

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

"Saved by Grace. Reaching out in Faith."

Sunday, October 4, 2026

10:15 AM



419-227-1961 • 209 W. North Street, Lima, Ohio 45801 • www.StLukesLima.org



19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026

Welcome to St. Luke's. Whether you are visiting the Lima area or looking for a church home, we hope you find St. Luke's Lutheran Church to be a people who reflect the joy and peace and love we have in Christ. More than that, we hope you hear, with us, the good news of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the forgiveness of sins.

Blue Welcome Cards help us welcome visitors, inform us of changes in your contact information, and let us know your prayer concerns. Welcome Cards may be placed in the offering plate stationed on a table for drop-off before or after service.

Holy Communion All who are baptized and believe that with the bread and wine we receive the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins and salvation are encouraged to come to the Lord's Supper. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Rest Rooms are on the main floor at the south end of the office hallway.

Ushers and other members are here to help you if you need assistance.

Please stand, if able, for parts of the service marked 

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Jesus Loves Me”

Lovelace

The organ chimes call us to worship.

INTRODUCTION

In today’s gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets’ mission, and Christ’s death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God’s love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ’s sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination. Please kneel as you are able.

Merciful God,
**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.
Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.
When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.
Set us again on the path of life.
Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**
Amen.

Hear the good news!
God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.
In the name of  Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
You are free to love as God loves.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.

GATHERING HYMN

"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

#729

1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing

change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.

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.

KYRIE

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

In peace. in peace. let us pray to the Lord. have mer-cy.

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

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: *Congregation:*

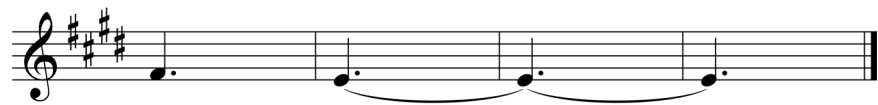
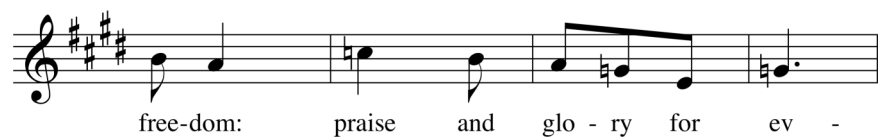
Help, save and de - fend us, O God. A - men.

NOW THE FEAST

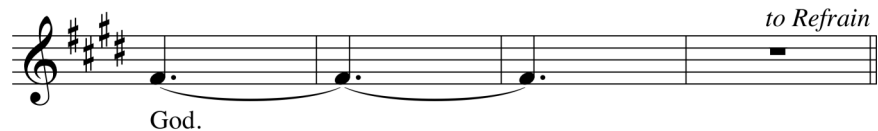
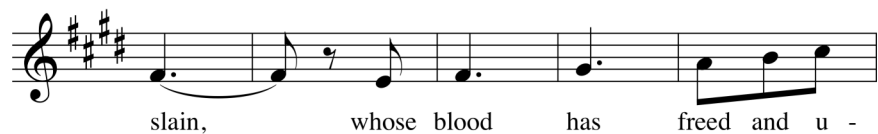
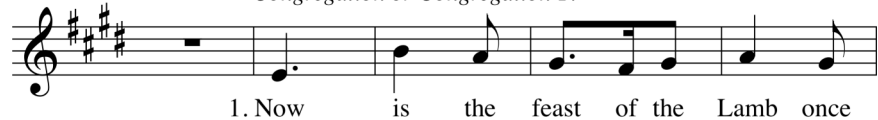
Refrain

Congregation:

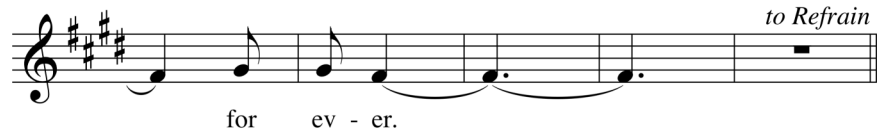
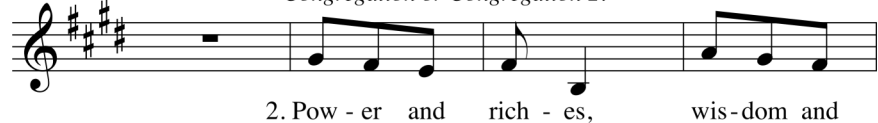
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and



Verse 1 *Congregation or Congregation 1:*



Verse 2 *Congregation or Congregation 2:*



Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY ¶

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Marcy Reeves

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard

→

that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

“There is a Redeemer”

Green

SECOND READING:

