Saint Luke Lutheran Church
Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
New Member Reception Sunday

Sunday, November 15, 2026

The Reverend Dr. Beth Spitzner Neubauer, Interim 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.

The flowers gracing the altar today are given in loving memory of John Grunewalder's late wife, Beth, their parents, and Pam Femrite. They are beautifully offered by John.

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."
— 1 Corinthians 13:7-8

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

"Reigen Seliger Geister", Christoph W. Gluck. "St Jernesangen" ("Finlandia"), Jean Sibelius. Arr. Nicolae Bogdan. Al Pittman, violin, Bud Esper, organ. (c) 2002 Musik-Hugets Forlag A/S, Oslo.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE
"How Great Thou Art", arr. Al Pittman.
Congregation stands
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

C Amen.

Silence for reflection

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

C **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

P Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Blessed Assurance", #638

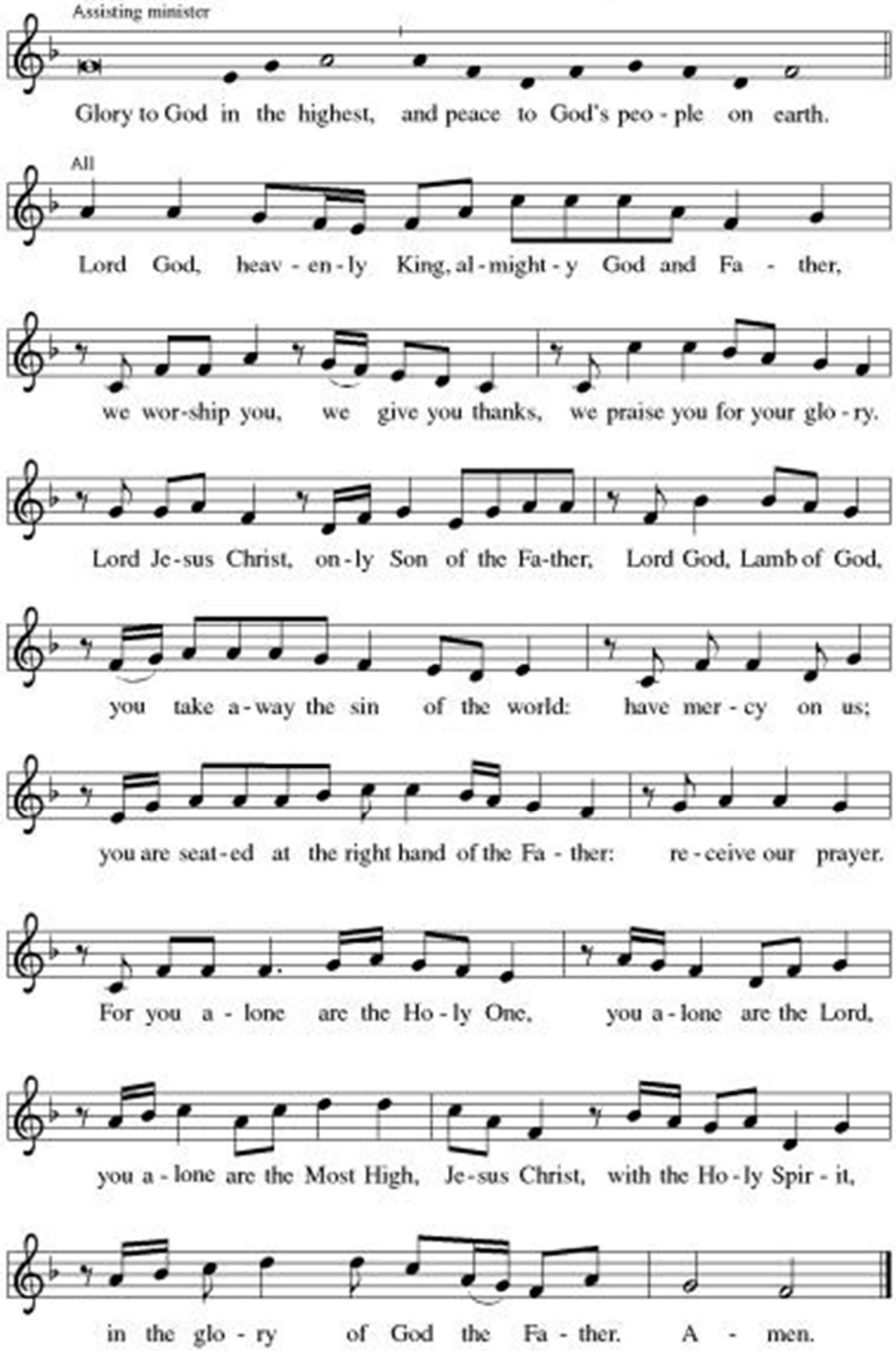
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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)*

