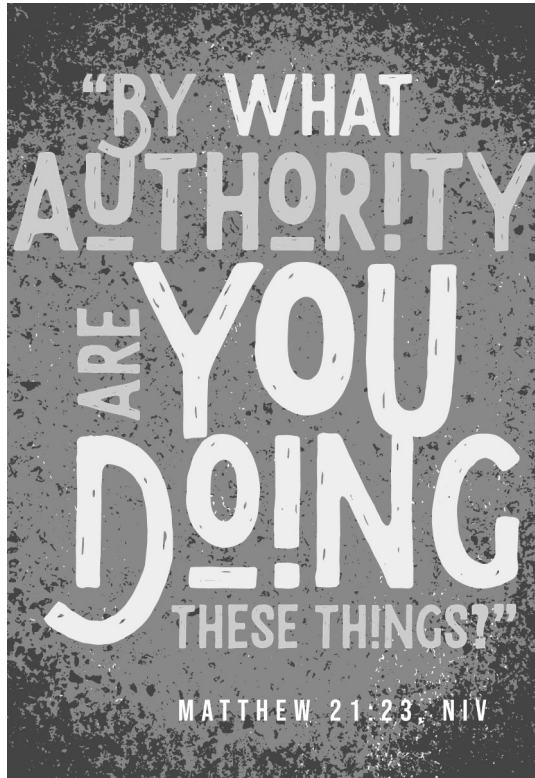


18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SEPTEMBER 27, 2026



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
Cole Camp, MO 65325**

“Being Transformed By God’s Grace To Love And Serve.”

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Pastor’s Home..... (660) 668 - 0881
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Website.....www.stpauls.me
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YouTube.....www.youtube.com/stpaulscolecamp



If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.



Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

please stand in body or spirit

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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn “The Trumpets Sound, The Angels Sing”

#531

Greeting

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

He Is Exalted

Words and Music by
Twila Paris

VERSE

[illegible]

5 F F/A B $\flat$ C/B $\flat$ B $\flat$ /C C D^{sus}



He is ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed, and I will praise His name! _____

CHORUS

10 D Gm Dm/F C/E C F Am B $\flat$ F/A



He is the Lord, for - ev - er His truth shall reign.

15 Gm Dm/F C/E C F Am B $\flat$ F/A

Heav - en and earth re - joice in His ho - ly name. _____

19 Gm B $\flat$ /F E $\flat$ B $\flat$ /C F

He is ex - alt - ed, the King is ex - alt - ed on high! _____

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

please be seated

First Reading

Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. ²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading

Philippians 2: 1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Joyce Schlesselmann

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

"Thy Word"

(See Next Page)

Thy Word

Words and Music by
Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

CHORUS

F C/E F B $\flat$ /D C F

$\text{♩} = 70$



Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path. Thy Word is a

VERSE

C/E F B $\flat$ /D C F *Fine* C Gm



lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path. 1. When I feel a-fraid, and I

Dm Am B $\flat$ C B $\flat$ /F F C Gm



think I've lost my way, still You're there right be-side me. Noth-ing will I fear as

Dm Am B $\flat$ C C/D D Csus C *D.C. al Fine*



long as You are near. Please be near me to the end.

Gospel

Matthew 21: 23-32

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day

"By Faith"

(See Next Page)

By Faith

Words and Music by
Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty
and Stuart Townend

♩=76 **VERSE**

A D/A A Amaj⁷ D/A

1. By faith we see the — hand of God in the
2. By faith our fa - thers — roamed the earth with the
3. By faith the pro - phets — saw a day when the
4. By faith the church was — called to go in the
5. By faith this moun - tain — shall be moved and the

3 A F#m⁷ E^{sus} A/C# D F#m E/G# A F#m E

light of cre - a - tion's grand de - sign, in the lives of those who prove His
pow'r of His prom - ise in their hearts of a ho - ly cit - y built by
longed - for Mes - si - ah would ap - pear with the pow'r to break the chains of
pow'r of the Spir - it to the lost, to de - liv - er cap - tives and to
pow'r of the gos - pel shall pre - vail, for we know in Christ all things are

6 D E F#m⁷ D² E 1, 3. A D/A

faith - ful - ness, who walk by faith and — not by sight.
God's own hand, a place where peace and — jus - tice
sin and death, and rise tri - um - phant — from the grave.
preach good news in ev - 'ry cor - ner — of the
pos - si - ble for all who call up - on His

2, 4, 5. **CHORUS**
9 A E/G# F#m D A A/C# F#m D

reign. We will stand as chil - dren of the prom - ise; We will fix our eyes on Him, our
earth. name.

By Faith - 2

13 A E A E/G# F#m D A C#m D

soul's re - ward. Till the race is fin - ished and the work is done,

16 Bm⁷ D² E 1, 2. A D/A A Amaj⁷ D/A D.C.

we'll walk by faith and — not by sight.

