



The kingdom
of heaven
is like a
merchant
in search
of fine pearls

MATTHEW 13:45

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

331 Weldon Street

Latrobe, PA 15650

724-537-4450 www.trinitylatrobe.com

Pastor Jess Felici & Pastor Jason Felici

Pastor Emeritus Jeffrey Schock

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 25 & 26, 2026

Welcome to Worship!

Pastors:

Rev. Jess Felici
Rev. Jason Felici

Phone: 724-537-4450
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*.



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 25 & 26, 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)

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

*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, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

(please kneel or sit as your body allows, silence is kept for reflection)

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

People of God: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

▲ Gathering Hymn

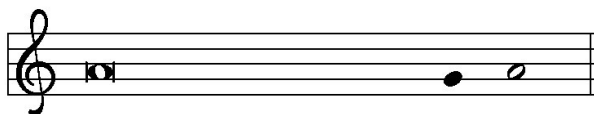
"Gather Us In"

ELW #532

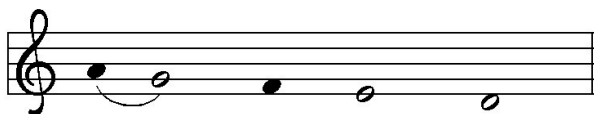
▲ Greeting

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.

▲ Kyrie



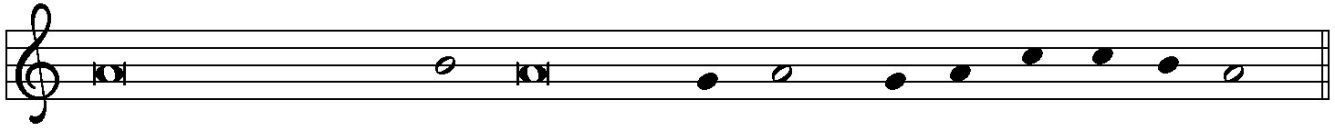
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

(continued)

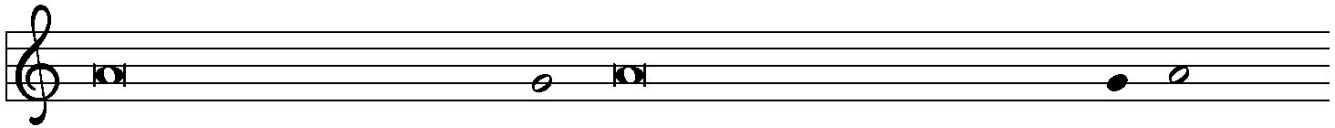
▲ Kyrie



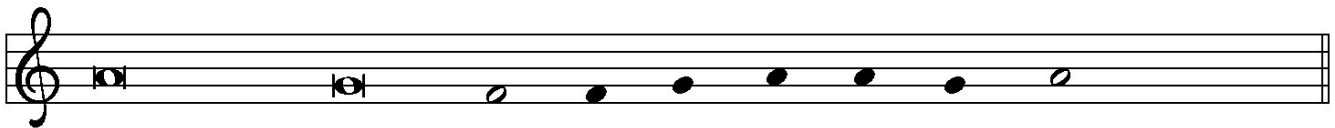
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



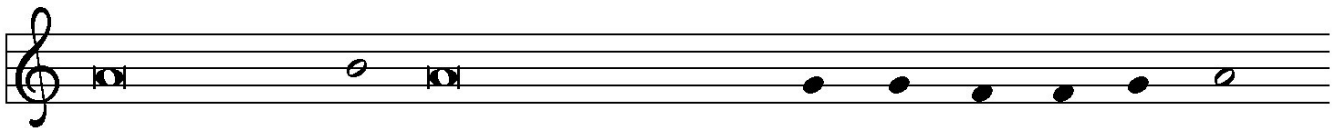
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



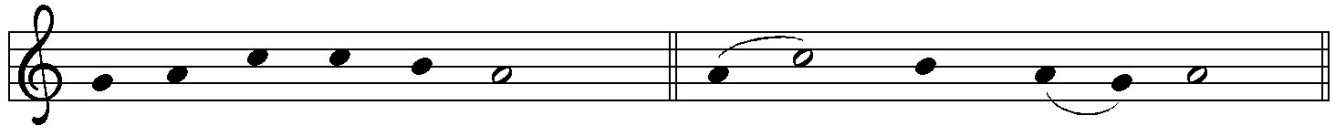
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



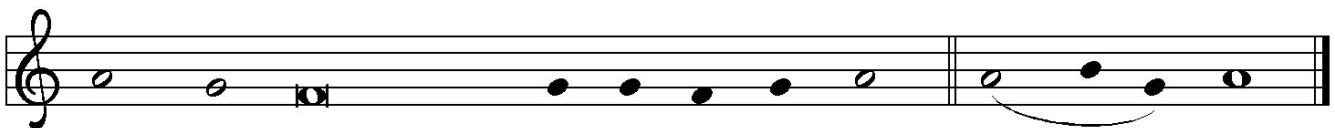
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

▲ Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Word

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

▼ Children's Message

Congregational Prompt—What is your favorite Christmas tradition?

