

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

*September 20, 2026
Pentecost 17*



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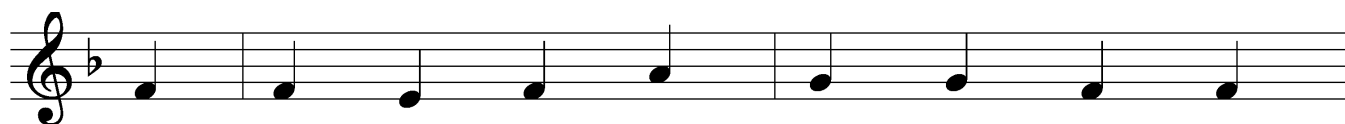
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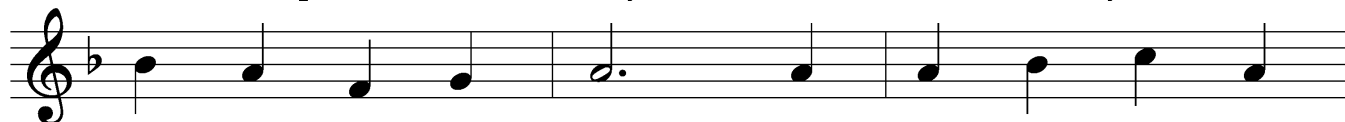


Opening Hymn #737

"Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way"



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.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007 Tune: The Whole Book of Psalmes, London, 1562
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Please stand.

Invocation & Confession

CW 155

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Almighty and merciful Father,**

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
 according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Lord, Have Mercy

M: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: 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.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

"Glory Be to God on High"



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



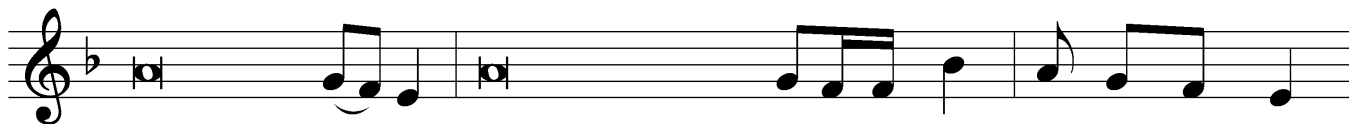
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



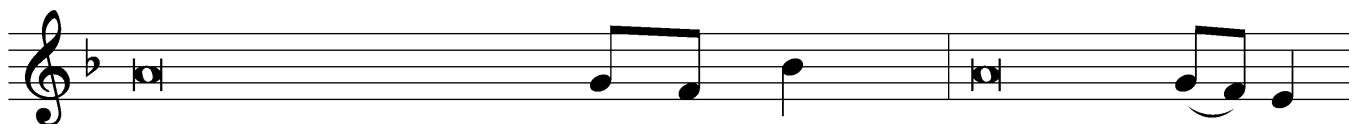
God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



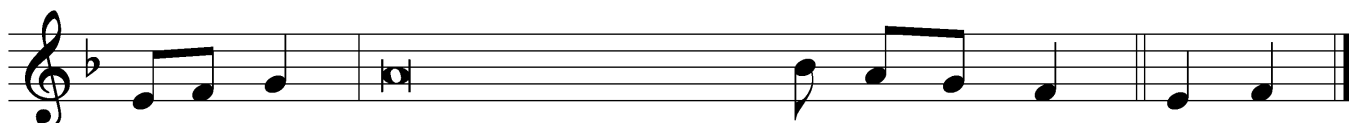
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

“ ‘The parents eat sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?

³“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ²⁶If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. ²⁷But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. ²⁸Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²⁹Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

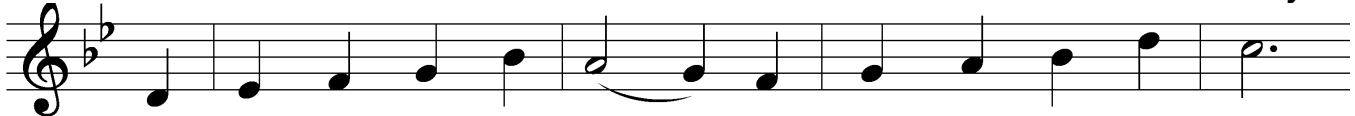
³⁰“Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!”
(NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 101B