Queue Lectern mic (Cantor will sing)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

WA Let us pray.

C Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Congregation sits

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

L 7 Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord
is at hand! The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has
consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search
Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who
settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." 13 Their
wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine
from them. 14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and
hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of
wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and
devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of
clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and
battle cry against the fortified cities and against the
lofty battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon
people that they shall walk like the blind; because they
have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be
poured out like dust and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither
their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on
the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the
whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L The Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

L [1] Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
C [2] Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.
L [3] You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
C [4] For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;
L [5] you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
C [6] in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.
L [7] For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
C [8] Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.]
L [[9] When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
C [10] The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
L [11] Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?]
C [12] So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

L [1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to

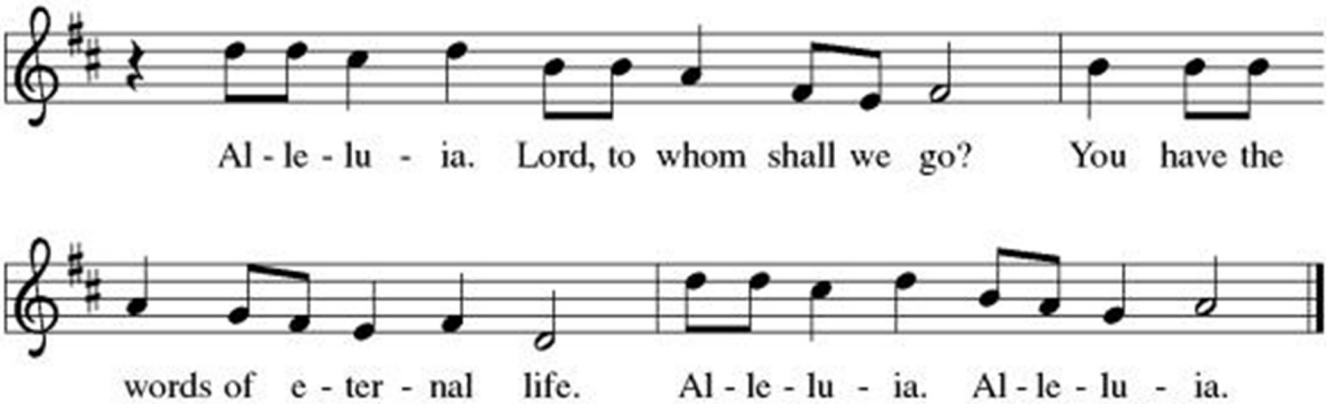
you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of
the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they
say, "There is peace and security," then sudden
destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come
upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!
[4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for
that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all
children of light and children of the day; we are not of
the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep
as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for
those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk
get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let
us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love
and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has
destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation
through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that
whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.
[11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each
other, as indeed you are doing.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" S-142a



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P [Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I

reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation sits

✢ SERMON ✢ Membership Has Its Privileges

✢ The Reverend Dr. Beth Spitzner Neubauer, Interim Pastor

Silence for reflection

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Take My Life That It May Be", #685

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

WA United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing (*especially Aleyna Neufelt, Paul Eccard, Lucy DiGioia (pronounced DeJoya), Autumn Setola, Pastor Pam Cook, Mike Claxton, Pam Wright, and the families of Gary Reynolds & Bob Standefer*. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

C Amen.

Congregation sits

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Hannah Allen
Sponsored by Karen Drakulic
Charles & Phyllis Giancola
Sponsored by Dan & Deb Mardis
Jim & Jan Purk
Sponsored by Jim Hughes
(Represented today by Dan & Deb Mardis)
Kenneth & Vicki-Ann Reed
Sponsored by Joseph & Sharon Tulio

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 "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go", Albert Peace, arr. Jerry van der Pol. Al Pittman, piano, Bud Esper, organ. (c) 2003 The H. W. Gray Company.

