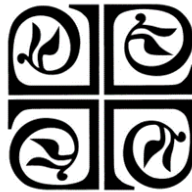


# St. Luke Lutheran Church

PO Box 278 Schaefferstown, PA 17088 717-949-3375

September 24, 2023  
17th Sunday after Pentecost  
Contemporary Service of the Word



St. Luke 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.

## Welcome!

We are glad you have joined us today.

Visitors: please sign the visitor book  
upon entering the sanctuary.

Guide to abbreviations:

**P:** spoken by the Pastor      **C:** Congregation responds

WOV—With One voice— blue hymnal

LBW—Lutheran Book of Worship—green hymnal

\* stand as you are able

On our website ([stlukelutheran.org](http://stlukelutheran.org)), you can find current events and links to our  
online worship services.

Direct access:

Facebook is at [www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran), or on YouTube:  
[www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa](https://www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa)

## GATHERING

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

### Welcome and Announcements

**Gathering Song:** Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LBW 499

### Call to Worship and Prayer:

P: As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,

**C: So God seeks and saves the lost.**

P: Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,

**C: So God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.**

P: As a father receives a returning wayward son,

**C: So God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.**

P: Therefore let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received.

**C: Let us receive, welcome, and rejoice over one another in the name of God's love incarnate, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### \*Opening Song: They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

CCLI Song # 26997 Peter Scholtes—Words: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation; Music: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation

#### Verse 1

We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity  
May one day be restored

#### Verse 2

We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
And together we'll spread the news  
That God is in our land

#### Chorus (after each verse)

And they'll know we are Christians  
By our love by our love  
Yes they'll know we are Christians  
By our love

*Song continues on next page*

### **Verse 3**

We will work with each other  
We will work side by side  
We will work with each other  
We will work side by side  
And we'll guard each man's dignity  
And save each man's pride

### **Verse 4**

All praise to the Father  
From whom all things come  
And all praise to Christ Jesus  
His only Son  
And all praise to the Spirit  
Who makes us one

### **Chorus (after each verse)**

And they'll know we are Christians  
By our love by our love  
Yes they'll know we are Christians  
By our love

### **\*Apostolic Greeting:**

P: 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.**

P: Let us pray...

**\*Prayer of the Day:** Please see Celebrate insert

### **Litany of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

As we dedicate these beautiful quilts, and all that the people of this congregation do to benefit and comfort our neighbors, we pray to our Father in Heaven. Merciful and loving Father,

**C: You have so richly blessed us, but we pray for more, much more.**

We pray for grateful hearts, for a humble awareness of our abundance amid all the world's poverty and pain.

**C: Yes Father, we pray for more.**

We pray for the courage to give generously of our resources - our imaginations, our time and abilities, our material wealth.

**C: We pray yet for more, Father.**

We pray for the strength to reject the rationalizations which lead to indifference and silence in our cultural climate of top-down greed, entitlement, and insatiable desire.

**C: Father, for much more we pray.**

We pray for your promised forgiveness for the fears, the selfishness, the thoughtlessness, the suspicions, the self-righteousness which hinder our loving service, and we pray for gratefulness and greater obedience to mark our thanksgiving.

**C: For still more, generous Father, we pray.**

We pray for lifestyles of justice, mercy, mindfulness, and compassion; living more simply, being advocates for the poor and oppressed, supporting the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Habitat for Humanity, and Domestic Violence Intervention, and hope that soon we are able to restart The Emergency Food Assistance Program, Noon and Evening Free Meals, and Warmth for Winter.

**C: Yes Father, yet again we pray for more.**

We pray for confident hope in the presence of such overwhelming needs, to know that raising our voices for awareness and support, and each offering of money, quilts, pillows, blankets, food, and other material resources makes a welcome difference to others, and to you.

**C: For one more thing, Father, we pray.**

We pray you would bless those who labor on behalf of the least of Jesus' family through all the work of our medical professionals struggling to protect us from and heal us of COVID 19, Lutheran World Relief and its partners, and Lebanon County Christian Ministry, that we would uphold them with our prayers, our encouragement, our gifts, and our willingness to learn and to invite the support of others. May these workers in your kingdom feel your presence and your and our love.

