

July 9, 2023
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship

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

GATHERING HYMN:

ELW 765 Lord of All Hopefulness

Tune: Slane
Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953, © Oxford University Press 1931; Music:
Irish traditional.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 777 Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

Tune: Beach Spring
Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939, ©1992, 1996 The Liturgical Press;
Music: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844; Arr. ©1985 Augsburg Fortress.

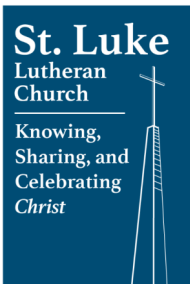
SENDING HYMN:

ELW 697 Just a Closer Walk With Thee

Tune: Closer Walk
Text: North American traditional; Music: North American traditional

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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 Reifsnyder, Secretary
Scott Moyer, Treasurer

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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.

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

You are great, O God,

and greatly to be praised.

You have made us for yourself,

and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

Grant that we may believe in you,

call upon you, know you, and serve you,

through 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 Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war-horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

Psalm 145:8-14

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, YOU ARE GOOD TO ALL,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures
throughout all ages.**

You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING:

A reading from Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies

close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 11:16-19, 25-30

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

The assembly is seated.

MESSAGE

Kathy Billger

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

ELW 777

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 the covenant, you call ministers to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Inspire pastors, deacons, church musicians, and all ministers of your word as they carry out your work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders at all levels—national, state/province, and local—to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. Send skilled caregivers to all in need, and make your presence known among all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of rejoicing, you have brought us together this day to worship around word and sacrament. Encourage children in their learning and growing, and watch over those who are absent today. Lead us all to places of renewal and refreshment. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all faithfulness, through the witness of the faithful departed you reveal love in action. Embolden us by their example to build up the beloved community in all the contexts we encounter. 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

bless-ed 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

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

ELW 697

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

From Sundayandseasons.com

LECTIONARY FOR JULY 10-15

Monday – Psalm 131; Jeremiah 27:1-11, 16-22; Romans 1:18-25

Tuesday – Psalm 131; Jeremiah 28:10-17; Romans 3:1-8

Wednesday – Psalm 131; Jeremiah 13:1-11; John 13:1-17

Thursday – Psalm 65:1-13; Isaiah 48:1-5; Romans 2:12-16

Friday – Psalm 65:1-13; Isaiah 48:6-11; Romans 16:14-21

Saturday – Psalm 65:1-13; Isaiah 52: 1-16; John 12:44-50

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leaders: Kathy Billger

Organist: Matt Harris

Lector: Pat Hallman

Audio Video: Ron Hukari

Ushers: Gary Fronheiser, 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 Grace Bealer (mother of John Bealer)
- 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 11 Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c. 540

July 12 Nathan Soderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, 1931

Sponsors:

There are no sponsors for this week.

Thank You

We thank Matt Harris for sharing his gift of music and for filling in on the organ for Linc Noecker who is on vacation today.

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 9-15	Location
Sunday, July 9 6th Sunday after Pentecost	9:30 am Worship	Nave
Tuesday, July 11	7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Memorial Hall
Wednesday, July 12	CCR Shopping 9:00 to Noon	CCR
Friday, July 14	8:30 pm AA Meeting	Class Room Downstairs
Worship Leaders	Sunday, July 16	Sunday, July 23
Lector	Mike Romasco	Dave Janzow
Ushers	Dave Girton, Ron Hukari	Larry Billger, Terry Conrad
Audio Video	Mike Ferraro	Ron Hukari
Office Volunteer	Pat Hallman (July 13)	Donna Biehl (July 20)
Sacristan	Donna Biehl	Donna Biehl

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



READER

Pentecost 6

- Today is the **sixth** Sunday after Pentecost.
- Pentecost is the **longest** season of the church year.
- During Pentecost, the church takes **time to grow**.

It Takes Time to Grow

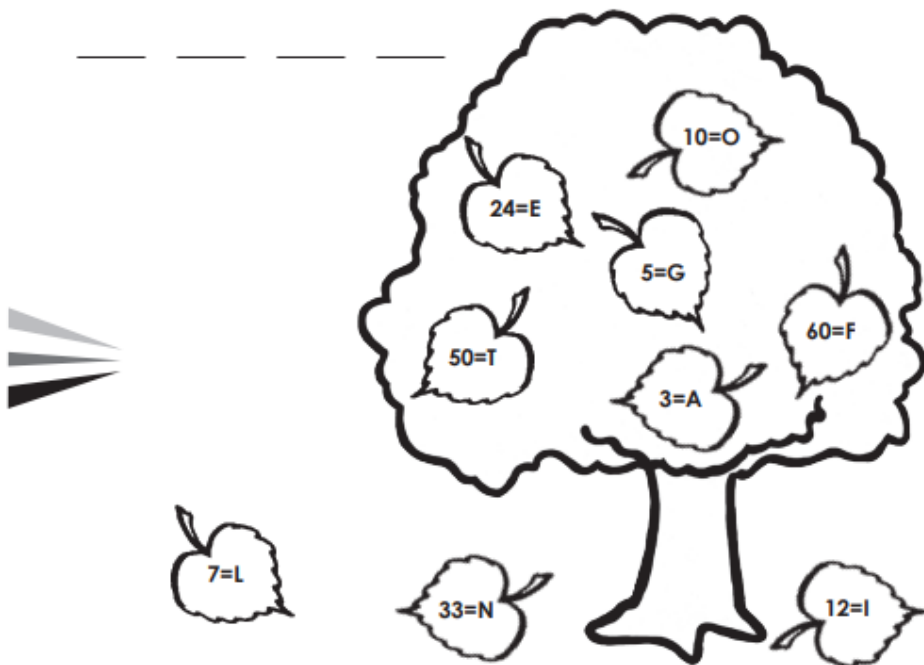
Answer these time questions and match your number answer with the letter in the tree. Then fill in the blanks to learn another theme of Pentecost.

How many days are there in one week? _____

How many months are there in one year? _____

How many seconds are there in one minute? _____












How many hours are there in one day? _____



Finding Rest

Jesus knew it could be tiring and even discouraging to follow in God's way. So he told his disciples to come to him to find rest. We are invited to come to Jesus when we pray. Psalm 145 is a song of praise. Use the code to discover the message in verse 9.



A = 	G = 	L = 	S = 
D = 	H = 	O = 	T = 
E = 	I = 	R = 	



Bible Tip!

The big numbers in your Bible are chapter numbers. The small numbers are verse numbers. To look up Matthew 11:28, go to chapter 11 in Matthew. Find verse 28.



Trust God
and
believe in
good things
to come.