

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship

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

PRELUDE:

Light Dawns on a Weary World

setting, Aaron David Miller; ©2008 Augsburg Fortress

GATHERING HYMN:

ELW 726 Light Dawns on a Weary World

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953, ©2002, GIA Publications; Music: William P. Rowan, b. 1951, ©2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 707 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-1889, alt.; Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887.

HOLY COMMUNION:

Variations on "Hyfrydol"

setting, Charles Callahan; ©1986 Concordia Publishing House

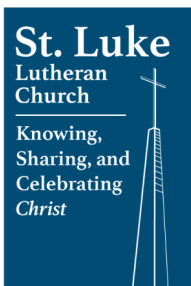
SENDING HYMN:

ELW 815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Music: Kathleen Thomerson, Text/Music ©1970, 1975 Celebration.

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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
Scott Moyer, Treasurer

Congregational Council:

John Bealer
Donna Biehl
Donna Conrad
Michael Ferraro

Connie Hukari
Dave Janzow
Tim Kenna
Bonnie Kuser
Pam Reifsnnyder
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,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation.

Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.

Amen.


GREETING

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

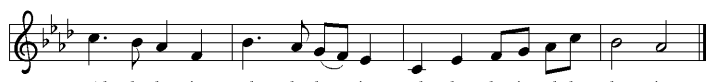
And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

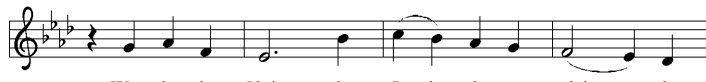
Refrain




This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.




Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.




1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



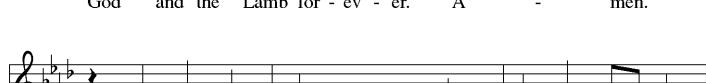
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:




Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING:

A reading from Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be 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.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their 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.

¹⁴The 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.

¹⁵That 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,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I 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.

¹⁸Neither 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the
earth were born,**

from age to age you are God.

³You turn us back to the dust and say,

“Turn back, O children of earth.”

**⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

**⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**⁸Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

[⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**¹⁰The 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.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?]

**¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

SECOND READING:

A reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When 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! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at

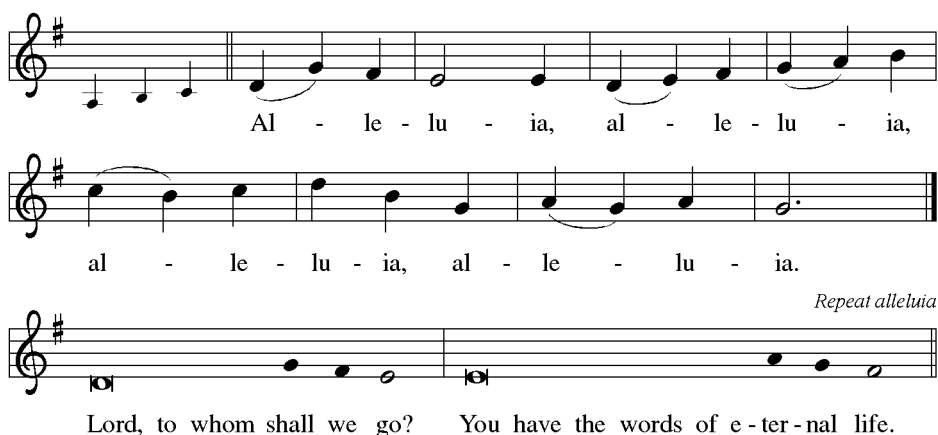
night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to Matthew 25:14-30

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off

and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then 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.' ²¹His 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.' ²²And 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.' ²³His 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.' ²⁴Then 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 seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But 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? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

The assembly is seated.

MESSAGE

The Rev. Burlington Latshaw

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

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness,
**generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.**
Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

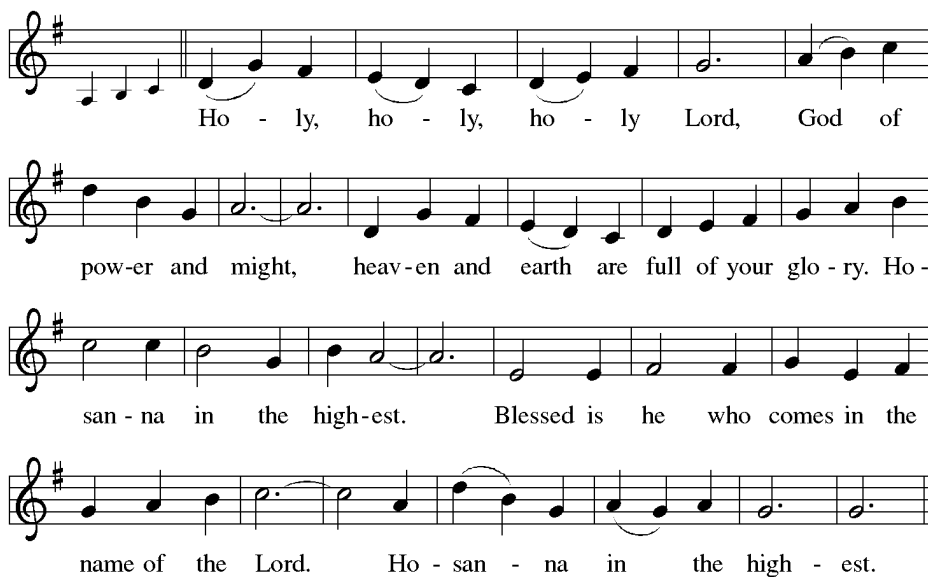
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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.