19 3. A D/A A Amaj⁷ D/A A

sight.

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 Intercession

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

please be seated

Offering



Offertory

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

#674

please stand in body or spirit

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you taught us to pray.....**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.**

please be seated

HOLY COMMUNION

by Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.

Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Communion Hymns

"Seek Ye First"

(See Next Page)

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

783

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em A⁷ D F#m

righteousness, and all these things shall be
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 mouth . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

please stand in body or spirit

Post-Communion Blessing

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

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray....Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“The Trees of the Field”

(See Next Page)

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

The Trees Of The Field

Words by
Steffi Geiser Rubin

Music by
Stuart Dauermann

♩ = 126

VERSE

Em

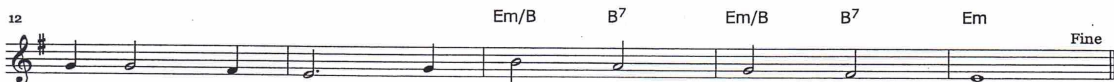
D7/F# G



You shall go out with joy ____ and be led forth with peace. ____ The moun-tains and the



hills will break forth ____ be - fore you; There'll be shouts of joy, ____ and all the

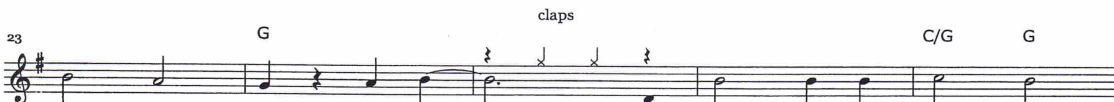


trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

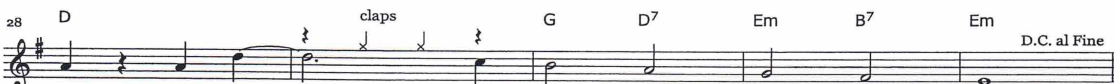
CHORUS



And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, ____ the trees of the



field will clap their hands; ____ The trees of the field will



clap their hands, ____ while you go out with joy.

CCLI Song # 20546

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"GOD'S HOPE FOR ALL IN NEED"



Welcome: Welcome on this Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost. We gather today to be refreshed by God's Word, strengthened in community, and sent back into the world with renewed grace. May your spirit find peace and your heart find joy as we worship the Lord together today.

We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!

In Our Prayers: "Unspoken prayer concerns", Suzanne Lutjen, Mary Haluptzok, Kevin Tatum, Nathan Vanderlinden, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman and Kyle Luetjen.



Carla George, Richard Lee, Colin Kabler (brother of Alexis Smith), Tom Ferguson, Tanner Huffman, Merle Fuelling (brother of Paul Fuelling), Dan Sabala, Pam Bruns (Cousin of Ruth Ann Kreisel), Pat Higgins, Kathy Harms, Kylie Simon, Hazel Karstons, Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Joe Campbell, Cliff Eckhoff, Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).

Nursing Home & Homebound: Vern Dean Bohling, Shirley Cash: *Anew*. Judie VonHoltten, Eugene Beckman, Florence VonHoltten, Arlene Schlesselman & Larry & Judy Schlesselman: *GSCC*. Earl Bauer: *Windsor Nursing Home*.



Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.



With Sympathy: We pray for those whose loved ones have recently died: Ken Holland

Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (grandson of Dennis Hamilton), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen), J. Phillips Navy Petty Officer E-4 MMN (nephew of Katy Schlesselman), Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Major Joseph Strathman.



New Baby: Congratulations to Angela and Dalton Alcorn at the birth of their daughter, Waleta Rose, on Wednesday, September 23. Waleta is the sister of Leighton and Clyde, and granddaughter of Greg Bredehoeft.

Yoga: Dr. Stephanie Shirding is once again offering a free Community Yoga class! This class is held from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall **every Monday**. We thank Dr. Shirding for offering this once again! Search for "Monday Mediations" on Facebook for more information about the class.



Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **October 1st**, from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.

Personal Care Kits - We at St. Paul's are invited to share God's love with our neighbors by gathering items for the **Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits**. We will be collecting the personal care items for the next 3 weeks -



September 20 - October 11. Listed below are the needed essential items for our neighbors to stay healthy in these most challenging times. Together with a Thrivent grant and your generous giving, we hope to be able to assemble at least 70 kits. The kits, together with our quilts, will be taken to Jefferson City on Saturday, October 17.

- 2-3 bars of soap to equal 8-9 oz.
- 1 sturdy wide-toothed comb
- 1 bath towel, dark color (20"x40" or 52"x27")
- 1 toothbrush (**NO** toothpaste)
- 1 nail clipper



Senior Sunday: The Luther League would like to invite all of our members who are young at heart to be honored at our Senior Sunday event on **October 4th**. Lunch will follow worship in the Fellowship Hall. The League members will be providing the meat, potatoes, and bread. We would love for our honored guests to RSVP, and we invite the congregation to attend and provide a side dish (salad, vegetable, or dessert).