Congregation stands

OFFERING HYMN "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful", #184

OFFERING PRAYER

WA Let us pray.

C Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

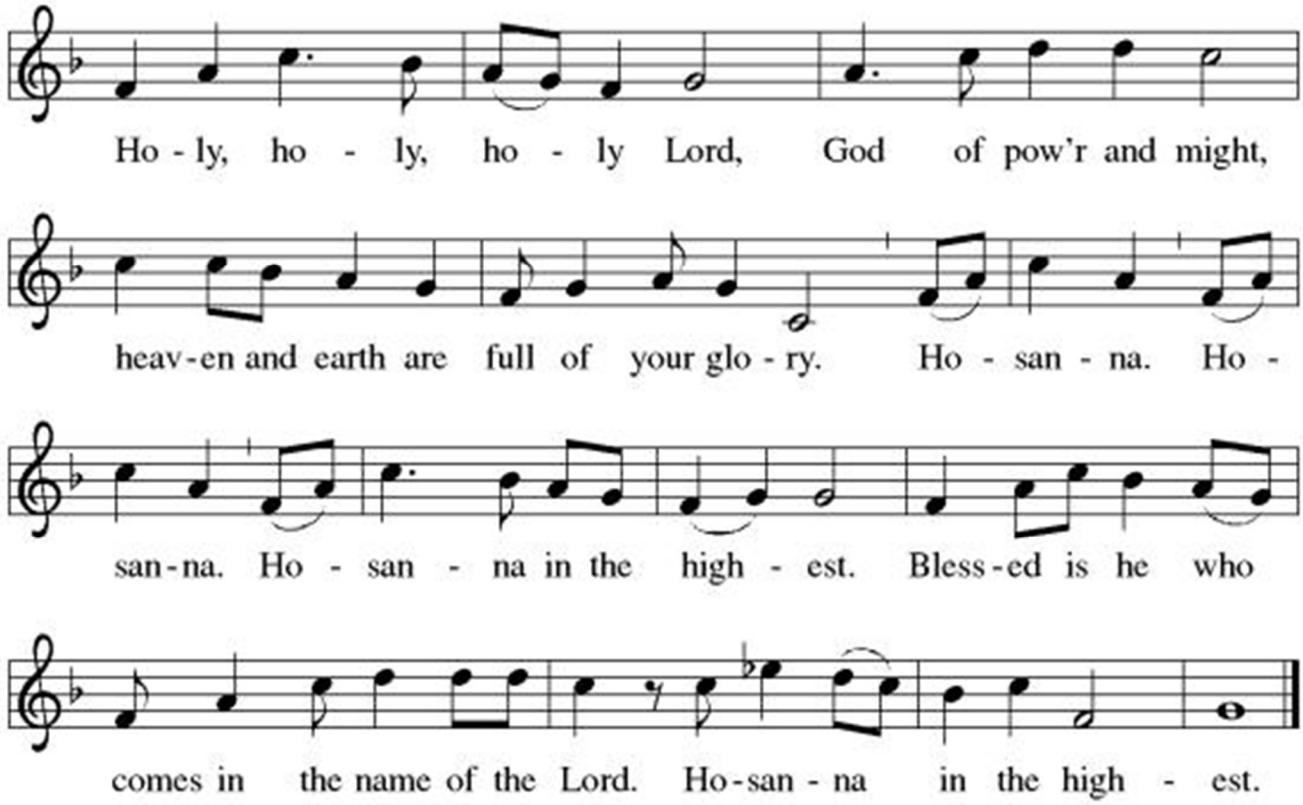
P Life up your hearts.