▼ First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Solomon was not David's oldest son, nor the most obvious candidate to succeed his father. But, possibly through the machinations of his mother, Bathsheba, and the prophet Nathan, he was acclaimed as king. The next few chapters of First Kings will demonstrate his wisdom and faithfulness (and also his limitations).

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Psalm 119:129-136 (Spoken Responsively; Leader/Assembly)

Like Solomon, we pray in this psalm for wisdom, remembering that true wisdom has its source in God's Word.

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

▼ Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

Until mid-September, we'll be reading most of the book of Romans straight through. In the argument so far, Paul has demonstrated that we cannot depend on our own worthiness to deserve God's love, but that we receive that love, freely given and accepted in Christ. Now he turns to assure us of the certainty of that love, despite our own insecurity or the opposition of others.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

▲ Gospel Acclamation



▲ Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

This chapter is made up of parables; the longest of which we've read in the last two weeks. Now there are a series of shorter ones, demonstrating different aspects of the Reign of God which is at the center of Jesus' preaching.

(continued)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind;⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.”⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.”⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

▼ **Sermon**

Pastor Jess Felici

▲ **Hymn of the Day**

“Be Thou My Vision”

ELW #793

▲ **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*)

God of grace, hear our prayer.

▲ 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 fostering ecumenical relationships between the clergy and congregations in our community. This work is done primarily through the pastors' attendance and involvement in the Greater Latrobe Ministerial Association.



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

"Neither Death nor Life" (ELW #622)

Haugen

▲ Offertory

"We Are an Offering"

ELW #692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an

of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our

lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. 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:

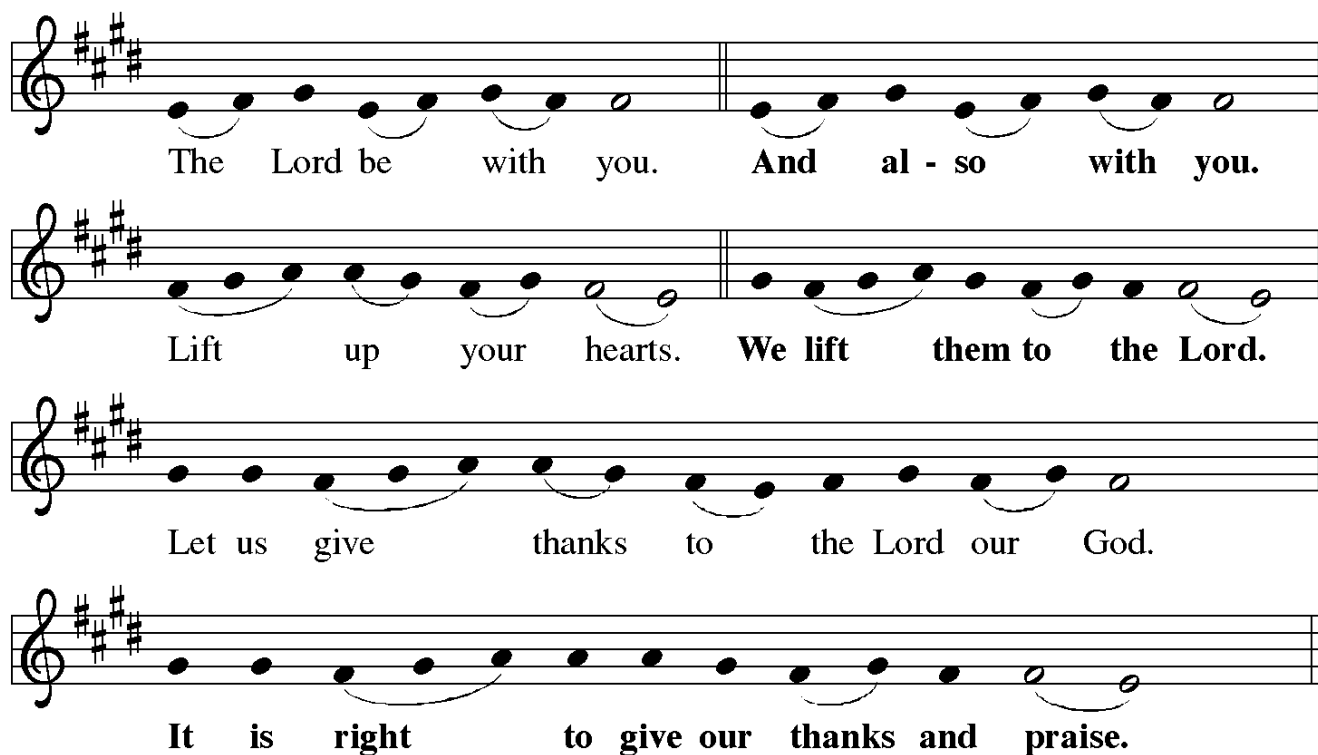
(continued)



