

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

"Saved by Grace. Reaching out in Faith."

Sunday, September 27, 2026

10:15 AM

"Which of the two
did the will of
his father?"

Matthew 21:31, NRSV





18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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 ✠

<i>Staff</i>	<i>Congregational Leadership</i>
Interim Hospital Visitation Pastor - Samuel Payne (Cell:419-371-9774) Organist – Sandy Miller Choir Director – Brian Reeves Office Secretary – Robin Hefner	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	

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”

Wood

The organ chimes call us to worship.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus’ parable about two sons who don’t do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

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

"God is Here!"

#526



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en;
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com-ing of the Spir-it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with-out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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,
 to Verses

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)

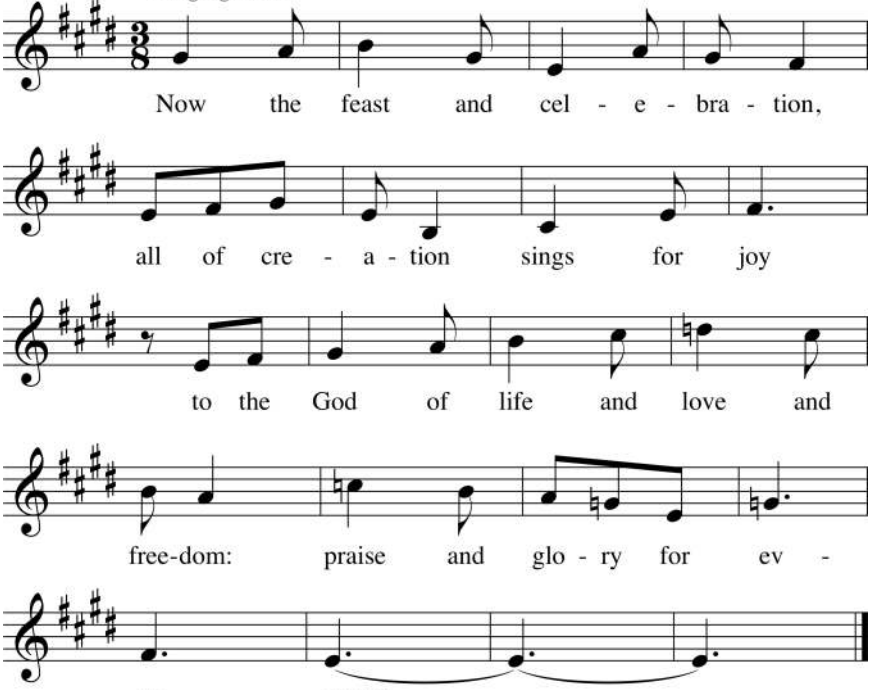
Assistant:

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

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

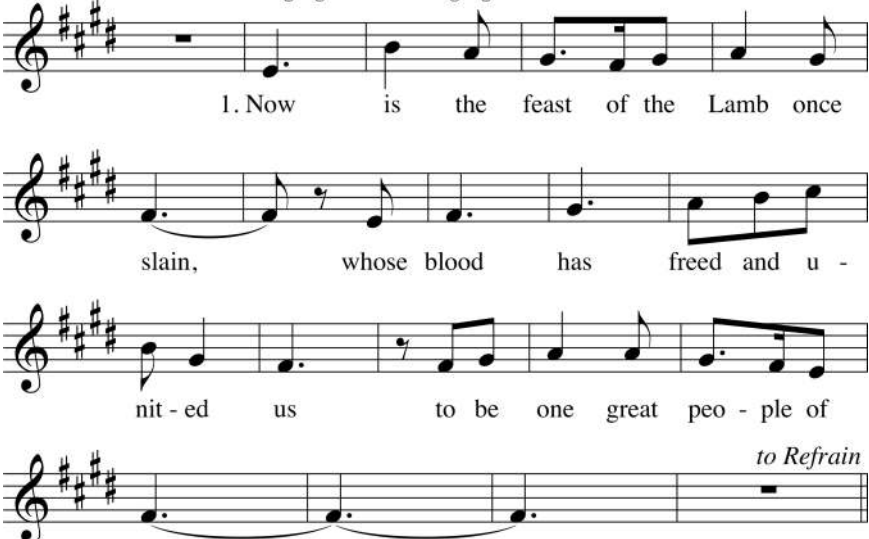
Congregation:



