

THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY, August 9, 2026 10:00AM

REGULAR PRINT = PRESIDING MINISTER OR ASSISTING MINISTER

BOLD PRINT = CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES

✠ = AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE, THE SIGN OF THE CROSS MAY BE
MADE BY ALL IN REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR BAPTISM

*The red EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP service book and hymnal is used for the
liturgy.*

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(We Stand)

*Words to be spoken or sung by the assembly are indicated in **bold type**.*

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 our sins.

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.

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,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God’s love.
Amen.

Call to Worship:

Praise be to God,
who rescues us from the power of darkness;
who redeems us, and sets us free!
Praise be to Jesus Christ, the first born of all creation,
through whom all things were made,
in heaven and on the earth.
Praise be to the Spirit of God,
whose presence sustains us,
and whose breath renews all creation.
Behold! I am making all things new!
Come, O God, and make your home among us.
Pour out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

GATHERING HYMN

Joys Are Flowing like a River

(Blessed Quietness)

Manie Payne Ferguson, 1850-1932

W. S. Marshall, 1897



1. Joys are flow-ing like a riv - er, since the Com - fort - er has come;
2. Bring-ing life and health and glad - ness all a - round this heav'n - ly guest
3. Like the rain that falls from heav - en, like the sun - light from the sky,
4. See, a fruit-ful field is grow - ing, bless-ed fruit of righ-teous - ness;
5. What a won-der - ful sal - va - tion, where we al - ways see His face!



He a - bides with us for - ev - er, makes the trust-ing heart His home.
Ban-ish'd un - be - lief and sad - ness, chang'd our wear - i - ness to rest.
So the Ho - ly Ghost is giv - en, com - ing on us from on high.
And the streams of life are flow - ing in the lone - ly wild-er - ness.
What a per - fect hab - i - ta - tion, what a qui - et rest-ing place!



Bless ed qui et ness, ho - ly qui - et-ness-- What as - sur - ance in my soul!



On the storm - y sea, He speaks peace to me-- How the bil - lows cease to roll!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

II Corinthians 13: 13

And also with you.

LITANY OF WELCOME

God has shown us what is good, and what then is required of us?
**To act justly; to love mercy;
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Micah 6: 8

Jesus says, "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me,
and anyone who welcomes me
welcomes the One who sent me."

Matthew 10: 40

The Spirit says, "Come."

**Let each one who hears the Spirit say, "Come,"
for all are welcome here.**

Revelation 22: 17

In this service, let us draw near to our Reconciling Redeemer,
who knows our hearts and is able to mend our souls,
to strengthen and sustain us,
to reconcile our broken relationships and heal our wounds.

Let us worship God now

**With words that proclaim God's inclusive love,
With works that bring forth God's powerful justice,
And with worship that rejoices in God's wondrous presence,
Now and always,
Amen!**

Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs



1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
 "Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"
 and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
 of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: NUN DANKET ALL, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

Children's Message

Pastor Steven

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and psalm.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

A reading from 1 Kings.

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13

Read responsively

- ⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
- ⁹ **Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**
- ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- ¹¹ **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**
- ¹² The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³ **Righteousness will go before him
and will make a path for his steps.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

A reading from Romans.

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Lord and Savior



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.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³² When

they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Steven

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW#759 (Red book)

My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

The service then continues with the affirmation of faith.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

**We believe in you, O God, who spoke all life into being,
author of heaven and earth, architect of time,
quilter of the cosmos.**

**You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground,
and by your breath we are given life.**

**We believe in you, O God, who became incarnate in Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh, truly divine and truly human.**

**You lived among us to reveal your justice,
died among us to break the bonds of sin and death,
and were raised among us to bring abundant life.**

**We believe in you, O God, who transforms us by the Holy Spirit,
draws us into community, moves us to action,
and inspires us to hope against hope.**

**You breathe new life into a fallen world
and equip us to proclaim the Good News of resurrecting love.**

**All thanks and praise to you, O God,
our beginning and our end. Amen.**

The service then continues with the prayers of intercession.

