The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 17, 2023

As We Gather - God's creation is filled with amazing creatures, some of which dedicate their lives to making peoples' lives fuller and better. Since 1942, the Guide Dogs for the Blind association has graduated more than 16,000 person and dog teams from its training programs. The canine guides assist their human teammates each day of their lives together. The guidance they give is expert and dependable. Good guidance in every stage of life is essential! Throughout Scripture, our Lord promises His presence and His divine guidance to sustain and direct His people. Paul summed up that blessed relationship very simply: "So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8). Seeking the Lord's guidance and responding to His promptings brings blessing to our lives!

Offering and Registry of Worship Cards: Please fill out a Registry of Worship Card found in the pew racks. We ask that you print the names of every person in your family, indicating if they take communion. One side of the card is for members and the other side for guests. As the offering is collected, pass the cards to the center aisle so our ushers can gather them.

Saturday Worship: Offerings and Worship Cards will be received in the offering plates at the rear of the church either upon entering or when leaving. Thank you for your gift to the work of the Lord.

About Protecting the Healthy: To protect yourself and others from COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory diseases, individuals may choose to mask at any time. Appropriate hand washing by everyone is encouraged. People with symptoms of an infectious illness are highly encouraged to stay home. Symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Thank you for helping to keep everyone healthy as we receive God's gifts in worship.

GENERALLY, BE MINDFUL, NOT FEARFUL.

Prelude and Meditation: Before worship we talk to God (see prayers on page 308 in the hymnal); during worship God talks to us; after worship we talk to one another.

Prelude:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Greeting and Sharing of Peace (stand)

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation: From All That Dwell Below the Skies LSB 816 Δ Please stand after a brief interlude \mathbf{O} all that dwell be - low the 1 From skies Let the Cre - a - tor's Thy mer-cies, ter - nal ter - nal truth at are Lord: \triangle 3 All praise to God the Fa - ther be, All praise, e - ter - nal Al - le - lu praise a - rise; ia, al-le - lu -Al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu tends Thy Word. Son. to Thee. Al - le - lu ia. al-le - lu -Re - deem - er's name be sung Through ev - 'ry land by Let the praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and the Spir - it Whom with a - dore For - ev - er and forwe ev-'ry tongue. Al - le - lu ia. al - le - lu al - le - lu Al - le - lu ia, ia! set no more. Al - le - lu al - le - lu ev - er - more: ia, al-le - lu Al - le lu - ia. al-le - lu - ia, ia! al-le - lu le lu - ia. al-le - lu - ia, ia! al-le - lu al-le - lu - ia, ia! lu - ia,

Remain standina

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Text (sts. 1–2): Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; (st. 3): William W. How, 1823–97 Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln Text and tune: Public domain

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **©** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **B**ut with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

- P Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
 I have fled to you for refuge!
- Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

- P Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

 Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

 I have fled to you for refuge!



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204

C 1 To God on high be glo ry And peace to all the earth: You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa-ther's Son, 2 To we pray; ho - ly; You on - ly 3 For You a - lone are the Lord. are



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth! O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way. For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry, You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**
- **P** Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Epistle Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

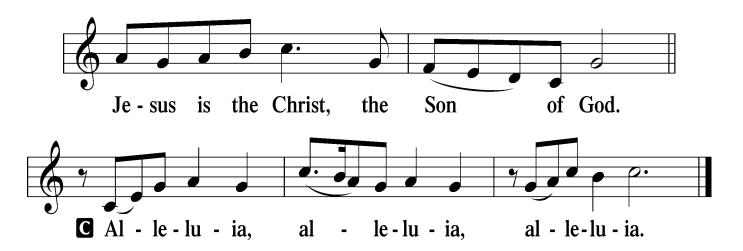
"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand





Holy Gospel Matthew 18:21–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

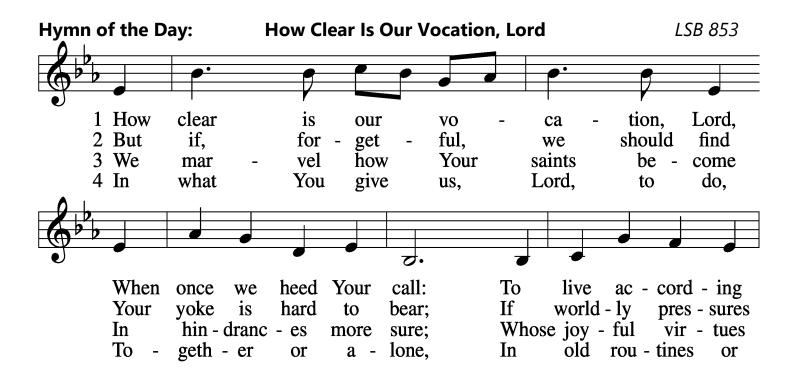
²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe." ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' 34And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

