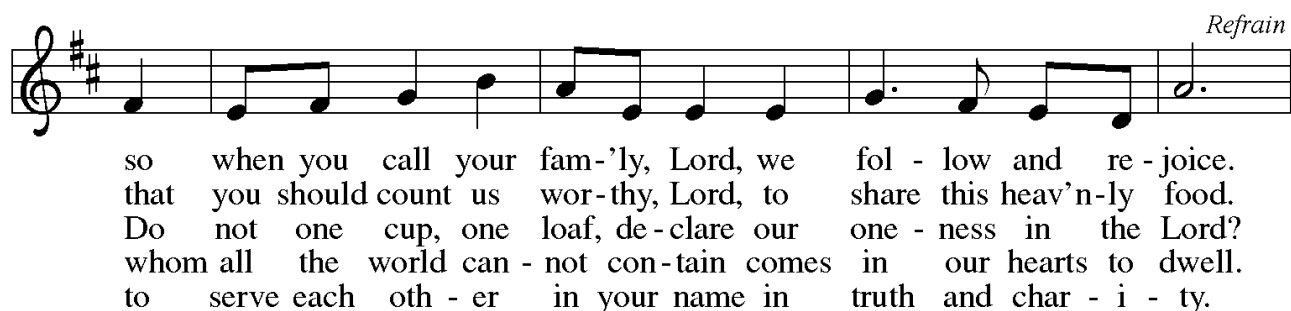
LAMB OF GOD

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: *YOU SATISFY THE HUNGRY HEART: GIFT OF FINEST WHEAT* (ELW 484)



- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
 Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996
 Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **C** Amen.

SENDING SONG: TAKE MY LIFE, THAT I MAY BE (ELW 583)

Refrain/Estribillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas *Last time*



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estribillo



pul - so de tu a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.

Announcements for the week of *September 6, 2026*

*Sanctuary Lamp Candle for August is given by Sharon Nauth
to the glory of God and in Celebration of Her Birthday*

Mark your calendars!!

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



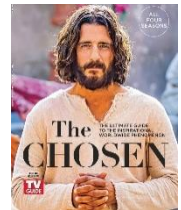
Weather permitting, the picnic will follow an outdoor worship service. *Everyone is invited to sign up to bring a favorite breakfast item to share. The sign up form is on the table in the Narthex.*

New Start Date!!

Beginning Sunday Sept 20th, 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.....Beth Feeney **Greeter**.....Ann Casey
Lector.....Tyler LaVorgna **Musical Director**.....Mason Griffin
Acolyte.....Gavin Barone **Audio/Visual**.....Livestream Team
Ushers.....Kevin Barcavage & John Musi **Altar Guild**.....Jane Ebersberger

Parish Calendar This Week (September 6th - September 13th)

Day	Event	Time
Sunday, September 6th	15th Sunday after Pentecost	Holy Communion 9:00 am
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
	Satsang With A Smile	2:00 pm
Tuesday, Sept 8th	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wednesday, Sept 9th	The Chosen	2:00 pm
	NA	7:00 pm
Sunday, September 13th	16th Sunday after Pentecost	Holy Communion 9:00 am
	Parish Brunch/Picnic	Following Worship

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
Dottie Eberhardt
Richard Engert
John Langbehn
Jan Mosebach
Ilona Riggers
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*)

Sean Paul Farris (*Son of Melanie Farris*)

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*)

Bill (*Friend of Bob & Nan Maurer*)

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*)