

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**  
**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Welcome to 9:30 am Worship**

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

**PRELUDE**

**Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing**

setting, Nancy M. Raabe; ©2012 Augsburg Fortress

**GATHERING HYMN:**

**ELW 452 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death**

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, Text ©1980, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**ELW 714 O God of Mercy, God of Light**

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.; Music: Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896,  
Arr.©2006 Augsburg Fortress.

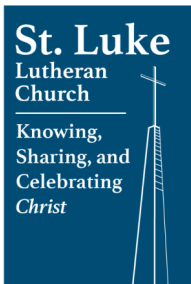
**SENDING HYMN:**

**ELW 544 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing**

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt., Text © Oxford University Press; Music: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

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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

**Congregational Council:**

John Bealer  
Donna Biehl  
Donna Conrad  
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Dave Janzow  
Tim Kenna  
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Pam Reifsnyder  
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.  
*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

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.**

**GATHERING HYMN      *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*      ELW 654**

**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 Lord God, merciful judge,  
**you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.**  
**Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you,**  
**that we may delight in doing your will,**  
**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 Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 114

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt,  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

<sup>2</sup>**Judah became God's sanctuary  
and Israel God's dominion.**

<sup>3</sup>The sea beheld it and fled;  
Jordan turned and went back.

<sup>4</sup>**The mountains skipped like rams,  
and the little hills like young sheep.**

<sup>5</sup>What ailed you, O sea, that you fled,  
O Jordan, that you turned back,

<sup>6</sup>**you mountains, that you skipped like rams,  
you little hills like young sheep?**

<sup>7</sup>Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

<sup>8</sup>**who turned the hard rock into a pool of water  
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

## SECOND READING:

A reading from Romans 14:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether

we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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 18:21-35

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**MESSAGE**

**Randy Schlegel**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**O God of Mercy, God of Light**

**ELW 597**

**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**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**



We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world like Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, whom we commemorate today. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray

Generous God,

**we give thanks for your gifts.**

**Reveal to us the Risen One.**

**Send us out in service to the world;**

**through Christ our 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

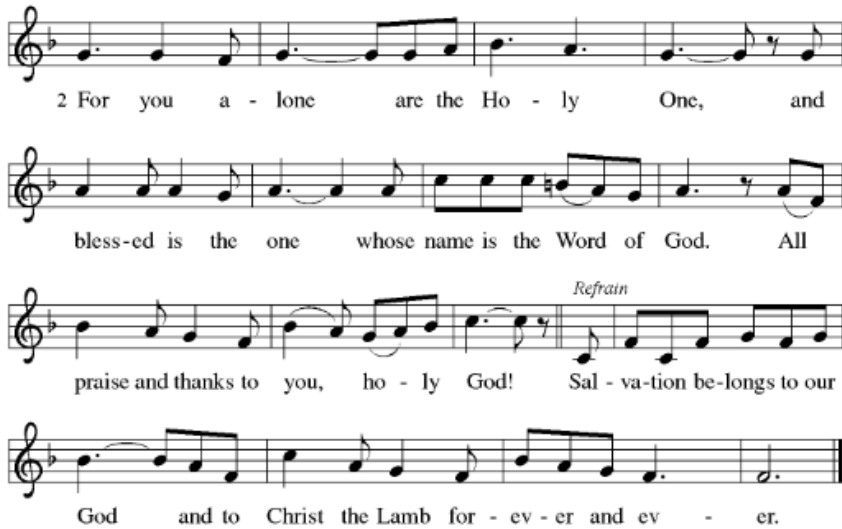
God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O

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.



## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Holy God,

mighty Fortress, loving Redeemer, steadfast Comforter,  
as vegetation matures in forests and fields,  
your living Word undergirds all that lives.

We praise your eternal Word.

**We praise your eternal Word.**

In the words of the scriptures you offer us Christ:

our refuge, our savior, our friend,  
accompanying us throughout our years  
and renewing us in love.

We praise Jesus, your Word.

**We praise Jesus, your Word.**

We pray for power from your abiding Spirit.

Strengthen us to stand firm in faith,  
in devotion to your Word,  
and in service to others.

We pray for the Spirit of your Word.