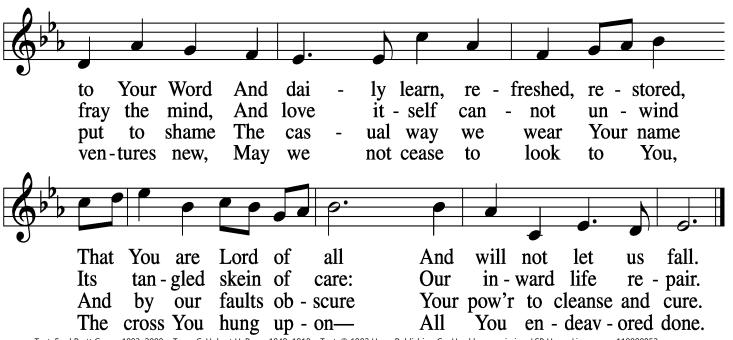
- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all C things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Sit





Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000 Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918 Text: © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000852

Sermon: "Diff

"Different Strokes for Different Folks"
Romans 14:1-12

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Reception of New Members

Choir Anthem:

by Michael Joncas arranged by Mark Hayes

Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings (Sunday Only)

Registry of Worship Cards (Sunday Only) – Please pass your completed cards to the center aisle.

On Eagle's Wings

Service of the Sacrament

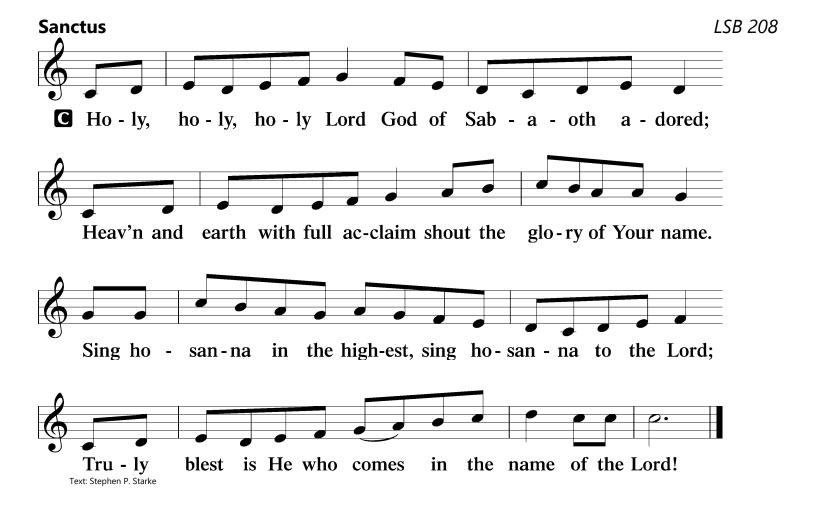
Stand

Preface LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **W**e lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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.

The Words of Our Lord

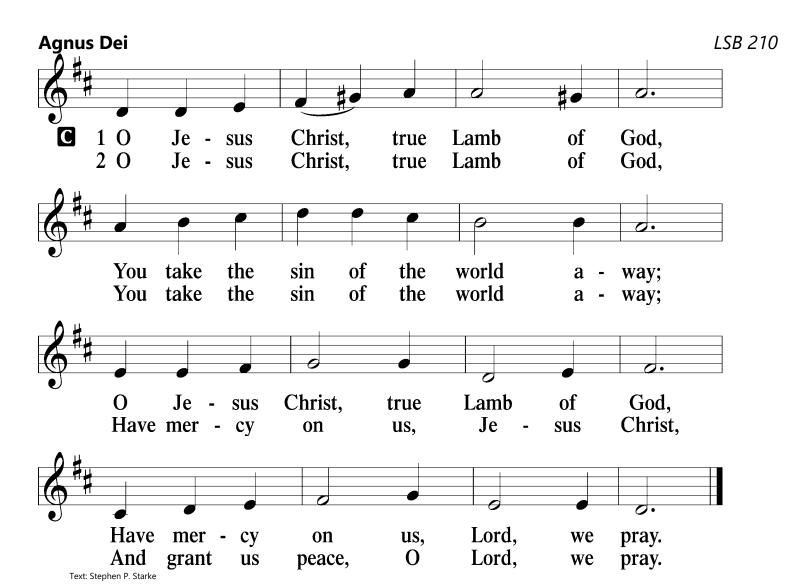
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My

