

**"Be opened."
And immediately his
ears were opened,
his tongue was released ...**

Mark 7:34-35, NRSV



St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Sunday, September 5, 2021

8:15 and 10:00 am - Communion

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace arr. Hal H. Hopson

The assembly stands.

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.

The assembly kneels.

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.

The assembly stands.

**GATHERING SONG Praise to the Lord, the
Almighty (ELW 858)**

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35: 4-7

L: The first reading is from Isaiah, the 35th chapter.

⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear;

your God will come,

he will come with vengeance;

with divine retribution

he will come to save you.”

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened

and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer,

and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness

and streams in the desert.

⁷ The burning sand will become a pool,

the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,

grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146

L: Please let us read responsively Psalm 146.

¹ Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

**² I will praise the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

**⁴ When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.**

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

**⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.**

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets prisoners free,

**⁸ the LORD gives sight to the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

**¹⁰ The LORD reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD.**

SECOND READING: James 2: 1-10, 14-18

L: The second reading is from James, the 2nd chapter.

¹ My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

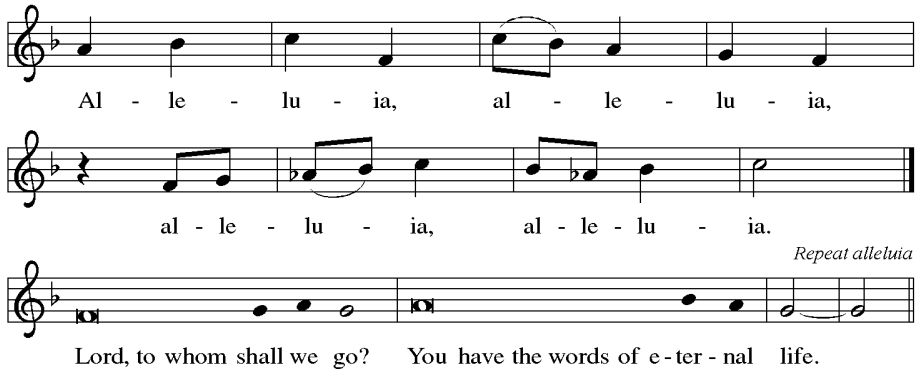
Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

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: Mark 7: 24-37

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the 7th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴ Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. ²⁵ In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. ²⁶ The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

²⁷ "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁸ "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

²⁹ Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter."

³⁰ She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹ Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³² There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means "Be opened!"). ³⁵ At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it.

³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY **Healer of Our Every Ill** (ELW 612)

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.**

PEACE (Peace should be offered with a smile and a wave.)

**P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

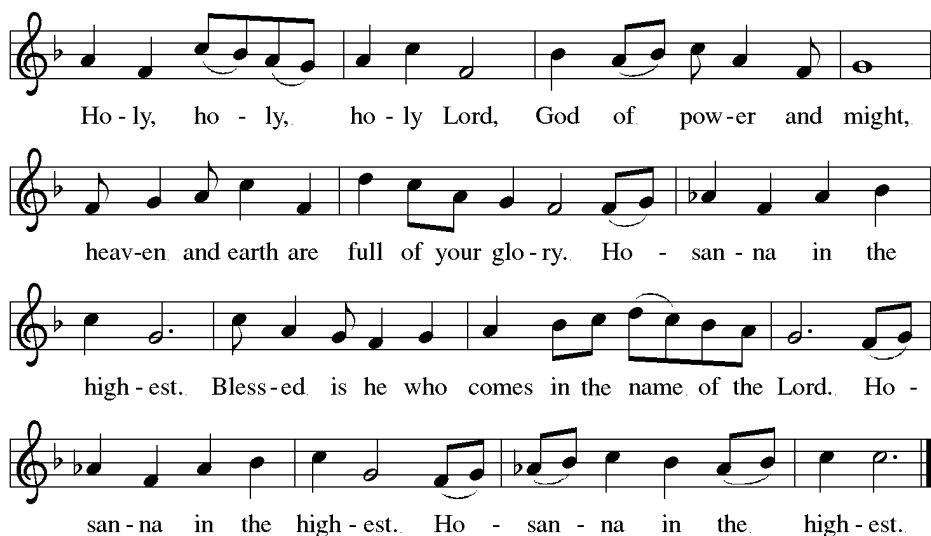
**L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.**

