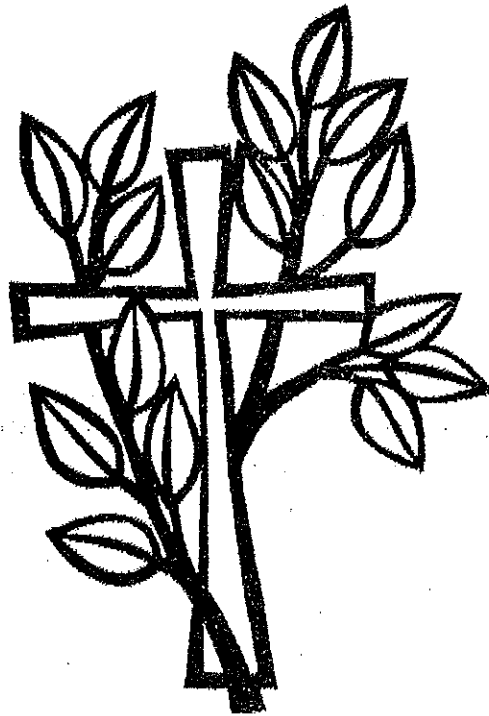


welcome to worship
TIME AFTER PENTECOST
August 30, 2026



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement

5 Wyomissing Boulevard

Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610-2081

610-375-3512 ♦ www.atonementwyo.org

The Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ The Rev. Molly Haggerty ♦ Deacon Tom Yenser, director of music

PRELUDE

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Refrain (all sing): ♪ **Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart.**

I want to see you, I want to see you. Repeat

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love, as we sing holy, holy, holy. Refrain

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess to you all that we have been unable to do for your creation. We have fought with each other, neglected things, looked the other way and hold so much brokenness in our hearts. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. Send the spirit to guide us always to you. In Christ's name we pray, **Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Creator, ☩ Redeemer, and Advocate, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

I Shall Walk in the Presence of God

All sing: ♪ **I shall walk in the presence of God, I shall walk.**

With the sun and the rain upon me I shall walk.

In the land of the living, living land I shall walk.

With my sisters and brothers around me I shall walk.

I shall sing... | I shall pray... | I shall breathe... | I shall dance...

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Miss Lauryn

READING *Romans 12:9-21 (The Message)*

⁹⁻¹⁰ Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

¹¹⁻¹³ Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

²⁰⁻²¹ Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemies hungry, go buy them lunch, or if they're thirsty, get them a drink. Your generosity will surprise them with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Spirit of the Living God*

All sing: ♪ **Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.**

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28 (The Message)

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹⁻²² Then Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was now necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, submit to an ordeal of suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and then on the third day be raised up alive. Peter took him in hand, protesting, "Impossible, Master! That can never be!"
²³ But Jesus didn't swerve. "Peter, get out of my way. Satan, get lost. You have no idea how God works."

²⁴⁻²⁶ Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; *I* am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?

²⁷⁻²⁸ "Don't be in such a hurry to go into business for yourself. Before you know it the Son of Man will arrive with all the splendor of his Father, accompanied by an army of angels. You'll get everything you have coming to you, a personal gift. This isn't pie in the sky by and by. Some of you standing here are going to see it take place, see the Son of Man in kingdom glory."

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

SERMON

Pastor Katie

The assembly stands.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

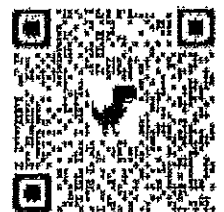
The prayers conclude ... All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

If you brought an offering or your pledge card today, please place it in an offering plate that ushers will pass at this time. Thank you for your generous gifts! Did you know you can give using a credit card? Scan the QR code to the right.



OFFERING HYMN 798

Will You Come and Follow Me – stanzas 1, 2, 5

The assembly stands.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy God, Three-in-One, you alone are holy.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath. **We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water, by night and day, across the wilderness, out of exile, into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

Following the Words of Institution...

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at Atonement. Follow the directions of the ushers to receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice (in purple cups) from the communion assistants. Deposit your empty cup in the basket at the end of the front pew and return to your seat by the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children are welcome to receive communion with their parents' permission.

Please take a moment to sign and pass the attendance pads found in the pews, check in to Atonement on your favorite social media platform, share a photo with your digital community, and say something gentle in the spirit of Jesus!

COMMUNION SONG *The Wonderful Cross*

All sing: ♪ When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Refrain: O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless your name.
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. *Refrain*

COMMUNION SONG *Love and Justice Is Our Call*

Song leader: As we walk the healing road,

All sing: ♪ Love and justice is our call. Love and justice is our joy.
Love and justice is our life together now.