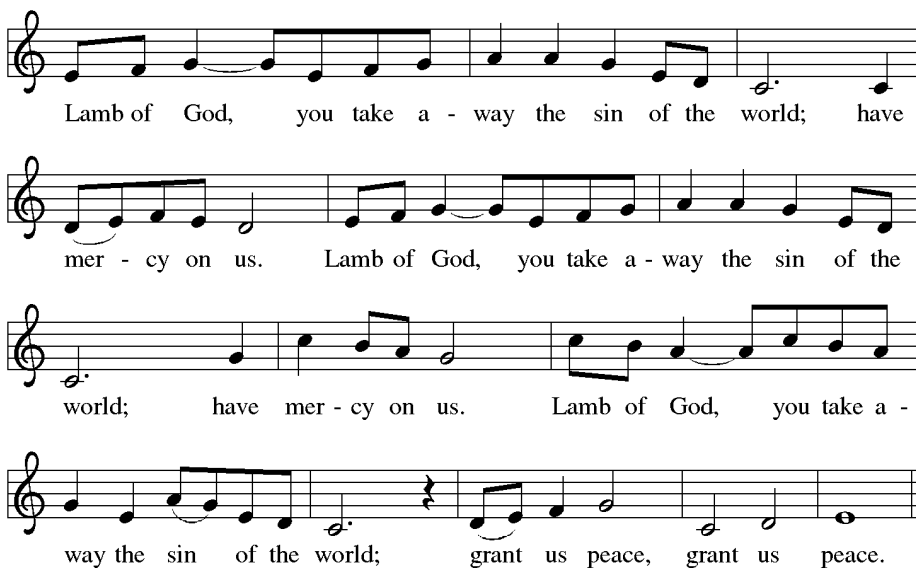
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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.

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.
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.

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,
Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From Sundayandseasons.com

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader & Message: Rev. Burlington Latshaw

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Lector: Kathy Billger

Audio Video: Ron Hukari

Ushers: Larry Billger, Terry Conrad

Sacristan: Kathy Billger

Sponsors:

The Bulletins are sponsored by Hilda Cooney in memory of her sons, Scott and Dennis.

LECTIONARY FOR NOVEMBER 13-18

Monday – Psalm 9:1-4; Zechariah 1:7-17; Romans 2:1-11

Tuesday – Psalm 9:1-4; Zechariah 2:1-5; 5:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Wednesday – Psalm 9:1-4; Job 16:1-21; Matthew 24:45-51

Thursday – Psalm 95:1-7a; 1 Kings 22:13-23; Revelation 14:1-11

Friday – Psalm 95: 1-7a; 1 Chronicles 17:1-15; Revelation 22:1-9

Saturday - Psalm 95:1-7a; Isaiah 44:21-28; Matthew 12:46-50

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

November 23 Clement, Bishop of Rome, c. 100;

Miguel Agustin Pro, martyr, 1927

November 24 Justus Falckner, 1723; Jehu Jones, 1852;

William Passavant, 1894; pastors in North America

November 25 Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, 1748

PRAYERS FOR Health and Healing:

- ♦ Tom Ward, medical testing (friend of the Romasco family)
- ♦ Rena Henry, hospitalized (friend of Linda Fronheiser)
- ♦ Shirley Bucks, rehab after a fall (mother of Pam Ferraro)

PRAYERS FOR those in grief:

- ♦ Family & friends of Charles "Bud" Cattell, uncle of Val Schlegel
- ♦ Family & friends of Clayton Rhoads

- ◇ Family & friends of Mike McLaughlin (neighbor of Hilda Cooney)
- ◇ Family & friends of Butch Moyer (brother-in-law of Hilda Cooney)

PRAYERS FOR those Needing Continued Prayers:

Bob Arobone
Jalen Gray
Bonnie Ritter

Tom Bucks
Larry Kuser

Kristopher Yoder
Sharon Smith

PRAYERS FOR those at home:

Gloria Christman
Marie Geiger
Ruth Nice
Ann Rhoads

Jean & Bill Christy
Paul McFarland
Helen Penketh
Cookie Stasik

| Date | Week of Nov. 19-25 | Location |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Sunday, November 19 25th Sun. after Pentecost | 9:30 am Worship | Nave |
| Tuesday, November 21 | 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | Memorial Hall |
| Wednesday, November 22 | Thanksgiving Pie Service CCR Closed | Memorial Hall CCR |
| Friday, November 17 | 8:30 pm AA Meeting | Class Room Downstairs |
| Worship Leaders | Sunday, November 26 | Sunday, December 3 |
| Lector | Ron Ball | Pat Hallman |
| Ushers | Ron Hukari, Dave Janzow | Gary Fronheiser, Ron Hukari |
| Audio Video | Ron Ball | Mike Ferraro |
| Office Volunteer | Cindy Bealer (Nov. 22) | Pat Hallman (Nov. 30) |
| Sacristan | Kathy Billger | Donna Biehl/Sandi Quicksell |

| Worship and Stewardship | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Our October Commitment</u> | | <u>Our Generosity</u> | <u>Overage/Shortfall</u> |
| Budget | \$16,320 | \$ 17,726 | \$ 1,406 |
| Mission Support | \$680 | \$ 746 | \$ 66 |



READER

Pentecost 25

- Today is the **25th** Sunday after Pentecost.
- The Pentecost season is **almost completed** for this year.
- What did you **learn about Jesus** during the season after Pentecost?

Dig It Up

Jesus tells us not to be afraid to share our gifts. Jesus doesn't want us to bury our talents. Look at the burial spaces under the Pentecost tree. Write the gifts you can share in those spaces. Jesus says, "Don't bury your talents! Don't be afraid to share!"