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:



1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God.

to Refrain

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

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 ☩

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dawn Arheit

FIRST READING:**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

ANTHEM***“Be Still and Know That I Am God”***

Lantz

SECOND READING:**Philippians 2:1-13**

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

→

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
 and gave him the name
 that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence
 but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³
 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good
 pleasure.

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 21:23-32

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

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the

baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

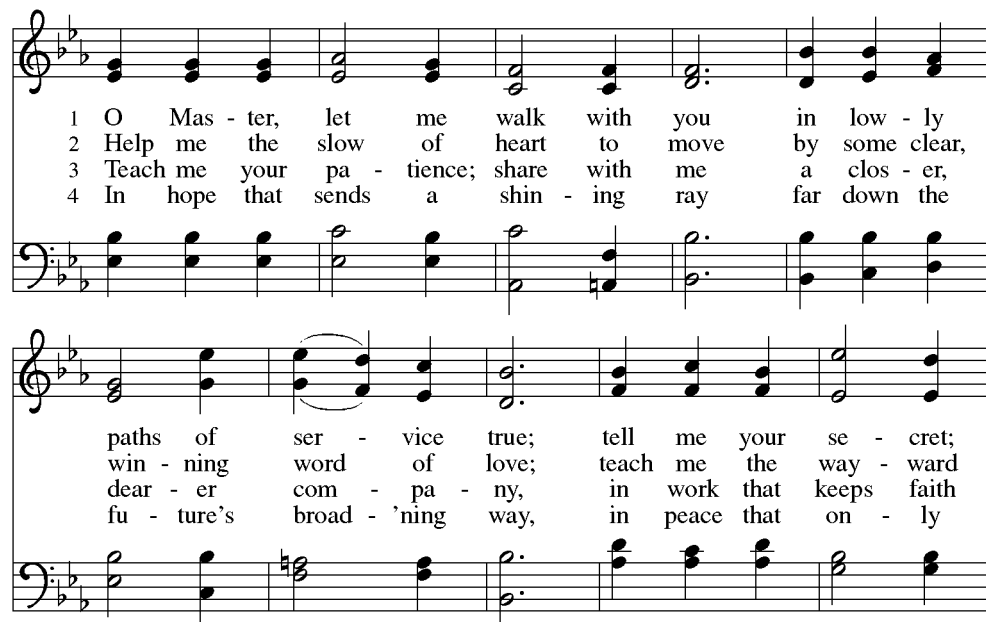
SERMON

Pastor Mark Bauer

HYMN OF THE DAY 

"O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

#818



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home-ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri-umphs o-ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas-ter, let me live.

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

"At The Name of Jesus"

Burkhardt

OFERTORY HYMN ¶

"Doxology"

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low;

→



OFFERTORY PRAYER ¶

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING ¶

DIALOGUE ¶

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.