Prayers of the Church and Response

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call, an-swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come, and lis-ten to me.' The chords indicated above the notes are: Em, Em/D, Am/C, D, G/B, C, Am, B in the first system, and Em, Em/D, Am/C, D, Em/G, Am7, B, Em in the second system.

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silent

We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness. For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work. Merciful God,

O Lord, hear my prayer...

For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger. For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer. For this congregation and its ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide council members, elders, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice. Merciful God,

O Lord, hear my prayer...

We lift up before you, O God, the members of our human family around the world—for those who are afflicted or suffering at this time—for those who need healing, for those who require bread or shelter, for those who live in violent homes and communities, for those who are grieving, and for those whose needs are known to you alone, especially those we remember silently or in our hearts with voice upon our lips (*pause*) Nancy Beaver, Ava Jarvis (*granddaughter of Marc & Jill Mann*) David Cossey (*stepfather of Ben Bullock*); Maria Gallego (*mother of Pastor Steven*); Tiffanie Reeves; Joe Black (*father of Lynn Black*); Bill Black (*brother of Lynn Black*); Sharon Baldwin; Tracy Hamiter; Connie Pool; Emmy Reeves; Bobbie Prosser; Sarah Trani; Jeff Harrell; James Deckle; Sharon May (*wife of Peggy Thompson*). Merciful God,

O Lord, hear my prayer...

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

The assembly remains standing for sharing the Peace.

PEACE

ELW pg. 106

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you!

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,

"Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

The OFFERING & OFFERTORY

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offertory Anthem

"Guide My Feet"

Choir

DOXOLOGY

Praise God the Father, Christ the Son

Irish traditional

Louis Bourgeois, 1539

Praise God the Fa-ther, Christ the Son, And Ho-ly Spir-it, Three - in One;

God's love pro-claim from shore to shore, For - ev-er and for - ev-er-more. A-men.

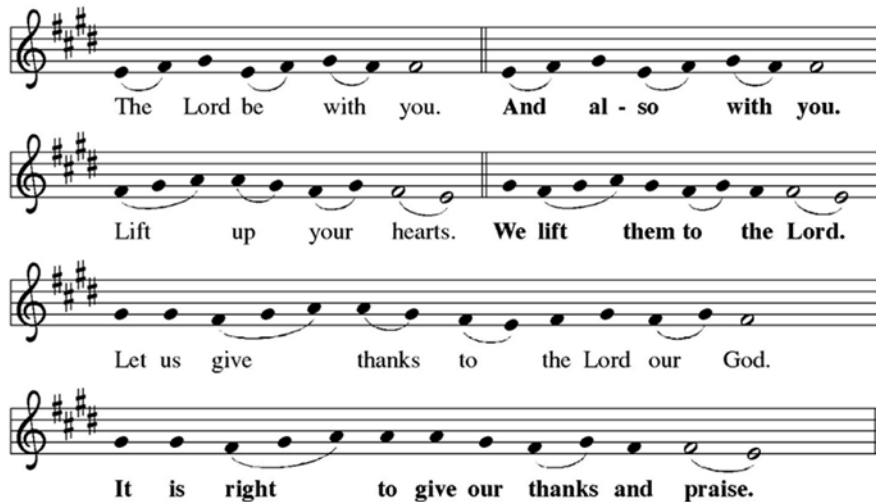
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE and SANCTUS

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.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out the fire of your Spirit,
uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n 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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
 Your mercy is everlasting
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
 Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
 to the land of milk and honey.
 Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
 Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
 Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.



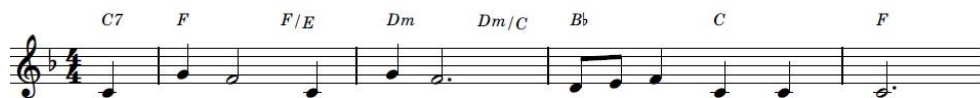
Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.



