

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



**703 W 3RD Street
Mercedes
Texas 78570
956.565.1518**

**Immanuelmercedes
@gmail.com**

**[https://www.facebook.com/
LutheranMercedes/](https://www.facebook.com/LutheranMercedes/)**

**Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor
956.463.1305
eweber10@aol.com**

**Website:
lutheranmercedes.
com**

***Sunday*
9:00 A.M.
Worship Service
10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Class &
Sunday School**

**Holy Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday**

**Website:
Misionemanuel.com**

**Office Hrs, M-F
8 am to 12 pm
CCLI # 2585510**



**“And when those came
who were hired about the
eleventh hour, they each
received a denarius.
But when the first came,
they supposed that they
would receive more;
and they likewise
received each a denarius.”
(Matthew 20:9-10)**

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

Next week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Lord Jesus Christ, my strength and support in all situations, grant me the power and presence of Your Holy Spirit that I may be strong and steadfast in all situations, joyfully witnessing to the power of Your love and continually learning of You in every season; through the same Jesus Christ, my Lord, who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - A common focus for the month of September is education. In Great Britain, the school term for autumn traditionally begins on or near September 29, the day Christians traditionally celebrate St. Michael and All Angels. Our learning goes on throughout our lives. A Sunday School song by American hymnwriter Fanny J. Crosby, who lived from 1820 to 1915, begins, "Let me learn of Jesus; He is kind to me; once He died to save me, nailed upon the tree." Learning the greatness of our God and growing in our understanding of the amazing plan for our salvation is our duty and delight in every season of our earthly

life. And it does not stop then. The German hymnwriter Johann Mentzer, who lived in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, shares a special vision of heaven as he concludes the text of “Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices” with a view of eternal education, expressing the faithful hope one day that he will “learn with choirs of heaven to sing eternal anthems to my King” (LSB 811:5). May our learning and our singing both be blessed!

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship)

OPENING HYMN

How Can I Thank You, Lord

LSB 703



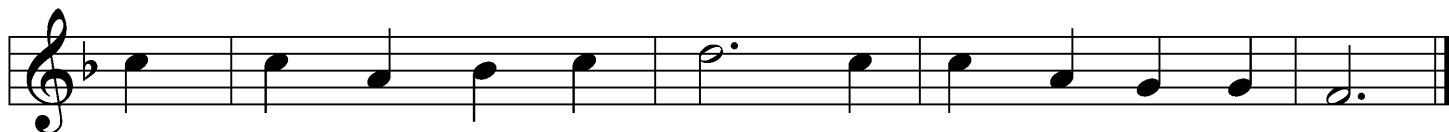
1 How can I thank You, Lord, For all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 2 It is Your work a - lone That I am now con - vert - ed;
 3 Lord, You have raised me up To joy and ex - ul - ta - tion



That You have pa - tient - ly Borne with me in my blind - ness!
 O'er Sa - tan's work in me You have Your pow'r as - sert - ed.
 And clear - ly shown the way That leads me to sal - va - tion.



When dead in man - y sins And tres - pass - es I lay,
 Your mer - cy and Your grace That rise a - fresh each morn
 My sins are washed a - way; For this I thank You, Lord.



I kin - dled, ho - ly God, Your an - ger ev - 'ry day.
 Have turned my ston - y heart In - to a heart new - born.
 Now with my heart and soul All e - vil I ab - hor.

Continue on next page

4 Grant that Your Spirit's help
To me be always given
Lest I should fall again
And lose the way to heaven.
Grant that He give me strength
In my infirmity;
May He renew my heart
To serve You willingly.

△5 O Father, God of love,
Now hear my supplication;
O Savior, Son of God,
Accept my adoration;
O Holy Spirit, be
My ever faithful guide
That I may serve You here
And there with You abide.

Text: Public domain

Please stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved**

Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16; antiphon: v. 17*

P I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.

C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me?

P I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

C Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

P O Lord, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant; You have loosed my bonds.

All Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in

Your abiding presence and care that confidently we may live according to Your Word, learning of You at all times and ever growing in Your grace and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 55:6–9*

(The prophet encourages God's people.)

6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 27:1–9; antiphon: v. 4a*

P One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

C The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

P When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell.

C Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.

P One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.

C For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He

Continue on next page

shall set me high upon a rock.

P And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

C Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

P When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."

C Do not hide Your face from me; do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.

P One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

EPISTLE *Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30*

(Paul writes that to live is Christ.)

