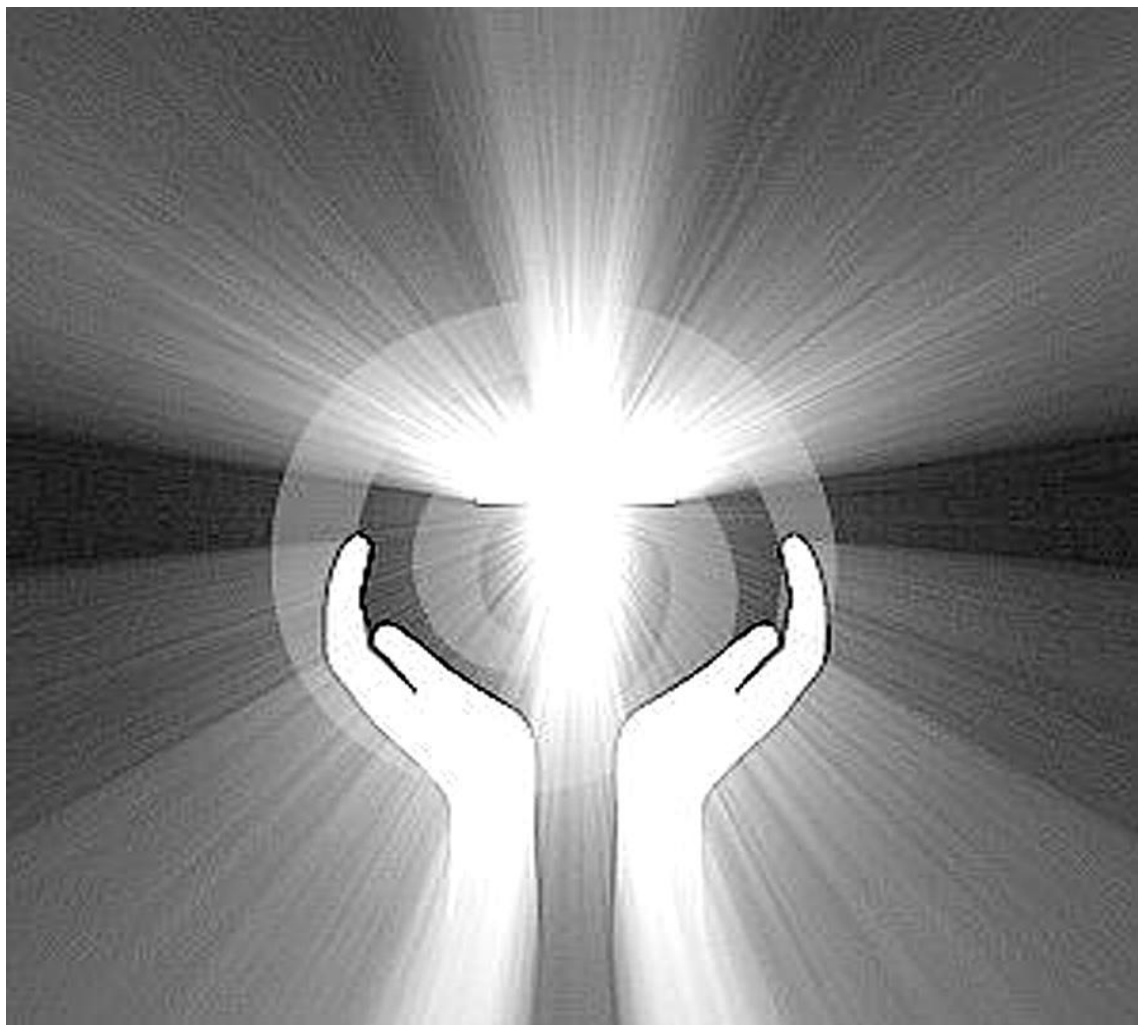


**St. John's Lutheran Church
Belleville, PA**



For God So Loved the World. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57573>

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023**

**PRELUDE
WELCOME**

Welcome on this day already midway through September and midway between Easters! September 14 is celebrated in the Lutheran Church as Holy Cross day. Let us the cross remind us today of our redemption through Christ's death and resurrection, as we celebrate the ever budding, life giving renewal it brings.


ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN ~ *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

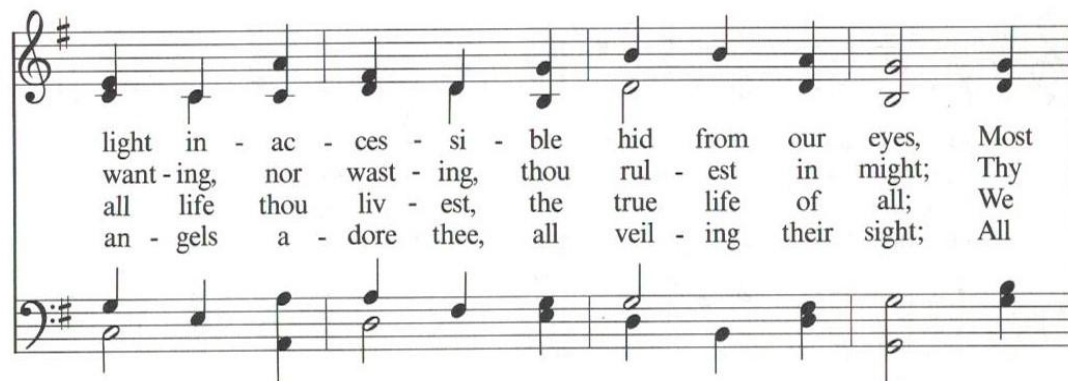
LBW # 526

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

526



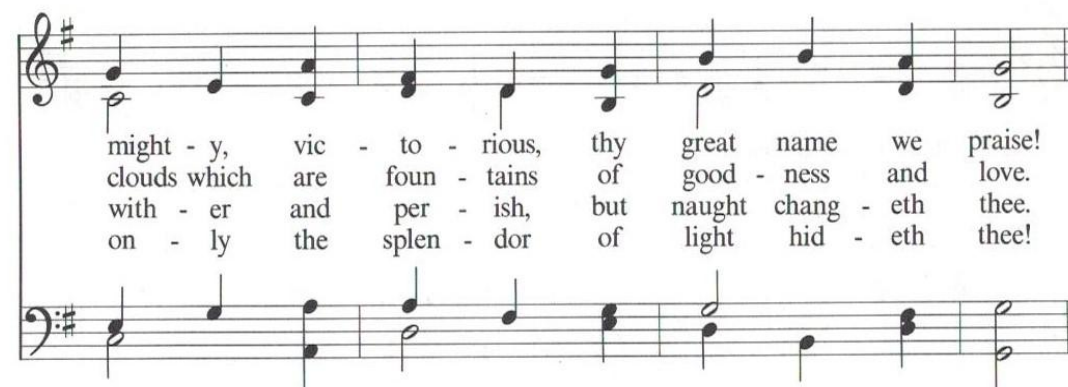
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, In
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light, Nor
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small; In
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light; Thine



light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, Most
 want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; Thy
 all life thou liv - est, the true life of all; We
 an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; All



bles - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, Al -
 jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove Thy
 blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree, And
 laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see 'Tis



might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

***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.

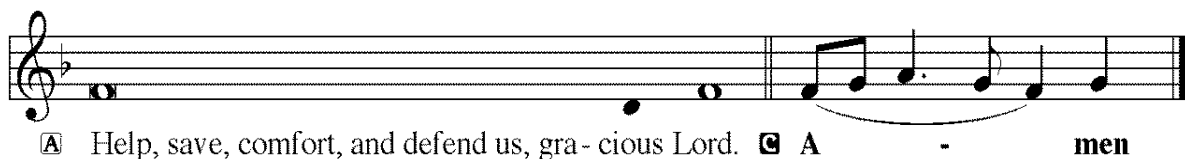
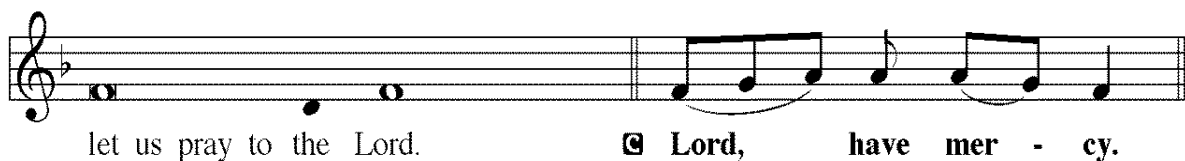
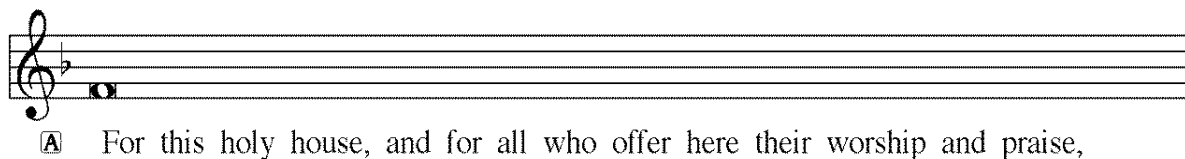
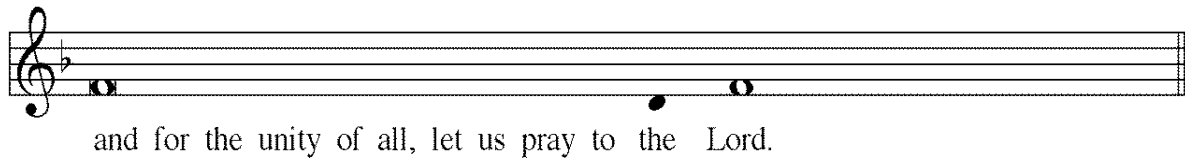
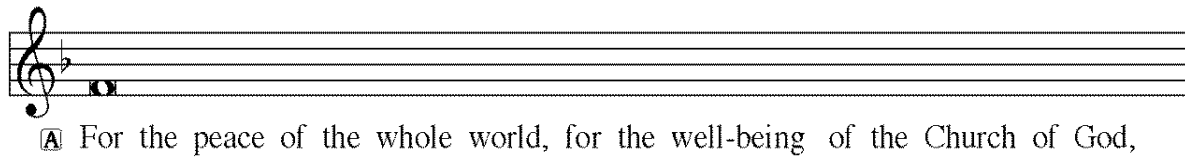
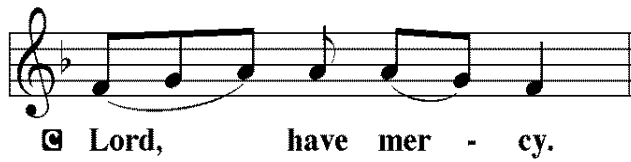
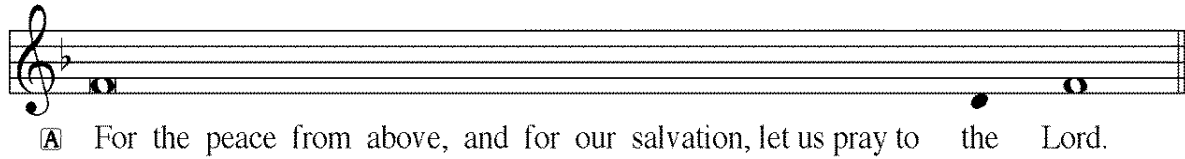
C **Amen**