**L: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.**

**L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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.**

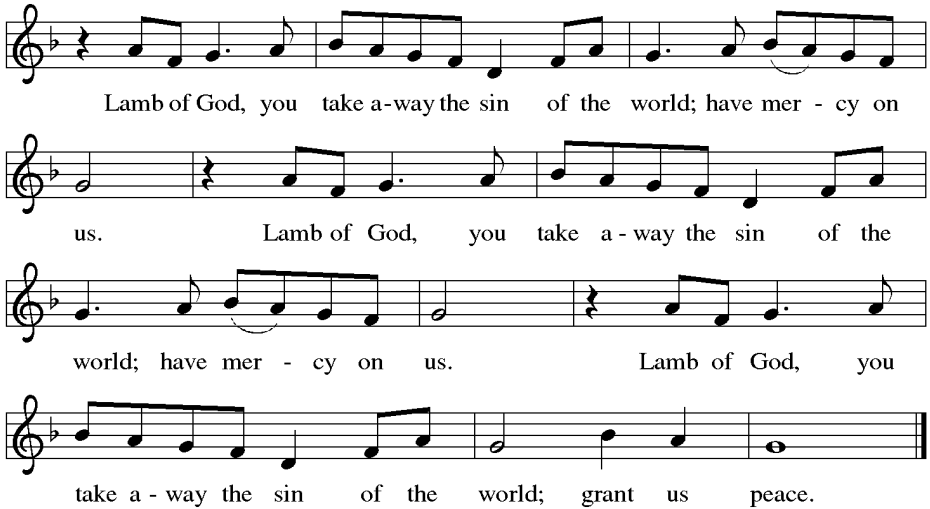
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: **Amen**

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

**Bread of Life from
Heaven (ELW 474)**

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **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

**O Christ, Your Heart,
Compassionate (ELW 722)**

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

St. Anthony Chorale - Haydn/Brahms

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 50:4-10, Psalm 116:1-9, James 3:1-12, Mark 9:14-29

WELCOME!

We are so excited that you have joined us today. You are important to our church family. Please complete the connect card in the pew before you leave worship this day. If you need to speak with a pastor or pastoral leader, please call the church office at 724-352-2333

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM INCLUDES:

	8:15 Service	10:00 Service
ACOLYTE	Cathy Boyd	Rachel Steiner
ALTAR GUILD	Audrey Lott and Wendy Mendenhall	Jackie Bice and Helen McLafferty
ASSISTING MINISTER	Cathy Boyd	Travis Yates
GREETER	Audrey Lott	Susan Beatty
OFFERING COUNTERS	Jackie Bice and Bob Bicker	

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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
Marge Kollinger	Parish Coordinator	724-352-2333
Linda Heade	Centennial Hall Sexton	724-352-3413
Bobbie Shearer	Church Sexton	724-352-0148
Judy Gundlach	Prayer Chain	724-352-3543



5-Sep Charles Ekas
 6-Sep Rebecca Carrozzo
 6-Sep Peggy Crawford
 7-Sep Jennifer Ross
 10-Sep David Fennell
 11-Sep Karrigan Cranmer



**ANNIVERSARIES
THIS WEEK**

September 5
David and Judy Gundlach



The old office (downstairs) is being turned into a cry room and is in need of a changing table. If anyone has one they would like to donate, please contact the church office.



The church is always in need of paper supplies (tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, etc.), hand soap, and bottles of water for in the cafe. If you like to shop for bargains, you can drop your donation off at the office any time.

OUR JOYS, PRAYERS, CARES AND CONCERNS

Praise and Thanksgiving: for answered prayers; for Conner's successful surgery; for believers who share their faith through their words and actions.

