

Service of Holy Communion

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 28th, 2025



INTRODUCTION

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

P. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Congregation kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

P. Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

Congregation stands

THE GREETING

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

KYRIE

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

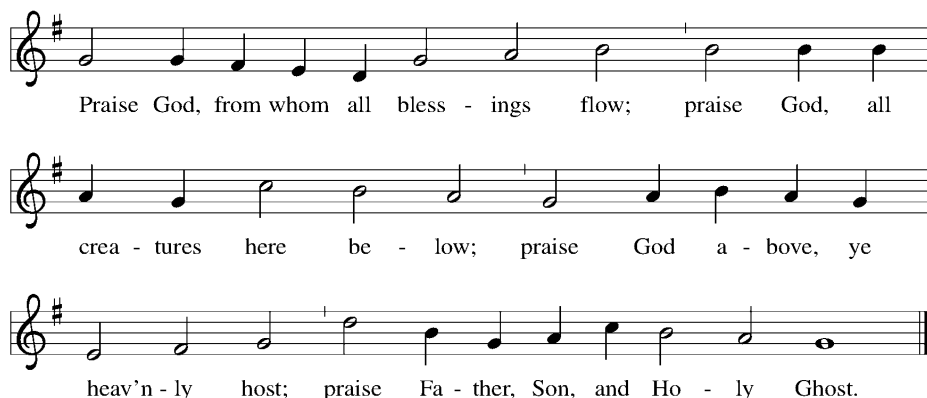
A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C. Amen

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Congregation is seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,
⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,
⁶ who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

A. Word of God, word of life. C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146 (*read responsively*)

¹ Hallelujah!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
³ Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.
⁴ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**
⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who
hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.
⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are
bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**
⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the
wicked.
¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

A. Word of God, word of life.

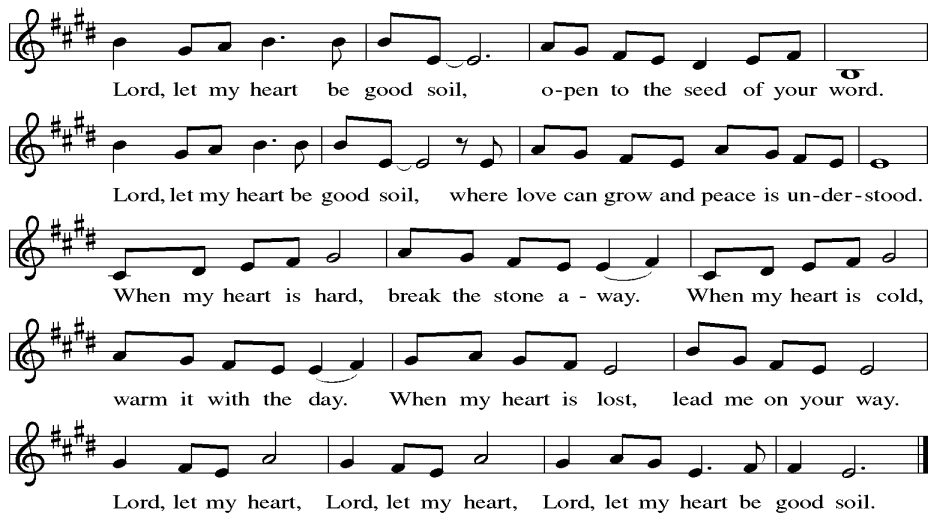
C. Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

P. The holy gospel according to Luke. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷ He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰ He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

P. The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation is seated

SERMON

Err On the Side of Grace

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

Build a Longer Table

(printed in bulletin)

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A. Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A. We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. We pray for people in any need, especially for...those we now say aloud...and those we hold in our hearts...Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P. We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Congregation is seated

CHOIR ANTHEM

Come Thirsty

Jeff Ferguson, Regi Stone

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Scan to give
via Venmo ↓



Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.

Thank you for your generous gifts!