**We pray for the Spirit of your Word.**

To you be honor and praise and glory,  
today and 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 of glory,  
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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



**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Worship Leader & Message: Randy Schlegel

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Lector: Connie Hukari

Audio Video: Mike Ferraro

Ushers: Larry Billger and Terry Conrad

Sacristan: Val Schlegel

## **LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST 28—SEPTEMBER 2**

**Monday** – Psalm 133; Genesis 48:8-22; Hebrews 11:23-29

**Tuesday** – Psalm 133; Genesis 49:29—50:14; Romans 14:13—15:2

**Wednesday** – Psalm 133; Genesis 50:22-26; Mark 11:20-25

**Thursday** – Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 1:1, 14—2:2; 2 Corinthians 13:1-4

**Friday** – Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 2:3-13; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

**Saturday** – Psalm 145:1-8; Zephaniah 2:13-15; Matthew 19:23-30

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

- ♦ Thomas Fleagle, ALS (brother of Marsha Staub)
- ♦ Cheryl Homa, chemotherapy (Sister of Linda Fronheiser)

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

- ♦ Family & friends of Paige Longstreth (Colleague of Michael Romasco and friend of the family)

### **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:**

Charles & Gloria Christman  
Marie Geiger  
Ruth Nice  
Clayton & Ann Rhoads

Jean & Bill Christy  
Paul McFarland  
Helen Penketh  
Cookie Stasik

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

September 17 Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, 1179

September 18 Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, 1961

September 21 MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

**Sponsors:**

**The Bulletins** are sponsored in honor of Shirley Buck's birthday by Pam and Mike Ferraro

**Welcome**

We welcome Randy Schlegel to lead our worship today. Thank you Randy for sharing your gifts with us.

**Men's Breakfast**

The 49th annual St. Luke Men's Breakfast will be held on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 7:30 am in the St. Luke pavilion. The speaker will be The Reverend Dr. Don Eisenhower. Cost to attend the breakfast is \$6.00 per person.



Date	Week of September 17-23	Location
<b>Sunday, September 17</b> 16th Sunday after Pentecost	9:30 am Worship	Nave
<b>Tuesday, September 19</b>	6:30 Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Choir Room Memorial Hall
<b>Wednesday, Sept. 20</b>	1:00 to 4:00 pm CCR Shopping	CCR
<b>Thursday, September 21</b>	6:30 pm Girl Scouts	Memorial Hall
<b>Friday, September 22</b>	8:30 pm AA Meeting	Class Room Downstairs
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	<b>Sunday, September 24</b>	<b>Sunday, October 1</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Joe Vendetti	Kathy Billger
<b>Ushers</b>	Ron Hukari, Dave Janzow	Gary Fronheiser, Ron Hikari
<b>Audio Video</b>	Ron Ball	Mike Ferraro
<b>Office Volunteer</b>	Donna Biehl (Sept. 21)	Cindy Bealer (Sept. 28)
<b>Sacristan</b>	Val Schlegel	Sandi Quicksell

<b>Worship and Stewardship</b>			
<b><u>Our August Commitment</u></b>	<b><u>Our Generosity</u></b>	<b><u>Overage/Shortfall</u></b>	
Budget	\$16,330	\$7,767	-\$5,297
Mission Support	\$680	\$ 500	-\$ 44





# READER

Pentecost 16

- Today is the **16<sup>th</sup>** Sunday after Pentecost.
- Pentecost begins **50 days** after Easter Sunday.
- The Pentecost season continues throughout **summer and fall**.
- Pentecost includes the **fall harvest**.

## The Tree of Life

Today's story tells about a famine. A famine is a time of no rain when crops do not grow very well. In the midst of famine, God still provided abundance. Create a famine tree and an abundance tree. Unscramble the words below each tree.



thea  
meanif  
nagre



eo vl  
tunaband  
viefrog



## Holy Cross Day

Some churches celebrate Holy Cross Day every September. The cross reminds us of Jesus. Look around your worship space and notice the crosses. Where are they? Do they all look the same?

Trace the dotted lines to uncover different kinds of crosses. Do you have a cross at home? What does it look like? Draw it in the space below.