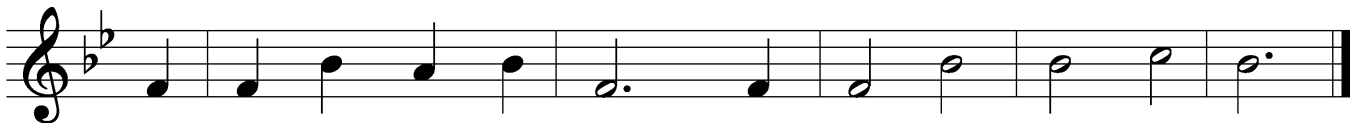
“Your Love Will Be My Song”



1 Your love will be my song— LORD, keep me far from wrong,
 2 The slan-d'rer's dead-ly flame, and schemes that mer - it shame—
 3 If an - y - one should try to make me live a lie,
 4 LORD, I re - solve to - day in all I do and say



and draw me close to you: let all that you ab - hor
 in these I want no part. From ar - ro - gance and lies,
 con - sign their plan to fail; but glad - ly will I learn
 to stand for what is true: your love will be my song,



be ban-ished ev - er - more from what I say and do.
 from pride that clouds the eyes, my God, pro - tect my heart.
 from all who can dis - cern what your com - mands en - tail.
 so keep me far from wrong and let me walk with you.

Text: Martin E. Leckebusch Tune: Joseph Barnby
 Text: © 1970 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: License no. 130004478
 Tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-11

¹Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. (NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalms 51:17

M: Alleluia. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart you will not despise. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

St. Matthew 21:23-32

²³Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

(NIV)

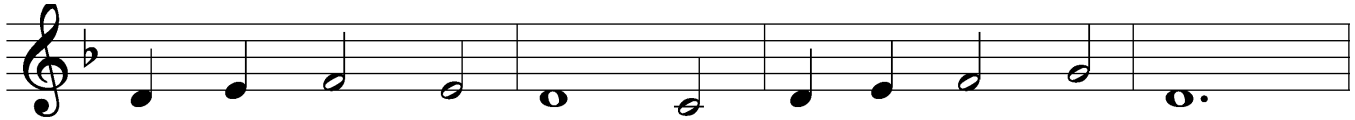
M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated.

Hymn #547

"At the Name of Jesus"



1 At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
 2 At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
 3 Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
 4 Bore it up tri - um - phant with its hu - man light,



ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 thro' all ranks of crea - tures to the cen - tral height,



'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 cher - u - bim in heav - en, stars up - on their way,
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast,



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
 brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed;
 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.

5 In your hearts enthrone him;
 there let him subdue
 all that is not holy,
 all that is not true.
 Crown him as your captain
 in temptation's hour;
 let his will enfold you
 in its light and pow'r.

6 Christians, this Lord Jesus
 shall return again
 in his Father's glory,
 with his angel train;
 for all wreaths of empire
 meet upon his brow,
 and our hearts confess him
 King of glory now.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817–1877, abr., alt.

Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

“Same Love, Same Mind, Same Spirit”

Please stand.

Confession of Faith: Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there 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.**

Be seated.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER is available by the entrances. If you are watching on-line please go to the description link and sign in.

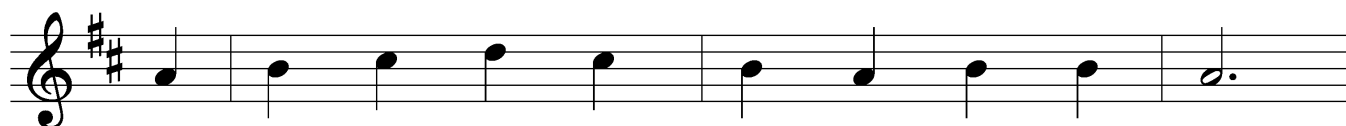
FREEWILL OFFERING The offering plate is located by the back entrance. You may also give electronically via our website: immanuelfindlay.org or the App: GivePlus.