PROPER PREFACE ¶

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ¶



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.**

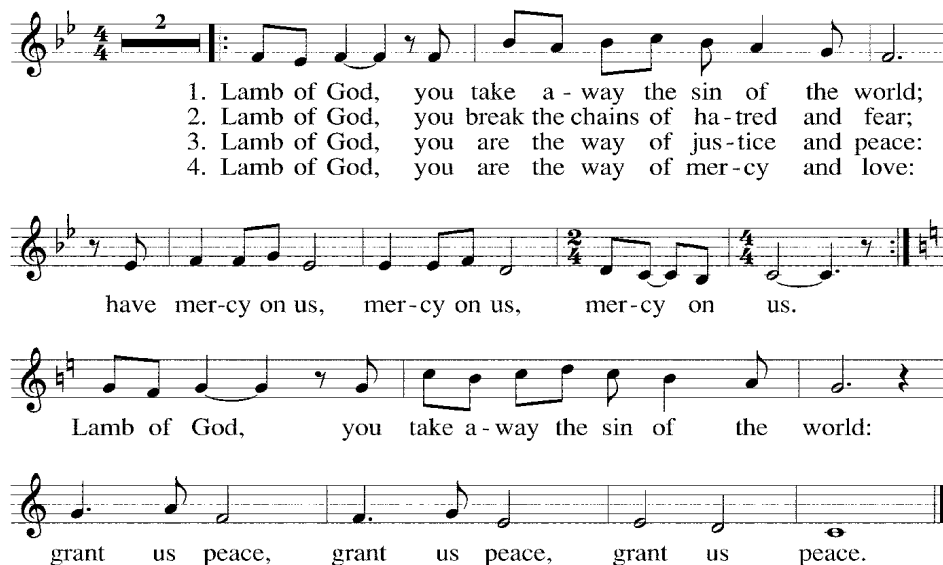
INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER ¶

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.

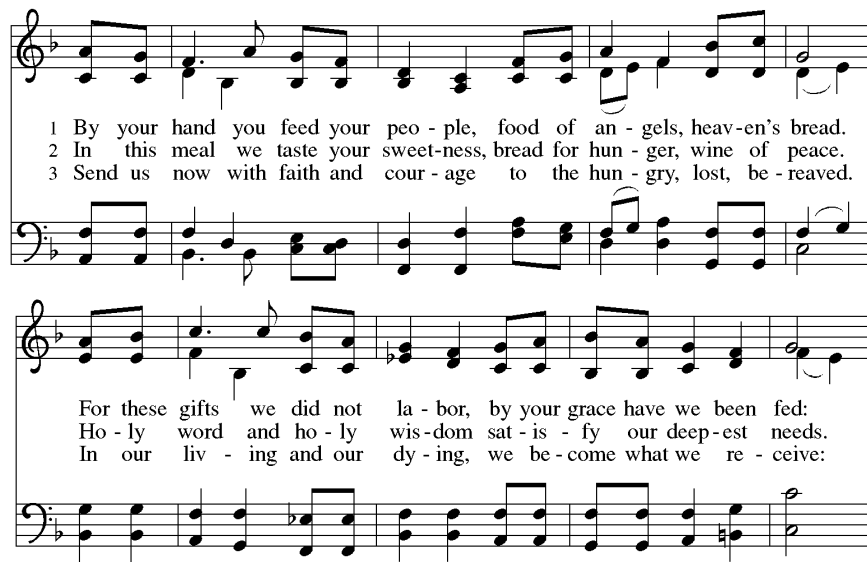
THE LORD'S SUPPER

This morning communion is served continuously. Come forward down the center aisle as directed by the ushers and receive the bread—the body of Christ—from the pastor. Take a glass from the tray and move to the wine servers. (The pre-filled glasses are grape juice.) When finished, place the cup in the basket and return to your seat via the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“By Your Hand You Feed Your People”

