

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

***Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026***



A Service of the Word

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Website Address:
www.holyspiritsecane.org
Church Email:
Holyspiritsecane@verizon.net
Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9am – 2pm

To all who are tired and need rest; to all who mourn, and need comfort; to all who are friendless and need friendship; to all who are homeless, and need sheltering love; to all who pray, and to all who do not pray; to all who sin and need a Savior; to whomsoever will, this church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ, says Welcome!

Welcome to Holy Spirit! Thank you for joining us today to worship the Living God! Through prayer, music, the proclamation of God's word and the sharing of a meal together we offer praise to God! Please come again and invite others to come with you. You are always welcome here at Holy Spirit!

We welcome the participation of all in worship. This worship bulletin is inclusive and contains the order of worship and all music you will need to participate. We sit and stand where indicated (*) in reverence to God; do what is comfortable for you. The people respond where indicated in **boldface** type.

A: Worship Assistant C: Congregation P: Presider

If you are having difficulty reading the bulletin, we have enlarged print bulletins available. Please ask the usher.

Visitors, please fill out a communion card and place in the offering plate.

Members, please fill out a communion card at least once per month and place in the offering plate.

OUR MISSION
“KNOW CHRIST! GROW! SPREAD GOD’S LOVE!”

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ GATHERING +

(Please stand as you are able)

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

P: In the name of the ✝ Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of life.
Amen.

P: Let us recite together the Great Commandment.

Jesus said,

C: “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

P: 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.

Most merciful God,

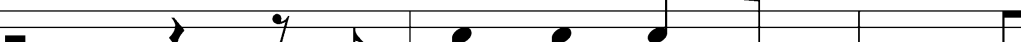
C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus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

C: Amen.

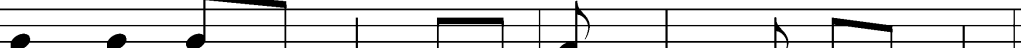
Refrain

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the
 2 That we may live out your im -
 3 For peace in our hearts, for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you



health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;
 passionate re - sponse to the hun - gry and the poor;
 peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly;
 cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word;

(Cont'd)



for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
 that we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
 for life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
 that you nour - ish our souls . . . with your bo - dy and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Text and music: Larry Olson

Text and music © 1989 Dakota Road Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.

C: **Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

(Please be seated)

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will

require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand, as you are able)

Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story

(ELW 661)

I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.

(Cont'd)



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



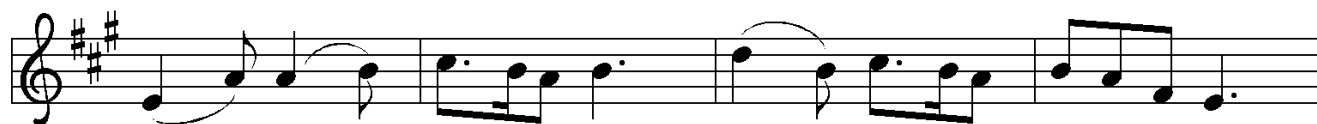
I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



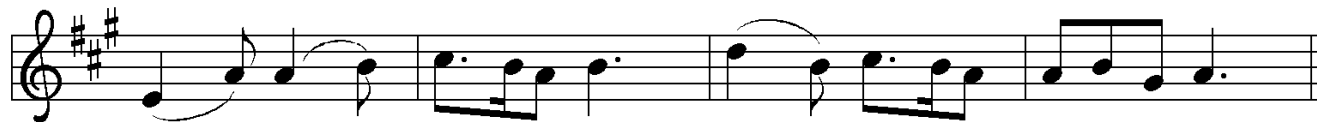
to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(ELW 174)



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL:** *Matthew 18:15-20*

P: The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person

refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: This is the Good News of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

GOSPEL MESSAGE **Called to Community**

Meghan Gordon

Jesus says, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matt. 18:20). In these Sundays after Pentecost, we are repeatedly reminded that God has not abandoned us and that Christ’s resurrection and ascension are a beginning for us, not an end. The readings this week focus on the practical work of the gathered Christian community: turning from sin to repentance, from conflict to reconciliation. The question is as relevant today as it was for the disciples and the first Christians: How do we live together, work together, as the body of Christ? We have been saved by grace, liberated by God’s love to love one another. What does it mean for us and for our community to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 13:14) and to clothe ourselves in love?

We keep asking these questions because the way we gather as Christians continues to be profoundly countercultural. We do not gather as a social club, drawn and kept together only by shared demographics and interests. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to continue to gather if conflict arises, if uncomfortable issues are raised, or if “the way it’s always been” begins to change. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to do the hard work of reconciliation and forgiveness.

God calls us into community knowing that being in community is hard. In scripture we can find practical guidance for gathering through good and

hard times. The Holy Spirit is always at work—in, through, and among us—to gather and regather us again. In community we meet and become Christ's body in ways that are impossible for us as individuals; all the commandments are fulfilled in this call to neighbor-love (Rom. 13:9).