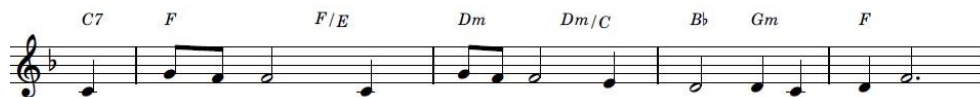
A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your name;



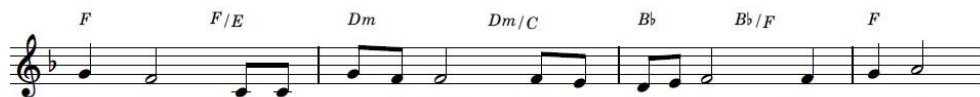
Your king-dom come, Your will be done on earth as in heav-en.



Give us this day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins



as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.



Save us from the time of trial and de - liv-er us from e - vil,



for the king-dom, the pow'r, and the glo-ry are yours, now and for - ev - er.

LAMB OF GOD



- 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.

THE COMMUNION OF THE BELOVED

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WORSHIP IS THIS SHARED MEAL

ALL ARE WELCOME to join us as members of God's family in Christ, as we share in this powerful gift of God's love and grace for the whole human family. We gather around the altar, kneeling or standing, wherever there is a place. The presiding minister offers wheaten wafers but can provide a gluten free wafer by request.

The assisting minister offers individual cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) for you to choose. The church also affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone. If you prefer to commune in your pew with a prepackaged communion set, please alert an usher.

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus, Lamb of God



The assembly stands and the presiding minister says a table blessing.

THE TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
 last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

DISMISSAL

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Alicia Jarvis Food Pantry

Help stock the **Alicia Jarvis Food Pantry** by bringing canned goods and placing them on the counter near the church office. Your donations help provide food for neighbors in need. If you have questions, please see **Pastor Steven**.

Dungeons & Dragons

Join us for **Dungeons & Dragons** on **August 19 at 6:00 PM** in the **Reformation Fellowship Hall**. All experience levels are welcome!

Hospitality Volunteers Needed

Reformation will serve as a polling location for the **August 11 Republican Primary** and the **November 2 General Election**. Through our Kindness Team, we'll provide coffee, snacks, and a welcoming presence for voters throughout the day.

Gloria Preslar is recruiting volunteers to serve as hosts in **2-hour shifts**, and **Pastor Steven** is seeking donations of individually wrapped snacks. If you can volunteer or donate, please let Gloria or Pastor Steven know.

Keep Your Contact Information Up to Date

Help us stay connected! Please use the form in today's bulletin to update your contact information for everyone in your household. Complete the form at the beginning of worship and place it in the offering plate. If you've never submitted your information, please don't assume we have it. Keeping our records current helps us better serve and include you and your family.

Reformation T-Shirts Available

There are only **9 Reformation Lutheran Church crew neck T-shirts** remaining:

- 1 Small
- 1 Medium
- 1 Large
- 6 X-Large

Shirts are **\$26 each**. Contact **Dot Jeffcoat** or **Lynn Black** to purchase yours while supplies last.

Kindness Team Volunteers Needed

The Kindness Team is looking for volunteers to help with several upcoming outreach and hospitality projects. Sign up using the form in today's bulletin or the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming opportunities include:

- **August 11** – Hospitality at the Poll
- **October 4** – Blessing of the Animals
- **October 25** – 100th Anniversary Celebration
- **October 31** – Trunk or Treat
- **November 2** – Hospitality at the Poll
- **November 22 & 29** – Advent/Christmas Decorating
- **December 2–4** – *Sights and Sounds* Setup (as needed)
- **December 5–6** – *Sights and Sounds* Event

For more information, contact **Dot Jeffcoat (Chair)** or any Kindness Team member: Lynn Black, Frosty Lohr, Clay Carlisle, Peg Thompson, Matt Haigh, Valorie & Alana Denys, or Cassandra Avant.