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.**

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

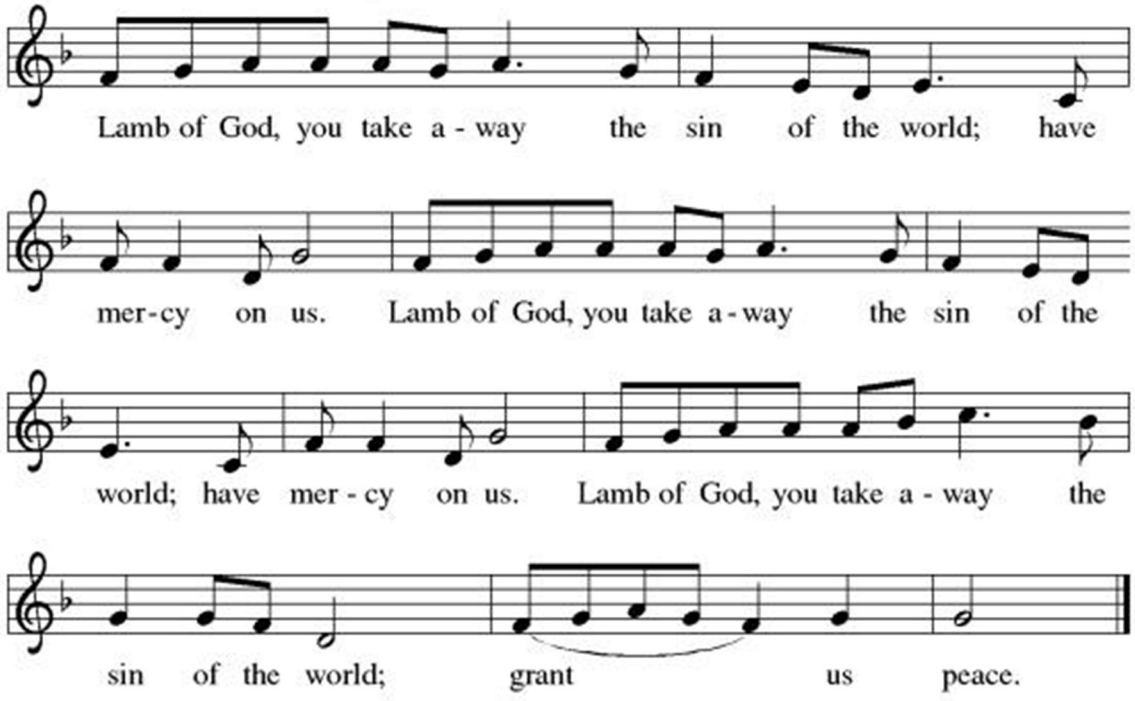
P In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

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.

