

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Belleville, PA**



**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 3, 2023**

**PRELUDE
WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*HYMN ~ *Lift High the Cross*

Lift High the Cross

377

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

Refrain

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
As thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.

5 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

***CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P 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.

C **Amen**

P 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 for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage 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**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

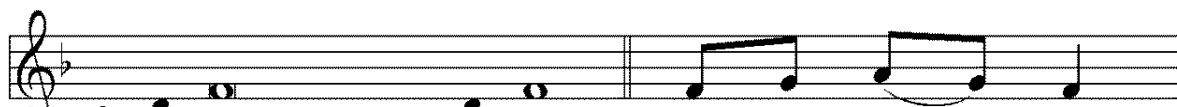
C **Amen**

***GREETING**

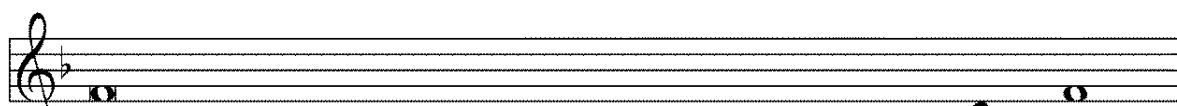
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

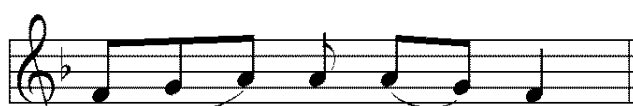
***KYRIE**



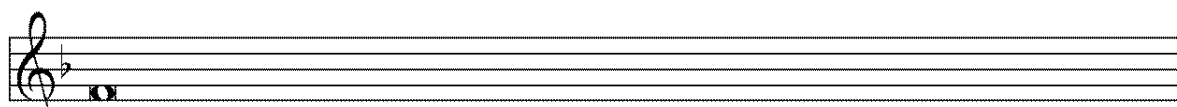
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



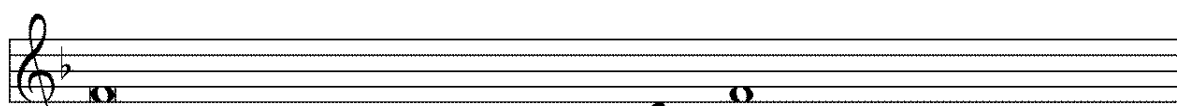
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.




A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,




and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

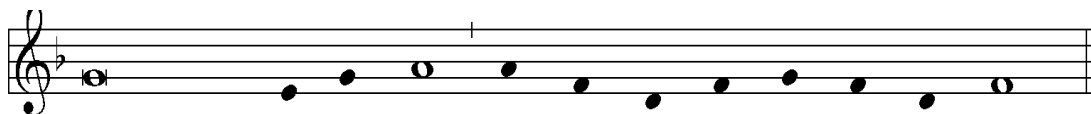


let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

***HYMN of PRAISE**



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison)**



P Let us pray...

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

LESSONS

First Lesson ~ A reading from Jeremiah 15:15-21

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Psalm 26:1-8 ~ *with response*

*Second Lesson ~ A reading from Romans 12:9-21
after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

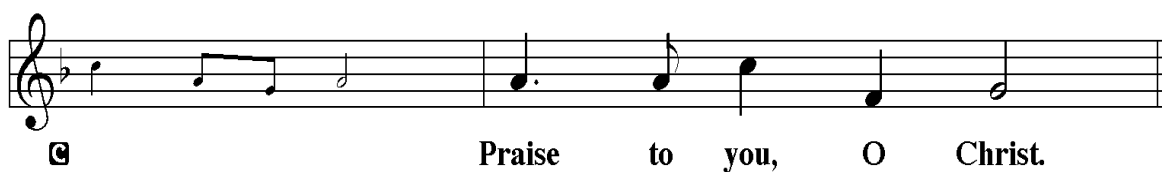


*Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 16th chapter:



After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord



MESSAGE ~ *What is Our Labor?*

***HYMN ~ Jesus Loves Even Me**

90 Jesus Loves Even Me

P. P. B. P. P. BLISS

1. I am so glad that our Fa-ther in heav'n Tells of His
 2. Tho' I for-get Him and wan-der a-way, Still He doth
 3. Oh, if there's on-ly one song I can sing, When in His

love in the Book He has giv'n, Won-der-ful things in the
 love me wher-ev-er I stray; Back to His dear lov-ing
 beau-ty I see the great King, This shall my song in e-

Bi-ble I see; This is the dear-est, that Je-sus loves me.
 arms would I flee, When I re-mem-ber that Je-sus loves me.
 ter-ni-ty be: "Oh, what a won-der that Je-sus loves me."