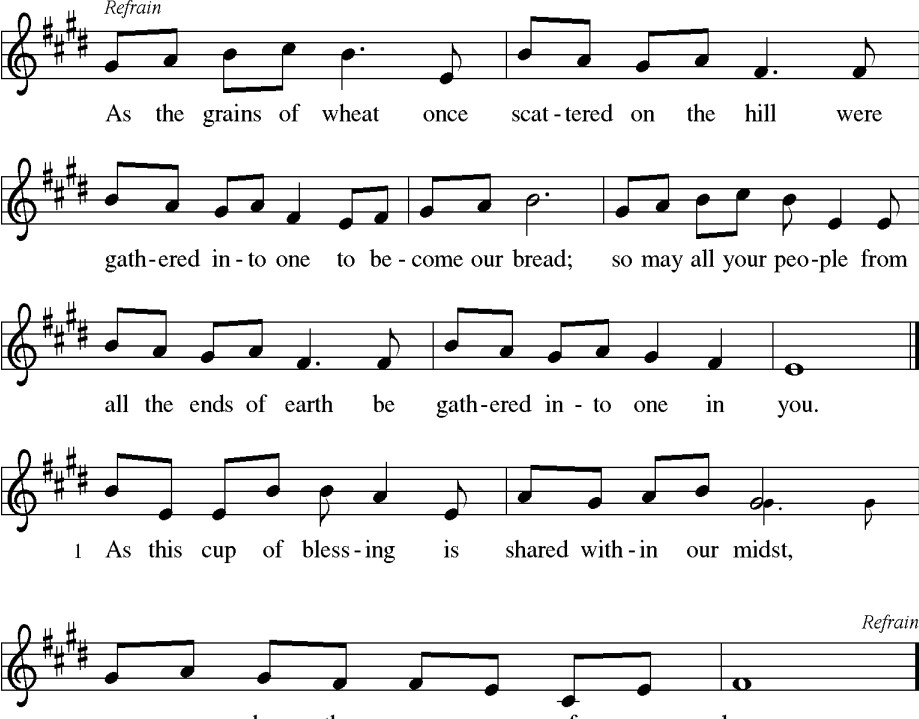
Scan to give
via Tithely ↓



Congregation stands

OFFERTORY SONG

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our

Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy (*Sing 2x—English 1st time; Spanish 2nd time*)



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

Congregation kneels or sits

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Children are invited to the table for a blessing.

Gluten free and traditional wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come up. The bread is dairy and egg free. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.

P. Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

COMMUNION SONG

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community
Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

After all have received Communion the congregation stands.

TABLE BLESSING

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and bear Christ's ho-ly name.



Send us with your prom-is-es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray...O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **C. Thanks be to God.**

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Announcements for September 28th, 2025

Welcome to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God’s presence in our worship!

*If today is your **first time** worshipping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the “Guest Book” on the table in the narthex and take a welcome bag.*

*Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. **Large print bulletins are available.***

***Worship is live streamed** to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.*

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***Altar flowers are in celebration of Pastor Peggy’s birthday from Mom and Bruce***

***Thank you, Gale MacPeek, for this morning’s refreshments***

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Volunteers for Today’s Worship

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Lay Asst. | Volunteer needed |
| Ushers | Volunteer needed |
| Comm. Asst. | Volunteer needed |
| Tech | Volunteer needed |
| Tellers | Volunteer needed |
| Refreshments | Gale MacPeek |

Volunteers for Next Sunday, Oct. 5th

All roles open

******* Join us for refreshments after worship*******

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

- Sunday, Sept. 28:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am
Worship w/Communion, 9:30am
Choir Practice following worship
- Monday, Sept. 29:** Spending Plan Meeting, 7pm
- Wednesday, Oct. 1:** Adult Ed, Zoom, 10am
Cluster-wide Study, Zoom, 7-8pm
- Saturday, Oct. 4:** Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am
Auction of the Gifts & Oktoberfest Dinner Fundraiser, 5-8pm
- Sunday, Oct. 5:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am
Worship w/Communion, 9:30am
Choir Practice following worship
Blessing of the Animals, on church front lawn, 3pm

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**Over the next several weeks our congregation will be focusing on financial stewardship for 2026.** We will reflect on the generosity of HCLC and the importance of financial support for our church’s mission by each member and friend of the congregation.

**On Generosity Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, each friend and member of HCLC will be invited to submit an intent card as we pray over our intentions for the coming year.** As you hear people provide their Generosity Impact Moments during worship in the coming weeks **we ask you to do two things:**

First, to prayerfully discern either **making your first intent card** to HCLC, or if you’ve done so in the past, to **increase your giving** by 1 or 2% of your household income.

Second, consider **making your gifts using Tithely or Venmo** to help the church with sustained giving. We can help you set this up—just let the church office know!

