



...how often should
I forgive?

"Not **SEVEN** times,
but, I tell you,
**SEVENTY-
SEVEN**
times."

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

310 West Main Street • PO Box 187

Saxonburg, PA

www.stlks.com

Sunday, September 13, 2020

8:15 and 10:45 am

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Way Maker* – Egbu/Cumberland

*(When the music of the prelude begins, please lower your voice;
but, after worship raise your voice with joy!)*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all
desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration
of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and
the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God
who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

L: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

834

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
 Music: Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876

ST. DENIO
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GREETING

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

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

C: **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.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 50: 15-21

L: The first reading is from Genesis, chapter 50.

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103

L: Please let us read responsively Psalm 103.

¹ Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

² **Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—**

³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,

⁴ **who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,**

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶ **The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.**

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:

⁸ **The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.**

⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;

¹⁰ **he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;

¹² **as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from
us.**

SECOND READING: Romans 14: 1-12

L: The second reading is from Romans, chapter 14.

¹ Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written:

"As surely as I live," says the Lord,
'every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will acknowledge God.'"

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC
(10:45 AM only)

El Shaddai – Card & Thompson
Rachel Steiner - Singer

GOSPEL: Matthew 18: 21-35

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on

your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

359 Where Charity and Love Prevail

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

Text © 1960 World Library Publications

TWENTY-FOURTH

C.M.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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.**

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

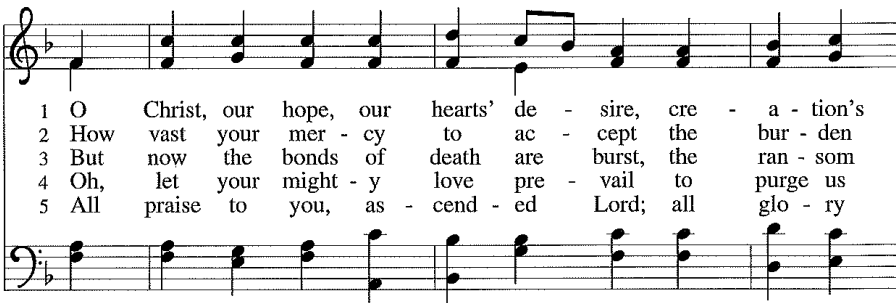
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

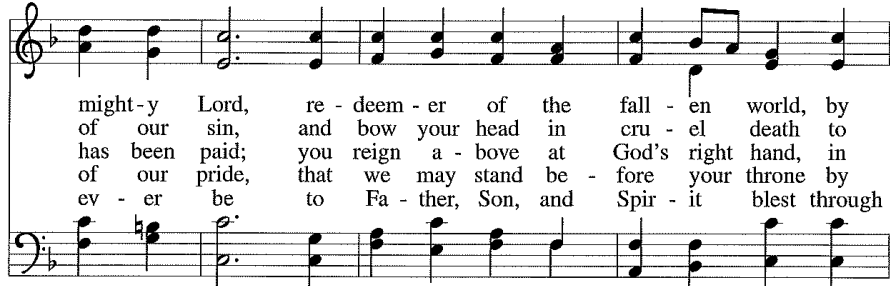
SENDING SONG

604

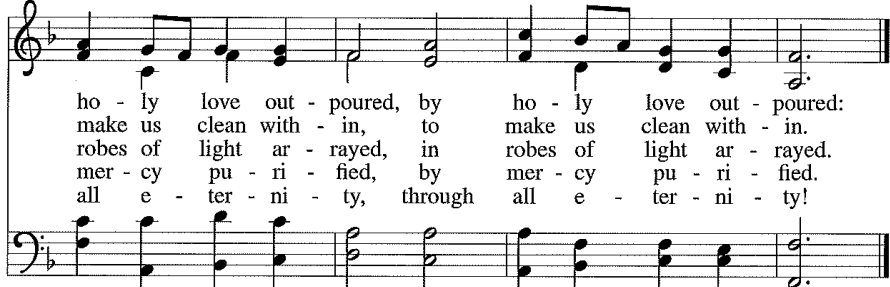
O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
 4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
 5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might - y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
 of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
 has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
 of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
 ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
 mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
 all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.
 Music: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN
 86866

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *We Gather Together*
– Traditional Netherlands Melody, Arr. Turner

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

Sixteenth S. a. Pentecost,

Isa. 55:6–9, Psalm 27:1–9, Phil. 1:12–14, 19–30, Matt. 20:1–16

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM INCLUDES:

	8:15 Service	10:45 Service
LECTOR	Beth Zellhart	Jeannine Sanford
GREETER	Shannon Miller	Lil Bachman
OFFERING COUNTERS	Donna Shipe and Dave Fugate	

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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Brian Shirey, Interim	Office Cell	724-352-2333 412-916-0122
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Ellen Dodge	Assistant Organist	724-352-2333
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Linda Heade	Centennial Hall Sexton	724-352-3413
Bobbie Shearer	Church Sexton	724-352-0148
Judy Gundlach	Prayer Chain	724-352-3543



"THEN SINGS MY SOUL" CONCERT IS BACK!

