

August 13, 2023
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship

St. Luke Lutheran Church
35 Wilson Ave, PO Box 338; Gilbertsville, PA 19525

PRELUDE

Great is Thy Faithfulness

setting, Dan Miller; ©1993 Hope Publishing Co.

GATHERING HYMN:

ELW 774 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929; Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924, Arr. ©2006 Augsburg Fortress and David M. Cherwien, ©2000 Concordia Publishing House.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 755 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818-1888; Music: John Edgar Gould, 1822-1875.

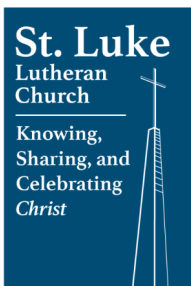
SENDING HYMN:

ELW 763 My Life Flows On in Endless Song

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899; Music: Robert Lowry, alt.

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St. Luke Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenapehoking people and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.



Lincoln Noecker,
Director of Music

Valerie Schlegel
Dir. Handbell & Youth Choir

Marsha Staub,
Office Administrator

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Dave Janzow, Vice President
Pam Reifsnyder, Secretary
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Tim Kenna
Bonnie Kuser
Pam Reifsnyder
Tom Undercuffler
Joe Vendetti

stlukegilbertsville.org
610-367-9738

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

During the prelude, please use this time to quietly allow God to open your heart to his blessed presence.

WELCOME

Please rise in body or spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.

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

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings.

We have hoarded your bounty.

In the name of Jesus,

forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have failed to be honest.

We have lacked the courage to speak.

We have spoken falsely.

In the name of Jesus,

forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
you are freed and forgiven
in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine* ELW 774

GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our defender,
**storms rage around and within us
and cause us to be afraid.
Rescue your people from despair,
deliver your sons and daughters from fear,
and preserve us in the faith of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:

A reading from 1Kings 19:9-18

⁹At [Horeb, the mount of God,] [Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown

down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:8-13

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

**⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING:

A reading from Romans 10:5-15

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who

will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to Matthew 14:22-33

Glory to you, O Lord.

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

MESSAGE

Bobbie Hoffman

Please rise in body or spirit.

CREED

Together, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.**

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of grace and faith, your faithfulness is never-ending, and your righteousness becomes ours through Christ Jesus. Send the church to proclaim the gospel both near and far, in church buildings and on street corners, in person and through digital means. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of sky and sea, the plants, animals, mountains, and plains proclaim your glory. Prosper the work of ecologists as they teach us new ways to care for the environment. Bring relief to areas recovering from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instill in local, regional, national, and global political and civic leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of care and compassion, you bring assurance when we are afraid. Bring calm to any who are anxious or fearful. Bless the work of therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Comfort all who grieve and soothe any who are sick. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of wonder, you accompany us in both joys and sorrows. We pray for children and teachers preparing for a new school year. Make your presence known in our work and play, in lively conversation and in quiet rest. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you send people to renew both church and society. We give you thanks for their lives of faithful service especially nursing pioneers Florence Nightingale and Clara Maass, *whom the church remembers today* as examples of following your call. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

LET US PRAY

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Gathered at the Lord's table, our congregation remembered with thanksgiving that "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.

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup, shared in our community of faith, are here given for you.

All are welcome to the table. If you will be coming to the altar for communion, please follow the ushers' instructions. Those who are choosing to stay in the pew, using the prefilled cups, and those who need to have the pastor bring the elements to them should wait for instructions from the pastor. Children are most welcome to accompany their parents to the altar for a blessing.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**



COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All people are called to Christ's table
Come, eat what is good.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep
you in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We thank you, generous God,
**for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.**

**Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,**

**Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Please rise in body and spirit.

BLESSING

Church, receive this blessing.

The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

My Life Flows On In Endless Song

ELW 763

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From Sundayandseasons.com



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader and Message: Bobbie Hoffman

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Lector: Kathy Billger

Audio Video: Ron Ball

Ushers: David Girton, Ron Hukari,

Sacristan: Merrie Gephart

LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST 14-19

Monday – Psalm 18:1-19; Genesis 7:11—8:5; 2 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday – Psalm 18:1-19; Genesis 19:1-29; Romans 9:14-29

Wednesday – Psalm 18:1-19; Job 36:24-33; 37:14-24; Matthew 8:23-27

Thursday – Psalm 67; Isaiah 45:20-25; Revelation 15:1-4

Friday – Psalm 67; Isaiah 63:15-19; Acts 14:19-28

Saturday - Psalm 67; Isaiah 56:1-5; Matthew 14:34-36

PRAYERS FOR Health and Healing:

- ◇ Carly Little, daughter of Pam Zeigenfuse & Todd Little, case of Mono
- ◇ Thomas Fleagle, ALS (brother of Marsha Staub)
- ◇ Karen L. Girton, medical testing & future treatments

PRAYERS FOR those in grief:

- ◇ Family & friends of Greg Loney (friend of Ron Hukari)
- ◇ Family & friends of Emily Fager Bradfield (friend of the Ferraros)
- ◇ Family & friends of Hal Baughman (friend of Ruth Nice)

PRAYERS FOR those Needing Continued Prayers:

