



St. Luke Lutheran Church in Schaefferstown
15th Sunday of Pentecost - September 5, 2021
Holy Communion

Telephone Number - Office: 717-949-3375 churchoffice@stlukelutheran.comcastbiz.net
Web-Site: www.stlukelutheran.org

Our Guiding Story and Mission
The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

As the Body of Christ we proclaim the Gospel by serving and doing God's will
in a manner that meets the needs of our changing world.

HEALTH QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FOR ATTENDEES:

Please Do Not Stay If You Answer Yes to the Following Questions:

1. Do you have a cough, fever or flu-like symptoms? (some flu-like symptoms could be: fatigue, chills, fever, muscle pain, cough, headache, sore throat) – **if yes, please go home and call your Doctor**
2. Have you had a COVID-19 test in the past 10 days? – **if yes, please do not stay**
3. Have you come in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the past 10 days? – **if yes, please do not stay**

Being Mindful of Others: Masks, Distancing, and Other Mitigation Protocols

So that we may safely worship together, please follow these steps with due diligence to mitigate the possibility of spreading illness.

If person is fully vaccinated - Mask is optional.

If person is unvaccinated or has received 1 dose of a 2 dose vaccine - mask is recommended.

Social distancing is still required if not a member of the same household.

Please use hand sanitizer upon arrival (dispenser is on the table by the stairway).

Please take bulletins home.

Please place Offerings in the receptacle on the table by the stairway – Thank you!!

Passing the peace will take place with gestures.

Returning to Altar Communion with a specific procedure.

Welcome/Announcements

The Prelude: *"The Prayer"*

Carole Bayer Sager and David Frost

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God
who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against
you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We**

have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Opening Hymn WOV #738

“Healer Of Our Every Ill”

Refrain

Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *(Refrain)*

In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *(Refrain)*

Give us strength to love each other, ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *(Refrain)*

You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *(Refrain)*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Let us pray. Partnering God, refresh our weary hearts with your Holy Spirit.

C: Inspire us to be your workers, that we may use the gifts you have ignited in us to build your kingdom here in this place, at this time. Burn within us so that we become agents of compassionate transformation in this congregation, this town, and beyond. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Second Reading: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day LBW #543

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation! Let all who hear now to his temple draw near, joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining. Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you; surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do if with his love he befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him! All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Message

Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, True God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Let us share his peace with one another.

(Share the peace with a Gesture)

Offering: Thank you for faithfully mailing your offering envelope or placing them in the container today.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

LAMB OF GOD

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world grant us peace, grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come and be fed!

Distribution of Communion

All are welcome and encouraged to receive the forgiveness and community that are given in the bread and wine. Come forward as directed.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

Blessing

God, the merciful and mighty, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – send us light and truth to keep us all our days.

C: May his hand protect us, his holy angels accompany us, and his blessing envelop us, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn LBW #429

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.

From tender childhood's helplessness, from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress, your heart has never known recoil.

The cup of water giv'n for you still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view the strong compassion in your face.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850-1935, alt.

Sending

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and our neighbors.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude:“*Scherzo*”

C. Phillipp Emanuel Bach

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Supply Pastor: The Rev. Angela Hammer

Worship Assistant: Mike DeLong

Minister of Music: Linda Holt

Lay Reader: Dolly Fasnacht

This Week at St. Luke

Tuesday 10:00 AM Band Together

Wednesday 9-Noon - LWR Quilts

7:00 PM Sr. Choir

Thursday 10:00 AM Band Together

Next Sunday - “God’s Work - Our Hands”

8:30 AM Worship Service

9:30 Sunday School

7:00 PM Taizé Service

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It is easy to stay connected to all things happening at St. Luke! Check out our website at <https://www.stlukelutheran.org>. In addition to updates on current events, you will find links on the website to access our online worship services via Facebook or YouTube.

Or, if you prefer, you can access online services directly via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran>, or on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWKROL7HVJEgtCMksioZwoA>.

