

THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
SUNDAY, September 20, 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.

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um-phiant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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...

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity 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: Jonah 3:10—4:11

A reading from Jonah.

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

Read responsively

¹ I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴ **One generation shall extol your works to another
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

- ⁵ They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works I will meditate.
- ⁶ **They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.**
- ⁷ They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- ⁸ **The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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.

Lead Me, Guide Me

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Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;

for if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
 2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
 3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
 be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
 I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
 I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
 Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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 3

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/Bb F/A Fm/Ab 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

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

I cast all my cares...

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need. Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors 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

Acceptable to Thee, by Eli Wilson

Choir

DOXOLOGY

From All that Dwell Below the Skies

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Louis Bourgeois, ca. 1510-1561

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The bass line begins with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, and a quarter note C3. The lyrics 'From all that dwell be - low the skies, Let the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise!' are written below the treble staff. The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff continues the melody with a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F#5, and a quarter note G5. The bass staff continues the bass line with a quarter note D2, a quarter note E2, a quarter note F#2, and a quarter note G2. The lyrics 'Let the Re-deem-er's name be sung Thru' ev-ery land in ev-ery tongue! A-men.' are written below the treble staff. The score ends with a double bar line.

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

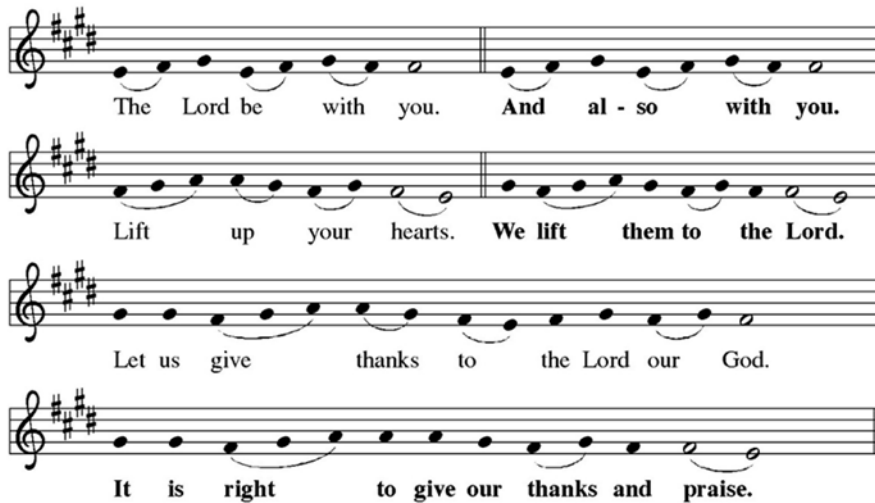
Let the Re-deem-er's name be sung Thru' ev-ery land in ev-ery tongue! A-men.

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



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.**

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

DISMISSAL

Praise God who loves us.

Praise God who cares.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

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 30 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.

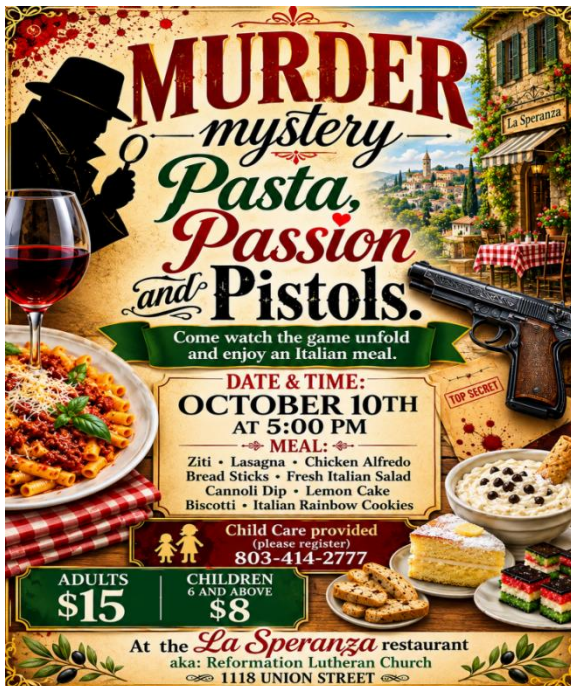
Bring your beloved pets and invite your friends and neighbors to Reformation's Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 p.m. on the church lawn. Hosted by the Kindness Team, this special community event is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the animals that bring companionship, joy,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

Incarnation Lutheran Oktoberfest – October 9–11

Incarnation Lutheran Church is once again hosting its annual **Oktoberfest, October 9–11!** Come enjoy this special community tradition, great fellowship, and plenty of Oktoberfest fun. All are welcome!



Murder Mystery at Reformation – October 10

There's mystery, family drama, romance, and maybe even murder in the air! Join us **Saturday, October 10**, for Reformation's Murder Mystery featuring the Roni and Scarfazzi families and a cast of characters who may all have something to hide.

Meet the suspects: **Angel Roni (Julia), Bo Jalais (Jim), Father Al Fredo (Ben), Mama Rosa (Sandie), Marco Roni (Matt), Rocco Scarfazzi (Taylor), Tara Misu (Hannah), and Clair Voyant (Casandra).**

Who has a motive? Who has a secret? And who can you trust? Come ready for an evening of mystery, laughter, and fellowship at Reformation!

Pride Weekend & Pride Sunday – October 16–18

Join us as we celebrate and affirm God's love for all! The **SC Pride Parade will be Friday, October 16**, followed by the **SC Pride Festival on Saturday, October 17**. Then join us at Reformation on **Sunday, October 18, for Pride Sunday** as we worship together and celebrate a church where all are welcome, valued, and loved.

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.

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