CHORUS

I am so glad that Je-sus loves me, Je-sus loves me, Je-sus loves me,
 I am so glad that Je-sus loves me, Je-sus loves e-ven me.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 PEOPLE ~ *See Celebrate

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church,
creation and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

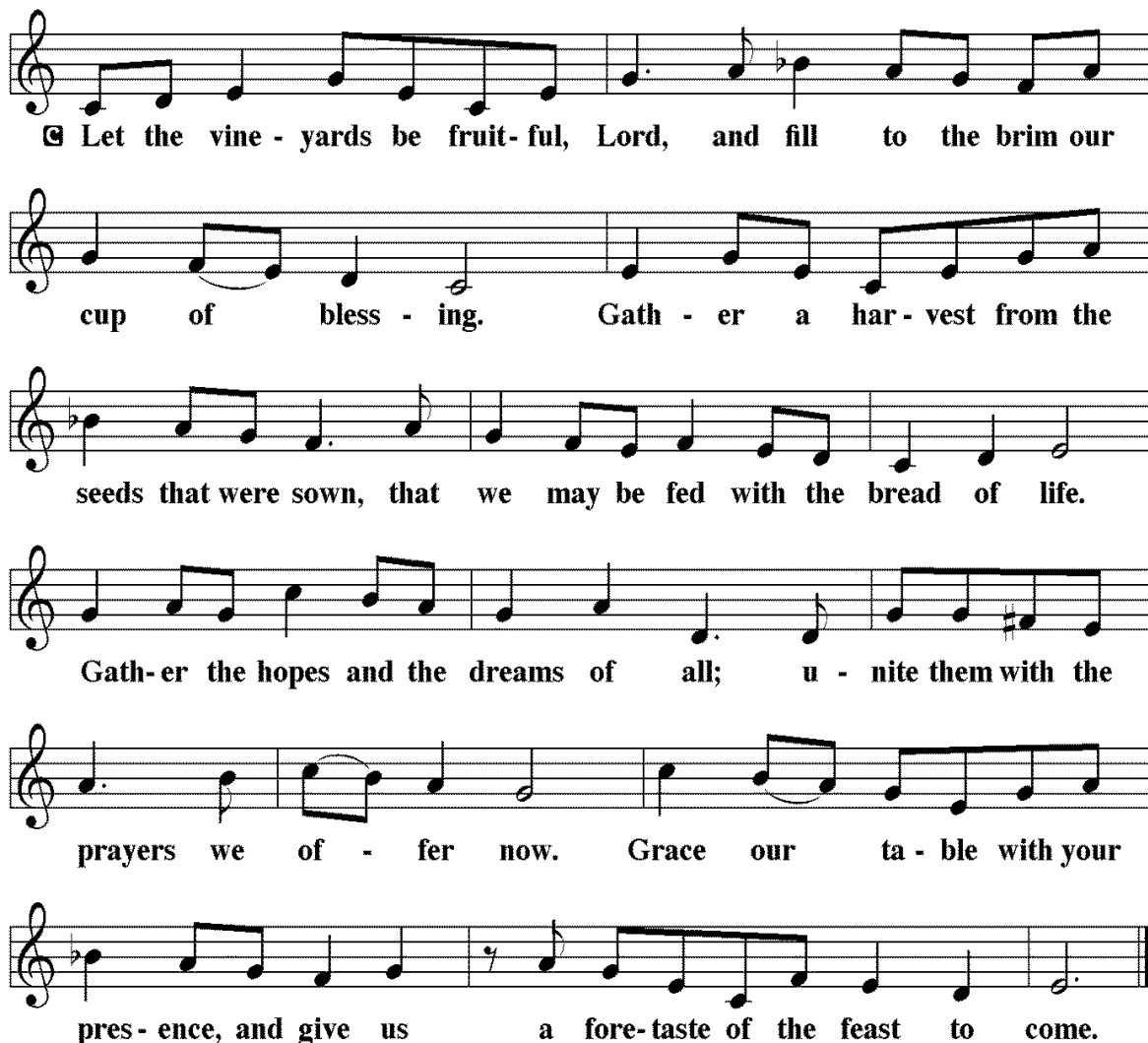
***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING ~ you may leave your gifts in one of the offering plates at the end
of the front and back pews.