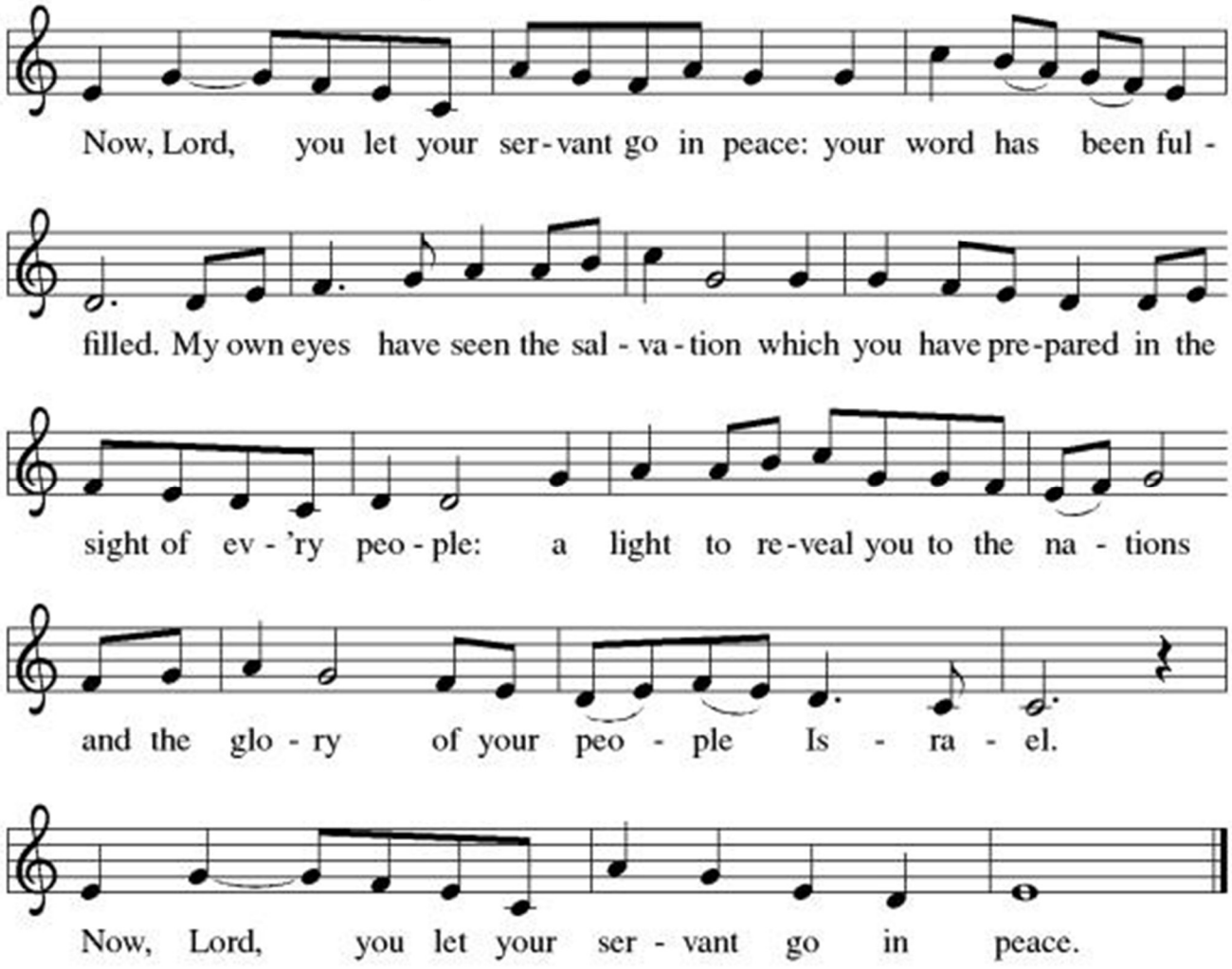
LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei) S-146 *(front of hymnal)*



COMMUNION HYMNS
"O God of Mercy, God of Light #714
"My Lord, What a Morning", #438

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)*
(music on next page)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WA Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Canticle of the Turning", #723

DISMISSAL

WA Go in peace. Encourage one another.

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: Sara Hart, Sue Dompkowski | AV Team: Dan & Deb Mardis
Cantor: John Malone | 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: Sara Hart, Sherry Fitzsimmons | Crucifer: Sue Dompkowski
Eucharistic Minister: Sue Heitmuller | Greeters: Tony & Sue Dompkowski
Lector: Karen Nelson | Ushers: John & Ann Borchert, Wayne Huffman, Bob Regan
Worship 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 the Church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please contact the church office to sponsor Sunday altar flowers.
Upcoming availability: December 27

PRAYER LIST November 15, 2026

Aleyna Neufelt, Autumn Setola, Pastor Pam Cook, Paul Eccard, Lucy DiGioia, Mike Claxton, Pam Wright, and the families of Gary Reynolds & Bob Standefer

LUTHERAN LIFE

NEW HERE? COFFEE'S ON US! ☕🍪

We are so glad you worshiped with us at St. Luke today! Don't rush off just yet—follow the crowd down to the **Fellowship Hall** right after the service for **hot coffee, cold drinks, and homemade sweet treats**. No awkward small talk required; just grab a cookie, say a quick hello to Pastor Beth, and let us treat you!