Marianne Cornetti is happy to announce that on Sept. 26th at 4 pm, she, along with her accompanist Bryan Sable, will perform "THEN SINGS MY SOUL" in Roebling Park, Saxonburg PA. It will be an outdoor concert! She will have guests Katy Williams and Dan Byerly with her.

The concert was originally scheduled in March just after COVID hit. It is sponsored by Saxonburg Memorial Presbyterian Church. All donations will go to the LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION.

*** Bring your masks!!!**

*** Bring your own chair!!!**



Victim Outreach Intervention Center (VOICe) donation day will be held Thursday, Sept. 24th from 8:30 am-6:00 pm at 218 E. Main St., Evans City, PA 16033

They ask that everyone wear a mask at the location. They reserve the right to turn away anyone not wearing a mask.

The following items are currently part of the monthly wish list:

- White or light colored t-shirts (all sizes)
- New/gently used office chairs
- All white bedding
- Wicker baskets for storage/organization
- New/gently used area rugs
- Cube storage with bins for shelter rooms
- Over-the-door hangers
- Coat racks
- Plug-ins
- Over-the-door mirrors



Joyce Perkins	13-Sep
Tayla Markwell	14-Sep
Natalie Savannah	14-Sep
Ronald Boltz	15-Sep
Adam Hartzell	18-Sep
Timothy Markwell	19-Sep
Sadie Jockel	19-Sep



FOOD BANK

Cabot Food Bank will be packing bags for distribution this Monday, September 14th at 6:00 pm. If you are interesting in volunteering, the food bank is located at Cabot United Methodist Church, 707 Winfield Road.

If you would like to drop off donations at St. Luke's, please do so during business hours (Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm). Donations can be placed in the cabinet to the right of the elevator in the entry way



Happy
Grandparents Day

OUR JOYS, PRAYERS, CARES AND CONCERNS

Praise and Thanksgiving: for answered prayers (Jim Bearrow's cancer healed!, Walt Moser's successful heart valve surgery, for a new job for one who has been unemployed), for much-needed rain, for St. Luke's staff, leadership, and our volunteers, for faith that calls us to pray and praise in all circumstances.

Healing, Cares & Concerns:

Paul Brewer (*cancer*),
Jackie (*sight*),
Sherry Goodman (*cancer*),
Alexis Gurnard (*stage 4 lung cancer*),
Jennifer (*chemo*),
Roger Laughner (*infection*),
Beryl Mottern (*radiation*),
Mary Ann Hussar (*COVID -19*),
John (*chemo*),
Duke Snyder,
Bud Williams,
Robin (*mother*) Leah (*mental issues*),
Jen and her staff,
Carol (*cancer, mental issues*),
John Swalanzer (*COVID-19*),
Sidney (*15, attempted suicide*),
Donna Schnur (*hosp/cancer, husband died*),
Christie (*cancer*),

Corey Lambroff (*COVID-19*),
Sonya Markwell's family, Brazil (*COVID*),
Jimmy Mullen (*leukemia & lymphoma*),
Elaine (*stroke*),
Quincy (*COVID -19*),
Barb Reuning (*breast cancer recovery*),
Georgetta Burk (*cataract surgery*),
Marge Gray (*fall/complications*),
Walt Moser (*aortic valve recovery*),
Vira (*Sonya Markwell's uncle COVID*),
Velma Boltz (*pacemaker, recovery*),
Kathy McRandal (*restore health*),
Marilyn Miller (*cancer*),
David Whitlinger (*new cancer study*),
Diane (*heart surgery/recovery*),
James R (*22, depression*),
Linda Crytzer (*amputation*)

For First Responders, medical personnel, and those who work to provide goods and services, for local businesses, for those whose jobs are lost or in jeopardy, for our words and actions to bring glory to God in our home, our church, and our community, for those who don't yet believe.

Weekly Schools: All students, teachers, school & bus personnel especially for Freeport Area & Butler County Community College BC³

Bereaved: Family & Friends of Ruth Garver, Melania (Sonia Markwell's aunt), Herb Shaffer, David Kurowski, Donald Aiken, Herb Richards, Mike Schnur, Dorothea Marie Cypher

Weekly NALC Church: St. Paul's, Sarver, Rev. Shawn Smith

Monthly Mission: Sarver-Saxonburg Christian Leadership Network (CLN)