

**July 16, 2023**  
**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Welcome to 9:30 am Worship**

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

**PRELUDE**

**Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil**

setting, Marilyn Biery; ©2014 Augsburg Fortress

**GATHERING HYMN:**

**ELW 533 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Music: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**ELW 512 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil**

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950; Music: Handt Hanson, Text/Music ©1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

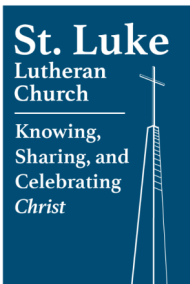
**SENDING HYMN:**

**ELW 550 On What Has Now Been Sown**

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; Music: John Darwall, 1731–1789.

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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

**Executive Officers:**

Connie Hukari, President  
Dave Janzow, Vice President  
Pam Reifsnnyder, Secretary  
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John Bealer  
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Donna Conrad  
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Tom Undercuffler  
Joe Vendetti

[stlukegilbertsville.org](http://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.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.  
We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## 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**

Almighty God,  
**we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.**  
**By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy,**  
**live according to it,**  
**and grow in faith and hope and love,**  
**through 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 Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;

instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 65:1-13**

[<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

**<sup>2</sup>To you, the one who answers prayer,  
to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you blot out our transgressions.

**<sup>4</sup>Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell  
there!**

**They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of  
your temple.**

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our  
salvation,

O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

**<sup>6</sup>You make firm the mountains by your power;  
you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

**<sup>8</sup>Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at  
your marvelous signs;**

**you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.]**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;  
the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

**<sup>10</sup>You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths over- flow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys  
cloak them-selves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.

## **SECOND READING:**

A reading from Romans 8:1-11

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or spirit*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**MESSAGE**

**Michael Romasco**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     **Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil**

**ELW 512**

**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.*

Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heal those who are sick, O God. Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and

counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

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.**

## CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

*Refrain*

Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -

ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O

God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O

Rul - er of all the na-tions. Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and

*Refrain*

sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va-tion be-longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and

bles-sed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All

*Refrain*

praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va-tion be-longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.  
**Amen.**

## 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.

## **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**

***On What Has Now Been Sown***

***ELW 550***

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

From [Sundayandseasons.com](http://Sundayandseasons.com)

## **LECTIONARY FOR JULY 17-22**

**Monday** – Psalm 92; Leviticus 26:3-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

**Tuesday** – Psalm 92; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Ephesians 4:17—5:2

**Wednesday** – Psalm 92; Proverbs 11:23-30; Matthew 13:10-17

**Thursday** – Psalm 86:11-17; Isaiah 41:21-29; Hebrews 2:1-9

**Friday** – Psalm 86:11-17; Isaiah 44:9-17; Hebrews 6:13-20

**Saturday** - Psalm 86:11-17; Isaiah 44:18-20; Matthew 7:15-20

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Worship Leaders: Leslie & Michael Romasco

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Lector: Michael Romasco

Audio Video: Michael Ferraro

Ushers: Dave Girton, Ron Hukari

Sacristan: Donna Biehl

## **PRAYERS FOR Health and Healing:**

- Shirley Bucks, recuperating at home (mother of Pam Ferraro)
- Cheryl Homa, cancer (sister of Linda Fronheiser, Joanne Rissell)

## **PRAYERS FOR those in grief:**

- Family & friends of Bill Yanalavage (friend of the Hukaris)
- Family & friends of Rev. Wanda Craner (friend of Connie Hukari)

## **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:

July 17 Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies. 1566

July 22 MARY MAGDALENE, APOSTLE

## **Sponsors:**

The Sanctuary Lamp and Bulletins are sponsored by Ruth Nice in honor of Jonathan & Lois' birthdays.

## **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!

Date	Week of June July 16-22	Location
<b>Sunday, July 13</b> <b>7th Sunday</b> <b>after Pentecost</b>	9:30 am Worship	Nave
<b>Tuesday, July 18</b>	7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Memorial Hall
<b>Wednesday, July 19</b>	CCR Shopping 9:00 to Noon	CCR
<b>Thursday, July 20</b>	6:45 pm Council Meeting CCR Shopping 5:00-8:00 pm	Memorial Hall CCR
<b>Friday, July 21</b>	8:30 pm AA Meeting	Class Room Downstairs
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	<b>Sunday, July 23</b>	<b>Sunday, July 30</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Dave Janzow	TBD
<b>Ushers</b>	Larry Billger, Terry Conrad	Dave Girton, Ron Hukari
<b>Audio Video</b>	Ron Hukari	Ron Ball
<b>Office Volunteer</b>	Donna Biehl (July 20)	Cindy Bealer (July 27)
<b>Sacristan</b>	Donna Biehl	Donna Biehl

<b>Worship and Stewardship</b>			
<u><b>Our June Commitment</b></u>	<u><b>Our Generosity</b></u>	<u><b>Overage/Shortfall</b></u>	
Budget	\$13,064	\$6,557	-\$6,507
Mission Support	\$544	\$ 437	-\$ 107





# READER

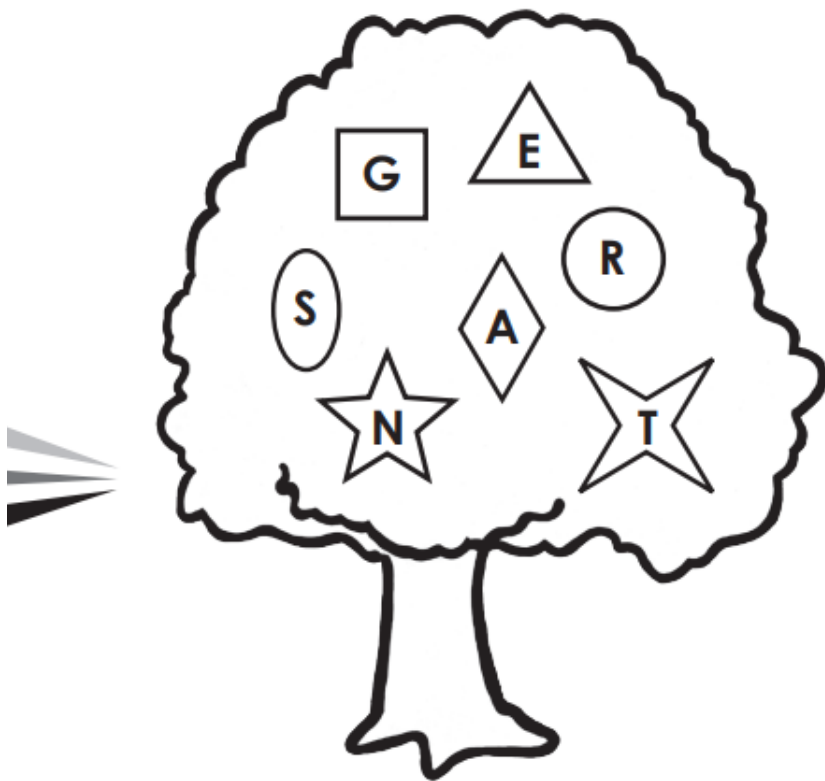
Pentecost 7

- Today is the **seventh** Sunday after Pentecost.
- The time after Pentecost is all about **life** and **growth**.

## Color Quiz

The color for this season reminds us of life and growth. Look for clues in the tree to solve the puzzle!

The color for the season after Pentecost is: \_\_\_\_\_



## Sermon Notes

The sermon is the part of worship when the pastor talks about the Bible story. This is a time to learn and hear God's word.

Listen to the sermon today, and write down something you learned.