SUPPORTING ST. LUKE MINISTRIES

- **Welcome to the Saint Luke Family!** We are filled with so much joy to officially welcome our newest members, Hannah Allen, Chuck and Phyllis Giancola, Jim and Jan Purk, Ken and Vicki-Ann Reed, into our congregation. A church is more than just a building; it is the people who gather inside, and Saint Luke is already brighter and richer because you are here. As you begin this new chapter of faith and fellowship with us, please know that you have a community ready to walk alongside you, support you, and celebrate with you. We look forward to getting to know you better, sharing in worship together, and seeing all the wonderful ways God will work in and through our lives together. Welcome home! With warmest blessings, ***Pastor Beth, the Church Council, and the Parishioners of Saint Luke.***
- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA) ~ DUE next Sunday, November 22!** The American Legion Auxiliary will again participate in WAA this year. Wreaths are $17/each. Please make your check payable to SLLC "memo line WAA" and turn into the collection plate or drop off at the church office. *~Thank you, Glenn Christiansen.*
- **BFA Christmas Gift Program-Fill the Sleigh Christmas gift program** - Unwrapped gifts are due back next **Sunday, Nov 22**. Thank you for caring about others! Joan Eccard.
- **Decorating the Church for Christmas and Advent**: The St. Luke Altar Guild will be decorating the church for the Christmas season on Saturday, December 5, time to be determined. Everyone is welcome to join us!
- 🎄 **Annual Christmas Show Outing: "Christmas on Main"** Tickets for the theatre are $34 per person, and dinner will be self-pay at the restaurant. Sign up by Sunday, November 29. *~Thank you, Karen Nelson at 910-269-3095.*
- **Help Us Extend Our Reach!** 💻 We are seeking volunteers to join a rotational team responsible for uploading our Sunday livestream service to the website. Other website maintenance tasks are also available. Basic laptop navigation skills are required. To learn more or to volunteer, please contact **Lori Schneider (910) 232-7558**.
- **COOKIES!** We need cookies for fellowship! Please drop off these items in the Kitchen.
- 🍂 **Thank You to Our Property Cleanup Volunteers! A huge thank you to everyone who came out this past Saturday to help clean up the church grounds!** Thanks to your hard work, our church property looks absolutely beautiful and is well-prepared for the coming season. We are incredibly grateful for your time, energy, and dedication to keeping God's house looking its best. Your willing hearts and hands are a true blessing to our entire faith community! *~Thank you, Dan Mardis.*
- 🎄 **Annual Christmas Luncheon Sunday, December 20, 2026 | Immediately Following Worship** You are cordially invited to celebrate the joy of the season with

your faith family at our Annual Christmas Luncheon! *We want everyone to share in this fellowship! If you or your family would like to attend, please don't let the ticket cost keep you away—we want everyone there and already have sponsorships in place to fully cover your meals. Simply reach out to* ***Dawn in the church office*** *or* ***Pastor Beth*** *so we can save your seats and get your entrée choices. Your request will remain completely private.*

- **Tickets & Details: Cost: $10 per person; Ticket Sales:** Available during Sunday Fellowship in the **Game Room (Room 4) of the Fellowship Hall**. **Timeline:** Sales begin this **Sunday, November 15**, and the absolute last day to purchase tickets is **Sunday, December 6**. **Please Note:** You will need to choose your entrée when purchasing your ticket. Please remember to bring your physical ticket with you to the luncheon, as they will be collected at the door.
- **Our Festive Menu: Entrée Choice: Chicken** or **Pot Roast; Sides:** Salad, **Grecian potatoes**, green beans, and dinner rolls; **Dessert: Banana pudding** and cake; **Beverages:** Coffee, hot tea, iced tea, and water.

❖ **In Loving Memory ~ Sheila Schmidt**

Sheila Schmidt was interred in a private ceremony on November 4. A celebration of Sheila's life will be held at a future date. If you would like to send condolences to Eric Schmidt, cards may be mailed to:

Eric Schmidt
2650 Erfert St., Unit E306
Longmont, Colorado 80504

❖ **Gary H. Reynolds' Celebration of Life Service is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 2026, 11am at Saint Luke.**

This Week at Saint Luke ~ November, 2026

Sunday, November 15	9am	Adult Sunday School
Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
New Member Sunday	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!
Monday, November 16	3pm	MexTrain
	5pm	WOSL Dinner & Meeting (Guest speaker, Robin Ralph, w/Life Care Memory Partners
Tuesday, November 17	10am	Morning Prayer & Coffee – Fellowship Hall
	10:30am	Listening Group
	1pm	Bridge
Wednesday, November 18	6pm	Handbells
	7pm	Voice Choir
Thursday, November 19	9am	10am Prayer Shawl Ministry
	1pm	Council - Library
Sunday, November 22	9am	Adult Sunday School
Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship with live streaming
Christ the King	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!