Healing, Cares & Concerns:

Sonya Winters (chemo, breast cancer)
Ann (cancer, unresponsive to chemo)
Kelly Kramich (cancer)
Nancy Daum (bacterial lung infection)
Roy (radiation)
Walter (chemo)
Connor (6yr, hip surgery recovery)
Nancy (fall, broken neck)
Harold Foertsch (Leukemia)
Erika Schuelke
Neal Hay (brain hemorrhage)
Rich Gustafson (heart surgery recovery)
Ken Crail (strokes, readmitted)

Donna Tasker (hospital, lung infection)
Shawn, Angela & family
Afghanistan
Haiti
Military and veterans
Jim Hunt
Debbie, Roger & Vincent Sell (Covid)
Hurricane & flooding victims
Patty (Liver surgery)
Jim Jarmul (detached retina)
John Markwell (arthritis)
Pastor Shirey (upcoming hernia surgery)
Eleanor Traggiai (fall, broken hip)
Rev. Nathan Pile (heart attack)

Schools: Butler Area and BC3

Weekly NALC Church: Christ Lutheran, Shelocta, PA Rev. Joyce Dix-Weiers; St. Luke's ministry and mission; for the Holy Spirit's protection and guidance.

Bereaved: Families of Vicki Jo Yurga, Catherine Drescher, Norbert Miller, Betty McCormick, Ken Kalstrand, Frank Ekas Sr., George Hajek

Monthly Mission: Sarver-Saxonburg Christian Leadership Network



The Prayer Circle will start meeting in person on September 14th and will continue to meet every Tuesday in Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch at 12:00 or just come for prayer at 12:30. Everyone is welcome to join.



Sept 6	Labor Day – Office Closed
Sept 13	6:30 pm Council Meeting
Sept 14	12:00 pm Prayer Circle Lunch
	12:30 pm Prayer Circle
Sept 16	6:00 and 7:00 pm Organ Concert/Hymn Sing
Sept 19	Rally Day
	8:15 am worship
	9:30 am Sunday School
	10:45 am worship
	2:00 pm – Orchards Service
Sept 20	10:00 am - Sewing Group
	Angel Article Deadline
Sept 21	12:00 pm Prayer Circle Lunch
	12:30 pm Prayer Circle
Sept 26	8:15 and 10:45 am Worship with Pastor Galica
	12:30 pm Congregational Meeting
	2:00 pm Memorial Service
Sept 27	6:00 – 8:00 pm Community Quiet Time
Sept 28	12:00 pm Prayer Circle Lunch
	12:30 pm Prayer Circle



**8:15 and 10:45
Worship**

**9:30
Confirmation**
(every Sunday)

Sunday School
(3rd Sunday)



Sarver-Saxonburg Christian Leader's Network

The Sarver-Saxonburg Christian Leadership Network (CLN) is September's monthly mission. The Christian Leaders Network is a group of local Christian congregations working together for the sake of Jesus Christ to offer a helping hand to all in our

community. Pastor Shawn Smith, from St. Paul's in Sarver, is the CLN President.

CLN works together to help by:

- Offering pastoral care, prayer and counseling to the community through every congregation/ministry.
- Providing a small financial grant to offer a helping hand once a year to a family in need who lives in the Sarver-Saxonburg area.
- Holding community worship services to inspire and strengthen people to grow in faith and Godly character.

The group comes together on a monthly basis for Bible study and business planning. The network in the past has planned the rotating Lenten mid-week services, Holy Week activities and services, Thanksgiving Eve services and youth gatherings.

The Network also offers emergency crisis support, coordinates with the area food banks and assists people in need of care.

FCS Matching Funds

With the grace of God, our high school teens had a successful summer of working. Work hour documentation for FCS matching funds must be turned in to the office or Barb Reuning by **September 15th**.



Stop by St. Luke's Church during the September 16th Mingle on Main for an organ concert and hymn sing. Music starts at 6:00 & 7:00 pm. Ellen Dodge will be the organist.