Festival of the Holy Cross September 14, 2025

Order of Worship: Holy Communion, Setting Four

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Congregational responses are printed in bold type.

Hearing assistance is available near the elevator. See an usher for help.

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PRELUDE & BELLS We observe a moment of silence for prayer and meditation.

WELCOME

Blessed be the Kingdom...now and forever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We stand OPENING HYMN #789

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

vv1-4

★Brief Rite for Confession & Forgiveness of Sins★

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

In the name of the Father and of the

■ Son and of the Holy Spirit. 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. **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 is kept for reflection and personal confession.

1John 1:8-9

Most merciful God... we confess that we are born captive 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. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ, and by His authority, I forgive all your sins and you- who believe and repent- in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

♣HOLY COMMUNION**♣**

APOSTOLIC 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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

"Glory to God in the Highest"

9 AM p167 Luke 2:14 5 PM see p148

Refrain Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

1 Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

2 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. *Refrain*

3 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Last refrain Glory to God in the highest. Amen, amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Next Steps Weekly Memory Verse: GALATIANS 6:14 May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING: NUMBERS 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." 6 Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. 7 And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE & MEDITATION: PSALM 40:1-11 ¹I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

²He drew me up from the pit of destruction out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

⁵ You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

⁶ In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

⁷Then I said, "Behold, I have come;

in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

⁹I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.

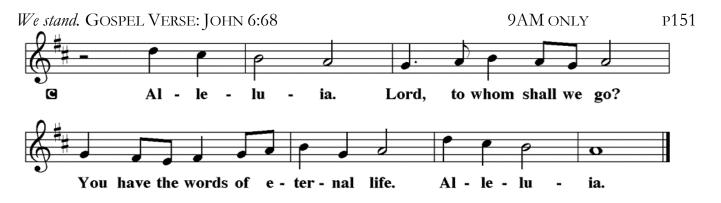
¹⁰ I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

¹¹ As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

SECOND READING: 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

¹² I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!



GOSPEL READING: LUKE 15:1-10

¹⁵ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, O Christ!

vv1-4

We sit. SERMON

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

At the Teacher's Feet
The Found Ones

We stand, PROFESSION OF FAITH Nicene Creed

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray in the name of Jesus to our heavenly Father for the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

Holy God, thank you for Jesus! Thank you for making him our good Shepherd. Thank you for loving us so much that you give us forgiveness, life, fellowship with you, and love beyond all telling. Thank you most of all for giving us your Son, crucified, raised, and ascended to your right hand for our salvation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, give your Church the grace and desire to faithfully follow Jesus. Give it leaders who rightly proclaim your Word and lift high the Cross of Christ. Give it your Holy Spirit, so it is a place of welcome, forgiveness, and transformation for every sinner who enters it.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Give your grace to this congregation. Forgive us when, like unruly sheep, we head-butt and distress your flock. Help us to repent of thoughtless words, self-centered actions, and anything else that hinders one of your dear children from loving and trusting you. We pray for our mission to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus; to support Solid Rock our mission in action; and that you send us adults for baptism.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Give us strength to carry our crosses and follow Jesus wherever he leads us. Give us courage, to bear his love in the dark and ugly places of our world. Give us hope, so we believe that his Light will shine in every darkness, and no darkness can comprehend or overcome it.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Our nation continues to struggle with enemies within and beyond its borders, and with political and ideological divides that threaten to bring out the worst rather than the best in us. Shepherd us through these troubled times. Bring healing to our hearts, homes, and communities. Anoint our eyes to see one another as fellow citizens and as beloved children of the same heavenly Father. And bring a measure of your peace to this weary world.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Be merciful to all who are hurting, weak, abused, hungry, or grieving; or who in any way need the abundance of your grace. Especially we lift before you: {List}. Be their Good Shepherd, and bring them healing and hope. Help us all to be gentle, gracious, compassionate and kind to them, so that together, we may praise your goodness.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Dear heavenly Father, we entrust into your care all our beloved dead. We pray especially for the families of {List}. Comfort all who mourn, and fill us with your Holy Spirit's wisdom and grace. Teach us to love each other tenderly and care for one another diligently, and keep us ever in Christ's care. Of your goodness, grant that he should heal us from every sin and infirmity. Keep our eyes fixed on the Cross of our Savior as he leads us into your Kingdom. With one voice, as one flock may we may praise, adore, and glorify our Good Shepherd forever.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the power of the Holy Spirit, we entrust our prayers and petitions into your hands, gracious Father, for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