▲ Offering Prayer

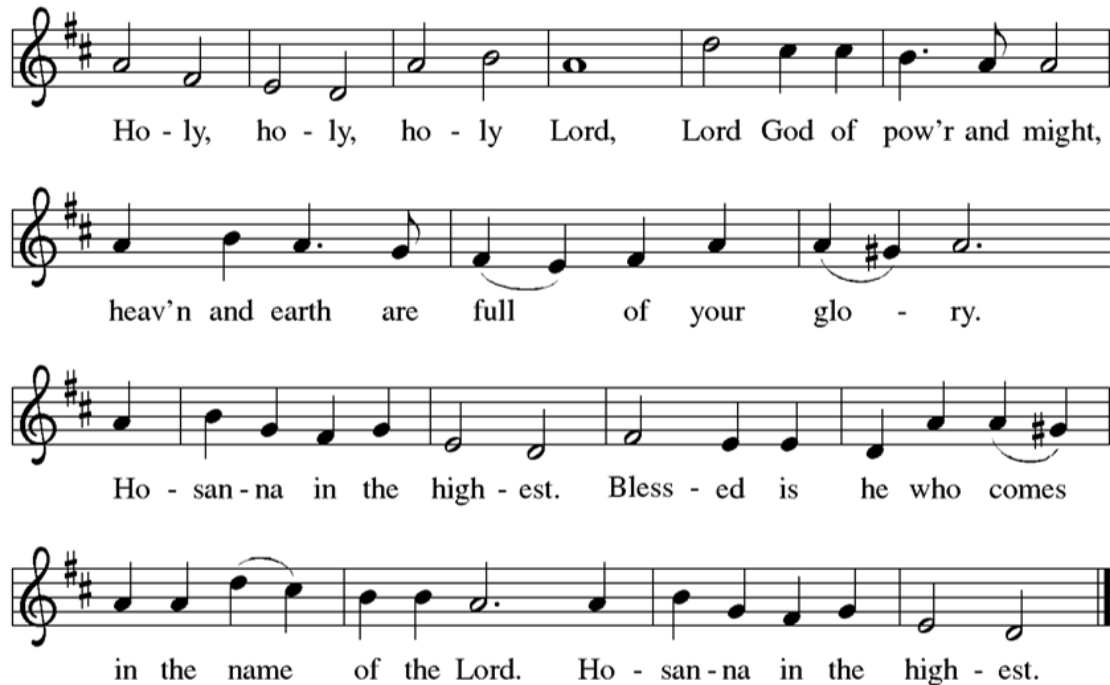
Let us pray. Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

▲ 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, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

▲ 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. Compassionate God, **through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that, through this holy meal, we may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

Sending

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

▲ Blessing

The holy Three, the holy One increase your hope, strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and ☩ grant you peace. **Amen.**

▲ Sending Hymn

“In Thee Is Gladness”

ELW #867

▲ Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

THE BROADCAST THIS WEEKEND is dedicated to the Glory of God in memory of my parents James and Marian Parizek, given by Linda McDowell.

THE FLOWERS THIS WEEKEND are dedicated to the Glory of God in celebration of our son, Jarrett Patterson, on his 30th birthday today, and in appreciation of everyone at Trinity for streaming the good news of God’s love each week, allowing us to worship from afar offered by P. J. Lyon and Fred Patterson.

Serving this Weekend

Preaching:	Pastor Jess Felici	Presiding:	Pastor Jason Felici
Director of Music:	Debbie Morley		
Lectors:	Saturday 5:30pm:	Rick Conrad	
	Sunday 8:15am:	Dave Gebhart	
	Sunday 10:45am:	Karen Clair	
Liturgical Deacons:	Saturday 5:30pm:	Curt Colaianne	
	Sunday 8:15am:	Kim Henry, Sandy Kisick	
	Sunday 10:45am:	Karen Clair, Allie G.	
Ushers:	Saturday 5:30pm:	Kasha & Don Loveridge, Jay Elder, John Elder	
	Sunday 8:15am:	Herb Harris, Keith Bronson, Jr., Keith Bronson, Sr., Emma F.	
	Sunday 10:45am:	Jill & Mike Macey, Tim Potter, Susan Vargo	
Acolytes:	Saturday 5:30pm:	Kelly Stanko	
	Sunday 8:15am:		
	Sunday 10:45am:		
Tellers:	Sunday 8:15am:	Sandy Kisick, Candace Bungard, Sherry Palmer	
	Sunday 10:45am:	Linda McDowell, Christina Andrae, Mike Macey, Darlene Schultz	

Acolytes Serving Next Weekend August 1 & 2

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

Liturgy reprinted from “Evangelical Lutheran Worship”, copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress, used by permission of license #SBT004670 and One License A-709549; Prayers are from “Sundays & Seasons”, copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Introductions to the readings are written by The Rev. Mark Oldenburg, Ph.D., Steck-Miller Professor Emeritus of the Art of Worship, United Lutheran Seminary.