

# **Saint Luke Lutheran Church**

## ***Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

### ***New Member Reception Sunday***

**Sunday, September 13, 2026**

**The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor**

Pastor's Version



#### **SAINT LUKE WELCOMES ALL TO WORSHIP!**

We are grateful for your presence in today's worship. Your participation truly makes a difference. We hope you feel encouraged, blessed, and welcomed!

In preparation for worship, please silence all electronic devices when entering the sanctuary in reverence to God and respect for others.

~ Members and visitors ~  
Kindly remember to sign in using the friendship binders in your pew.

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The altar flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of our nephew FDNY Lieutenant Thomas Kelly and friends FDNY Firefighter Terrance Farrell and Port Authority Police Officer George Howard by Emil and Carolyn Gnam. All made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

*"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." ~Psalm 23:4*

#### **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

#### **PRESERVICE MUSIC**

We are thrilled to welcome Timothy Brown as our guest musician while Bud is away on sabbatical!

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

"Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word". Johann G. Walther

*Congregation stands*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.**

**C Amen.**

**P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. Compassionate God,**

**C** we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.**

**C Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us, to tune 597 Melita", #358

### APOSTOLIC 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE: "Gloria" S-139 *(front of hymnal)*

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

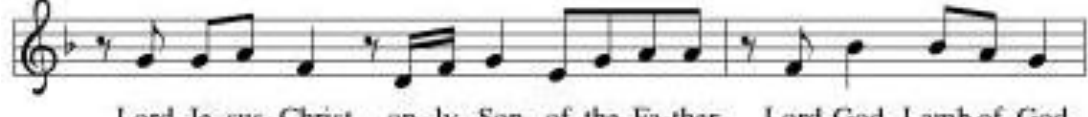
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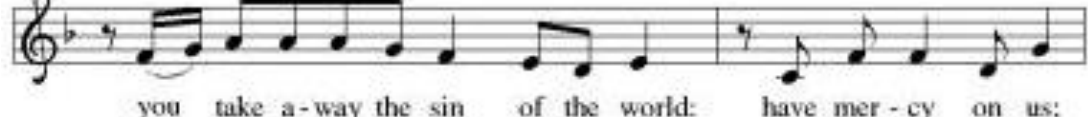
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



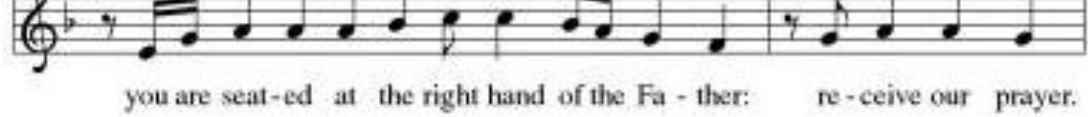
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry,



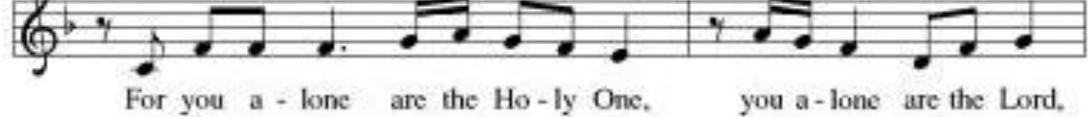
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**WA Let us pray.**

**C** O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Congregation sits*

**FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21**

**L** <sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13**

**L** [1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

- C <sup>2</sup>Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—
- L <sup>3</sup>**who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;**
- C <sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
- L <sup>5</sup>**who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**
- C <sup>6</sup>O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.
- L <sup>7</sup>**You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.]**
- C <sup>8</sup>Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
- L <sup>9</sup>**you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.**
- C <sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
- L <sup>11</sup>**For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**
- C <sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
- L <sup>13</sup>**As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

- L <sup>1</sup>**Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or**

fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Congregation stands*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" S-142a

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.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

**P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.**

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

**P** <sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to

every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

**P The gospel of the Lord.**

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

*Congregation sits*

**+ SERMON +**

**+THE REVEREND DR. CHRISTIAN EICHORN, PASTOR+**

*Silence for reflection*

*Congregation stands*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Our Father We Have Wandered”,**

**#606**

**THE APOSTLE’S CREED S-105** (*front of hymnal, page #105*)

**WA Let us confess the faith of the church.**

**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**

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

**WA** Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the

**forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.**

**C Your mercy is great.**

**WA The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.**

**C Your mercy is great.**

**WA Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.**

**C Your mercy is great.**

**WA Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need (*We pray especially for Walt Eccard, Gary Reynolds, Ginny Hammond and the family of Katherine Anderson . . .*) Hear us, O God.**

**C Your mercy is great..**

**WA Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.**

**C Your mercy is great.**

**WA With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.**

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P 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.**