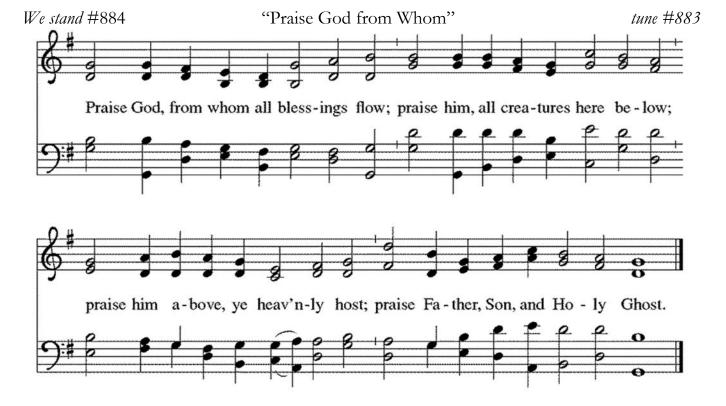
SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also, with you.** We briefly greet those in our row with the words "Peace be with you."

We sit. Offering, Offertory Song & Prayer- Giving back to God



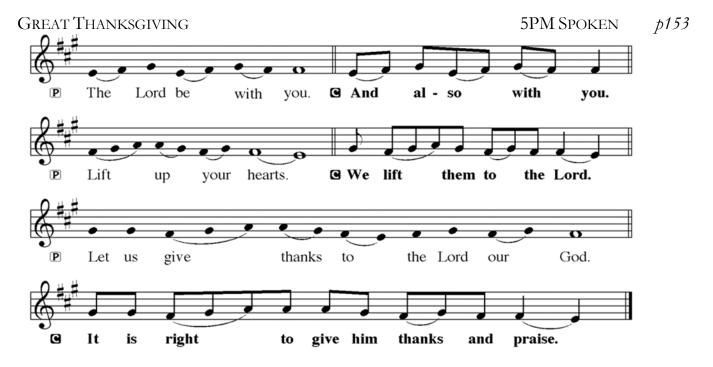
First- and second-time guests are not expected to give a monetary offering; your Connection Card and your presence this morning are your gifts. Safe, secure & easy electronic giving is available on our website stpeterhallettsville.org/giving or by scanning this code.



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711 Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

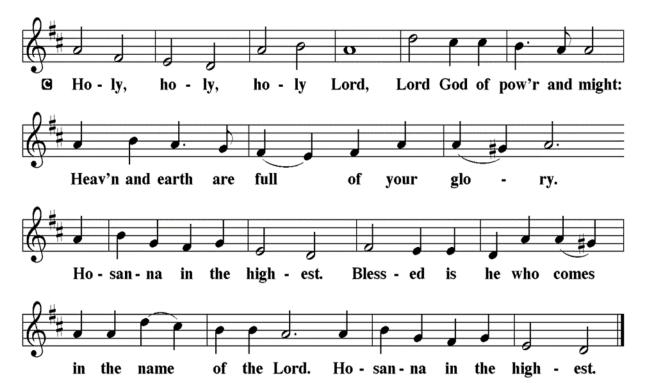
OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, king of the universe. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



It is indeed right and salutary . . . and join their unending hymn:

5PM SPOKEN



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

You are indeed holy...

In the night in which he was betrayed, ... Do this for the remembrance of me. All honor and glory are yours...now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

We sit. Invitation To Communion

As often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ present and received in, with, and under the bread and wine. All who are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and who believe the Lord's words "This is my body given for you" and "This is my blood poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins" may receive Communion. Young children, not yet receiving Communion, may receive a blessing.