**C: All this we pray, gracious Father, in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus, as your Holy Spirit continually encourages us to approach your throne of grace with confidence and ask boldly for the needs of others and ourselves. Amen.**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

For all readings, please see the *Celebrate* insert

**First Reading:** Jonah 3:10-4:11

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 145:1-8**

Read responsively

**Second Reading:** Philippians 1:21-30

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*Gospel:** Matthew 20:1-16

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**



**The Message**

**\*Hymn:** We Fall Down

CCLI Song # 2437367—Chris Tomlin—1998 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs

**Verse**

We fall down  
We lay our crowns  
At the feet of Jesus  
The greatness of mercy and love  
At the feet of Jesus

**Chorus**

And we cry holy holy holy  
And we cry holy holy holy  
And we cry holy holy holy is the Lamb

**\*Apostles' Creed**

P: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**C:** 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, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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:** Please see *Celebrate* insert

**\*Passing the Peace:**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

P: Let us share his peace with one another.

**\*Offertory Song:** Your Grace Is Enough

CCLI Song # 4477026—Matt Maher 2003 Thankyou Music; spiritandsong.com

**Verse 1**

Great is Your faithfulness O God  
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart  
You lead us by still waters into mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart

**Pre-Chorus**

(So) remember Your people  
Remember Your children  
Remember Your promise O God

**Chorus 1**

Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me

**Verse 2**

Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob  
You use the weak to lead the strong  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation  
And all Your people sing along

**Chorus 2**

Yeah Your grace is enough  
Heaven reaches out to us  
Your grace is enough for me  
God I sing Your grace is enough  
I'm covered in Your love  
Your grace is enough for me for me

**Offertory Prayer:**

P: As followers of Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, let us pray like St. Francis prayed:

**C: Lord make us instruments of your peace.**

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much  
seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

P: This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**C: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is 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.**

**SENDING**

**God sends us boldly into the world to share the good news**

**Blessing:**

The God who calls across the cosmos  
and speaks in the smallest seed

✠ bless, keep, and sustain you  
now and to the end of the age.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Closing Song: As for Me and My House**

CCLI Song # 4940742 Michael Neale 2007 Integrity's Praise! Music

**Chorus**

As for me and my house  
We will serve You Lord  
Bowing down our hearts in worship  
For Your grace and love outpoured  
As for me and my house  
We will serve You Lord  
Lifting holy hands in worship  
For Your grace and love outpoured

**Verse**

Our Firm Foundation our only Hope  
We fix our eyes on You on You alone  
Complete surrender to You our King  
This is our one desire our offering  
You deserve all honor and all praise

**Bridge**

You deserve all honor  
You deserve all praise  
Lord we come to glorify Your Name  
(REPEAT)

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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**Our Worshiping Community:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Angela Hammer      **Minister of Music:** Linda Holt

**Cont. Worship Team:** Linda Holt, Todd Snyder, Sarah Kneller

**Ministers:** The People of St. Luke Church

**September Worship Assistant:** Sue DeLong

**Lay Reader:** Steffi Gettler      **LR for 10/8:** Richelle Deysher

**Live Streaming Technician/Assistant:** William Hoffman and Beverly Hoffman

**Last Week – September 17**

**Worship Attendance:** In-person: 35    Online views: 42    **Offering:** \$825

*The altar flowers are given by Jake and Judy Werner  
in memory of loved ones.*

**This week at St. Luke**

**Sunday, September 24—Pentecost 17**

8:30 AM                      Contemporary Service of the Word/Quilt Display  
9:30 AM                      Sunday School (Children)  
9:30 AM                      Coffee Hour and Quilt boxing  
5:30 PM-7:00 PM        Community Free Meal

**Tuesday, September 26**

10:00 AM                      Band Together

**Wednesday, September 27**

7:00 PM                      Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, September 28**

10:00 AM                      Band Together  
10:00 AM                      Zoom Bible Study  
11:00 AM                      Newsletter collating  
11:30 AM-1:00 PM        Community Free Meal

**Next Sunday, October 1—Pentecost 18**

10:00 AM                      Pet Blessing and brunch in the Grove at St. Paul Penryn  
5:30 PM-7:00 PM        Community Free Meal