*Congregation sits*

## **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**Mark & Darlyn McDonald**

*Sponsored by Diane D'Angelo*

**The Reverend Gerald “Jerry” Wendell Faust**

*Sponsored by Emil & Carolyn Gnam*

**P The following people desire to be received as members of St. Luke Lutheran Church. As I read their names and the names of their sponsors, I ask them to please come forward: Saint Paul writes, “For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body . . . . As it is, there are many members, yet one body. If one member suffers, all suffer together, if one member is honored, all rejoice together...” The congregation rejoices in receiving you as new members today.**

**P Now I ask you to renew your promises as a baptized child of God and follower of Jesus Christ. Is it your intention to continue in the covenant God made with you in Baptism, to join with us in worshipping God, listening to God’s Word and sharing God’s meal of Holy Communion? If so answer yes by the help of God.**

**NM: Yes, by the help of God.**

**P Is it your intention to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following Christ’s example and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? If so answer, yes by the help of God.**

**NM: Yes, by the help of God.**

**P And to the sponsors of these new members, we are grateful for your willingness to extend the hand of friendship in the name of Christ. Will you pray for these members and help them find a place in the body of Christ at St. Luke? If so answer, yes by the help of God.**

**Sponsors: Yes, by the help of God.**

**P And to you members of St. Luke church, will you support these new sisters and brothers? Will you pray for them, rejoice with them, and together share in the ministry of Jesus Christ? If so answer, yes by the help of God.**

**C Yes, by the help of God.**

**P Let us pray. We thank you Lord for these new members. By your life-giving power bind us to each other in you, strengthen us for service, support us each day, and bring us to the day when all your children will be one in you.**

**C Amen.**

*The Reception of New Members concludes as Church Council's Karen Barnhart presents a gift bag to each household joining our St. Luke family.*

## **PEACE**

**P The peace of Christ be with you always.**

**C And also with you.**

*Congregation sits*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM “He Looked Beyond My Fault” –**

**Words by Dottie Rambo, Traditional Irish Melody:**

**“Londonderry Air,” Arranged by Tom Fettke. St. Luke Choir, Tim Brown, piano.**

*Congregation stands*

**OFFERING HYMN “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”, #184**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING S-144a (*front of hymnal*)**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty,

undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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: S-144b



**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. 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.**

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

**C Amen.**

**P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.**

**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 Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!**

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Congregation sits*

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND WINE** Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Altar, is open to all baptized Christians who receive Communion in their home church. All others are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

## LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei) S-146 *(front of hymnal)*

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.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