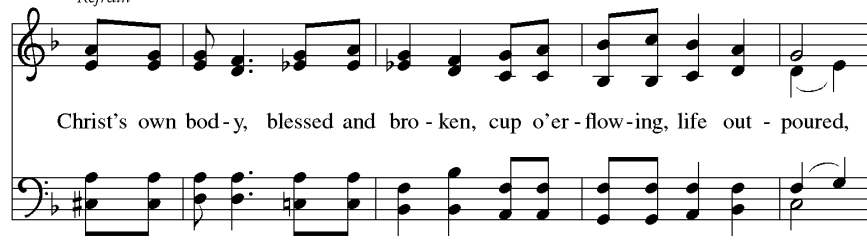
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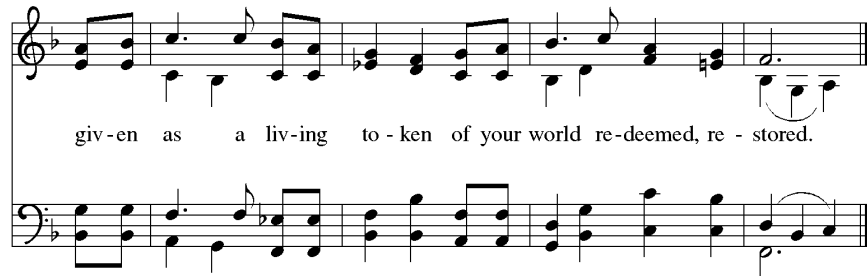
1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
 2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
 3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.

For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed;
 Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
 In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:

Refrain



Christ's own bod-y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow-ing, life out - poured,



giv-en as a liv-ing to - ken of your world re-deemed, re - stored.

"At the Name of Jesus"

#416



1 At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
2 At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
3 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a name
4 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
5 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain



ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him king of glo - ry now.
all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.
on the clouds of glo - ry, with his an - gel train;



It is God's good plea - sure we should call him Lord,
thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,
faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last;
Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed.
let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
and our hearts con - fess him king of glo - ry now.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 ††

"The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing"

#531



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



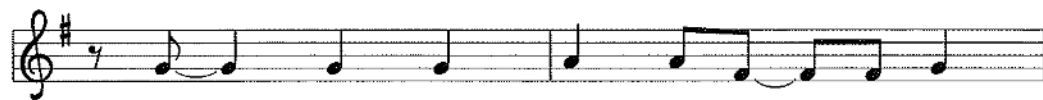
Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

DISMISSAL ||

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Silent prayer with chimes.

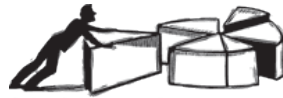
POSTLUDE

“The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”

Miller

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	Today, SUNDAY 9/27	NEXT SUNDAY 10/4
Worship Leader	Pastor Mark Bauer	Pastor Don Pletcher
Organist	Sandy Miller	Sandy Miller
Acolyte	Delaney Cardenas	TBA
Children's Message	Dawn Arheit	Marcy Reeves
Lector	Dee Sherer	Lonnie Collins
Communion Servers	Lee Moritz, Linda Mann	Lois Kennedy, Jane Williams
Ushers	Dee Sherer, Tyler Arheit	Bob Williams, Jack Williams
Altar Guild	Marcia Laukhuf	Marcy Reeves



Submit Your Budget Requests

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 September is:
Toothbrush and Toothpaste



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!



Each Sunday morning, 9 am, come and explore the Bible with your friends at St. Luke's. Meeting in the Pastor's Office, and led by Mila, the class discusses the Bible passages scheduled for that Sunday. Come, enjoy the conversation, and find renewal in the Word of the Lord.

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.



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.

German Heritage Luncheon

Reformation **Sunday, October 25**, following worship, you are invited to join in fellowship around tradition 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.

Daily Devotions

Each day, Monday through Saturday, Pastors Beth and Dave publish brief devotions based on the Sunday texts. You may also access them on the St. Luke's website:

www.stlukeslima.org

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK		
Mon, 9/28	12-3 p	CUP
Tues, 9/29	9:00 am	Herald Assembly
Thur, 10/1	10:00 am	WELCA
Sun, 10/4	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 10/4/2026

Isaiah 5:1-7
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46



The flowers in the chancel this morning were given by
Susie Cornell in memory of Mary Rudolph & John Rudolph

“NUMBERS” from September 20, 2026”

Attendance: 45

Giving: \$927.00 given to the glory of God for the work of the Gospel of
Jesus Christ in Lima and beyond.