(Matt 26:26ff, Mark 14:22ff, Luke 22:19ff, 1 Cor. 11:24ff)

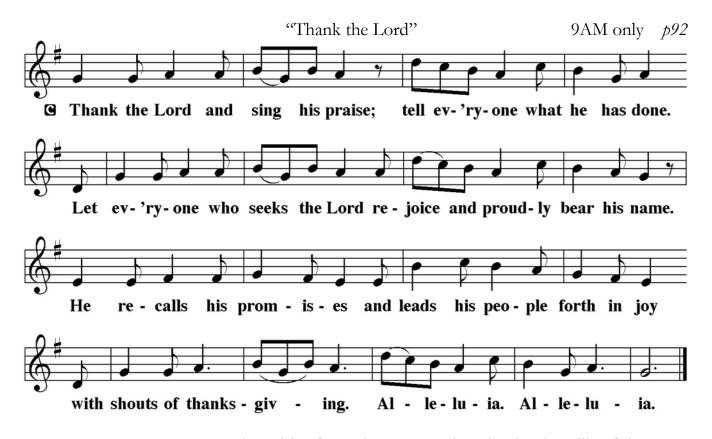
Communion administration occurs in a continuous fashion at the Communion rail. The ushers will guide you to the rail. To receive the elements, extend your hand, palm up, to the ministers. White grape juice is available in the center of the trays. For those unable to consume either bread or wine, the Church affirms the Lord's full presence in each element alone. Once you have received the elements, return to your seat by the side aisles. If you do not desire to receive Holy Communion, you may remain seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN



8

We stand POST-COMMUNION BLESSING, SONG, & PRAYER May the true body and blood...keep you in his grace. Amen.



Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Silence is kept for reflection.*

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 \$\mathbb{A}\$ give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

#834 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

vv1-4

Go in peace; serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

100 North Promenade, Hallettsville, Texas 77964 (361) 798-2808 www.stpeterhallettsville.org

Our mission is Christ's mission – "I will build my church" by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Monday, Sept 15th 6:00 pm Men & Women in Mission welcomes Barb Grindeland who will give a program on LAMB.

Wednesday, Sept 17 Forgiveness & Healing Service 6:00 pm

Friday, Sept 26 & 27 Men in Mission Sausage & Sauerkraut Plates at Kolache Fest:

Men in Mission are looking for Volunteers for Friday beginning at 5:00 pm to help prep for

Men in Mission are looking for Volunteers for Friday beginning at 5:00 pm to help prep for the meal on Saturday. If you would like to help, please mark your connection card or see L.A. Muehr, Donald Muehr, or Dickie Garmon. On Saturday, the men will need help with serving & clean-up. If you would like to help, be there by 10:00 am. This is a wonderful mission to enjoy each other's fellowship!

Sunday, Sept 28th St. Peter Polka Worship at 9:00 am: The liturgy today will be sung with Polka Music! Bring a friend!

The Social Ministry Committee is requesting your prayerful consideration of willingness to help serve on this committee. Your time, talent, and ideas are needed as we continue serving those vulnerable persons in need of assistance, as well as providing local community outreach programs- such as the food pantry, quarterly blood drives, educational assistance, and member care. If interested, please contact Barb Koehn.

MANNA FOOD PANTRY DRIVE: This Project of the Social Ministry Committee has wonderfully been responded to by St. Peter members! Thank you to all who have donated so far, and we will keep this drive going **through October** as they are in desperate need of cereals & juices. Let's keep filling up the tubs as we share our gifts to minister to those in need.

OFFERING YTD (Jan-Aug '25) \$201,400.74; EXPENSES \$207,252.40

<u>DIFFERENCE +/- -</u>\$5,851.66 (due to yearly insurance payment)

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OF 9.8.25 MEETING

- 1. Approved Benevolence to:
 - \$1,000 STCH Ministries formerly Bluebonnet
 - \$500 NALC Disaster Relief/Flood Victims
 - \$1,000 Christian Media Center Rosenburg
 - \$500 American Faith & Fam Ministries Pastor John Schmidt
 - \$1,500 Solid Rock LLC for playground equipment
- 2. Reminders of upcoming events:
 - Kolache Fest Sausage meal by MIM Saturday, Sept 27th
 - Country Store by WIM Tuesday October 21st
 - Halloween Trunk or Treat October 31st
 - Thanksgiving Meal and Over 80 celebration Sunday Nov 16th
- 3. Learning Commission is planning to increase bible studies for various age groups/family groups.