## NEWS IN OUR PEWS



**Coffee Hour:** Volunteers are always welcome! Sign up in narthex.

**Ingathering help needed:** Please help fold and box the quilts to prepare them for shipping following today's service. Anyone who can fold, tape, or carry a quilt would be making a difference for others less fortunate. Help is also needed on Friday October 6 (noon to 1:30) to load quilts from churches in Schaefferstown, Lebanon, and Annville and Saturday October 7 (7:15-9:00) to load at Bergstrasse in Ephrata. Please see Sue DeLong for details. Additional details will be in October newsletter.

**Ministry Emphasis for September:** Domestic Violence Shelter

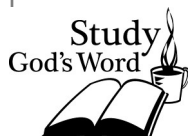
**Party with a purpose**—Saturday, September 30 from 5:00-8:00 PM at Camp Kirchenwald Enjoy dinner and live entertainment plus silent and live auctions as well as giveaways. The evening is free, all we ask is a donation at the end of the night in the amount of your choice. This year's focus is a fleet of new mountain bikes! Thanks to the Elizabethtown Mountain Bike Team, camp has great new trails on which to ride, but our aged and well used bikes are not up to the challenge. Help us get kids on bikes to enjoy the new trails! This is an adult event. Childcare is provided, please let us know if you would like to utilize this service. Questions? Call 717-677-821 QR codes are located on the table in the narthex.

**Pet Blessing Service**—next Sunday October 1: The service next Sunday is at 10:00 AM in the grove behind St. Paul Penryn with brunch to follow. Food signup is in the narthex. Bring a lawn chair and your pets. Follow signs from Penryn and Newport Road. Follow the lane all the way to the end.

**Thursday Meal Team Workers Needed:**

September and October are St. Luke's turn to staff the Thursday Free Noon Meals. Volunteers are needed, whether you can serve for one time or for all of them. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the chapel with dates and times noted. Thanks to all who are able to participate in this community outreach!

*Give*  
**THANKS**  
WITH A GRATEFUL  
**HEART** 1 Thessalonians 5:18



**Thursday morning ZOOM Bible Study:** September 28 at 10:00 AM.

## Prayers for:

### **Those who are ill, recovering, or shut-in, especially:**

John Adams, Marilyn Adams, Claudia Addison, Brenda Boyer, Amanda Cupernall, Alexandria (Lexxi) Ditzler, Cathy Dunkelberger, Henry Fasnacht, Deb Glassmoyer, Peg Griffie, David Grubb, Bill Gundrum, Kim Lenhart Hale, John Hassinger, Earl Hehnly, Dean Hettinger, Lilly Higgins & Family, Richard and Nancy Hollen, Christopher Johnson (D Hettinger), Landon Kreider, Richard Leshner, Ken Light, Donald and Sue McClure, Steven McCracken, Casey McGarvey, Dana McKinney, Maureen Marinkov, Harold (Spike) Moore, Brian Navarre, Barry and Tom Nolt, Kathy O'Roark, Ruth Parson, George Pastore, Ronald Ream, Lance Rhodes, Landon Rhodes, Al Shade, Barry Shriver, Lloyd Smith, Richard Strohl, Caitlyn, Gretta and Mike Stuber, Robert Todisco, Landis Wenger, Josephine Wenrich, Janet Wharton, Josie Williams, Eddie Wolfe, Marian Yoder, Ashton Zohn.

### **Those who are serving in the military, especially:**

Timothy Beamesderfer, David Deysler, Tyler Fleagle, Shane Gettler, Steven Ginder, Matthew Plummer, Greg Rucker.

### **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, Women's Shelter, Lancaster/Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Support Connections of Lebanon County, St. Paul's Penryn, Our Bishops: James S. Dunlop and Elizabeth Eaton and their staff.

**The St. Luke Vision to Mission Team** - Kit Ahnert, Richelle Deysler, Elaine Matternas, Scott Rights, and Todd Snyder.

Please notify the church office and Pastor Angie  
when the prayer chain is activated and for pastoral care & emergencies.  
For revisions to the above list, please contact the church office.

