

THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY, September 13, 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.

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

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 Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through 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: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13

Read responsively

- ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.
- ² **Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—**
- ³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ **who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**
- ⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶ **The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
- ⁸ **The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

**¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

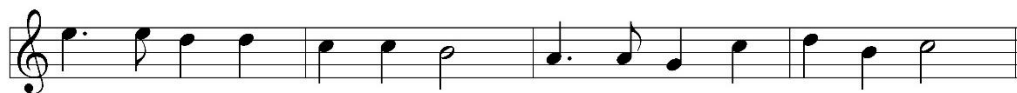
Alleluia! Lord and Savior



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 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’

³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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#608 (Red book)

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!”
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

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

Cares Chorus

Rusty Edwards, 1997

from *Worship and Praise #27*

North American traditional

C G/B Am Cmaj7/G F

I cast all my cares up-on you; I lay all of my

C/E Dm Gsus G C G/B

bur-dens down at your feet. And an-y-time that I don't know

C/B $\flat$ F/A Fm/A $\flat$ Csus2/G G7sus G7 F/C C

what to do, I will cast all my cares up-on you.

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

I cast all my cares...

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need. Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

I cast all my cares...

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*) Lisa Gardener, Frosty Lohr, Micaela (*niece of Peggy Thompson*); Sharon May (*wife of Peggy Thompson*) Larry Harden, 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;. Merciful God,

I cast all my cares...

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Choir

ELW#605 (Red book)

DOXOLOGY

From All that Dwell Below the Skies

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Louis Bourgeois, ca. 1510-1561

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. The melody is primarily in the right hand, with a simple harmonic accompaniment in the left hand. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

From all that dwell be - low the skies, Let the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise!

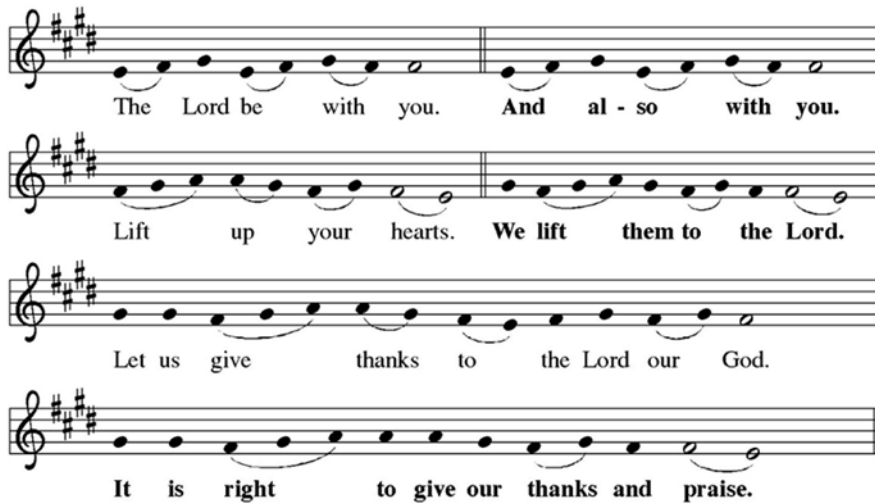
Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung Thru' ev - ery land in ev - ery tongue! A - men.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord's Prayer

C7 F F/E Dm Dm/C Bb C F

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

C7 F F/E Dm Dm/C Bb Gm F

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

Bb Am Gm Dm Gm C

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

Eb Dm Bb Gm C7

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

F F/E Dm Dm/C Bb Bb/F F

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

Bb Am Gm F Eb Dm Gm C7 F Bb Gm F

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.

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

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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.

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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

DISMISSAL

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Beginning September 16, Wednesday Morning Bible Study will meet at **10:00 a.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.**

Come for a time of Bible study, conversation, and fellowship as we grow together in God's Word. All are welcome.

Discipleship Wednesday

Beginning in September, **Discipleship Wednesday** will be held at **6:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month.**

Our first topic will be **"You Do Not Need Perfect Faith."** Join us as we explore what it means to follow Christ, grow in faith, and trust God even when our faith does not feel perfect. All are welcome to come, learn, and grow together.

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 September 16 at 6:00 PM in the Reformation Fellowship Hall. All experience levels are welcome!

