

Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

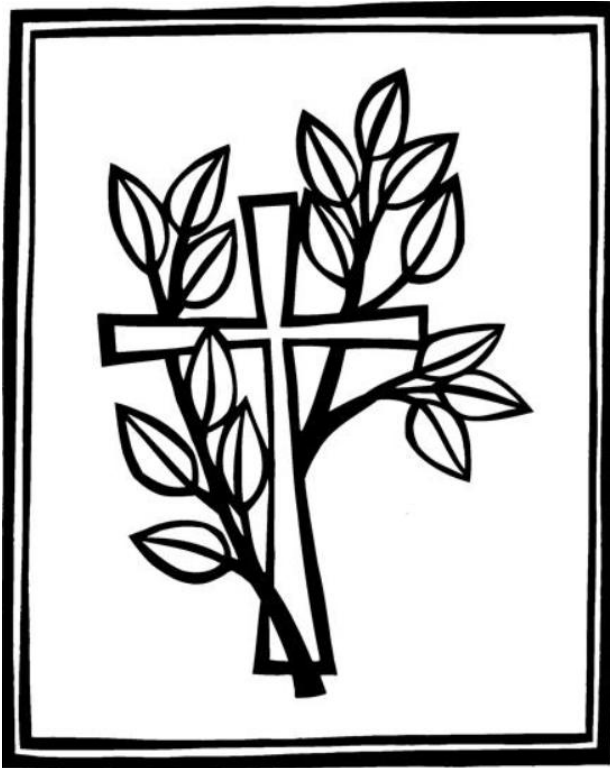
www.reformationlutheran.org

Office (610) 779-0534

Pastor Stoddard (610) 334-1285

14th Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of Word and Sacrament

August 30th, 2026
9:30 AM



The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Welcome to Reformation!

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Greg Stoddard
Director of Music:	Dr. Heidi Rochlin
Ushers	Joanne Scattergood and Shirley Harner
Reader	Judy Plica
Assisting Minister	Alan Blackburn
Acolyte	Jen Weaver
Altar Guild	Maddie and Ryan Klinikowski
Flowers	Marlane Coldren-in memory of David Coldren
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Stu Johnston, Jared Preston, Andy Dobroskey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

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.

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.

For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain

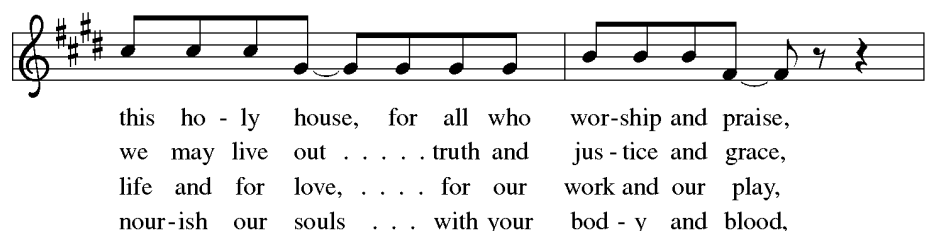
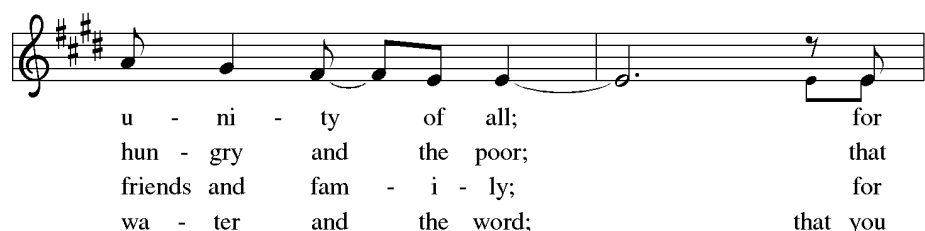
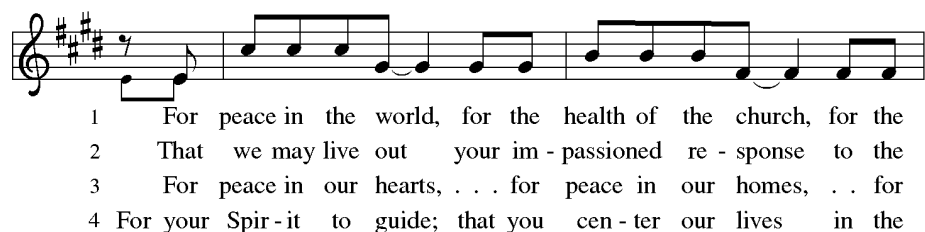
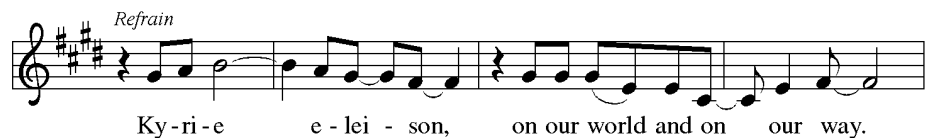


Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

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:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

FIRST READING – JEREMIAH 15:15-21

¹⁵ O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

SECOND READING – ROMANS 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL – MATTHEW 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some

standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

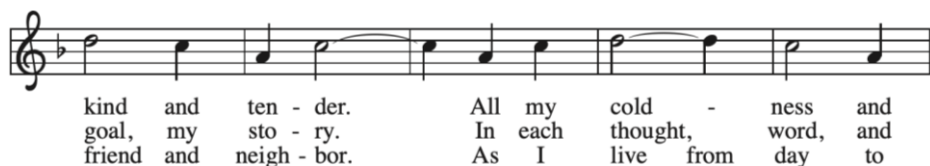
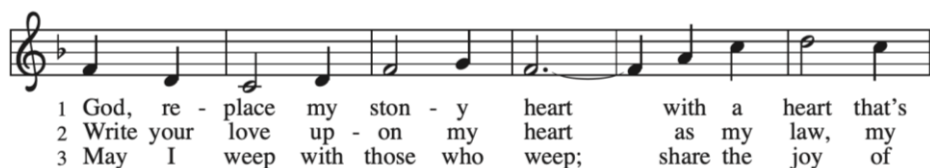
The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ACS 1043

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain



Refrain



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.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each petition of the prayers concludes with these words:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING & ANTHEM

Give Me Jesus, *arranged by Robert Lau*

The assembly stands.

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 offering.

Lord use our voices. Lord use our hands.

Lord use our lives they are Yours, we are an offering.

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, we are an offering, we are an offering.

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

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

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.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.**

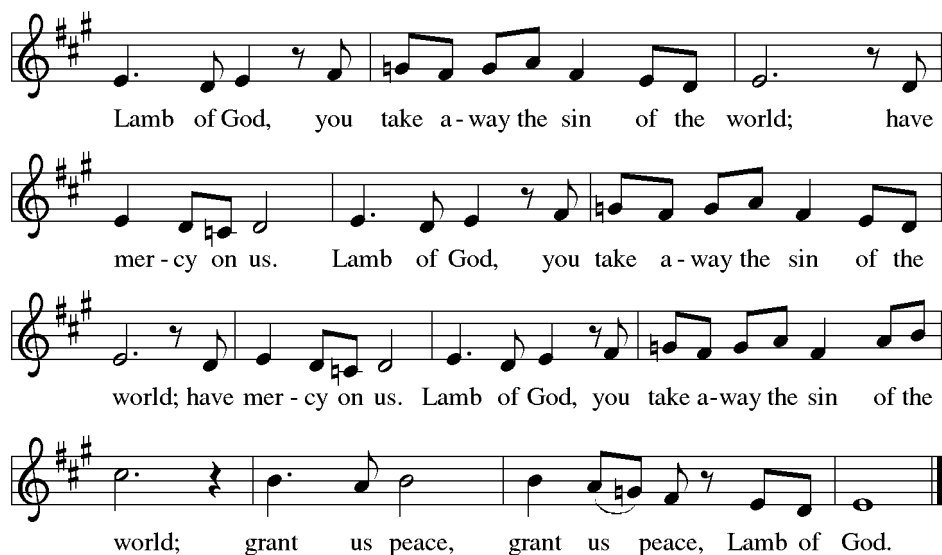
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION & COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please note that, to be accessible to all, our communion bread is gluten-free, nut-free and lactose-free; both wine (served at the rail) and grape juice (in the trays) are available. When returning your used cups to the trays along the walls, please do not stack the cups. All are welcome to commune.

