



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

331 Weldon Street

Latrobe, PA 15650

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Pastor Jess Felici & Pastor Jason Felici

Pastor Emeritus Jeffrey Schock

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5 & 6, 2026

Welcome to Worship!

Pastors:

Rev. Jess Felici
Rev. Jason Felici

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E-mail: office@trinitylatrobe.com

The *worship bulletin* is intended to help guide us through our worship. Sections in **bold** print are for congregation response. Throughout the bulletin you will note two symbols that denote when the congregation is invited to stand (▲) or be seated (▼) as your body allows. *Large print copies* of our worship service and *wireless sound enhancers* are available.

We believe our risen Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of *Holy Communion* and we extend our Lord's invitation to all who are baptized to share in this meal.

Non-communing children and adults are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please contact an usher if you need *communed in the pew*.



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 5 & 6, 2026

Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:15am (Broadcast, 98.7FM, 107.5FM, 1480AM, 910AM;
Livestream @www.trinitylatrobe.com), Sunday 10:45am

Service of Holy Communion (ELW Setting 4)

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

*The prelude is a signal to end our conversation and
prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*

Prelude and Silent Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

(at the end of the bell peal, please stand as your body allows)

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

▲ 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.
(please kneel or sit as your body allows, 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.**

▲ Gathering Hymn

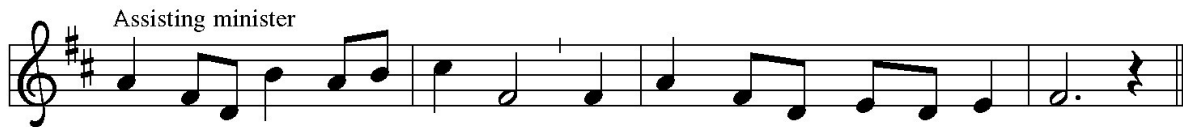
“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

ELW #247

▲ 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.

▲ Glory to God



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

▲ Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

▼ Children's Message

▼ First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

During this part of the church year, the first reading is chosen to reflect in some way the Gospel reading. Here, it is obvious that in today's Gospel Jesus is not instituting a new teaching (commanding that the people of God speak the truth in love to one another,) but echoing what has long been the call of God. And behind that call lies the promise that God delights not in condemnation but in reconciliation.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:33-40 (Spoken Responsively; Leader/Assembly)

Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, is a song of delight in God's law. Following the rather difficult demand in the first reading, this plea to be instructed is certainly our song as well.

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

(continued)

- ³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.
³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**
³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.
⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

▼ Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Until mid-September, we'll be reading most of the book of Romans straight through. Paul has spent several chapters affirming that our relationship with God is dependent not on our worthiness but on God's free grace. Now he continues his focus on the new life that relationship draws us into, a life which is necessary (and perhaps only possible) because we anticipate the in-breaking of the kingdom at any time.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▲ Gospel Acclamation



▼ Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

While for most of this season we read continuously through Matthew, this week we've skipped a chapter and a half. Most of this material is the story of the Transfiguration, which was read the Sunday before Lent; some also was read last year, in an almost identical version from Luke. Immediately before this reading is the story of the shepherd leaving the 99 sheep to search for the one which was lost; today's instruction seems to enlist us in God's search for the strayed ones. It is worth noting that treating one as a "Gentile and tax collector" may well mean (from Jesus' own example) treating them not as a pariah, but as one not yet mature enough to be challenged by the ethical implications of the Gospel, and fit only to hear its welcome and promises.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

▼ Sermon

Pastor Jason Felici

▲ Hymn of the Day

"Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace"

ELW #716

▲ Apostles' 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 People (*please kneel or sit as your body allows*)

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

▲ The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(share God's peace with each other as you feel comfortable and then be seated)

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

▼ Gathering of Gifts

As we move to the time in our worship where we offer our gifts to God's church, a portion of your offering supports the **Lutheran World Federation** which is a global communion of Lutheran churches. LWR acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of common interest such as ecumenical relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, and various aspects of mission and development work.