→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Sit

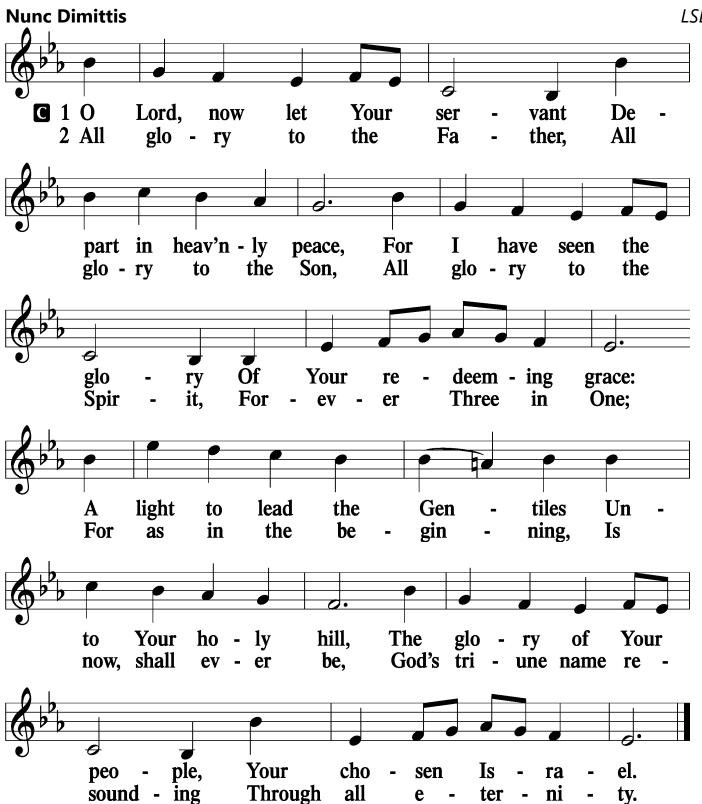
Distribution:

Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)

LSB 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be LSB 727 On Eagles' Wings



LSB 211



Post-Communion Collect

(Saturday)

- **P** Let us pray together.
- I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Sunday)

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benedicamus LSB 212

- **P** Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and

 → give you peace.
- C Amen.



Text: Martin Rinckart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude:

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV[®] Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version[®]), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Elena Miraztchivska

Saturday		
	Lee Crapo	
	Rick Smith/Gerie Slaten	
Audio	Lee Crapo/Robin Fox	
Sunday		
Elder	Steve Rosane	
Lector	Kim Kaniecki	
Greeter	Dave and Lora Wacker	
Audio	Kyle Welch	
Video	Video TD: Kris Welch	
	GFX/ Stream: Robin Fox/ Steve Klement	
Altar Guild	Sandy Spanier and Larry Nimetz	
LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP <u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>		
	Pastor Christopher Hazzard	
_	Elena Miraztchiyska	
	Steve Rosane	
	Charlotte Mantz	
	Robert and Cheryl Langanke	
	Maria Hazzard	
Video	Video TD: Josiah Hazzard	
	GFX: / Stream: Andrea Hazzard/Judi Rudolph	
Altar Guild	Sandy Spanier and Larry Nimetz	
ATTENDANCE FROM LAST WEEK		
Saturday Worship Attendance	29	
	80	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH- Pentecost XVI – Surprise pregnancy often comes with complications and difficulties. Terminal diagnosis can involve suffering and sorrow. But our God brought Jesus back from the dead. He makes it His way to wring blessings out of burdens (Genesis 50:19-20). Are we in the place of God, to let abortion or assisted suicide judge (Romans 14:4) someone else's life as hopeless?

FLOWER SPONSOR– John and Bellinda Freer, in celebration of their 43rd wedding anniversary.

BULLETIN SPONSOR – Don and Donna Racer are the bulletin sponsors this week.

MARY MARTHA QUILTERS – The Mary Martha Quilters have resumed meeting each Tuesday from 10am – Noon. All ladies are welcome.

CHURCH POTLUCK TODAY- Mary Martha is hosting an "Old Fashioned" potluck lunch, today, Sunday, September 17th after our morning worship service.

REFORMATION MEAL TASK FORCE – The Reformation Meal Task Force will meet Thursday, September 21st, at 6:30 pm.

