



MESSIAH
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MADISON, ALABAMA

September 20, 2026 8:30 a.m.
17th Sunday after Pentecost



Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Good Morning and Welcome!

If you are an online worshiper or guest today, please leave a record of your time with us online. Thank you!

[Online Guest Form](#)

7740 HIGHWAY 72 W | (256) 721-0041 | MLUTHERAN.ORG

ORDER OF WORSHIP 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Communion

** Please stand as you are able*

PRELUDE “Trust and Obey” (Helman)

Melanie Payne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK Stewardship

INTROIT “Kyrie” (Ruiz)

Choir

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

*GATHERING SONG "Lord of Light"

ELW 688

1 Lord of light, your name out-shin-ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith-ful work-ers in some far out-
 3 Grant that knowl-edge, still in-creas-ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith-ful watch-ers, nev-er si-lent

suns of space, use our tal-ents in your king-dom
 ly-ing field, by the cour-age where the ra-diance
 low-ly kneel; with your grace our tri-umphs hal-low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je-sus, bring-ing

as the ser-vants of your grace; use us to ful-
 of the cross is still re-vealed, by the vic-to-
 with your char-i-ty our zeal; lift the na-tions
 peace to all and heal-ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
Text © Union of Welsh Independents.
Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

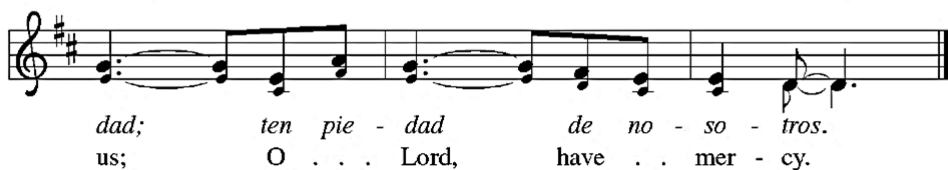
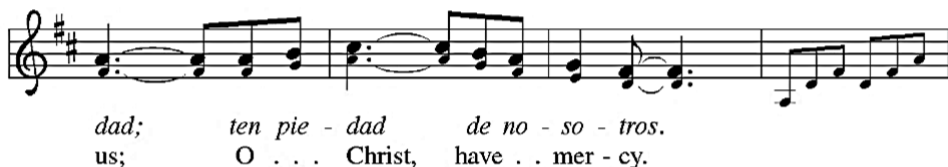
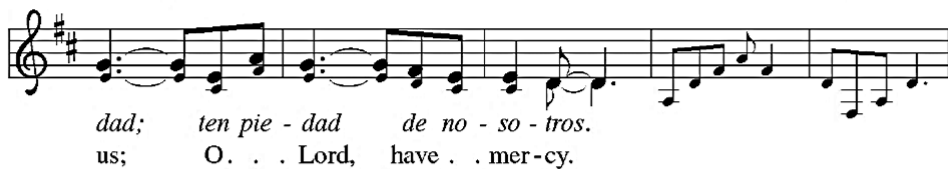
*GREETING

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

Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .

so - tros, Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on



***CANTICLE OF PRAISE “Glory to God”**

Cantor



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!

All



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!

Cantor



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

All



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over

his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

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

PSALM

Psalms 145:1-8

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the

privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

GOSPEL FANFARE

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

*GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing

you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Kristine Schroeder

*HYMN OF THE DAY “As Saints of Old”

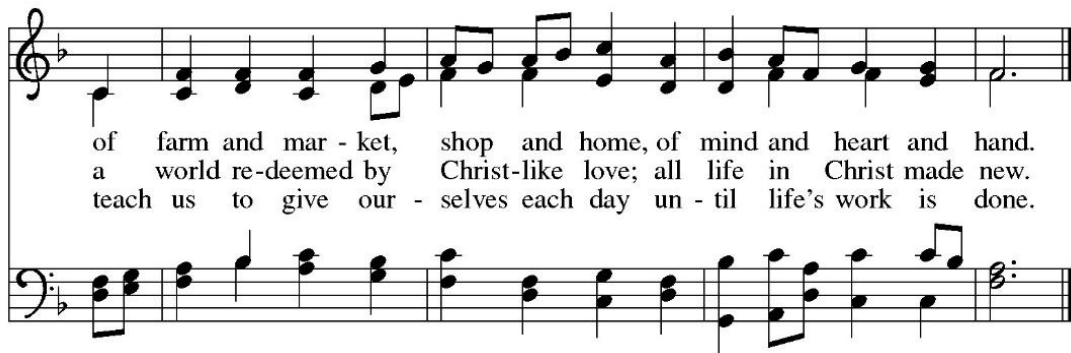
ELW 695



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
 3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day

to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
 to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.

so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
 The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
 O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900–1996, alt.
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

***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**

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

***PEACE**

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

OFFERING “Esto Les Digo” (Lange)

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I will be also

Choir

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”**

ELW 181

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

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 & PREFACE

Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

*SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and



Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN "Now the Silence"

ELW 460

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed
Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come
Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing
Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion
Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing



Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny



Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: NOW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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HYMN "Take My Life, That I May Be"

ELW 685



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.