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

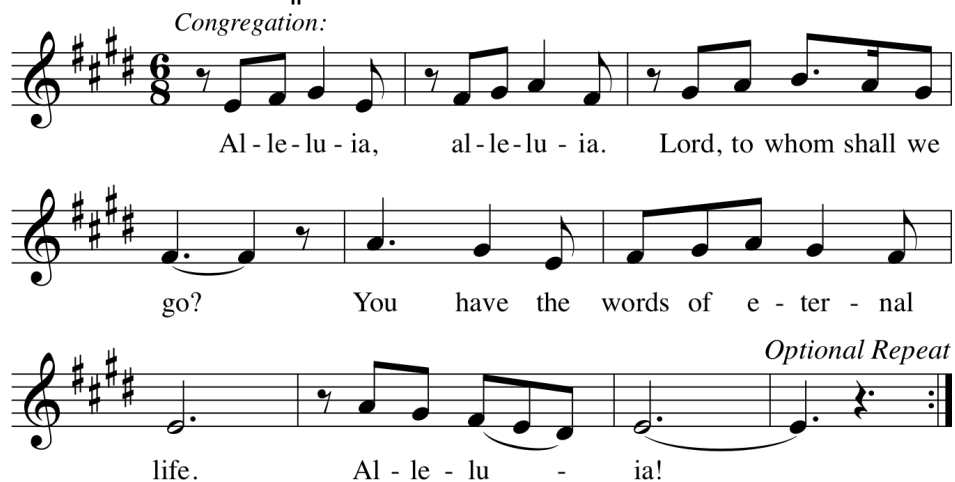
⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:
‘The stone that the builders rejected

→

has become the cornerstone;
 this was the Lord's doing,
 and it is amazing in our eyes'?

⁴³ "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of Our Lord.
 Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Don Pletcher

HYMN OF THE DAY

"My Song is Love Unknown"

LBW #94



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
 2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
 3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
 but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
 re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
 He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
 But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
 thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
 'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH ||

Response after each petition: Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

Voluntary

"Day by Day"

Wagner

OFERTORY HYMN ||

"Thy Word"

w&p 144

Refrain

F C⁷ F B $\flat$ C⁷ F B $\flat$ F

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

C Gm Dm Am B $\flat$ C

1 When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right be -

B $\flat$ /F F C Gm Dm Am

side me, and noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.

B $\flat$ C Dm D A/C $\sharp$ C^{sus} C⁷ *Refrain*

Please be near me to the end.

C Gm Dm Am B $\flat$ C

2 I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for-ev-er is

→

wan-der-ing. Je-sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and

I will love you to the end.

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.

DIALOGUE ‡

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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...praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav-en and earth are filled with your
glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est!
Bless-ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION ¶

LORD'S PRAYER ¶

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 TO THE LORD'S SUPPER ¶

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
 3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace;
 4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Holy Communion is served today from the communion rail. Approach from the center aisle and fill spaces from the back, under the Christ window, kneeling as you are able. Receive in your hand the host (bread) from the pastor. Take an empty glass from the first tray, then receive the wine from the communion server. (The pre-filled glasses are grape juice.) Place your used glass in the second tray. Return via the side aisles following the blessing from the pastor.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Jesus Loves Me!"

#595



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;




lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

“Day by Day”

#790

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter

mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,

lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

EUCHARISTIC BLESSING ¶

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

Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER ¶

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

BENEDICTION ¶

The God of love

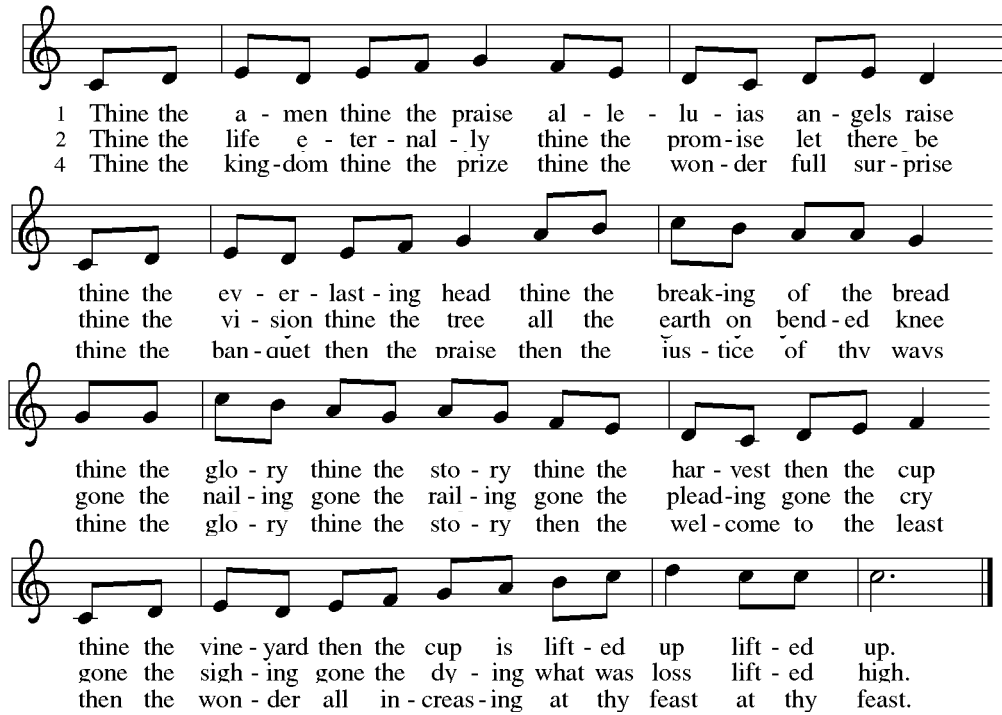
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN †

“Thine the Amen”

#826



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise

thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
thine the ban - quet then the praise then the ius - tice of thy ways

thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least

thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.