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE – The Endowment Fund Committee will have their meeting next Sunday, September 24th following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the Choir Room. Looking forward to seeing everyone on the Committee. Helen Borgwardt, Chairperson.

LWML WINTER HAVEN ZONE RALLY – The Winter Haven Zone Rally will be at Grace Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 14th, from 9AM – 2PM. Cost is \$10 and a \$5 donation for Young Woman's Rep. A continental breakfast and light lunch will be served.

UPDATE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE –We have been blessed with people willing to use their talents to serve as President and Vice President of our congregation. However, we still need to fill the following positions of Treasurer (2 Year Term), Christian Education (1 Year Term), and Youth (1 Year Term). Elections will be during the November Voters' meeting. The new officers will begin serving in January 2024. For more information, please contact Pastor Thomas Block (863-853-9792) or Carol Ceaglske (863-660-2426). This is a blessed opportunity to use your talents helping with God's work.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR - Volunteers are needed for the fellowship teams which will begin Sunday October 1st and will end on Sunday, May 19th. Light snacks to be served after the service in the Fellowship Hall to enhance our Christian family and fellowship, welcome visitors, and our winter visitors. A minimum of six teams is needed with at least 5-6 people on each team. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

VOLUNTEER READERS – We are looking for a couple of volunteers who would be willing to serve as readers at the Saturday night services. If you can help, please contact Debbie Smith at 863-399-2411 or at des1954@gmail.com. Thank you in advance.

CLC BAZAAR & CRAFT PREPARATIONS – It's time again to reserve a space for the Christ Lutheran Church Bazaar & Craft Sale. This year the sale will be on Saturday, November 11, 2023, from 9am – 1pm, and will cover two holidays – Thanksgiving and

Christmas. The non-refundable fee for inside the Fellowship Hall is still just \$25.00 which includes two chairs and an approx. 8X6 space which is air conditioned or if you would rather be outside in the courtyard a space is \$20. Both options have electricity available, you will need to supply your own extension cord. You can bring your own table but it must fit in the 8X6 space or you can rent a table from Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) for \$10.00, please let me know if you want a table when you reserve your space. Space is first come first serve. Make checks payable to CLC Church with "Bazaar" written in the memo line. Each vendor is ask to donate one item from their table for the Door Prize table. For more information or questions, please contact Belinda Freer at johnjuke2@aol.com or call 863-602-5159. Proceeds will be given to a local non-profit.

DREAM CENTER VOLUNTEERS – Volunteers are needed to help check- in and sort items here at Christ Lutheran for the Dream Center. Please see or contact Robin Fox at 863-513-4774 to schedule a day and time to volunteer.

RECIPES WANTED - Mary Martha is collecting favorite recipes for the Church Cookbook. If you have a favorite recipe and would be willing to share it, please write it legibly, sign your name on it and put it in the box located in the Narthex. There is no limit to number of recipes you can submit.

CHURCH DIRECTORY – For those that are not aware, our church member directory is now available online. Please see the flyer sheets in the narthex for more information or email Kim Kaniecki at stewardship@clclakeland.org.

TRUSTEE VOLUNTEER DAY – Every Tuesday from 9 am -1 pm. If you would like to help with the various needs of the church, come join us. A job, whether large or small can be found to help with. If you notice something you think needs attention, come let us know. Thanks for helping.

GREETERS NEEDED – Volunteers are needed to be Greeters in the Narthex to welcome guest and members as they enter for service. If you are interested, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board.

NAMETAGS – We would like to encourage all our members to please wear their nametags to church. If you can't find your nametag or don't have one, please sign-up for one on the bulletin board in the Narthex of the church.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - Romans 14:7 – "For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself." We just don't belong to ourselves — we belong first of all to God, and through Him, we belong to our neighbors. We are here to serve God in our service to one another. God has called you to this service through your vocation: as a Christian you serve others in the church, as a neighbor you serve others in society, and as a son or daughter, husband or wife, father or mother, you serve your family.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Tuesday	Trustee Workday @ 9 am
	Quilters @ 10 am
Wednesday	Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran
	Private Communion @ 1:30 – 2:30 pm
	Youth Group @ 6 pm
	Jr. Confirmation Class @ 7 pm
	Choir @ 7 pm
Thursday	In Person & ZOOM Bible Study@ 10 am
	Reformation Meal Task Force Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Friday	Church Office closed, Pastor's Day Off
Saturday	
Sunday	Bible Study @ 8:30 am
	Worship Service @ 10 am
	Bible Study @ 11:15 am
	Stewardship meeting
	Endowment Fund Meeting