Scripture Readings ~ November 22, 2026 ~ Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 | Psalm 95:1-7a | Ephesians 1:15-23 | Matthew 25:31-46

SAINT LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
5869 Ocean Highway West, Ocean Isle Beach NC 28469
main: 910.579.0107 | email: stlukeelca@stlukeoib.org | website: stlukeoib.org
office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm
The Reverend Dr. Beth Spitzner Neubauer, Interim Pastor
Dawn Plyler, Parish Administrator
Kristen Killoran, Worship Assistant
Bud Esper, M.A., Director of Music | stlukemusic@stlukeoib.org
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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 Beth*

"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 ***Hannah Allen.*** Carrying a lifetime of grace, dedication, and warm hospitality, Hannah Allen brings a beautiful spirit of faith and community to our St. Luke family. Originally from Buffalo, New York, Hannah has shared 56 wonderful years of marriage and counting with her beloved husband, Robert. While Robert is a devout Episcopalian, he finds true joy in walking alongside Hannah in faith, regularly sharing in the warmth and fellowship of our church community. Together, they have raised a beautiful family and share a deep closeness with their two children—a daughter in Delaware and a son in New York. Hannah brings a wealth of wisdom from her career in healthcare finance, from which she is now happily retired. Throughout her life's journey, her heart has always been naturally drawn to nurturing the youngest among us; she has previously poured her love into teaching nursery-age children and guiding young hearts as a dedicated Sunday School teacher. An avid reader with a quiet, reflective spirit, Hannah finds her greatest earthly joy in her children, and she truly loves being an active, vibrant part of the St. Luke community. Her presence is a wonderful blessing to our congregation, embodying an enduring commitment to family, faith, and the joyful family of God.
Sponsor: Karen Drakulic

Meet ***Charles & Phyllis Giancola.*** Bringing a beautiful legacy of love, faith, and a shared passion for discovery, Charles (Chuck) and Phyllis Giancola have woven their distinct roots into a beautiful life together, now nestled in the coastal charm of Calabash. Chuck, originally from Martins Ferry, Ohio, and Phyllis, a proud native of Brooklyn, New York, first crossed paths at university, where their lifelong journey truly began. It was in a physics class lab that their worlds collided; Phyllis was studying computer science and Chuck was pursuing his physics degree. Deeply rooted in her Lutheran faith, Phyllis invited Chuck to attend the campus chapel where students gathered. There, amidst fellowship and

faith, they fell deeply in love and were later beautifully married in that very same campus chapel. Chuck went on to proudly serve his country in the U.S. Navy and later brought his sharp analytical mind to a major electrical and gas utility company, from which he is now retired. With a true heart for mentorship and service, Chuck has spent years investing in his community—serving as a dedicated Scout leader, guiding congregations on the church council and maintenance committee, and sharing the word of God as a Sunday School teacher. Phyllis enjoyed a fulfilling career in data processing, applying her talents to the early frontiers of technology. Today, she channels her vibrant creativity into the beautiful artistry of quilt patchwork, spending joyful hours in her personal art studio at home, where she loves to be surrounded by beautiful things.
Together, Chuck and Phyllis share an adventurous spirit as avid readers and passionate travelers. They also share a deep fascination with history and heritage, spending cherished time uncovering the stories of the past through their love for genealogy. Their lives are a stunning reflection of deep devotion, intellectual curiosity, and a beautiful commitment to faith that began decades ago at a campus chapel and continues to shine brightly as they join our church family.
Sponsor: Dan & Deb Mardis

Meet James (Jim) & Janice (Jan) Purk. Bringing together a beautiful blend of Midwestern charm and Southern warmth, Janice (Jan) and James (Jim) Purk have journeyed from their respective roots to build a peaceful life together in Little River, South Carolina. Jan, originally from the historic grounds of Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Jim, a proud native of Akron, Ohio, carry with them a lifetime of faith, deep-rooted devotion, and a joyful spirit of fellowship. Though they have happily settled near the coast, their hearts remain closely tied to their family across the miles, holding a special closeness to their two wonderful daughters—one residing in Ohio and the other in Maryland. Together, Jan and Jim's lives are a beautiful tapestry woven with a profound love for the Lord and His church. With hearts naturally drawn to service, they have selflessly guided and enriched their faith communities over the years. From leading with wisdom on the church council and cultivating an atmosphere of sacred reverence on the Altar Guild, to extending Christ's hands and feet through vital work in Social Ministry, their dedication is truly inspiring. Their shared devotion shines brightly each week as they actively engage in the warmth of Sunday School and blend their voices in joyful harmony within the choir. Beyond their active ministry roles, Jan infuses her days with creativity and grace, finding true joy in the quiet artistry of sewing and quilting—crafting beautiful expressions of love and patience. When they are not volunteering or serving, Jan and Jim love to share in friendly competition and sharp strategy together, finding great joy in playing bridge. Together, the Purks embody a beautiful reflection of faith in action, a deep commitment to the family of God, and an enduring desire to enrich our community with their diverse gifts and welcoming hearts.
Sponsored by James Hughes. ***Represented today by Dan & Deb Mardis.***