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, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

ELW 659



1 Will you let me be your ser-vant, let me be as
2 We are pil-grims on a jour-ney, we are trav-'lers
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time
4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser-vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth-er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor-row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser-vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour-ney through.
let you be my ser-vant, too.

Remembrance (The Communion Song)

C 26

Music can be found in the spiral Contemporary Hymnal

Oh how could it be
That my God would welcome me
Into this mystery
Say take this bread, take this wine
Now the simple made divine
For any to receive

By mercy, we come to your table
By your grace, you are making us faithful

[Chorus]

Lord, we remember you
And remembrance leads us to worship
And as we worship you
Our worship leads to communion
We respond to your invitation
We remember you

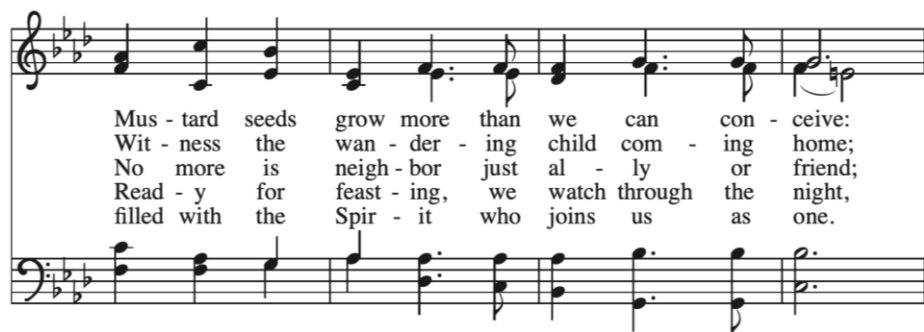
See his body, his blood
Know that he has overcome
Every trial we will face
None too lost to be saved
None too broken or ashamed
All are welcome in this place

By your mercy, we come to your table
By your grace, you are making us faithful [Chorus]

Dying, you destroyed our death
Rising, you restored our life
Lord, Jesus come in glory
Lord, Jesus come in glory
Lord, Jesus come in glory
Lord, Jesus come in glory [Chorus]



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

The assembly stands.

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 we, through this holy meal, 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.

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



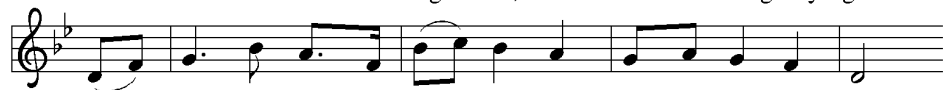
give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance; pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER LIST

Added – none

Reformation Family: Carol Baer, Steve Barnett, Ruth Blatt, Tom Brizek, Millie Castillo, Harriet Clauser, Nancy Edinger, Bob Galbraith, Rich Hawk, Roger Hillibush, Dana Humbert, Maddie Kemp, Rod and Patti Kline, Cheryl Manella, Pat Schonour, Scott, Linda Sell,, Elinor Snyder, Jack Swartz, Erica Sweigert, and Herb Zettlemoyer

Friends of Reformation: Thomas Allmon, Sandy Bender, Andy Bishop, Claire Boarder, Karen Borsak, Michele Boucher, Mary Bowen, Susan Broome, Zena Burkert, Lucille Canta, Cathy, Barbara Connor, Carl and Laura, Patricia Derr, Bernadette Dieumegard, Wilgus Elliott, Judi and Carl Esterly, Ethan, Susan Flicker, Francis, Greg Geesaman, Robert Granko, Brian Gruber, Gino Hinnershitz John Howard, Deacon Kalbach, Kayden, Allison Kunkel, Batya Leidner, Scott Leone, Dana Little, Maryann and Elwood Long, Alyson, Sophie, and Avery Maas, Kathy McCoy,, Tom Mulvey, Andrew Nosti, Amy Papilla, Wyatt Plica, Chris Plue, Molly Regan, Avery Reinert, Keith and Peg Ruch, Garrett Schanfelder, Karolyn Schrufer, Kim Sharp, Linda Smith, Charles Sperling, Herm Spitzer, Jacob Stoner, Taylor Tenuta, and Grace Vetter,

We pray for our Call Committee as they listen and discern during this season of transition.

