

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 26, 2026



United in Christ
Lutheran Church
MORRISONVILLE, WI

Sharing the Hope of Jesus in a Troubled World

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar have been given by Joe & Donna Gilles in memory of Pastor Charles Peterson.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin - ELCA

The **Evangelical Lutheran Church of America**

For the **people of United in Christ Lutheran Church**

Joanne Quam - continued rehabilitation at home

Geno Lainberger - at Madison Health & Rehab Center

Donna Colby - at the Legacy in DeForest

Kathy Olsen - sister-in-law of Ann Olsen - continued health concerns

Trey Tollefson - grand nephew of Chet Gabris - at U.W. Hospital

Chandra Diring - health concerns

Darryl Horton - recovering from surgery

Sharon Gust - at Meriter Hospital with lung issues

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- HAPPY BIRTHDAYS - None this week.
- Thank You - Darryl Horton wishes to thank everyone for the cards and prayers sent his way during his recovery from surgery.

NEXT SUNDAY - AUGUST 2ND

- Ushers - Karen and Ron Millard
- Reader - Paul Anderson
- Communion Assistant - Karen Millard
- Altar Guild - Rona Anderson
- Head Usher - Norm Harris

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Now the Feast and Celebration text and music by Marty Haugen. Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-742073.

Call to Worship written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, *Hold Fast to What Is Good*. Used with permission.

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Welcome to Worship!

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

(Please stand as you are able.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: **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.

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE – *Now the Feast & Celebration*

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

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

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

mer - cy. A - men.

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P: Friends, let us worship God today, for God is great –
- C: **God has blessed us with life, with faith, and with community.**
- P: Let us worship God today, for God is good –
- C: **God forgives us, and encourages us, and loves us.**
- P: Let us worship God today –
- C: **Because we are God's people.**
- P: Let us worship God.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE – *Now the Feast & Celebration*



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!



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.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray,

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136

(Please read the bold text responsively)

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant

because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26–39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

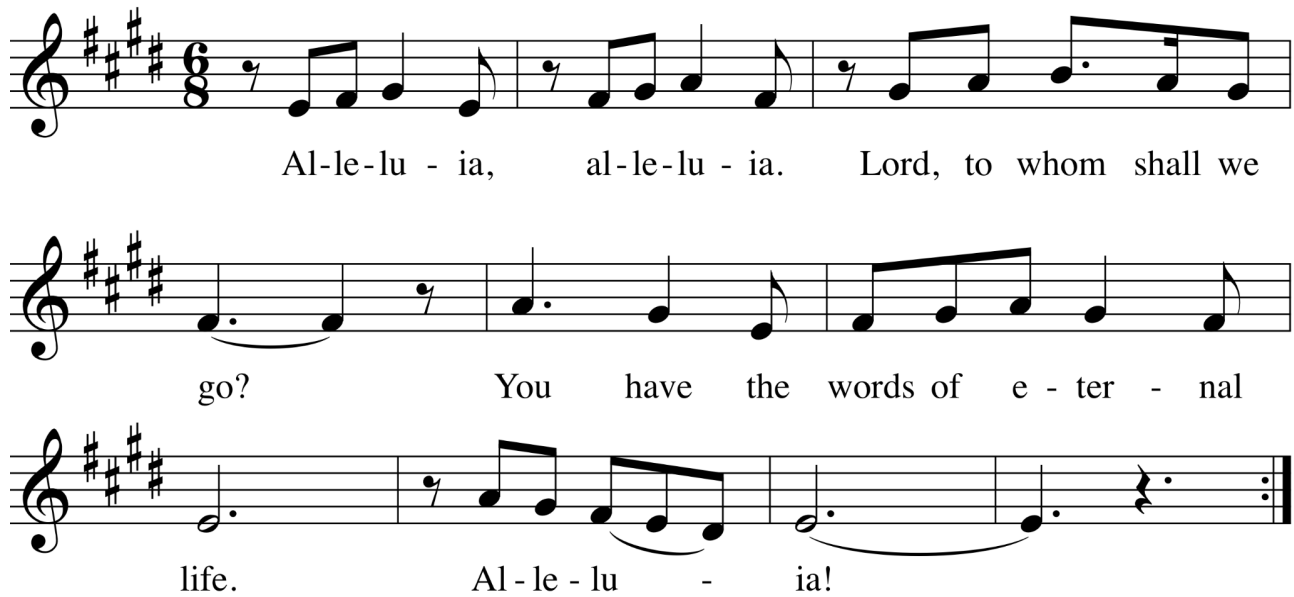
³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *Now the Feast & Celebration*



GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 793

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

APOSTLES CREED

P: Together with the whole body of Christ gathered around the world,
let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed:

C: **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.**

(Please be seated.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation....

P: God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: ...Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

(Please stand as you are able.)