Bob Arobone

Tom Bucks

Kristopher Yoder

Jalen Gray

Larry Kuser

Sharon Smith

Bonnie Ritter

PRAYERS FOR those at home:

Charles & Gloria Christman

Jean & Bill Christy

Marie Geiger

Paul McFarland

Ruth Nice

Helen Penketh

Clayton & Ann Rhoads

Cookie Stasik

IN OUR PRAYERS: This morning in our prayers we remember the saints whose commemorations fall during this week:

August 13 Florence Nighingale, 1910;

Clara Maass, 1901; renewers of society

August 14 Maximilian Kolbe, 1941; Kaj munk, 1944; martyrs

August 15 MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD

Welcome

We welcome Bobbie Hoffman, St. Luke's Lutheran in Limerick and thank her for leading us in Worship this Sunday.

Suitcases Needed

Are you going on vacation only to discover you need a new suitcase? Please bring your old ones to church. They will go to Safe Berks, the shelter for abused women. Thank you! Suite Cases will be collected until August 20.

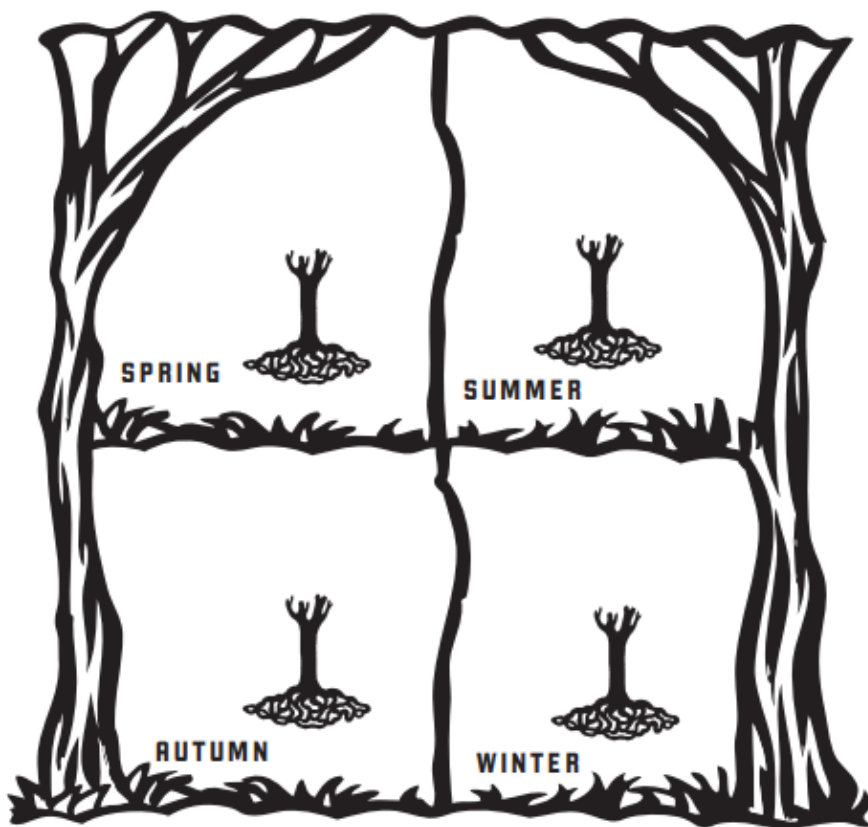
Date	Week of August 13-19	Location
Sunday, August 13 11th Sunday after Pentecost	9:30 am Worship	Nave
Tuesday, August 15	7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Memorial Hall
Wednesday, August 16	9:00 to Noon CCR Shopping	CCR
Friday, August 18	8:30 pm AA Meeting	Class Room Downstairs
Worship Leaders	Sunday, August 20	Sunday, August 27
Lector	Pat Hallman	Ron Ball
Ushers	Larry Billger, Terry Conrad	Ron Hukari, Dave Janzow
Audio Video	Mike Ferraro	Ron Ball
Office Volunteer	Cindy Bealer (Aug. 17)	Pat Hallman (Aug. 24)
Sacristan	Merrie Gephart	Merrie Gephart

Worship and Stewardship			
<u>Our July Commitment</u>		<u>Our Generosity</u>	<u>Overage/Shortfall</u>
Budget	\$16,330	\$10,004	-\$6,326
Mission Support	\$680	\$553	-\$127

- Today is the **eleventh** Sunday after Pentecost.
- Sometimes the season after Pentecost is called **ordinary time**.
- This season takes up the ordinary time in our lives **between Easter and Advent**.

Seasonal Sketches

The season after Pentecost happens in the summer and autumn. Draw what this tree looks like in each of the four seasons. Can you name the church seasons that happen during winter and spring?



Welcome Words

Paul teaches us that we are all children of God, no matter where we come from. Do you know where these languages come from? Match these words for welcome with the country that speaks the language.

Karibu

France

Valkommen

Tanzania

Yokoso

Sweden

Bienvenue

Japan

Keep an Eye Out

The Gospel story today teaches us that when we keep our eyes on Jesus we can do great things. Use your eyes to spot the three differences between these two pictures.