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

September 6th

Ushers	Bruce Seiz and Pam Schneeberger
Reader	Terri Adams
Assisting Minister	Judy Plica
Acolyte	Zander Bogust

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEALTH MINISTRY - The Blood Drive on God's Work Our Hands Sunday September 13th. It will be located in the social hall. Please consider donating the gift of life that day. It will be from 8-2:00 pm. It will be sponsored by Thrivent and there will be prizes and lunch available for everyone who decides to give. We ask that you sign up for an appointment on the table in the narthex. There are plenty of appointments available. There is a blood crisis in our area. Your donation will stay here in Berks County. Thank you for helping with this much needed blood drive.

Isaac's Fundraiser for Family Promise – On Monday, August 31st Isaac's in Wyomissing will be donating 15% of all orders, dine-in, take-out and catering to Family Promise. If you wish to help, there are flyers on the table in the narthex, or take a picture of it. Make sure you let the cashier know you are part of the fundraiser. Isaac's, 94 Commerce Dr. Wyomissing, PA 19610 – all day.

Prayer Shawls – If you know of someone who would like a prayer shawl, we have several. There are many colors and types. Prayer shawls can be given for illness, birth, graduation, retirement or any number of reasons. See Pam Schneeberger or Pastor Greg if you would like to take one to your special relative or friend.

NEW YEAR FOR BURGER-A-MONTH – September begins a new year for Burger-A-Month. If you have participated in the past – THANK YOU! It doesn't seem possible, but over the years since 2008, this program has raised over \$50,000 for ELCA World Hunger Relief. Please pick up your new pack of envelopes (September 2026 through August 2027) in the narthex. If you are not familiar with Burger-A-Month, please read the explanation papers on the table with the Burger Envelopes. Help us slow down the spread of hunger in the world!

God's work. Our hands. Sunday is approaching on September 13th. In addition to the many activities scheduled that day (both at worship and following), we've ordered a new supply of **yellow GWOH t-shirts** for those without or may need a change of size. Look for the table in the narthex (in the coming weeks) with shirts that are both new and slightly used and help yourself!

Call Committee Update – We are in a season of discernment as we seek the pastor God is preparing for us. We have now begun receiving candidates from the synod. At this time, we are meeting with one candidate, and the process is designed to bring candidates one at a time so that we can listen carefully and prayerfully.

The call committee has prepared questions that reflect both the synod's guidance and our congregation's unique needs. These questions will help us discern how a candidate's gifts align with Reformation's mission: *Preach, Teach, Reach*.

Your role in this process is prayer. Please continue to pray for the call committee, for the candidates, and for our congregation as we listen for the Spirit's guidance. After interviews, the committee will discern together and, if led, recommend a candidate to the council and congregation. This process takes time, but we trust God's timing. Please keep the call process in your prayers. May the Spirit guide us with wisdom, patience, and hope as we move forward.

Church Membership: This short article is designed to invite and briefly inform. Contained in the Listening Team final report, someone asked about church membership.

Stated briefly:

Membership shall be: Members of this church are persons baptized and on the rolls of the church and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of the Church constitution.

Member classification:

Baptized; Confirmed; Voting; Associate; and Seasonal

Privilege and duty of members:

Regular use of the means of grace; both Word and Sacraments; Live a Christian life, in accordance with the Word of God; and Support the work of the Synod, National Church and Reformation through contributions of their time, abilities and financial resources.

Obviously, this is only a quick outline of church membership. A complete breakdown of benefits, requirements, duties and restrictions are provided in Chapter 8 of the Church Constitution. A copy of the constitution is available in the church office. Any questions should be directed to Pastor Stoddard.