

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship

Sunday October 18, 2026



WELCOME

Your presence builds up the body of Christ. We welcome and affirm God's diversity, including all ethnicities, cultures, races, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, abilities, ages, and life experiences. You are invited to full participation in our congregation because of who you are. We lament and confess how the Christian Church has withheld Christ's love by misusing the power of institution. We commit to advocating for God's justice and mercy for all of creation, including humans. We commit to anti-racism and other ways of ending systems that cause harm. Christ is our peace and breaks down the walls that divide us. Our communion table is Christ's table. You and all people are welcome without exception.

Welcome Newcomers

We hope you are comfortable here. A few notes about our bulletin and worship: the white part of the bulletin gets re-used each week to conserve resources. The right-side margin contains details about the service and readings to help you connect more fully with worship. The yellow insert contains today's readings, songs, prayer requests, and announcements. Please take it home for your continued use this week. You can find more details for newcomers on the back page of the white bulletin. We are glad you are here - you are welcome in this space because of who you are.

Being Lutheran

As Lutherans, we see, hear, teach, and follow Jesus for the sake of our neighbor. Neighbor means anyone other than us, including creation. We see God in vulnerability - God meets us at the cross. In our deepest pain, God is present. Baptized into Christ, we live a new life - claimed and named forever as God's beloved. In the bread and wine of communion we receive and share Christ with all of creation. This is because of who God is, not because of what we do (or don't do). We receive God's grace through faith - in Scripture, the living word of God, and the sacraments of baptism and communion, which transform our lives so that we love and serve God, our neighbor and all of creation. A transformed life is one centered in Christ by the Spirit, following and trusting in God alone; freed to love, liberate, and serve.

PRELUDE *Sicut cervus* (As the deer longs for the water brook) by G.P. da Palestrina/A. Bade, Psalm 42:1

Kent Pflibsen and Asher Havenhill

WELCOME

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence for Reflection

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

*An asterisk indicates
the congregation
should stand in body
and/or spirit.*

*Congregation's
speaking and singing
parts are in bold
font.*

*As we prepare for
worship, take time to
look around, to settle
in, to receive the Holy
Spirit's presence.*



*As we confess, rise and
face the baptismal
font in the back.*

***GATHERING HYMN ACS #978 God Welcomes All**

God Welcomes All

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'God Welcomes All'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system contains the lyrics 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;'. The second system contains the lyrics 'God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.'.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell.

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***GREETING**

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

And also with you.

***KYRIE**

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.
We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

The image shows a musical score for the 'Kyrie'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble staff with a melody line and three verses of lyrics below it. The second system has a treble staff with a melody line and three lines of lyrics below it.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

FIRST READING ISAIAH 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
² I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

PSALM 96:1-13 (Pulpit Side - Regular; Piano Side - Bold)

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
² Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.
⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
**⁶ Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
**⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**
⁹ Worship the Lord in the beau-ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.
**¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**
¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.
¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

The second half of Isaiah's book promises the end of Israel's exile and a return home. So far, so good. But in our reading, one means of God's restorative work is both unexpected and offensive. Israel will be freed from imperial Babylon by imperial Persia? By Cyrus, a Gentile? It is a story subject for misinterpretation even today. So take care as you listen. The story is not about Cyrus or his qualities (or lack thereof). The story is about the sovereignty and freedom of God.

As with many other psalms, this one begins with an invitation to praise. Why the glad songs? While hints come early, the fundamental cause awaits verse 10's declaration. God reigns! God's sovereignty in all creation is the touchstone. The chorus that follows is sounded by the voices of God's diverse creation who raise their song in celebration of God's just and equitable rule.

Many believe this letter is the earliest writing in the New Testament, perhaps less than twenty years after Jesus' death. The church was still young, still expanding. The church in Thessalonica is one Paul founded, perhaps along with the individuals he names at the beginning. It is a community that Paul commends for their own part in helping the church grow even further.