“Be Thou My Vision”, #793

“On the Cross of Christ I Glory”, #324

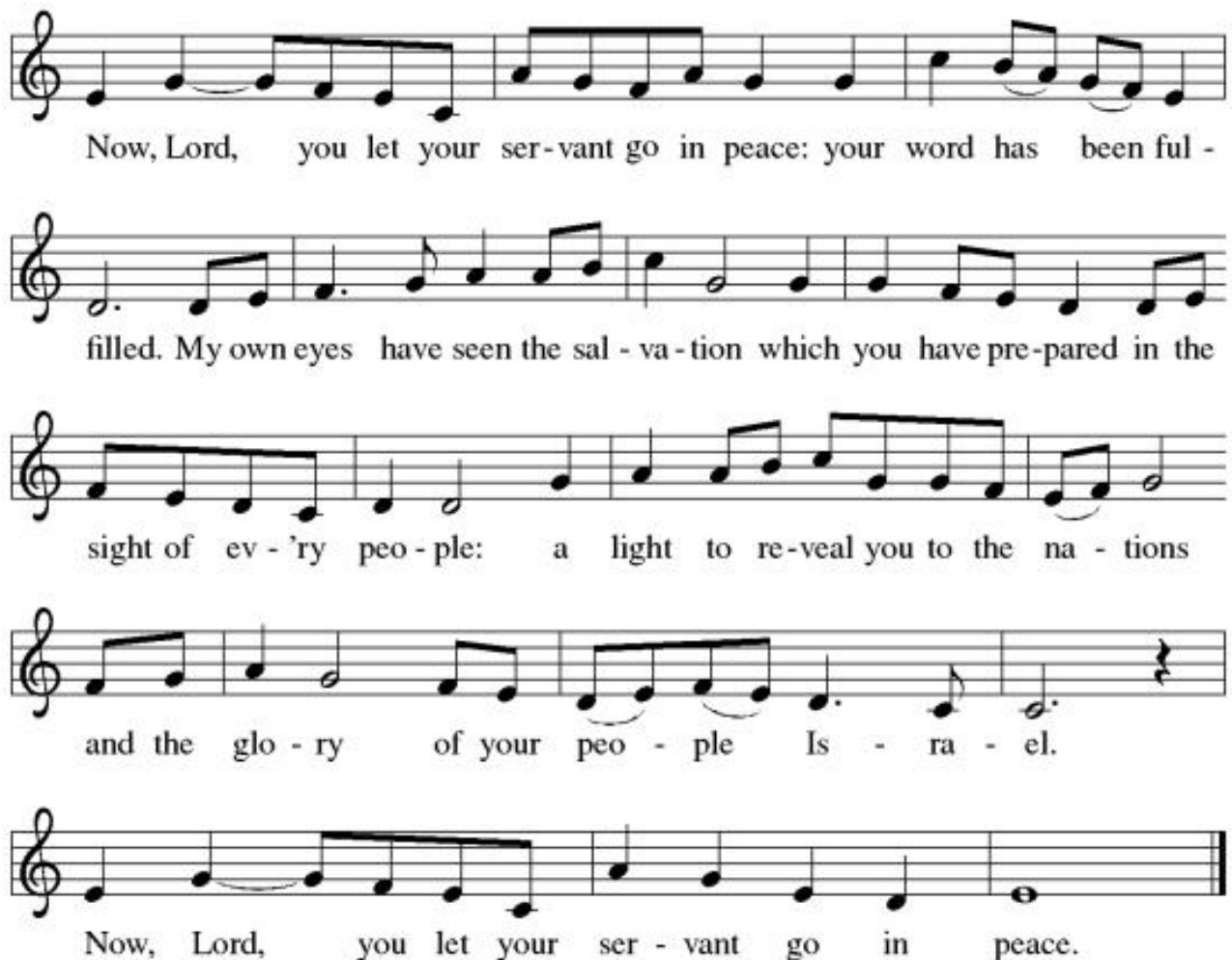
*Congregation stands*

## TABLE BLESSING

**P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.**

**C Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE S-113 (*front of hymnal*)



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

The musical score is written on five staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace." The score ends with a double bar line.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C** Amen.

## BLESSING

**P** The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ.

**C** Amen.

**P The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.**

**C Amen.**

**P The God of grace + bless you now and forever.**

**C Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN “Go My Children”, #543**

**DISMISSAL**

**WA Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.**

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*--Thank you for worshiping with us today--*

The following members assisted with today's worship service with live streaming:

Altar Guild: Faye Arvonio, Marie Keating | AV Team: Dan & Deb Mardis

Cantor: Rod Peterson | Music: Bud Esper, Director of Church Music; Kim Hawkins, Conductor, St. Luke Handbell Choir; St. Luke Voice Choir and St. Luke Handbell Choir  
Communion Assistants: Beverly Werner, Sherry Fitzsimmons | Crucifer: Beverly Werner

Eucharistic Minister: Marie Keating | Greeters: Rodney & Leigh Ann Stinson

Lector: Judy Pusey | Ushers: John & Anna Borchert, Bob Moore, Richard Wood

Communion Assistant: Kristen Killoran

**NEW MEMBERS**

Are you looking for a new church family? We'd love to help you connect with others in the church and grow in our Faith Community together. If you are thinking about joining St. Luke, please contact Pastor Eichorn at 610.393.7622 or [pastoreichorn@stlukeoib.org](mailto:pastoreichorn@stlukeoib.org) or the Church office.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Please contact the church office to sponsor Sunday altar flowers.

Upcoming availability: September 20

**PRAYER LIST September 13, 2026**

Walt Eccard, Gary Reynolds, Ginny Hammond, the family of Katherine Anderson

**LUTHERAN LIFE**

**WELCOME VISITORS** ~ We are delighted you chose to worship with us at St. Luke today. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall right after worship. We look forward to saying hello!

**SUPPORTING ST. LUKE MINISTRIES**

❖ **Pantry Food of the Month – Soup - all types are welcome.**

❖ **Dominican Republic ...Egypt...Guatemala...Indonesia...Kenya...Moldova...Paraguay...Tanzania...United States...Viet Nam!** What do these 10 countries have in common? They received assistance from the Crop Hunger Walk. You can participate in several ways: you can do the 1 mile or 5k walks on Nov 1 at Mulberry

Park in Shallotte at 1pm. You can donate to the Crop Hunger Walk, or you can do both. Please consider supporting the walk. Seventy five percent of the amount collected goes to the Crop Programs and twenty five percent goes back to the Lord's Food Pantry. There will be a special offering on September 20th for the crop walk. If paying by check, please make the check payable to CWS. Join the winning team! The St Luke team of 2025 should be very proud. Starting in 2025 a plaque was given to the church with the most walkers and St Luke was the winner... *Thanks, Sara Hart, St. Luke CHW representative.*