WELCA: St. Paul's Women of the ELCA will meet for their quarterly meeting on Wednesday, **October 7**. We will meet in the Gathering Space at 7:00 p.m. The Agenda for this meeting will focus primarily on end of the year events - assembling Personal Care kits, Thank Offerings, elections, Advent dinner, Christmas gifts, winter cookies, and Annual Meeting (serving, designate recipient of Free Will Offering). **All women are invited!!!**



Junior Lutherans Activity: Junior Lutherans and their families are invited to an afternoon at Pop Pop's Pumpkin patch here in Cole Camp on **October 18th** at 4:00 pm. We'll have activities with pumpkins, a Bible story, time to ride the train cars, and pet animals (llamas!). We look forward to seeing you!

ELCA Youth Gathering: Can you "Imagine More" courage, joy, love, grace, welcome? That's the theme of the upcoming 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering: *Imagine More*. The Gathering will take place **June 28 - July 2, 2027**, in Minneapolis, MN. Youth who have completed 8th through 12th grades are invited to attend. We will have an informational meeting with a light lunch for youth and parents **Today**, just after worship.



Little Blessings: Our daycare is in need of some new rocking chairs similar to what is pictured here. They prefer upholstered chairs, not gliders, and they do not need to recline. If you have something that is gently used please let us know to make sure it's what we're looking for. Thank you!

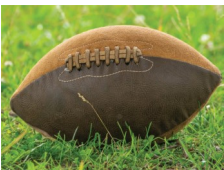
~*~ In Our Community ~*~

Fish Fry: Mt. Hulda Lutheran Church will be hosting their annual Fish Fry **Today**. Serving from 4:30pm until approximately 7:00pm or until the fish is gone! A free will offering will be taken to help support local families through the Lutheran Early Response Team, (LERT), and the Cole Camp Area Church Alliance.



Pumpkin Patch: Pop Pop's Pumpkin Patch will be open on **October 3rd & 4th** from 10am - 6pm for pick your own pumpkins, sunflowers, and zinnias. There will also be activities for kids. Free admission, and if you pick your own items a donation toward the Cole Camp Food Pantry will be appreciated. Because all proceeds will go toward the Food Pantry, we are looking for volunteers to welcome guests for a couple hours on either of those days. If you are available to volunteer, please talk to Pastor Stephen or Sheila Sabala, CC Food Pantry Manager.

Flu Shot Clinic: The Benton County Health Department will have a drive-thru flu shot clinic on Thursday, **October 8th**. It will be held at St. Paul's under the canopy from 9:00am until 12:00pm. They accept Medicare and Medicaid. If you do not have insurance a donation will be appreciated. Please mark your calendar and get prepared for the flu season.



Fields of Faith: The Cole Camp FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) will host "Fields of Faith" at the Cole Camp Bluebirds Football Stadium on **October 14th**. Tailgate starts at 6:00 pm, the program will begin at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend (youth groups, other schools, etc.).

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, September 27:	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Adult/SS Class
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
	AW	ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting
Monday, September 28:	9:00 am	Sewing Group
	6:30 pm	Yoga
Thursday, October 1:	8:00 am	BCHD
Saturday, October 3:	5:30 pm	Casual Worship Service
Sunday, October 4:	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Adult/SS Class
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion at the Altar
	AW	Senior Sunday Luncheon



~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

October 4	Senior Sunday
October 7	WELCA Quarterly Meeting
October 8	BCHD Flu Shot Clinic
October 14	Church Council Meeting
October 18	Junior Lutherans Event
October 19	Esther Circle
October 21	Worship & Music Committee
October 25	Reformation Sunday
October 28	Sunbeam Committee

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers	The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister	Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist	Sandy Schlesselman
Pianist	Jeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians	Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild	Susan Goosen & Debbie Vaughan
Ushers	Melinda Strathman, Head Usher
.....	Chad Schlesselman, Mark Oelrichs, Randy Schlesselman, Steve Triplett



18th Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 27, 2026

Assisting Minister	Tom Oelrichs
Communion Assistants	Trisha Goosen & Stephanie Randall
Reader	Adrienn Dieckman
Children's Sermon	Joyce Schlesselmann
Acolytes	Fred Goosen & Kale Kruep
Flowers	Kathy Gerken



19th Sunday after Pentecost ~ October 4, 2026

Assisting Minister	Janice Gerken
Communion Assistants	At the Altar
Reader	Luke Goosen
Children's Sermon	Pastor Stephen Zeller
Acolytes	Lauren Jackson & Evan Randall
Flowers	Sharel Wienberg