12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, 26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. 29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

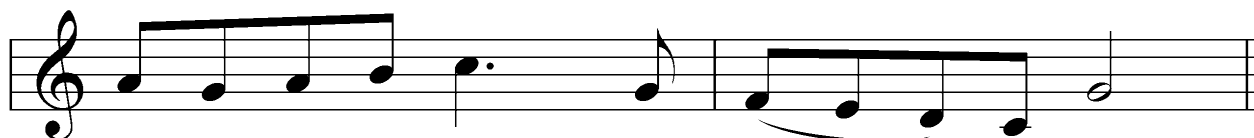
ALLELUIA and VERSE



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



☐ These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 20:1-16*

(The parable of the laborers in the vineyard.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to You , O Lord.**

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early

in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. 5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.' 8 "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.' 9 And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. 11 And when they had received it, they complained against the land-owner, 12 saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' 13 But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and

was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

By Grace I'm Saved

LSB 566



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
 3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
 4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
 have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
 bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
 true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
 Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
 That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
 What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
 sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
 God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

Continue on next page

5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
 In tribulation's furnace tried,
 By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
 The Father's heart is open wide.

Where could I help and strength secure
 If grace were not my anchor sure?

6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
 In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
 For though I know my heart's condition,
 I also know my Savior's voice.

My heart is glad, all grief has flown
 Since I am saved by grace alone.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON *"God's gracious kingdom of heaven where the last
 are first!"* (Matthew 20:14-16)

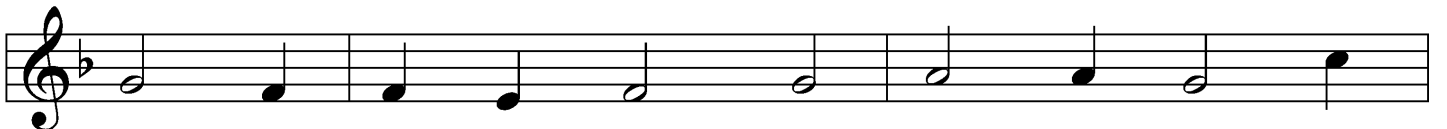
OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY *The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace*
LSB 580; vs.1-4



1 The Gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, Who sent His
 2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, Who made the a -
 3 It brings the Sav - ior's righ - teous - ness To robe our
 4 It is the pow'r of God to save From sin and



Son to save our race, Pro - claims how Je - sus
 ton - ing sac - ri - fice, And calls the souls with
 souls in roy - al dress; From all our guilt it
 Sa - tan and the grave; It works the faith which



lived and died That we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
guilt op - pressed To come and find e - ter - nal rest.
brings re - lease And gives the trou - bled con - science peace.
firm - ly clings To all the trea - sures which it brings.

Text and tune: Public domain

SHARING OF THE PEACE *"Peace be with you"* (John 20:21)
[using American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *LSB, p. 215*

P Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we

commend [name(s)] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

All Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

C Amen.

Please sit

SENDING HYMN

Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

LSB 857



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You
4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor
5 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.
fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.
mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

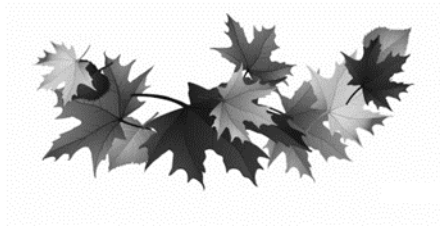
DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer-October to December 2023 are available in the Narthex or office.

*Adult Bible Class/Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Weber will be leading the class.*

October Activities

*Elders' Meeting
Tuesday, October 3rd
9:00 a.m.*

Immanuel Lutheran School



Students will begin taking orders for delicious kettle popcorn starting October 10 through 20. Popcorn will be delivered between Oct. 27th and 30th.

Fall Market

*Saturday, October 28th from 5 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
(Vendor space available, text Lorri Marchant for more details @ 956-472-4313).*

Trunk-or-Treat

*Tuesday, October 31st from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. church parking spaces around church building.
(Church members and Winter Texans participation welcome)*

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

This week's memory verse: *Psalm 91:11-12*

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

9/10/2023	
Sunday Worship	32
Plate:	\$ 85.00
Envelopes:	\$ 1,980.00
Online Memorials:	
Total:	\$ 2,065.00
Bible Class:	13 \$ 16.00

9/17/2023	
Sunday Worship	33
Plate:	\$ 102.00
Envelopes:	\$ 615.00
Online Memorials:	
Total:	\$ 717.00
Bible Class:	11 \$ 4.00

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Readings:

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-10

Philippians 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18

Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)

Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ

Those who are sent as “laborers for his vineyard” (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear “the burden of the day and the scorching heat” on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that “he may be found” (Is. 55:6), “have compassion” and “abundantly pardon” (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, “whether by life or by death” (Phil. 1:20), by “fruitful labor” (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are “worthy of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27).

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
	September Sunday Servants	October Sunday Servants
Elder:	Don Vogel	Dan Wehling
Altar Guild:	BJ Neuhaus/M Perez	Suzanne Wehling/Rose Cisneros
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	
Usher:	Dan Wehling	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	
Usher:	Earl Neuhas	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am