- ❖ **Dialogue with God in the Garden:** Come and open your mind with an in-depth dialogue of the first twelve chapters of our Holy Bible, Genesis. Starting Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00AM, one of our newer members, Rev. David Trexler will examine these truth stories in an exciting manner, teaching us the nature of God and the reality of the human condition. Informative and Fun!
- ❖ **LMM Food Drive** – We need volunteers for the LMM Food Drive on Saturday, October 3, 2026; please sign up on the Community Board to work in 2-hour increments. *~Thank you, Dan Mardis.*
- ❖ **Finance Committee Update:** The Finance Committee will meet October 12, 3pm in the Library. This coming Tuesday, September 15 meeting has been cancelled. *~Thank you, Jim Hughes.*
- ❖ **WOSL Dinner and Meeting:** Calling all ladies! Mark your calendars for Monday, September 21, at 5:00 PM for our next WOSL meeting and dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy a wonderful night of great food, sweet fellowship, and uplifting conversation—we can't wait to see you there! *~Joyce Charity.*

#### This Week at Saint Luke ~ September, 2026

|                                           |         |                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday, September 13</b>               | 9am     | Adult Sunday School                                         |
| <b>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>   | 10am    | Worship Service with live streaming                         |
| <b><i>New Member Reception Sunday</i></b> | 11am    | Fellowship All Are Welcome!                                 |
| <b>Monday, September 14</b>               | 3pm     | MexTrain                                                    |
| <b>Tuesday, September 15</b>              | 10:30am | Listening Group                                             |
|                                           | 1pm     | Bridge                                                      |
|                                           |         | <i>Finance Meeting cancelled and rescheduled to October</i> |
| <b>Wednesday, September 16</b>            | 10am    | Morning Prayer                                              |
|                                           | 6pm     | Handbells                                                   |
|                                           | 7pm     | Voice Choir                                                 |
| <b>Thursday, September 17</b>             | 1pm     | Council Meeting                                             |
| <b>Sunday, September 1</b>                | 9am     | Adult Sunday School                                         |
| <b>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> | 10am    | Worship Service with live streaming                         |
|                                           | 11am    | Fellowship - All Are Welcome!                               |

**Scripture Readings ~ September 20, 2026 ~ Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jonah 3:10-4:11 | Philippians 1:21-30 | Psalm 145:1-8 | Matthew 20:1-16

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Family Members! ☀️

We are absolutely thrilled to officially welcome some wonderful new faces into our church family! God continues to bless our community with incredible people who bring unique stories, diverse talents, and hearts eager to serve. Please take a moment to read about our newest brothers and sisters in Christ listed below. When you see them in the pews, at fellowship, or out in the community, please extend a warm handshake, a big smile, and a loving welcome to make them feel right at home! ~Pastor Eichorn

*"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." ~Romans 15:7*

*"Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." ~1 Thessalonians 5:11*

*"You are all one in Christ Jesus." ~Galatians 3:28*

Meet **Mark & Darlyn McDonald**. Rooted in the warmth of their beloved Pennsylvania communities, **Mark and Darlyn McDonald** have built a beautiful life together, now nestled in the peaceful shores of **Sunset Beach**. Mark, originally from **Latrobe**, brings his profound heart for service to the **Central Bucks School District**, where he transforms lives daily through his true joy for teaching Special Education students. A man of diverse passions, Mark also expresses his creativity as a talented semi-professional photographer and shares a keen interest in real estate and property. Darlyn, a proud native of **Chestnut Hill**, carries a legacy of deep compassion from her career at **Doylestown Hospital**, where she is now happily retired. Closely connected to her loving family, including her sister **Karen Levine**, Darlyn's generous spirit shines brightly through her active dedication to social ministry, her vital work with the local food pantry, and her esteemed involvement as a special member of the **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)**. Their shared journey is also one of deep spiritual grace; while Mark grew up embraced by the traditions of **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**, Darlyn has beautifully woven her own **Methodist roots in Philly** into a newfound, deep-seated love for the **Lutheran faith**. Together, their lives are a beautiful reflection of devotion, community, and an enduring commitment to enriching the hearts and minds of everyone they touch. **Sponsor: Diane D'Angelo**

Meet **The Reverend Gerald "Jerry" Faust**. The Reverend Gerald "Jerry" Faust carries a lifelong legacy of faith and fellowship from West Chester to his current home in Longs, where his retirement remains as active and spiritually vibrant as ever. Rooted deeply in his home church of **St. Mark's in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania**, Pastor Jerry continues to share his profound love for scripture by leading intimate, meaningful Bible studies with individuals right in his local community. His ministry is beautifully complemented by his passion for sacred music, finding immense joy in both the resonant beauty of **handbells** and the harmony of the **voice choir**. Whether delving into the Word or lifting his voice in song, his life remains a testament to joyful service and an enduring dedication to bringing people closer to God. **Sponsor: Emil & Carolyn Gnam**