Hymn #754

"Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness"



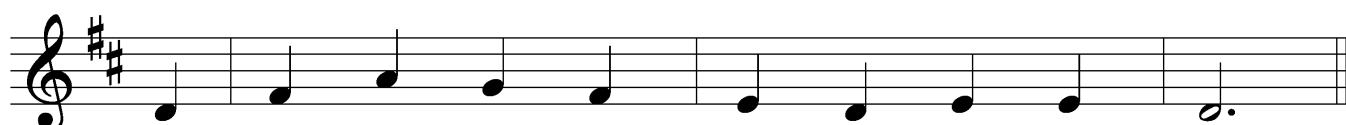
1 For - give us, Lord, for shal - low thank - ful - ness,
 2 Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace,
 3 For - give us, Lord, for self - ish thanks and praise,
 4 Teach us, O Lord, true thank - ful - ness di - vine,



for dull con - tent with warmth and shel - tered care,
 for life and vi - sion, for a pur - pose clear,
 for words that speak at var - i - ance with deeds;
 that gives as Christ gave, nev - er count - ing cost,



for songs of praise for world - ly wealth - i - ness,
 for Christ, your Son, and for each hu - man face
 for - give our thanks for walk - ing pleas - ant ways,
 that knows no bar - ri - er of "yours" and "mine,"



while of your rich - er gifts we're un - a - ware:
 that shows your mes - sage ev - er new and near.
 un - mind - ful of a bro - ken broth - er's needs:
 as - sured that on - ly what's with - held is lost.

- 5 Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast,
 for joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul,
 for walls and wars that hide your mercies vast
 and blur our vision of the kingdom goal:
- 6 Open our eyes to see your love's intent,
 to know with mind and heart its depth and height;
 let thankful days in loving labor spent
 reflect the truly Christlike life and light.

Text: William W. Reid, Sr., 1890–1983, alt. Tune: Alfred M. Smith, 1879–1971

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Prayer of the Church

M: Eternal God, you are the Father of all whom you have made and you protect and preserve all your human creatures. You create the times and places in which people live, you cause the sun to shine and the rain to fall on the just and unjust, you bid us to hold in our hearts not only those we know and love, but all people in all places and circumstances.

C: Hear us, Lord, as we pray.

M: Lead us to see in the lives of all people the working of your eternal plan. Preserve us from an arrogance that elevates our service and sacrifice above that of others. Lead us to appreciate the gifts you give to all people and to give you thanks with our acceptance and humility.

C: Hear us, Lord, as we pray.

M: For all the descendants of Adam and Eve, for all peoples and nations, those in lands far away from us, those who differ from us in race, language, and culture, that in some way they might come to see the light of your Son;

C: For these we pray, O Lord.

M: For those who bring food from the earth, who tend flocks and herds, who cultivate the ground, who find food in the sea, and who bake our daily bread, that they may know you, as we do, to be the giver of every good and perfect gift;

C: For these we pray, O Lord.

M: For those who help us in times of trouble, for lawyers, doctors, emergency workers, counselors, funeral directors, and all whose life interests focus on difficult times, that they may see themselves as those who extend your divine hand to the hurting;

C: For these we pray, O Lord.

M: For all who support us day by day, often without our notice, janitors and maids, cooks and servers, secretaries and technicians, and so many more, that they may enjoy the grateful thanks we children of God owe them;

C: For these we pray, O Lord.

M: For people who live in great poverty or endure war and political unrest or experience oppression and tyranny, that their quest for security might lead them to search where you may be found.

C: For these we pray, O Lord.

M: For those who endure physical and mental afflictions every day and those who are tortured by disease and tormented by fears. [Especially we pray for....] Let them find in us Christ-like compassion and meaningful help;

C: For these we pray, O Lord.

M: For all in our congregations who work hard each day to gain their daily bread and then work hard again to support and participate in the gospel ministry, that they may be spared fatigue and frustration as they use their leisure time for the sake of your Son;

C: For these we pray, O Lord.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

M: Eternal Father, give us a sense of purpose as we live our lives in the roles you have designed for each of us. Help us to see your divine plan in our calling and make us content as we carry out our tasks. Give us joy to know that we live for you and for others as the servants of Christ Jesus.