***GREETING**

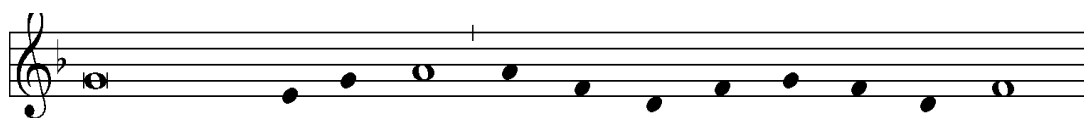
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

***KYRIE**



***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)**

The image shows two musical staves. The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains a whole note chord of B-flat and D, followed by a whole note chord of B-flat and D. The second staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains a half note chord of B-flat and D, followed by a half note chord of B-flat and D, then a half note chord of B-flat and D, and finally a half note chord of B-flat and D. The lyrics 'The Lord be with you.' are written below the first staff, and 'And al - so with you.' are written below the second staff.

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Let us pray...

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LESSONS

First Lesson ~ A reading from Genesis 50:15-21

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Psalm 103:1-13 ~ *with response*

*Second Lesson ~ A reading from Romans 14:1-12
after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

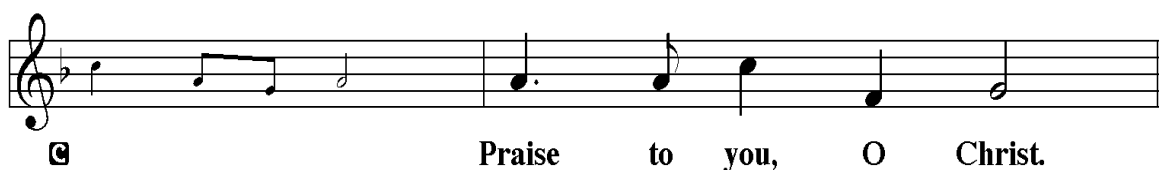
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18th chapter:



After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord



MESSAGE

*HYMN ~ *Take My Life, that I May Be*

LBW # 406

Take My Life, that I May Be

406

1 Take my life, that I may be Con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with-hold;

Take my mo - ments and my days; Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 It shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 It shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 At thy feet its treasure store;
 Take myself, and I will be
 Ever, only, all for thee.

***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**



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.