5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself, and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sures of our mind;
 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some-thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
 There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
 But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
 Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
 there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
 and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
 and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
 Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE “Praise to You, O God of Mercy”

ELW 208



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

⌘ Coda



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.

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*BLESSING

Presider: May God bless and keep us.
May God's face shine on us and be gracious.
May God look on us with favor and ☩ give us peace.



*SENDING SONG “Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

ELW 669

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE “Toccata in F” (Buxtehude)

WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Lindsey and the Porter Family
Kevin
Leighann
Connie Stanger

Victoria Zutter
David
Rich
Bob and Audrey Gustafson

Paulette McNamara
Steven Fesler
Glen and Amelia Harper
Scheurich Family

DURING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH (SEPTEMBER 15–OCTOBER 15), we celebrate the rich contributions of Hispanic composers and musicians to the Church's worship. Today's Introit, Kyrie, and Gloria are from *ELW Holy Communion Setting Seven*, and were originally composed with Spanish texts by composers from Nicaragua, Argentina, and the United States. Our choir will offer an anthem sung in Spanish. As we sing, we give thanks for the diverse gifts of God's people, whose music thoughtfully and joyfully adorns our liturgy.

THE FLOWERS today are given to the Glory of God by Chris Fossum in memory of Jim and in remembrance of his birthday 🕯️

A NURSERY staffed by Hannah Seitz, is available through the double doors in the Narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms. Newborns, toddlers, and children up to Pre-K are welcome.

FOODIES 2.0 KICKOFF POTLUCK CANCELED. Foodies 2.0 potluck originally scheduled for today has been canceled. BUT the Foodies 2.0 small group will still be forming this Fall. If you would like to join Foodies 2.0, contact Greg Kilby at thekilbys87@hotmail.com.

NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED EARLY FALL. If you're interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Kris at pastor.kris@mlutheran.org. We invite you to join us as God's People Reaching Out.

HOSPITALITY TEAM. A Hospitality Team is in the works to welcome and follow up with visitors and get them connected to our Messiah family. If you're interested in joining this team, contact Andrew King at council.president@mlutheran.net.

HANDMADE MARKET, SEPTEMBER 26, 9:00 A.M. TO 3 P.M. We are collecting donations of handmade items / baked goods through Friday, September 25. Drop off at the Craft Room or to Dorothy Seitz. We will also need volunteers to set up and work the event. Email Dorothy at dorothy.seitz@comcast.net to get involved!

VIRTUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026. Be sure to sign up with the QR code by September 27th to have your family pet(s) included in this blessing. So far, we only have five creatures on the roster. Your animal(s) will be featured in the Sunday bulletin, Narthex slideshow or photo displayed on the Altar. Would love to see all our member's animals represented!



BISHOP STRICKLAND'S VISIT, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026, 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00

P.M. The congregation is invited to join Bishop Strickland for a listening session, lunch and workshops. He wants to hear from you regarding any church hurts there may be and provide opportunities for healing. Event to take place in the Parish Hall, Sanctuary and Library.

CHECK THE LOST AND FOUND BIN IN THE NARTHEX. Our bin is overflowing. Please stop by the Narthex and look through the lost and found bin. Any items not claimed by Sunday, October 4, 2026, will be donated or discarded. Thank you!

KIT MINISTRY – Single Toothbrushes

FOOD PANTRY – Instant Mashed Potatoes

****CHURCH CALENDAR****

Sunday, September 20

- 8:30 a.m. – *Service of Worship ELW
Holy Communion
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School /Adult Bible
Study
11:00 a.m. - Band Led Service of Worship
ELW Holy Communion
12:00 p.m. - Foodies 2.0 Potluck
5:00 p.m. - Youth Group Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Notabella Choir Rehearsal

Monday, September 21

- 6:30 p.m. - Messiah Women's Book Club

Tuesday, September 22

- 9:00 a.m. - Comforters
11:00 a.m. - Worship and Music Committee
5:30 p.m. - MoMs Meet Up

Wednesday, September 23

- 5:00 p.m. - Confirmation Class
5:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Dinner
7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 25

- 3:00 p.m. - Handmade Market Set-Up

Saturday, September 26

- 8:00 a.m. - Handmade Market Set-Up
9:00 a.m. - Handmade Market

Sunday, September 27

- 8:30 a.m. – *Service of Worship ELW
Setting 7 with the Lord's Supper
9:45 a.m. - Handmade Market
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School /Adult Bible
Study
11:00 a.m. - Service of Worship ELW
Setting 7 with the Lord's
Supper
12:00 p.m. - Handmade Market Break Down

LOOKING AHEAD

- October 4** - Blessing of the Animals
October 17 - Bishop Strickland's Visit

ATTENDANCE September 6 Online: 60

September 13: 8:30 – 99 11:00 – 45

Cantor	Adam Neely
Lector	Ella Ingram
Ushers	Mark Thompson, Owen Wasmoen
Altar Guild	LeeLinda Baggett
Stream Team	Lee Seitz, Joe Huwaldt
Flower Guild	Claire Strand

Pastor	Kristine Schroeder
Director of Music	Randall Fields
Organist/Accompanist	Melanie Payne
Communications Director	Jan Morrison
Office Manager	Jill Casey