C: **In his name we pray. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

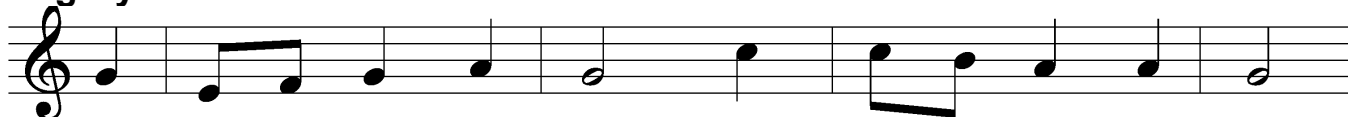
Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #730

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 When here our path - ways part, we suf - fer bit - ter pain;
5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free



the fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com-forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
yet, one in Christ and one in heart, we hope to meet a - gain.
and per - fect love and friend-ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817 Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872 Text and tune: Public domain

Please stay for the WELS Connection video.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society is collecting a door offering after both services today. All of the money given today is split in half, and goes directly to the World Mission and Home Mission chosen at the Spring Rally. Please make check payable to LWMS Ohio Circuit.

Acknowledgments

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Pastor Krueger is serving at Trinity Lutheran in Jenera this morning.

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society rally will be Saturday, October 3, at Trinity in Jenera. Come and hear Pastor Dave Bostedt, former missionary to the Apaches in Arizona, speak on our synod's work there. Business meeting is at 9:30, devotion at 10:00 AM, presentation at 10:30 followed by lunch.

****A door offering to support LWMS mission projects will be taken on Sept. 20th after both services.***

Volunteers - needed

We are looking for a few volunteers who could be on a list to call when we need a nursery helper for our Japanese cooking class and Bible study. This ministry meets once a month on a Friday from October-May, and the time you would be needed is from 11:00 to approximately 12:30. The Green girls will be in there to help, but we need one adult volunteer to oversee things. You are welcome to stay for the lunch that we prepare if you'd like!

If you would be willing to help, please reach out to Bethany Green (419-721-8563).

Bible Classes

Our Wednesday Bible class has begun a study of the book of 1 John, a letter focusing on the love of God in our lives. Our Thursday Zoom Bible class is just starting a study of the Life of Moses. Join us as we apply God's Word to our lives!

The Area Reformation Service

Area WELS and ELS churches will hold a Reformation Service at Abiding Word Lutheran in Bowling Green on Sunday, November 1 at 4:00 PM. There is a meal following. If you can attend the meal, please sign up in back. Main course provided by Abiding Word; Immanuel members are asked to bring a side dish if possible.

Calendar	Sunday	Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School, 9:20 AM
	Monday	Church Council, 6:30 PM
	Wednesday	Bible Class, 10 AM
	Thursday	Zoom Bible Class, 7:00 PM
	Sunday	Worship & Holy Communion, 8 & 10:30 AM
		Adult Sunday School, 9:20 AM Youth Sunday School, 9:20 AM

Bible Study

<i>Sunday</i>	Adult Bible Study	Jonah	9:20 AM
<i>Wednesday</i>	Adult Bible Class	1 John	10 AM
<i>Thursday</i>	Zoom Bible Study	The Life of Moses	7 PM

September

Greeters	East	North
9/20		
8AM	Volunteer	Volunteer
10:30AM	Jim & Jamie T.	Helen R.
9/27		
8AM	Howard & Nancy W.	Volunteer
10:30AM	Becky F.	Volunteer

September Ushers

8:00 AM	Mike W., Eldon B.	10:30 AM	Kris G., Mike B.
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Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 11, 1:00-2:30 PM.

Mark your calendar, and plan to attend or help out!



We would like to have at least 20 car trunkers participating.
We will have the train and bouncy house again,
as well as popcorn and a photo area.
Look for a sign-up sheet in the next few weeks.

Welcome! We join together here to thank God for a new week of promise and possibilities. Let us greet one another joyfully and lovingly! If you are searching for a church home, feel free to talk to the pastor after the service.

Large print bulletins are available at the back of the fellowship hall.

There are visitor welcome packets available in the narthex.

There are children's books, coloring pages, pencils, and crayons available at the back of the fellowship hall. Please return the books, clipboards, pencils and crayons.

Silence is golden. Please silence cell phones before worship.

Bulletin Board: If you would like items displayed, please contact the office.