Reformation T-Shirts Available

Only eight Reformation crew neck T-shirts remain! Available sizes are Small, Medium, and X-Large. Shirts are \$26 each. Contact Dot Jeffcoat or Lynn Black to purchase yours while supplies last.

Volunteers Are Always Needed

Ministry at Reformation happens because members generously share their time, talents, interests, and passions. Opportunities to serve include worship, Christian education, the Justice Team, SafeSpace, the Kindness Team, outreach, stewardship, communications, fellowship, property, finance, archives, and more.

Interested in getting involved? Speak with a ministry team leader or the pastor, or update your information form so we can help connect you with an opportunity to serve.

Stay Up to Date

Stay connected with what is happening at Reformation! Watch for the pastor's weekly "Happenings" and church news through our Google Group and Constant Contact communications. Contact the church office if you would like to be added. Weekly bulletins and announcements are also available at reformationcae.org.

Support the Ministry of Reformation

Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of Reformation Lutheran Church. Gifts may be placed in the offering plate by check or cash or given through our online giving options.

Blessing of the Animals | October 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Bring your beloved pets and invite your friends and neighbors to Reformation's Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 p.m. on the church lawn. Hosted by the Kindness Team, this special community event is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the animals that bring companionship, joy, and love into our lives. Each pet will receive a certificate along with a special blessing. We may even have a special guest pet! All are welcome. To help with the event, contact Matt Haigh, Lynn Black, or Dot Jeffcoat.

Blood Drive | October 8

Save the date for Reformation's Blood Drive on Thursday, October 8 in the Fellowship Hall. Watch for additional information as the date approaches.

SC Pride | October 16–18

Save the dates for SC Pride, October 16–18. Watch for additional information about opportunities to participate.

Installation of Bishop Wade Roof | October 24 at 10:00 a.m.

Save the date for the installation of Bishop Wade Roof on Saturday, October 24 at 10:00 a.m. Additional information will be shared as the date approaches.

Anniversary Closing Celebration | October 25

Join us as we conclude Reformation's anniversary celebration and turn our attention from looking back to looking forward under the theme **"A Future With Roots."**

Rostered leaders and their families, along with staff members who have helped shape Reformation through the years, will be invited to attend and participate in a special leadership procession. The day will include worship, a covered-dish meal with meat provided, and special recognitions during

lunch. Want to help with this celebration? Join the planning team Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Trunk or Treat | October 31

Trunk or Treat is one of Reformation's biggest opportunities to welcome our community! In recent years, 250–300 neighbors have joined us for decorated trunks, candy, food, fellowship, and hospitality. There are several ways to participate. Decorate a trunk and bring candy, donate candy for the church tent or booth, or come help us welcome our neighbors. The church will provide hot dogs and chips, and we plan to continue our reputation for having “the best candy!” Watch for additional details from the Kindness Team.

Hospitality at the Poll | November 2

Reformation continues its commitment to radical hospitality by welcoming our neighbors with a friendly presence, cookies, and coffee while the polls are open in our Fellowship Hall on Monday, November 2. Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Gloria Preslar is coordinating the volunteer schedule. If you can serve during one of the shifts, please contact Gloria.

Narcan Presentation | November 8

Reformation will host an educational Narcan presentation on Sunday, November 8. The presentation will provide important information about Narcan and its role in responding to an opioid overdose. Additional details, including the presentation time, will be shared as they become available.

Scheduled Meetings

September 20

Congregation Council Meeting following worship

September 27

Kindness Team Meeting following worship

All are welcome.

September 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Anniversary Team Meeting

All are welcome.

November 8

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

WORKING CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS – see details in announcements

Bulletin Deadline is Mondays at noon. If you have announcements, please send to the church office prior to the deadline. Include basic information: Who, what, when, where, why. Details help people get involved.

September

13 Rally Day

October

4 Blessing of Animals (Kindness team)

8 Blood Drive

10 Murder Mystery Event

16-18 SC PRIDE and 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

8 Narcan Presentation

11 Veterans Day

22 Christ the King Sunday (Begin Advent decorations after church on Nov 22 & 29)

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

ADD or KEEP YOUR CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE
Complete any new information below, tear it out and put it in the offering plate. If you are not receiving information, it may be because we do not have contact information.

Name(s) _____
Current Mailing Address _____

Name	Current email	Current Phone

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

Kindness Team (outreach	Justice Team (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 Anniversary--Oct	Other:

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