Serving This Weekend Sept 14th

Sunday AM: Assisting: Barbara Grindeland

Communion Set Up: Rida Chovanetz

Communion Clean Up: Barbara Grindeland

Organist: Denise Drozd

Ushers: Michael Sandelovic, Rusty Wallace, Reagan McAda, Gary Teltschik

Acolytes: John Stillions and Liam Sralla

Power Point Sunday: Sophie Teltchik

Altar Flowers given by: Henke Family in celebration of Juliana's 10th Birthday

Radio Ministry given by: Women in Mission in memory of Jerry Bonewald

Sunday PM: Assisting: Daniel Drozd Communion Clean Up: Judy Winfield

Attendance for Sunday, Sept 7: 9AM 106/4PM 10

This Week @ St. Peter

Sun Sept 14, 9:00 am Worship Service, 10:00 am Coffee Time, 10:30 am Adult/Youth Christian Learning, 4:00 pm Worship Service

Mon Sept 15, 1:00 pm Quilting, 6:00 pm Men & Women in Mission Meeting (all are welcome)

Tue Sept 16, 7:00 pm Prayer Group

Wed Sept 17, 6:00 pm Forgiveness & Healing Service

Thu Sept 18, FH Rental (all day), 5:15 Worship Meeting, 6:00 pm, 7:30 pm AA/Al-Anon

Sat Sept 20, FH Rental (10am-12pm)

Sun Sept 21, 9:00 am Worship Service, 10:00 am Coffee Time, 10:30 am Adult/Youth Christian Learning, 3:00 pm Nursing Home Service, 4:00 pm Worship Service Our Prayer List:— Requests listed 4 weeks under Concerns for unless otherwise requested.

Concerns For_Charles Hinze, Rose Dueitt, Bentley Jansen, Sandy Doty, Mark Lester, Julie Tanner

Extended concerns: Requests listed 9 months unless otherwise requested.

Ky Lange, Pauline Karl, Gracie Isbell, Jim Brandt, Edmund Koerth, Barbara Tackett, Charlotte Hartmann, Melissa Grice, Michael Drozd, Jeffrey Morgenroth, Charlie Garmon, Carrie Besetsny, DeWayne Dixon, James Evans, Pr. John Schmidt & family (Missionary in Ghana, Belize, &Pakistan)

Other Concerns: first responders (*military, law enforcement, firefighter, medical*), Safe House Church (*Hallettsville*); San Miguel (*Ft. Worth*) and Houston Oromo Lutheran Churches, President Trump, & our country

Grieving Families of: Juno Werner, Helen Gertner, Billy Wimberly, Mary Poppert, Bo Haas, Brayden Robertson, Jerry Bonewald, Oleen Covey

Serving Next Weekend: Sept 21st

Sunday AM: Assisting: Marilyn McAda

Communion Set Up: Rida Chovanetz

Communion Clean Up: Barbara Grindeland

Organist: Denise Drozd

Ushers: Michael Sandelovic, Rusty Wallace, Reagan McAda, Gary Teltschik

Acolytes: Caroline Duty & Allie Kocian

Power Point Sunday: Julieane Mihalovich

Altar Flowers given by: Lee & Cindy Rother in memory of Delores Prasek Radio Ministry given by: Women in Mission in memory of Clifton Sevcik

Sunday PM: Assisting: Elizabeth Carlson

Communion Clean Up: Judy Winfield

Festival of the Holy Cross

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

SAVE THE DATES IN OCTOBER:

Monday, Oct 1: 6:00 pm Confirmation Class

Wednesday, Oct 8: 6:00 pm Faith Family Formation Night

Sunday, Oct 19: LYO Fun Event

Tuesday, Oct 21: 10:00 am-2:00 pm Women in Mission Country Store

Friday, Oct 31: St. Peter Trunk or Treat

<u>Openings for Radio:</u> Nov 16, 23, 30; Dec 14, 28 <u>Openings for Flowers:</u> Oct 19, 26; Nov 9, 16; Dec 14

Entrance Hymn (ELW) Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (ELW 858)

Text by Catherine Winkworth; Music by Ernewerten Gesangbuch

1 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!

2 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?

3 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.

4 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!

Hymn of the Day (ELW) Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways (ELW 772)

Text by Isaac Watts; Music by William H. Havergal

1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!

2 Order my footsteps by your word and make my heart sincere; let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.

3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep; and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wand'ring sheep.

4 Make me to walk in your commands, 'tis a delightful road; nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

Closing Hymn (ELW) Come, We That Love the Lord (ELW 625)

Text by Isaac Watts; Music by Robert Lowry

1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Refrain

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion: we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

2 Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but children of the heav'nly king, but children of the heav'nly king may tell their joys abroad, may tell their joys abroad. Refrain