Next Kindness Team Meeting: Sunday, **August 30**, immediately following worship.

Save the Date: 100th Anniversary Celebration

Join us on **Sunday, October 25, 2026**, as Reformation Lutheran Church celebrates **100 years of ministry** with the theme:

A Future With Roots

Planning is underway, and we're working to invite former rostered leaders, their families, synod staff, former congregational staff, and seminary interns who have been part of Reformation's history.

If you have contact information for anyone who should receive an invitation, please share it with **Dot Jeffcoat** at **dotjeffcoat@aol.com**.

Interested in helping plan this milestone celebration? Contact Dot Jeffcoat or join the next planning meeting on **Sunday, August 30**, immediately following worship.

Back-to-School Supply Drive

Help us support local students by donating school supplies! We are collecting notebooks, crayons, colored pencils, mechanical pencils, pens, pencil cases, backpacks, glue sticks, rulers, and folders. Thank you for helping children start the school year prepared and ready to learn!

Backpack Blessing

We are having our backpack blessing on **August 9th**. Anyone who is involved in teaching people and those who are in school are welcome to bring their bags for a blessing.

Church Outing

We will be having a church outing at Sesquicentennial State Park on **September 12th @ 10 am**.

Meals

Many folks have asked for cooking opportunities. The Harriett Hancock Center hosts Youth OUTLOUD for LGBTQ+ youth in grades 6-12. Middle school meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 5-7pm and the high school meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 6-8pm. They provide meals and are looking for folks who would like to provide meals by cooking or purchasing the food. If this is something that you are interested in, please let pastor Steven know.

Hospitality at Reformation

We will be a voting sight for the August 11th special republican primary. If you would like to provide some snacks and coffee, please let pastor Steven know.

WORKING CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS – watch announcements for details

August

- 9 Blessing of Back Packs
- 30 5th Sunday: Welcome/New Members (Kindness team)

September

- 6 ELCA God's Work Our Hands Sunday (pending)
- 7 Labor Day
- Back to Church Sunday (pending)

October

- 4 Blessing of Animals (Kindness team)
- 16-17 SC PRIDE/PRIDE Sunday
- 24 Installation of Rev Wade Roof as new SC Synod Bishop
- 25 Reformation Sunday: 100th Anniversary Event (Anniversary/Kindness Team)
- 31 Halloween: Trunk or Treat (Kindness team)

November

Thanksgiving Service Projects (pending)

- 1 All Saint's Day – Daylight Savings Ends
- 2 Election Day Polls at RLC: Hospitality by Member Hosts (Kindness team)
- 8 Annual Meeting of the Congregation as set by Constitution
- 11 Veterans Day
- 22 Christ the King Sunday (Begin Advent decorations after church)
- 26 Thanksgiving Day
- 29 5th Sunday: Welcome/New Members –Advent Begins (continue decorating)

December

Holiday Service Projects (pending)

- 1-4 Set up week for Sights and Sounds
- 3 Nativity Set Displays set up by those sharing sets for display
- 5-6 Sights and Sounds Event for Community (Kindness team)
- 21 Longest Night/Blue Christmas Worship
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship
- 27 Lessons and Carols

Activity Chairs and Coordinators note bulletin deadline is Mondays at noon. If you have announcements, please send to the church office prior to that time to be included. Be sure to include the basics: who, what, when, where, why. Information with details helps as many as possible to be involved in our ministry and activities.

Keep Your Church Contact Information Up-to-Date

Report new information below, tear out form and put it in the offering plate.