MEAL

OFFERTORY – ACS 962

In This Feast of Love

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a fermata over the final note. Below the staff, the lyrics are written in Finnish and English. The second staff continues the melody with a similar pattern of notes and rests. The third staff concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with some words spanning across measures.

Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, *täs - sä*
1 In this feast of love, in this
2 In this bread and wine, in this
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

pöy - däs - sä syn - ti - sil - le
feast of love, Lord, you share your
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
peace, O Lord; fill us with the

it - se - si an - nat, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!
blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio

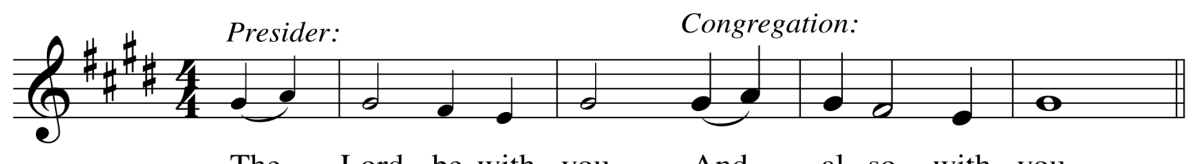
Text and music © 2017, 2020 Jarkko Maukonen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P: 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.
- C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (May be spoken or sung.)

Presider: *Congregation:*



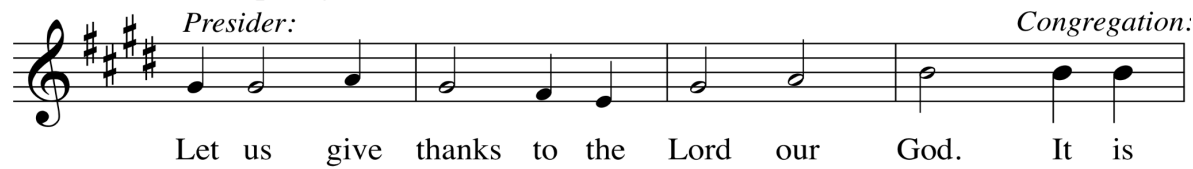
The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

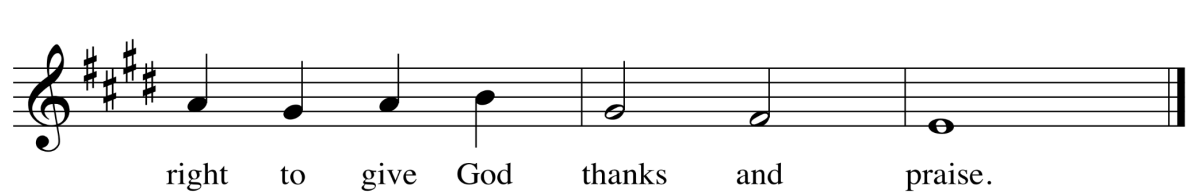


Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*



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

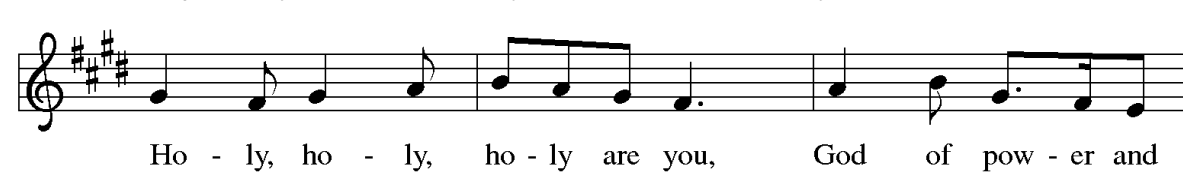


right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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

C:



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...
...be all honor and glory, now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray,
C: **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 COMMUNION

P: Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!
C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please be seated.)

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion. The Presiding Pastor will provide verbal instructions for communion. If you are unable to come forward, we will bring communion to you. Gluten free bread is available. Children or those who wish not to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN – *ELW 518 – We Eat the Bread of Teaching*

(Hymn is played while congregation takes communion)

(Please stand as you are able.)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

C: **Amen.**

Spirit of Gentleness



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen-tle-ness, blow through the wil-der-ness



call-ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest-less-ness,



stir me from plac-id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an-cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis-pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo-ple a - rise.

DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
C: **Thanks be to God.**



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister – Rev. Mikayla Kopp
Music – Nora Holliday – Pre-recorded by Ivy McLaughlin
Reader – Rona Anderson
Communion Assistant – Marie Rasmussen-Hall
Ushers – Rona and Paul Anderson
Altar Guild – Bev Harris
Head Usher – Dale Molnar

OFFERING

Any offerings (financial gifts) may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the worship space anytime before or after the service. Your contributions to the congregation help us make a difference in our community by enabling us to share the Gospel and serve in areas of need. You may also make a donation online on our website or by scanning the QR code on the right.



United in Christ Lutheran Church

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A congregation of the



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Regular Office Hours: By Appointment
Weekly Worship: Sundays @ 8:30 a.m.