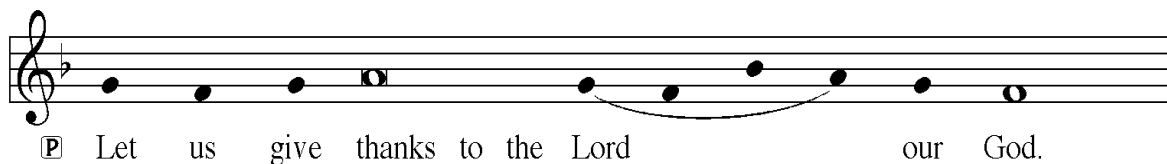
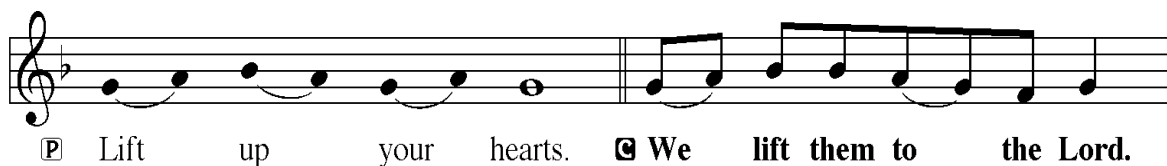
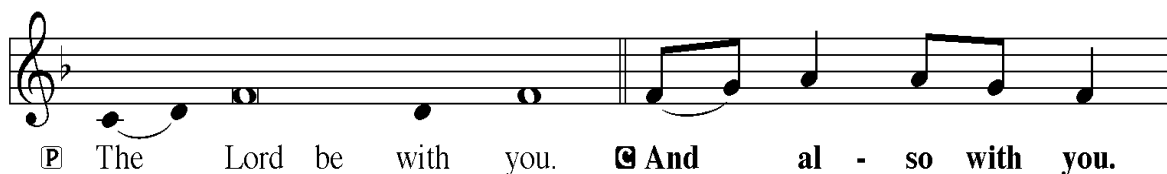
***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

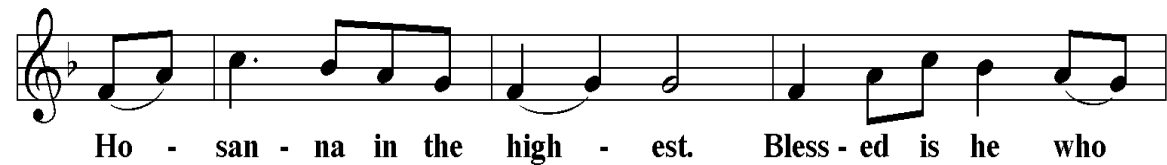
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 heart, Oh, 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 - jice 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 ~ *This is My Father's World*

LBW # 554

This Is My Father's World

554

1 This is my Fa - ther's world, And to my lis - t'ning ears All
 2 This is my Fa - ther's world; The birds their car - ols raise; The
 3 This is my Fa - ther's world; Oh, let me not for - get That,

na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, De - clare their mak - er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa - ther's world; I rest me in the thought Of
 This is my Fa - ther's world; He shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa - ther's world; Why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of . . skies and seas; His hand the won - ders .wrought.
 rus - tling grass I . . hear him pass; He speaks to me ev - 'ry-where.
 Lord is king, let the heav - ens ring; God reigns, let the earth be . . glad!

***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: Jim and Georgianna Buchanan; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

Altar Care: Georgianna Buchanan; **Sound:** Jay Byler

Next Sunday, September 24

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

Altar Care: Georgianna Buchanan; **Sound:** Jay Byler

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 Reba Harmon in loving memory of Jim Harmon.

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).

LOOKING AHEAD

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

Sunday, October 1 ~ Blanket Sunday

FROM the PASTOR

Week in Review:

Monday Sept 11 9/11 Memorial Day - Picture memorializing this in the Narthex
Thursday Sept 14 Holy Cross Thursday

CHOIR: Lisa Griffith will be back and will start rehearsals for a multi-church choir on Sept 23 11AM in the West Kish choir room. A SATB arrangement of Kumbaya is one of the songs that may be sung.

SYNOD news:

All are invited to celebrate **Pastor Kenneth Longfield's 50th Anniversary of Ordination**

October 8th, 10:45 at Holy Communion Lutheran Church, Yeagertown
Worship service with Bishop Miller and Reception about Noon.

September 27, 2023 @ 8:15 pm – 9:30 pm

A reminder that Camp Mount Luther's Young Adult Fellowship meets via Zoom on the last Wednesday of every month. On September 27, 2023, we will meet at 8:15 p.m. for check-ins and Bible study. If you consider yourself a young adult, you can join us! Questions or want the link? Email jim@campmountluther.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Property committee will meet tomorrow evening at 6:30pm in the blue room. All members are urged to attend.

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.

January 1 thru September 12, 2023

Last week's attendance ~ 24 Offering ~ \$1,355.00

St. John's ~ Income \$176,603.65, Expense \$ 186,298.91
Net Income \$ - 9,695.26

Daycare ~ Income \$ 230,289.08 Expense \$ 248,283.93
Net Income - \$17,994.85