*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.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-22

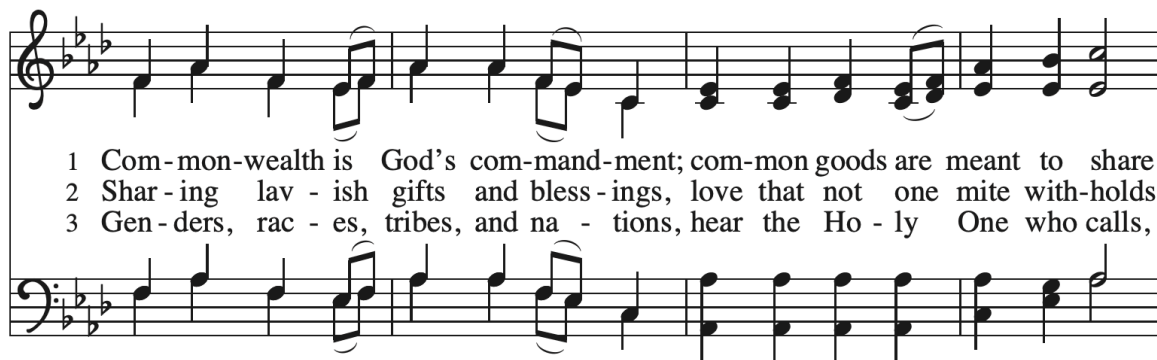
¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The gospel of Jesus Christ. **Praise to you, O Christ**

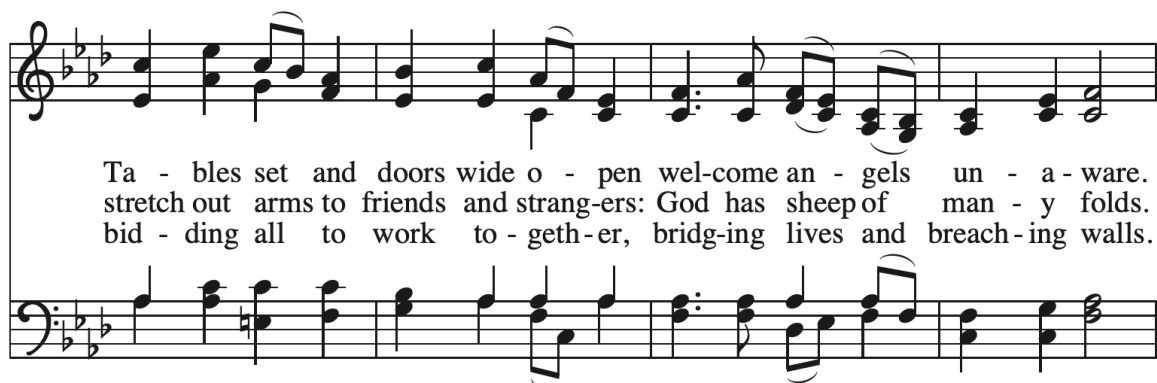
SERMON

*Listen deeply as the
gospel lesson is being
read*

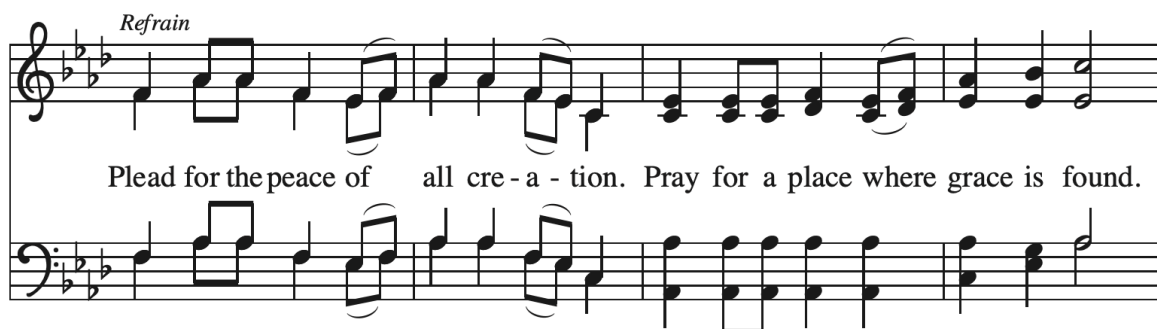
Commonwealth Is God's Commandment



1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Refrain
Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