Name(s)

Current Mailing Address

Name	Current email	Current Phone

We would like to be involved in planning and leading Reformation activities:

____ Kindness Tm (outreach)	____ Justice Tm (service)	____ Humbly Team (worship)
____ Blessing of Animals	____ Service/Season Projects	____ Worship leader
____ Trunk or Treat	____ SC PRIDE	____ VBS Event
____ Sights and Sounds	____ Safe Space	____ Clean up/work days
____ Poll Host in 2 hr shifts	____ 100 th Anniv. --Oct	Other: _____

Weekly Offering is One Way to Give Thanks to God

One of the ways we can say thanks for the presence of God in our lives and the blessings and gifts we receive daily is to make our tithe to the ministry of Reformation Church. Give each week by cash or check in the offering plate, by regular online contributions, use the web site or venmo or paypal.

Reformation Shirt Project has been a success.

Thanks to all of you who have supported this. We ordered 109 and have distributed 100 to at least 75 persons. There are 9 crew neck shirts left: 1 small, 1 medium, 1 large, and 6 extra large. If you want one of the remaining shirts, cost is \$26. Contact Dot Jeffcoat

How to stay up to date with what is happening at Reformation

The weekly bulletin announcements provide important information for the life of the congregation and its activities. Take time on Sunday to check them out and mark important dates. If you are not in church, did you know you can check the bulletin on line. It is posted each week on our web site for use by our online worshippers. Check it out at <https://reformationcae.org>. Find Sunday Worship Service and download bulletin. It's all there. Also watch for special announcements and weekly emails of "Happenings" for more details. You can sign up on line or contact the church office to be added to the two email groups – RLC Google Group for members and Constant Contact Group for Members and Friends.

REFORMATION LUTHERAN IS AN INCLUSIVE, LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING congregation



that believes Christ calls us to serve others with joy. Safe Space Dinners, a ministry for homeless LGBTQIA+ youth, including people of color. The ministry is simple. On the second and fourth Thursday of each month, these youth (14-23 years old) are offered a safe space and time to gather for a time to rest and recharge, a home-cooked meal, a haircut, and a backpack of items they will find helpful in their day-to-day life. There are always a number of games to play, including video games. Sometimes we have entertainment from the community. There is no preaching, no conversion therapy attempts; only support and comfort. This is a ministry of giving – nothing more.

Do Justice:

Below is information on ways to contact your elected officials to voice your opinion on issues.

SOUTH CAROLINA ISSUES

SC state legislative issues: SC Womens' Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN) keeps you informed about legislation that affects women's rights in the state. The American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina is broader in scope and addresses all legislation affecting civil liberties. Both sites have an "Action" section which allows one to sign petitions and call or write state officials regarding issues. Each organization also provides talking points for calls and letters; prewritten letters which can be modified are also provided. It's easy to identify your legislators on both websites.

The URLs below take you to the action section of each organization:

scwren.org/act-now
aclusc.org/actions

NATIONAL ISSUES

A popular national website for letters and petitions is resistbot. It provides an easy way to write or petition both federal and state legislators. Choose from a variety of already written letters and petitions, or write your own. Emailing officials is free with the service, or you can buy "coins" to either fax or send your correspondence via first class mail.

The URL is below:

resist.bot/petitions

If you prefer to call your federal legislators, 5Calls provides the names and phone numbers of your Congressperson and Senators, and scripts for a variety of national issues that you can use when calling them. It also provides additional talking points for each issue so that you can customize your message.

The URL is below:

5calls.org

Ask the Pastor

Have a question about the Christian faith, worship, Scripture, or life?

Pastor Steven welcomes your questions—anonymously!

Wondering why we celebrate Holy Communion? Curious about the meaning of the hanging cross in our sanctuary? Have questions about theology, marriage, Lutheran beliefs, prayer, baptism, or other topics of faith?

Simply write your question on the blank sheet provided in the back of this bulletin, or pick up an "Ask the Pastor" form from the table in the Narthex.

Place your question in the offering plate during worship. Questions may be submitted anonymously.

Listen for additional details and answers from Pastor Steven through future newsletters, educational forums, classes, and church communications.

No question is too simple or too complex. We invite you to ask, learn, and grow in faith together.

ASK YOUR QUESTION