The bulletin will continue to be emailed out weekly with printed copies available at Sunday worship. So whether you attend in person or tune in online, it is easy to stay connected!

We welcome your feedback--recommendations, suggestions, or improvements regarding the current online transmissions. We also need volunteers to assist with the technical aspects of livestreaming and all of the legwork and support this requires. Please send your feedback or volunteer availability to the Church Office.

A WARM WELCOME to our supply pastor The Rev. Angela Hammer and all our visitors as we come together to share this day here at St. Luke.

Please keep in your prayers those who are ill, recovering, or shut-in, especially:

John Adams, Claudia Addison, Kit Ahnert, Brenda Boyer, Leon Boyer, Mechelle Leshner Bray, Amanda Cupernall, Alexandria (Lexxi) Ditzler, Cathy Dunkelberger, Earl Garman, Deb Glassmoyer, Peg Griffe, Bill Gundrum, Kim Lenhart Hale, John Hassinger, Dean Hettinger, Lilly Higgins & Family, Bill Hoffman, Richard and Nancy Hollen, June Kohr, Landon Kreider, Ruth Kupp, Betty Leedy, Delores Leshner, Richard Leshner, Ken Light, Donald and Sue McClure, Steven McCracken, Casey McGarvey, Dana McKinney, Maureen Marinkov, Dale Matthews, Harold (Spike) Moore, Brian Navarre, Barry and Tom Nolt, George Pastore, Kathy O'Roark, Gerald and Ruth Parson, Ronald Ream, Lance Rhodes, Al Shade, Barry Shriver, Linda Simmers, Lloyd Smith, Richard Strohl, Caitlyn, Gretta and Mike Stuber, Robert Todisco, Landis Wenger, Josephine Wenrich, Janet Wharton, Josie Williams, Eddie Wolfe, Marian Yoder, Dottie and Maggie Zartman, and Ashton Zohn.

Pray for those who are serving in the military, especially:

Christopher Ahnert, Timothy Beamesderfer, David Deysher, Tyler Fleagle, Shane Gettler, Steven Ginder, George Leshner, Jr., Greg Rocker, and Matthew Sanders.

Pray for congregations and ministries with whom we share mutual ministry:

The congregations and pastors of the Heidelberg Ministerium and Lebanon Conference, Agape House, Lebanon Co. Christian Ministries, Lebanon Taizé Violence Intervention Women's Shelter, Lancaster/Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Support Connections of Lebanon County, Our Synod Bishop James S. Dunlop and his staff, and our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff.

Please be in Prayer for and with St. Luke Vision to Mission Team - Kit Ahnert, Richelle Deysher, Elaine Matternas, Judy Plummer, Scott Rights, and Todd Snyder.

The Monthly Ministry Emphasis for the month of September will be ***"Domestic Violence Shelter"***. Thank you again for your continued support.

St. Luke History Books are available for \$20.00. Call Anna Mae Grubb 717-273-7035 or email at mrgrubby@comcast.net.

Sr. Choir will begin rehearsals Wednesday evening, September 8 at 7:00 PM.

We could sing the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Please contact Linda Holt as soon as possible.

We welcome all new members for this coming year who love to sing!!

Plan ahead for **God's Work – Our Hands** Sunday on September 12th, when we will launch Warmth for Winter with a Diaper Drive. Now is a good time to check for coupons and bargains as you shop and stock up on diapers of all sizes which will be distributed through Lebanon County Christian Ministries. Thank you for your support!

The Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, September 16th at 7:00pm in the Chapel. We will be discussing "**The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell**" by: Robert Dugoni. All are welcome to join the group. If anyone has any questions please contact Richelle Deysher.

We are in need of **boxes for shipping the quilts in October**. Please contact Sue Delong with any questions.

Volunteers are needed Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9 to help gather and pick up quilts and kits at the different churches to be delivered to Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ephrata.

If you are in need of **Pastoral Care** for a Visit, Hospitalization, Baptisms, Funerals, etc. please call the church office at 717-949-3375.