...God in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*EXCHANGE OF PEACE

OFFERING

Sitivit anima mea (My soul thirsts for God) G.P. da Palestrina/A. Bade,
Psalm 42:2 - Kent Pflibsen and Asher Havenhil

During this time, we receive the offering of music and take time to reflect on what God has given to us. In this season of noticing and caring for God's gifts to us we will not pass the collection plate. Please use the time for reflection and prayer. You may leave a financial offering or green slip in the offering plate as you leave worship today.

*OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.

Online Offering

We have partnered with the ELCA and Tithely to offer secure online giving. Scan the image below using your smart phone to make your offering. Or, contact the church office to set up regular online giving.



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Monday eNews here



***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

God be with you. **And also with you.**

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

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

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

**In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.**

**In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.**

**The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.**

**In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.**

In the night in which he was betrayed...

...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen. **Amen.**

...Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen. **Amen.**

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all
glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy and compassion of God who is with us as Parent
and Creator, we pray as Jesus taught,

**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.**

*This is Christ's table. You and all are welcome here, without exception. Please follow the
ushers' direction, filling in the communion rail starting on the right side. You may stand or
kneel. If you prefer a blessing, cross your hands over your heart. Gluten free wafers are
available. The wine is red; the grape juice is clear. Please let an usher know if you would
like communion brought to your pew.*

*Offering prayer and
communion liturgy is
from "This Far By
Faith," a Lutheran
hymnal released in
1999 that was a
collaborative project
between the ELCA
and the Lutheran
Church-Missouri
Synod to enrich
worship by
incorporating gifts of
African American
songs, words, and
traditions.*

*You are welcome to
pray using other
versions, words, or
languages that may
be more familiar to
you. Jesus taught this
form of prayer to the
disciples to
encourage sincere
and meaningful
conversation with
God.*

COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

COMMUNION HYMNS



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

ELW #731 Earth and All Stars!

ELW #686 We Give Thee but Thine Own

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Live in forgiveness. Claim your wholeness. Dwell in peace. Amen.

SENDING PRAYER

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

This is Christ's table. You and all are welcome, without exception. If you prefer a blessing only, cross your arms over your heart. Gluten-free wafers available by request. The wine is red; the grape juice is clear. Please let an usher know if you would like communion brought to your pew.

The Post Communion Blessing is from Rev. Phyllis Zillhart, former pastor at St. Francis Lutheran Church in San Francisco, an early leader in welcome for LGBTQ+ people in the Lutheran church.

Turn to follow the cross as it passes and leads us to love and service in the world.

God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God!

Prayer Requests: Paul Stum; Pam Hardman; Chris Doak; Alecia Chrin; Justin Schneider; Gerry Meyer; Corky Ronstadt; Mary Neff; Lydia Slipp; and all at home and in care facilities.

Our Extended Community: Friends and Family of Kathy Gregory upon the death of her husband Gary (friends of Ann and Bill DeVinney); Liz (friend of Mary Wildner-Bassett); Sarah (great niece of Donna Lounsbury); Becky (Daughter of Mary Wildner-Bassett); Josh, Mary Ann (friends of Chris and Theda Doak); Megan (niece of Chris and Theda Doak); Jennifer, Sally, and Ashley, Gwen, and Tyler on the passing of their daughter Elora (friends of Kathy DeVinney); Grant and Shirley (brother and sister-in-law of Theda Doak); John (son of Martha Neff Stum and Paul Stum); Daniel (neighbor's son of Gloria Schmidt); Will (nephew of Chris and Theda Doak); Leaticia, Azogan, Sidibe, and Zinsou, (friends of Rachel Starner); Mary Etta (friend of Suzanne Hesh); Rita (friend of John and Judy Indermark); Nancy (friend of Cindy Bales); Brooke and Zander.