Song leader: Weathering hatred's cruel storms... | Welcome begs a deep repair...
Gladly may we bear the cost... | Though we stumble, still we rise...

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

BLESSING

May the Spirit give you grace never to sell yourself or others short.
Grace to risk something big for something good.
Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love.
So may the Spirit take your mind and think through it.
May the Spirit take your lips and speak through them.
May the Spirit take your hands and do good with them.
May the Spirit take your heart and set it on fire. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

We Will Walk with God (Sizohamba)

♪ We will walk with God, my brothers, we will walk with God.

We will walk with God, my sisters, we will walk with God.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

1. Band alone | 2. All sing | 3. Band alone (in Xhosa) | 4. All sing

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Bring forth the kingdom of God! Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Assisting with Worship

MaryLou Hall, greeter ♦ Daral Woerle, head usher

Jan Knudsen, lector ♦ Tim McGuirk, assisting minister

Mick Bryan, Tom Endy, sound booth

Joanne Gabel, Patty Lehr, Diane Melcher, Cara Pepper, communion assistants

Linda Lord, altar captain ♦ Dami Johnson-Agiri, sexton

Atonement Praise Band

THE ATONEMENT STEWARDSHIP TEAM will be set up in the narthex after worship today.

Stop by the table to see how you can REACH OUT with us this fall!

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WARMEST WELCOME to this congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! We are a Lutheran church, but we're not just for Lutherans—we belong to our community.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Barbara L. Radcliffe, who died earlier this month.

CHILDREN are very welcome at Atonement! Activity bags and children's bulletins are available with the ushers. The nursery will not be staffed for the summer, but the PRIVACY ROOM at the back of the church is available for families who would like a little extra wiggles room.

CHURCH NURSERY will return for 10:00am worship on Sunday, September 13.

RESTROOMS are located in the hall next to the worship space. A FAMILY RESTROOM with a changing table is also located in the Privacy Room at the back of the worship space.

DONATING TO THE COMMUNITY AID THRIFT SHOP can benefit Common Ground. Use the code **50244** when you make a donation.

FOOD DONATIONS of canned goods, cereal, and other non-perishable, non-expired items for Lutheran Pantry are always accepted in the grocery cart in the narthex.

COMMON GROUND DONATIONS of clothing and toiletries are always welcome! Items can be placed in the large bin next to the coatroom in the narthex.

PRESCHOOL still has openings in the Tuesday/Thursday 3-year-old class. Contact Jen Dauber at jdauber@atonementwyo.org for information.

OUR LANDSCAPING TEAM is looking for new members! Contact John Lehr for details at 610-304-6818 or johnt.lehr@gmail.com.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION continues throughout the summer at 9am in room F122.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION will resume Sunday, September 20, at 8:45 in the choir room.

ATONEMENT VOLUNTEERS SERVE AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE the third Saturday of every month. Contact Bob Eisenbrown at 484-332-8788 if you would like to join the team.

ISAAC'S FUNDRAISER FOR FAMILY PROMISE is Monday, August 31. Follow the directions on the flyer (available in the narthex and online at atonementwyo.org/volunteer-1) and Isaac's will donate 15% of dine-in, take-out, and catering orders to Family Promise of Berks County.

CROP HUNGER WALK is October 11 – join team Atonement as we take steps to fight hunger in our own community. We are also accepting donations through Sunday, October 26. Make your check payable to "Atonement" with "CROP Walk" in the memo or notes field for online donations.

PRESCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY CARNIVAL will be after worship September 13. Everyone is invited to join us for food, games and prizes, music, and face painting.

SUMMER CHOIR sings in worship for the last time this year next week, September 6. Older children, youth, and adults are all welcome to join us for rehearsal in the nave at 9:00am.

OFFERING HYMN 798

Will You Come and Follow Me – stanzas 1, 2, 5

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



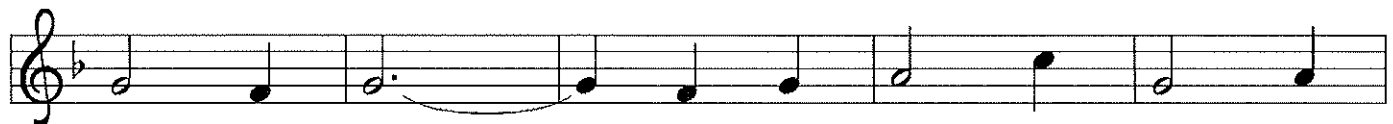
your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.