Meet *Kenneth (Ken) & Vicki-Ann Reed.* Rooted in the rich traditions and deep connections of their beloved North Carolina community, Kenneth and Vicki-Ann Reed bring a beautiful spirit of devotion, service, and warmth to our church family. Transferring from First Lutheran Church in Greensboro—a cherished spiritual home where they raised their children, watched their grandchildren grow, and where they proudly still remain active, dedicated members—the Reeds carry a beautiful legacy of faith that continues to flourish. Bound together in love since their marriage on October 6, 2001, Ken and Vicki-Ann have nurtured a wonderful blended family, finding their greatest joy in their two daughters and five precious grandchildren. Ken, a proud U.S. Army veteran, brings a heart shaped by honor and a distinguished career as a retired National Sales Manager. His profound commitment to the church shines through years of leadership, having faithfully guided his previous congregation as a member of the church council, a passionate participant in Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM), and a dedicated committee chair for administration. Vicki-Ann radiates a gentle, nurturing grace, having recently retired from a multi-faceted career where she touched countless lives as a compassionate nurse, a supportive presence within the school system, and a dynamic professional in sales. Guided by her love for fellowship and creativity, she beautifully expresses her faith through the resonant harmony of the handbell choir and her valued involvement in women's ministries (WOSL). Together, Ken and Vicki-Ann's shared journey is an inspiring reflection of Christ's hands and feet in the world. Bound by a mutual passion for uplifting neighbors, they regularly pour their hearts into volunteering at the food pantry, enriching the lives of those in need. Their presence is a true blessing to our community, embodying a lifetime of service, enduring love, and a joyful commitment to the family of God.
Sponsored by Joseph & Sharon Tulio

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Parishioners, please keep our newest members in your prayers as they settle into our church come. Welcome to the family!🙏❤️⛪✨🌿✝️💕✨

🎄 ✨ Annual Christmas Luncheon ✨ 🎄

🗓️ Sunday, December 20, 2026 | ⛪ Immediately Following Worship

You are cordially invited to celebrate the joy of the season with your faith family at our Annual Christmas Luncheon! 🎅 🎁

🎟️ **Tickets & Details:**

- 💰 **Cost:** $10 per person
- 🏪 **Ticket Sales:** Available during Sunday Fellowship in the Game Room (Room 4) of the Fellowship Hall. 🍁
- ⏳ **Timeline:** Sales begin this Sunday, November 15, and the absolute last day to buy tickets is Sunday, December 6. 🗓️
- 📌 **Please Note:** You will need to choose your entrée when purchasing your ticket. Please remember to bring your physical ticket with you to the luncheon, as they will be collected at the door! 🚪 🎫

🍽️ **Our Festive Menu:**

- 🍗 **Entrée Choice:** Chicken *or* Pot Roast 🥩
- 🥗 **Sides:** Crisp salad, Grecian potatoes 🥔, green beans 🫛, and dinner rolls 🥖
- 🍰 **Dessert:** Sweet banana pudding 🍌 and cake 🎂
- ☕ **Beverages:** Coffee, hot tea 🫖, iced tea 🍹 & water 💧

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."
— Acts 2:46-47 🍽️ ❤️‍🩹

❤️‍🩹 ***We want everyone to share in this fellowship! If you or your family would like to attend, please don't let the ticket cost keep you away—we want everyone there and already have sponsorships in place to fully cover your meals.*** 🤝 ***Simply reach out to Dawn in the church office or Pastor Beth so we can save your seats and get your entrée choices. Your request will remain completely private.*** 🤫 ✨