If you prefer, scan the QR code to give online. You may then place a giving card from the pew in the offering plate as it passes by.

▼ Anthem

“In the Singing”

(ELW #466)

▲ Offertory

“We Are an Offering”

ELW #692

The musical score is written on five staves. The lyrics are: We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:

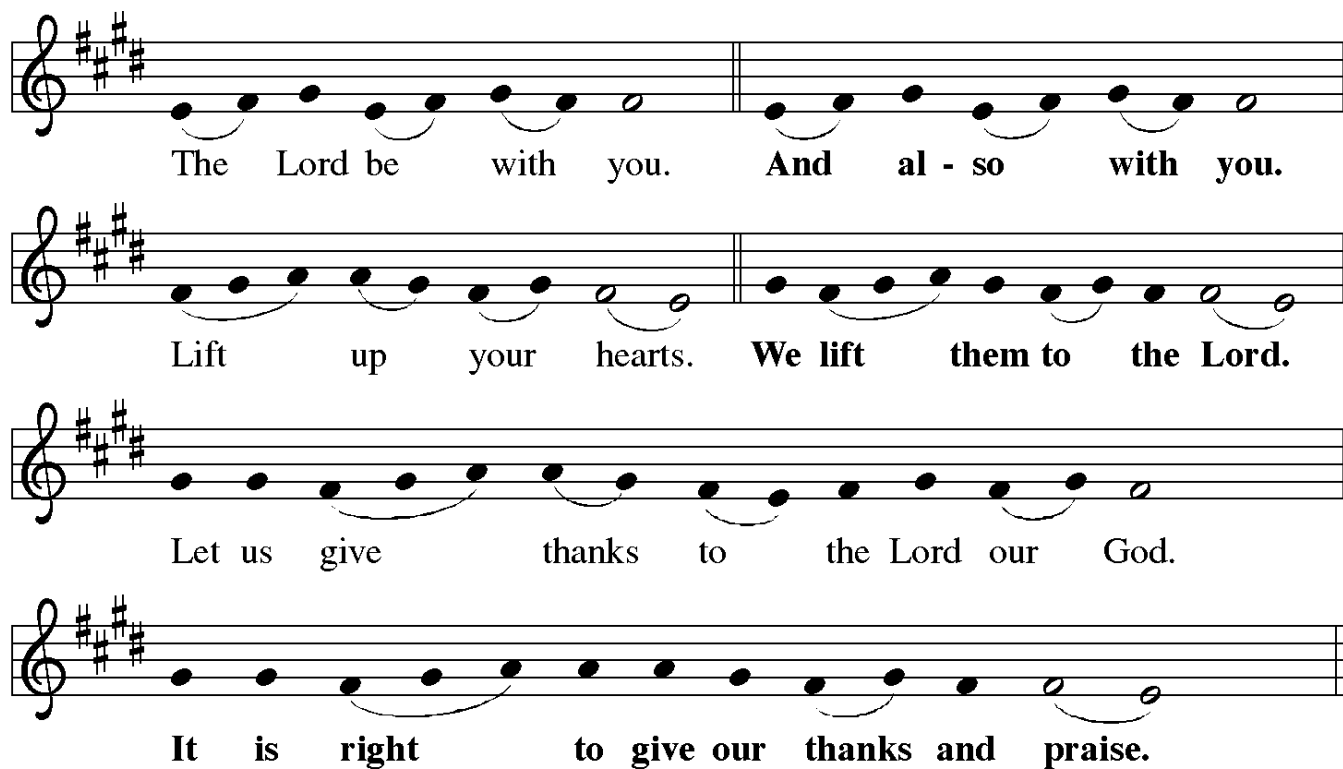
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▲Offering Prayer