DISMISSAL †

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Silent prayer with chimes.

POSTLUDE

“There is a Redeemer”

Wagner

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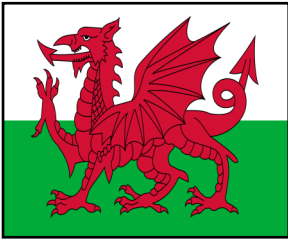
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	Today, SUNDAY 10/4	NEXT SUNDAY 10/11
Worship Leader	Pastor Don Pletcher	Pastor Deb Monnin
Organist	Sandy Miller	Sandy Miller
Acolyte	Julianna Lewis	Zoey Kennedy
Children's Message	Marcy Reeves	Noisy Offering/Sarah Oleson
Lector	Lonnie Collins	Marcy Reeves
Communion Servers	Lois Kennedy, Jane Williams	Mary Trueblood, Linda Mann
Ushers	Bob Williams, Jack Williams	Phil Trueblood, Tyler Arheit
Altar Guild	Marcy Reeves	Marcy Reeves



If anyone has any special request for 2027 budget items, please have them submitted by October 12th to present at the October 13th council meeting. Thanks!

WHAT'S UP AT CUP

C.U.P. donation item for October is:
Toilet paper



On October 4, 2026 Gomer Congregational Church will be celebrating its **109th Annual Gymanfa Ganu** (Ga-mahn-fa Ga-nee) which is a Welsh festival of song. Participants sit by parts and sing some great old hymns in the Welsh tradition. The evening will begin at **7pm**. The Welsh Museum will be open 4-6:pm. For more information you can call 419-642-2681.

We hope you will be able to join us for this fun filled evening of music.



SAFETY CITY TRICK OR TREAT Saturday, October 24, 2026

We will have a table set up for St. Luke's
Bring the kids and enjoy the fun!

German Heritage Luncheon

Reformation **Sunday, October 25**, following worship, you are invited to join in fellowship around traditional German fare at our annual German Heritage Luncheon. Beginning shortly after the 10:15 worship service, the food will be prepared, the tables set, and the atmosphere joyful.

Join us in the New Life Center following worship, Sunday, October 25, for our German Heritage Luncheon.

Sunday, November 1 is All Saints' Sunday,



the day we remember, honor, and give thanks for those who have died in the past year. The names of those family members and friends of the congregation are included in the bulletin for that day; and during worship, we will toll the chimes in honor and remembrance.

If you have the name of someone you'd like to see on our list, please contact the church office by Monday, October 19th. Please bring any pictures to put in the gathering area on All Saints with their names of who they are. Thank you.

OUR DAILY BREAD 125 South Central 419-224-2086

Our Daily Bread serves hundreds of thousands of trays of food every year!

**The soup kitchen tray line needs six (6) volunteers from
St. Luke's to serve food on the 4th Friday of
every month from 11 am -1 pm.**

We will be serving on Friday, October 23, 2026

If you can help in the future or would like more information
contact our church office secretary or, Linda Mann: 419-303-9793.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK		
Tues, 10/6	6:00 pm	Altar Guild
Sun, 10/11	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	Choir Christian Education Hour Liturgy of Holy Communion

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Meadows of Marion - Dorothy
Lockhaven - Barb

Pat, Ida, Madison, Judy, Norman, Natalia,
Dean, Mark, Mick, Andrew, Timothy,
Susan, Florian, Elizabeth, Glen

Scripture readings for 10/11/2026

Isaiah 25:1-9
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14



The flowers in the chancel this morning were given by
Beth Arheit in celebration of Tim & Dawn Arheit's wedding anniversary
and
Sandy Miller in celebration of Arya's birthday **Kumar Ann**

"NUMBERS" from September 27, 2026"

Attendance: 49

Giving: \$5,321.80 given to the glory of God for the work of the Gospel of
Jesus Christ in Lima and beyond.

<i>Staff</i> Interim Hospital Visitation Pastor - Samuel Payne (Cell:419-371-9774) Organist – Sandy Miller Choir Director – Brian Reeves Office Secretary – Robin Hefner	<i>Congregational Leadership</i> President - Rich Moritz Vice President - James Williams Secretary - Lois Kennedy Treasurer - Alison Williams Tyler Arheit Susie Cornell Perry Luhn Marcy Reeves Jane Williams
<i>E-Mail Addresses</i> Office Secretary – secretary@stlukeslima.org	