***OFFERTORY**



C Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

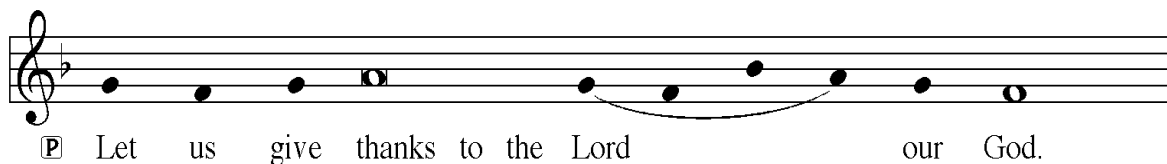
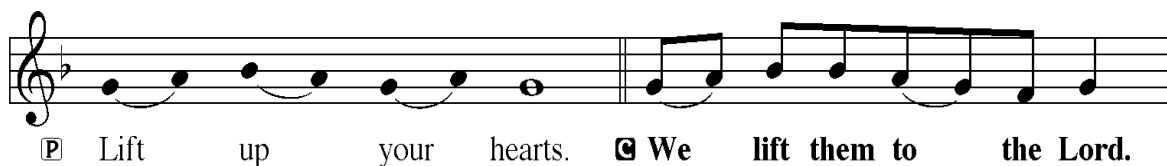
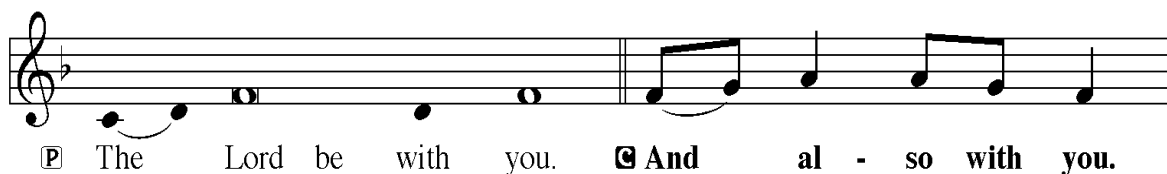
***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

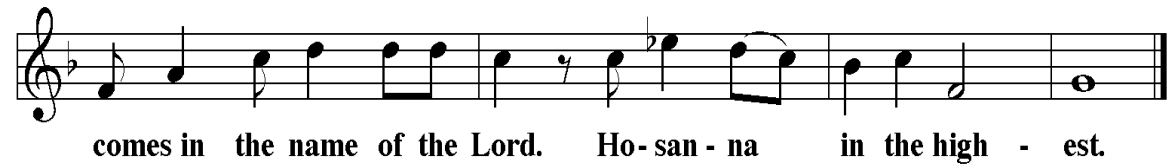
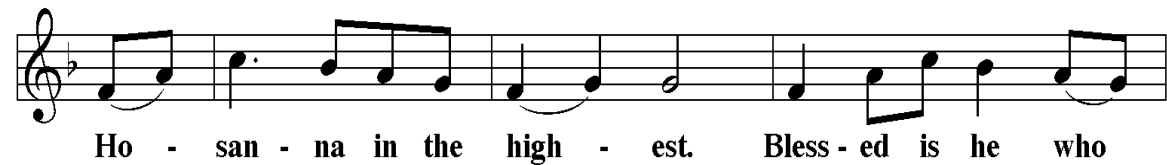
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



***PREFACE**



- P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

- P Let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- 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**

COMMUNION SONG: *Altar Song*

*All I am, Oh, all I am; All I am, I bring to you, I bring to you.
All my heart, Oh, All my heart, All my heart I bring to you, I bring to you
All my tears, Oh, All my tears, All my tears I bring to you, I bring to you
All my joy, All my joy, All my joy, I bring to you, I bring to you.*

Invitation to Communion:

- P Partake of the banquet, for all is now ready, taste and see that the Lord is good.
P The Bread of Life: the body of Christ, given for you;
C Amen.
P The Cup of the Covenant: the blood of Christ, shed for you.
C Amen.

After Communion

- P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen

***POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you refresh us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

***THE BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

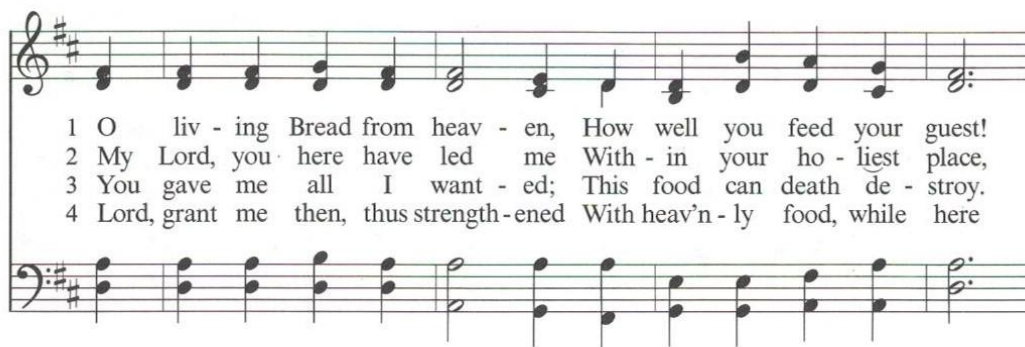
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen

***HYMN ~ O Living Bread from Heaven**

LBW #197

197

O Living Bread from Heaven


1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well you feed your guest!
 2 My Lord, you here have led me With - in your ho - liest place,
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can death de - stroy.
 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en Have filled my heart with rest.
 And here your - self have fed me With trea - sures of your grace;
 And you have free - ly grant - ed The cup of end - less joy.
 My course on earth is length - ened, To serve with ho - ly fear.



Oh, won - drous food of bless - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes!
 For you have free - ly giv - en What earth could nev - er buy,
 My Lord, I do not mer - it The fa - vor you have shown,
 And when you call my spir - it To leave this world be - low,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows!
 The bread of life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.
 And all my soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore your throne.
 I en - ter, through your mer - it, Where joys un - min - gled flow.

DISMISSAL*P** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord**R** Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

Music Ministry: Seulki Susie Yoo

Today

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger; **Lay Reader:** Mike Harshbarger

Altar Care: Georgianna Buchanan; **Sound:** Joe Kanagy

Next Sunday, September 10

Greeter: Deb French; **Lay Reader:** Deb French

Altar Care: Georgianna Buchanan; **Sound:** Ed Bilich

Church Office: 935-2032; **Email us at** secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org

St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Our Mission Statement

*We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share
the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

Our Vision Statement

*To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community
through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.*

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Rosemary Meyer in memory of Ralph Meyer.

Please remember in prayer ~ Sarah Robertson (neck surgery, Pastor's niece),
Miriam Williamson, Anne Peachey, Desa Keiser, Elliana Byler, Kyung Sun Yim,
Bob Treaster, Samantha Smith, members ~ Joyce Stuck (Greenwood Village),
Betty Harmon (Celebration Villa) and Don Wolfe (VVH).

FROM the PASTOR

Thursday September 7th Watch Our Town: Big Valley 8PM

Broadcast on Public Television. Be sure to tune into WPSU. It will not be
broadcast on the Harrisburg PTS station.

You may watch on WPSU-TV, Wpsu.org or the PBS App

*Perhaps we could broadcast it here at the church on our big screen for all to
watch?!*

WPSU is seeking Phone volunteers for this viewing. Volunteers will answer phones from Our Town Big Valley supporters. They will have an easy, scripted form to follow and fill out for each caller. The Volunteer Coordinator for the evening will train everyone on what to expect. It's easy & rewarding and I hope you will join us!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder ~ Daycare and church office are closed tomorrow for Labor Day.

The September newsletter can be found in the mailboxes of those members, who do not receive it by email,

St. John's has Meals on Wheels the end of September/beginning of October. There is a sign-up in the narthex for desserts, along with monetary donations to purchase pies. Money can be given to Sue Lynch, or dropped off at the office.

The season of Advent begins in three months, and we are going to compile a devotional, with help from West Kish members **IF**, enough people are interested. This year will focus on the four themes of Advent ~ Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Volunteers are needed to write the meditations. A sign-up sheet along with scripture readings can be found in the narthex.

In order to comply with state regulations, the daycare is required to upgrade the type of smoke detectors being used throughout the building. The old ones, which are still in good usable condition (replacement recommendations are 10 years from the date listed on the device), need a home to protect. A box containing the old detectors has been placed in the narthex. Please feel free to take one.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, September 7 ~ 9:30am Knotting resumes in the blue room

Thursday, September 14 ~ 6:30pm Council meeting

Sunday, September 24 ~ Adult SS class resumes in the blue room

Sunday, October 1 ~ Blanket Sunday

January 1 thru August 29, 2023

Last week's attendance ~ 23 Offering ~ \$1,100.00
St. John's ~ Income \$170,065.87* Expense \$ 178,353.74
Net Income \$ - 8,287.87 *\$7,000 trf to cover expenses

Daycare ~ Income \$ 213,181.32 Expense \$ 232,488.79
Net Income - \$19,307.47*

* June was a 3-pay period month