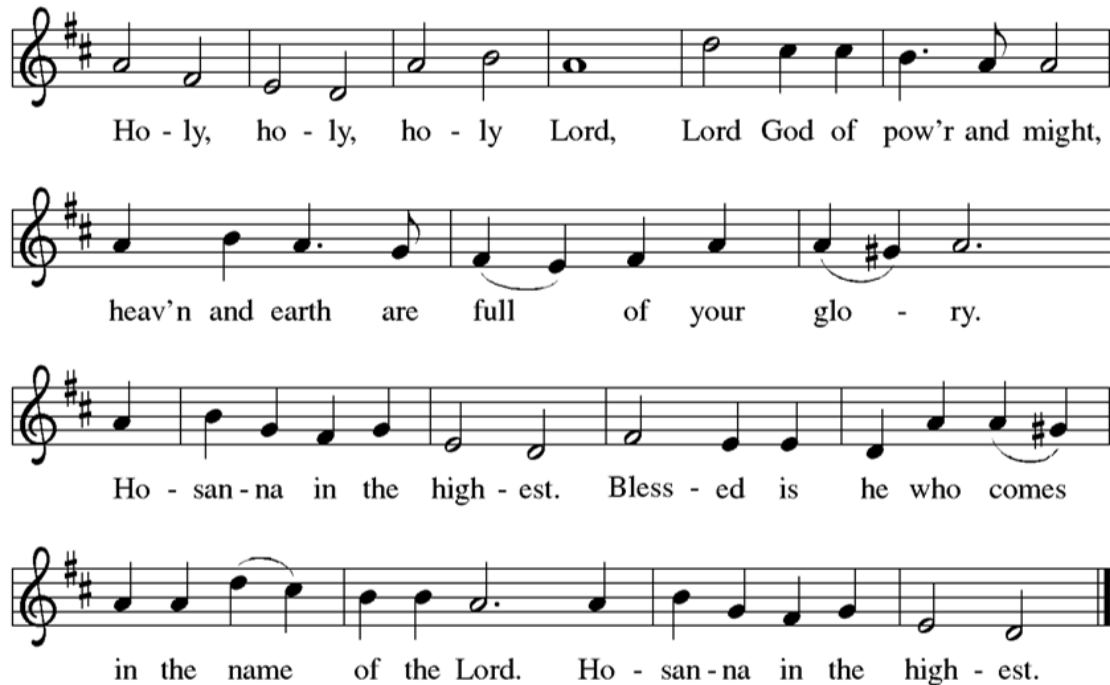
Let us pray. God of creation, **you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

▲Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲ Holy, Holy, Holy



▲ Thanksgiving at the Table

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, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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;