**With your support you are helping to spread God’s love by Building a Culture of Generosity!**

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Auction of the Gifts: Invite your friends and family to attend our annual Auction of the Gifts & Oktoberfest Dinner Fundraiser **THIS Saturday, October 4th from 5—8 pm.** **Here’s how it works:** items will be auctioned off to the highest bidder while we all enjoy dinner, community, and fun.

Blessing of the Animals: Our annual Blessing of the Animals is **NEXT Sunday, October 5th at 3pm on the church front lawn.** Spread the word! All are welcome to join us for this brief gathering. Please bring your leashed or crated pet or their picture for a blessing.

Prayers for Porch Planks: Please consider supporting the Parsonage Porch replacement fund ("Prayers for Porch Planks") which is displayed on the white board in the narthex.

Cluster Wide Education Series-Fall Edition: Our ELCA Clergy Cluster is offering our third edition of Growing Together in Faith, titled **“Scriptures that Didn’t Make It”.** We will gather with other ELCA church members in our cluster **via Zoom every Wednesday in October from 7-8pm.** All are invited to attend. **Please let Pastor Peggy know if you’d like to participate** so she can send the link.

Trick or Trail: We will be hosting a church table handing out candy at Vernon's Halloween Trick or Trail on **Friday, October 24th**. Set up begins at 2 pm and the last group comes through at 7pm. **If you'd like to dress up and hand out candy to the kids please email Pastor Peggy.** We are also looking for 3 large bags of candy to be **donated**. Please bring your candy donation to church by Sunday, October 19th. Thank you!

Kick It with Your Fellow Lutherans at the Gotham FC Soccer Game: The NJ Synod Youth Ministry Team is hosting an outing to see the **soccer game for Gotham FC vs. Racing Louisville FC on Sunday, October 19th** at the Sports Illustrated Stadium in Harrison, NJ. All ages are invited to attend. Enjoy an exciting match featuring some of the world's best women athletes. **Tickets are \$10 each. Tailgating from 1-2 pm with kickoff at 3 pm.** For more information and to register [click here](#). **Registration closes this week on 10/3.**

Apple Picking: The Loaves & Fishes are going apple picking on **Sunday, October 26th at 4pm**. We will **meet at Ochs Farm in Warwick** to pick apples! They even have a little petting zoo. Let Pastor Peggy know if you plan to attend.

Loaves and Fishes is our **new**, more inclusive and rebranded **20 & 30-somethings group**. All families with young children regardless of the adults' age are welcome, including our young adults. Our primary goal is building connections and supportive bonds for families and younger adults in the church, while doing fun activities together. Events range from apple picking and bowling to playground meet ups. Let's join our Loaves (adults) and Fishes (children) together!

Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is low on canned chili, canned green beans, pasta, pasta sauce, canned soup, canned baked beans, canned corn, macaroni & cheese, boxed potatoes, mayonnaise, cereal, instant pudding & jello, snacks and juice packs for kids, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, and 4-pack toilet paper. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be placed in the blue bin by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!

Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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For God's Children of all ages!

Worship Notes


Sunday's Date: _____




My Favorite
Song:



This week, I'm praying for:

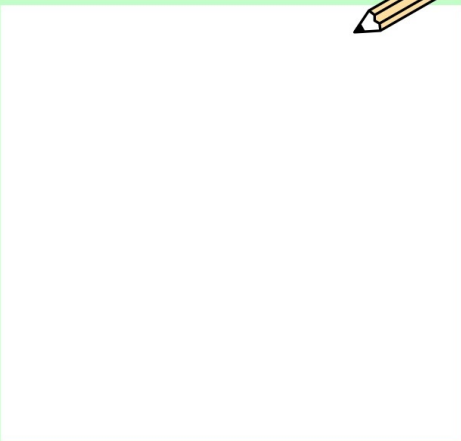



I'm curious or have a
question about:



Today's Focus Scripture: _____

I would draw it like:



Word Count

How many times did you hear each
of these words today? Make a tally.

grace: _____

joy: _____

peace: _____

love: _____

||||| ||



Contact Information

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MISSION STATEMENT

***As Children of God,
we are called to share and serve
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.***

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Rev. Peggy Ludlow

President Nancy Knecht

Vice President Frank Urbaniak

Treasurer Claire Speroni

Recording Secretary Dawn McCormick

Financial Secretary John Heeren

Outreach Coordinator Francine Vince

Nurture Coordinator Fred Schoenagel

Administration Coordinator Diane Rossi

Youth Representative Kevin Drache

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Kristina Heeren

Pam Kucks

Matt Moller

Aileen Donovan

Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