Names will generally remain on the list for three weeks, unless requested for renewal. Please contact the church office for corrections, updates, and additions.

OVERVIEW OF TODAY’S SCRIPTURE:

The readings for this twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost delve into the crossroads of competing authorities for the practice of faith and community. Isaiah links Israel’s hope with an unlikely choice by God. The psalm links Creation and community in praise of God’s reign. Paul celebrates the gift of community in one of the New Testament’s first writings. Opponents of Jesus try to trap him with a question in Matthew. Except, Jesus’ answer ensnares them. Even as it leaves the church with an ongoing call to discern our priorities.

THOSE SERVING THIS SUNDAY 10/18/26

- Presiding Minister** Rev. Amalia Vagts
- Assisting Minister** Jennifer Strand
- Communion Assistants** Deacon Wendi Van Beek, Kris Sanchez
- Acolyte** Mary Pflibsen
- Keyboard** Dawn Hartley
- Cantor** Bill DeVinney
- Music** Kent Pflibsen, Asher Havenhill
- Usher** Kathy DeVinney, Patty Sirls
- Greeter** Diane Siefkes
- Cross Bearer** Diane Siefkes
- Coffee Host** Joanna Keyl
- Treats** Suzanne Hesh
- Tech Team** Pflibsen/Bustamante
- Scripture Background** John Indermark

THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY 10/25/2026

- Presiding Minister** Rev. Amalia Vagts
- Assisting Minister** Hildi Williams
- Communion Assistants** Kathy DeVinney, Kris Sanchez
- Acolyte** Jennifer Strand
- Keyboard** Dawn Hartley
- Cantor** Dr. Aysen Millioğullari
- Music** Chancel Choir
- Usher** Asher and Mary Havenhill
- Greeter** Kris Sanchez
- Cross Bearer** Dawn Wyatt
- Coffee Host** Melissa Wyatt
- Treats** Melissa Wyatt
- Tech Team** Pflibsen/Bustamante
- Scripture Background** John Indermark



Newcomers + We're glad you're here. Please fill out the green slip in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. You're welcome to share in Holy Communion.

Families + we have a small play area (pray-ground) up front. The joyful sounds and movements of children in worship are the welcome sounds of children growing in faith. Parents, thank you for doing the hard work of worshipping with children. This congregation is here to support you.

Hearing Assistance + headphones are available to assist in hearing the service. Please contact an usher to get set up with one.

Nametags + Nametags help us get to know and remember each other. Please let the ushers know if you need one made for you.

Expansive Language + As Lutherans, we teach that "God calls all creation into being and gives people language as a way of responding to God and forming community" (Principles for Worship, Principle L-1). In worship at Our Saviour's, we seek to use expansive language for God and people, sometimes changing or offering alternatives to the printed text.

Liturgy + Our sung liturgy is from Setting 10, ELW

Online Offering

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Our Saviour's Council

Patty Sirls - President
Meg Hughes - Vice President
Jennifer Strand - Secretary
Shelly Adrian
Eric Howard

Joanna Keyl
Diane Siefkes
Rachel Starner

Sheila Bustamante - Treasurer



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Sunday Worship

9:00 - Sanctuary
Coffee following

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ministry Team

Rev. Amalia Vagts (ex 1004)

Michele Ruttinger
Parish Administrator

Dr. Aysen Millioğullari
Music Director

Dawn Hartley
Collaborative Musician

Paula Miller
Minister of Community
Engagement

David Zezulka
Facilities Director

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Pastor Jenn Luong
Director

www.lcmuofa.org
520-771-9742 (LCM Office)

Deacon Wendi Van Beek
Deacon of Community
Engagement

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