(Please stand as you are able)

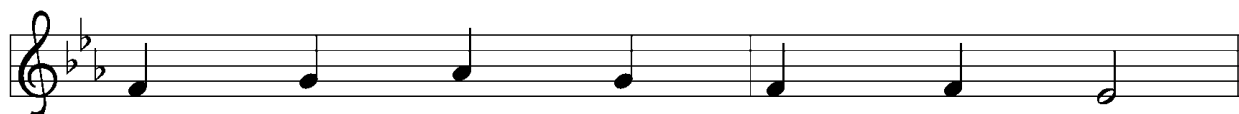
***HYMN OF THE DAY: God, When Human Bonds are Broken**



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
 2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
 3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
 4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
 5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
 world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
 seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
 in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:
 be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
 all the fail - ures we con - fess.
 set us free and grant us peace.
 make us stron - ger, give us faith.
 God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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***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.**

(Please remain standing)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(response after: Hear us, O God)

C: Your mercy is great.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, 'Peace be with you'.

“LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH”

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Parent, siblings all are we
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow,
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*

(Please be seated)

OFFERING:

A: We worship through our tithes and offering. Now let us joyfully respond to God's goodness, through our personal giving.

It is only through your giving that the ministry and mission of Holy Spirit continues. Many people give electronically and we thank all growing disciples in advance for their generous giving. Offerings can also be dropped in the mailbox or mailed in.

***OFFERING HYMN: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (ELW 836)**



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

A: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
 All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.

C: Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in
 love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

(Please stand as you are able.)

*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P: Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher,
 your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word.
 All that has life and breath praises your name.

For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God.

C: We thank you, O God.

You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry,
 preached your mercy, and called us to faith.

For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word,
that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption,
and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world.
For your Word in our lives, we entreat you, O God.
We entreat you, O God.

Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer,
for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold 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.**

+ SENDING +

***BLESSING**

P: Please bow your heads. *(Pause)*

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: Go My Children (ELW 543)**



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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DISMISSAL

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

Aug's Income: \$ 13,407

Aug's Expense: \$ 11,376 Average Attendance: 21

MINISTERS – ALL BAPTIZED PEOPLE OF GOD**Scheduled to serve 9/6**

Meghan G. – Assisting Minister

Gary P. – Ushers

Crepacks – Counters

Meghan G. – Altar

Scheduled to serve 9/13

Greg C. – Assisting Minister

Alan S./Alan D. – Ushers

Christensen – Counter

Meghan G. – Altar

*******WEEKLY CALENDAR*******

Mon, Sep 7

Labor Day – Office Closed

Tue, Sep 8

7:00pm – Council Mtg (Mtg Rm)

Wed, Sep 9

7:30pm – AA (Hall)

Thu, Sep 10

7:00pm – AA (Hall)

8:00pm – AA (Mtg Rm)

Sat, Sep 12

10:00am – AA (Hall)

11:00am – DA (Mtg Rm)

Sun, Sep 13

10:15am – Worship

Church Picnic

12:30pm – Song of Praise

*******PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS*******

Healing:

*Annie Berner
Eileen Maloney
Lisa McDonough
Hugh Mullarkey
Lois Saunders
Betty Lake
Anne Rainsford
Dolores Maurer
Marie Schall
Jack Bierling
Joan & Harry Chaykun
Nikki Miller
Shirley May
Cookie Heaps
RoseMarie D'Aprile
Donna D'Agostino*

*Jackie Bernduer White
Jackie Dewitt
Maureen Colahan
John Turner
Nick Img
Sue Thomas
Jean Cilurso
Phyllis Horton
Lou Vallies
Linda Martin
Bill McVian
Suzie Thomas
Scott Ferguson
Johnathan Igoe
Sonya Baxter
Stephen Colahan*

(If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please call the office)

Also please remember in your prayers homebound members: Ruth Dell'Orefice, Jane Croghan, Diane Kuhn, Hank Kuhn, Janet Kline, and Bob Kerns.

Men & women in our armed forces, firefighters, police officers and emergency services personnel.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

COUNCIL MEETING – September 8 at 7:00 in the Meeting Room.

CHURCH PICNIC—Sunday, September 13th after church. Following service, we will enjoy a picnic. Please bring a side dish to feed 8-10 people. Sign-up sheet is on the table outside the office.

NURSERY SCHOOL ORIENTATION – Monday, September 14th starting at 6:15pm. First day of Day School is **Wednesday, September 16th**. Everyone is looking forward to a new school year!

COFFEE HOUR–Sep 20 after service sponsored by Shawn, Denis and Alan Dadonna.

BOTTLE CAPS - Plastic caps of any sort are now being collected and shipped to a manufacturer to make Buddy Benches for schools so children can connect and share in friendship together. On behalf of those who will benefit from your donations, thank you.

ALTAR – We are in need of volunteers for October and November to set up and take down altar each week. Can you volunteer for a week? Please see sign up list on bulletin board in front of office.

ALTAR FLOWERS - THANK YOU everyone who signed up to sponsor altar flowers throughout the year. Please take a dedication form when you sign up and return to office. **Flowers are \$20 per vase.**

BULLETIN COVERS – There is a sponsor sign-up sheet to sponsor special bulletin covers for special occasions. The cost is \$15.00. Please see sign-up sheet outside the office.



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church and Nursery School
2545 Franklin Avenue, Secane, PA 19018
Office: 610-544-2707

OUR STAFF

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Pastor – The Rev. Christopher Drummond

Director of Music – Samuel Stevenson

Office Secretary – Jeanne Warner

Holy Spirit Nursery School

Pre-K Teacher – Nancy Harris

Teaching Assistant – Colleen Hall

Pre-School & MMO Teacher – Shelly Avila

Teaching Assistant – Michelle Brackin