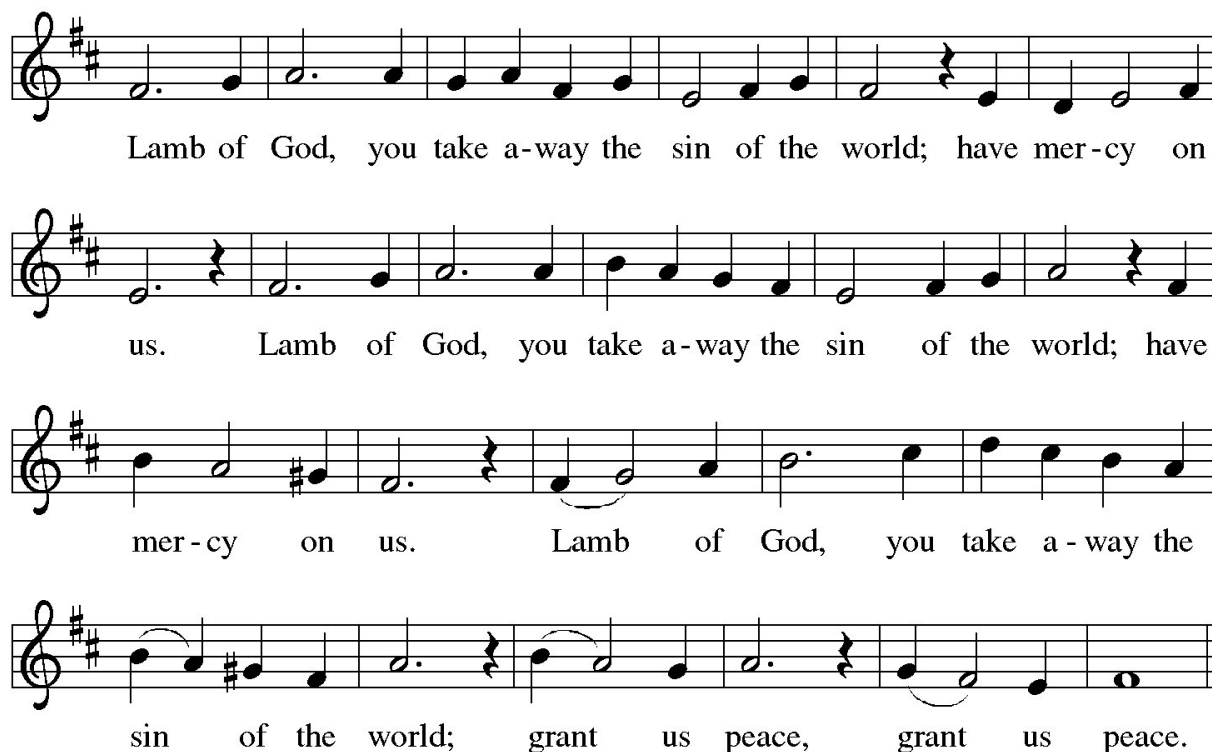
**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

▲ Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty and hungry, come.

▲ Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

▼ Distribution of Communion

*To receive communion, please come down the center aisle, take a cup from the tray and gather at the altar rail. Receive the bread into your hand. Wine will be poured into your cup. **The communion wine is gluten free. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.** For those unable to receive wine, communion cups with water are available. Leave the altar rail, place your cup on the tray and return to your pew via the side aisles. If you desire to receive communion in the pew, please alert an usher. Non-communing children and adults are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

▲ Table Blessing

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

▲ Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. 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.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

▲ 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 Spirit. **Amen.**

The god of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

▲ Sending Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

ELW #836

▲ Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

THE BROADCAST THIS WEEKEND is dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of our grandson, Maxwell Thomas Arbore’s baptism, Saturday, September 5th, given by Beth Ann and Chuck Arbore.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEKEND are dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of my husband, my grandchildren, children, sisters and brother, my nieces and nephews and my friends, given by Phyllis O’Hara.

Serving this Weekend

Preaching & Presiding: Pastor Jason Felici

Director of Music: Debbie Morley

Lectors: **Saturday 5:30pm:** Rick Conrad
 Sunday 8:15am: Nick Gebhart
 Sunday 10:45am: Kelly Clever

Liturgical Deacons: **Saturday 5:30pm:** Jackie Mars
 Sunday 8:15am: Evan Stemler, Dean Reed
 Sunday 10:45am: Jane Lawson, Sandy Redinger

Ushers: **Saturday 5:30pm:** Tom & Beth Dlugos, Linda McDowell
 Sunday 8:15am: Sandy Kisick, Rick Baldonieri, Kathy & Mark Jones
 Sunday 10:45am: Jill & Mike Macey, Becky Tomlinson, Susan Vargo

Acolytes: **Saturday 5:30pm:** Kelly Stanko
 Sunday 8:15am:
 Sunday 10:45am:

Tellers: **Sunday 8:15am:** Mary Ann Coulston, Donna Krall, Phyllis O’Hara
 Sunday 10:45am: Tiffany Shrum, Ted Massa, Tim Potter

Acolytes Serving Next Weekend September 12 & 13

Saturday 5:30pm: Kelly Stanko
Sunday 8:15am:
Sunday 10:45am:

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