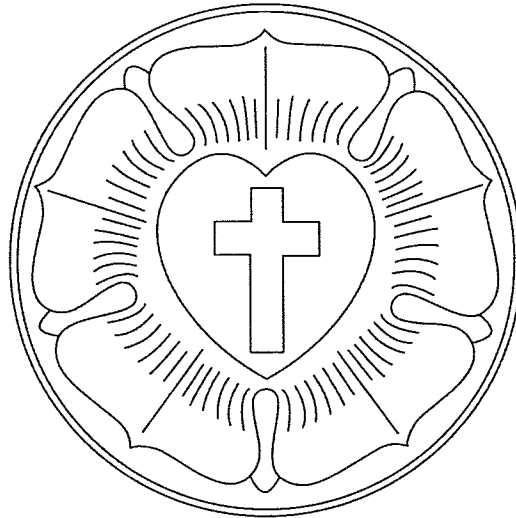


Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Mission Statement

“A Fellowship of Believers in Jesus Christ dedicated to proclaiming God’s Love to ALL through Word and Deed.”



1331 West Main Street
Ephrata, PA 17522-1313
(717) 733-6646
Email: office@salemephrata.org
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16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023
10:00 AM

- P for Pastor's part of the Liturgy
C for Congregation's part of the Liturgy
* Those who are able, are asked to stand.
+ A time one may use the sign of the cross.

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship (Green Book)
WOV = With One Voice (Blue Book)

THE FIRST PRELUDE "Toccata for a Feast Day" Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SECOND PRELUDE "I Hear Thy Welcome Voice" Paxton

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** LBW P. 56

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 is kept 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.**

* **THE GATHERING HYMN** "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" **LBW # 549**
(Green book)

* **THE APOSTOLIC GREETING** **LBW P. 57**

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.**

* **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray
Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. (ESV)

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm will be read responsively

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.
²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only
vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one
who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who

are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.
⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.
¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."
¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. (ESV)

L The Word of the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

*** THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Celtic Alleluia" WOV # 613**



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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*** GOSPEL**

P THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” (ESV)

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

*** THE HYMN OF THE DAY** “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” **LBW # 307**
(Green book)

*** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

LBW P. 65

**C 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.**

*** THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*** THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY

"Prelude in D Minor"

Handel

* THE OFFERTORY

"Let the vineyards"

LBW P. 66

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.

* THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

LBW P. 68

P Blessed are you,

C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

LBW P. 68

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

* THE PREFACE

LBW P. 68

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

LBW P. 69



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*** THE HOLY COMMUNION**

LBW P. 69

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**

LBW P. 71

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**

*** FRACTION**

* THE COMMUNION CANTICLE "Lamb of God"

LBW P. 72

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Please note: receiving in one kind (only the body or only the blood) is a full Holy Communion.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"
"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

WOV # 699
WOV # 711

* THE COMMUNION BLESSING

LBW P. 72

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

C Amen

*** THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "Thank the Lord" LBW P. 72**



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.

*** THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

LBW P. 74

P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed 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 BENEDICTION**

LBW P. 74

P Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen. *Sing in a three fold form*

*** THE CLOSING HYMN "Awake, O Sleeper"**

WOV # 745
(Blue book)

*** THE DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

*** POSTLUDE**

“Recessional”

Hughes

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Keep in Your Prayers:

Mike Carpenter, Nancy Forry, Diane Morris, Jackie Roth, Dale Stahl, Chassidy Mace (friend of Lorna Ravegum), Racheal Precise (friend of Diane Morris), Gary Winters (Charlie Winters' brother), Sally Wise, (daughter-in-law of Earl and Shirley Wise)

Harvest Home September 24 We are looking to collect canned food and boxed food to restock the shelves at Ephrata Area Social Services.

Ephrata Area Social Services (EASS) needs:

- Ketchup
- Relish
- Mustard
- Canned meat: sloppy Joe mix, Spam, chicken, ham

Collection box is located in basket in east lobby. Thank you for your donations.

Managing Motherhood: Items needed this month:

- Diapers in sizes 5, 6
- Pull-ups 4T-5T
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash
- Bar soap
- Deodorant
- Baby wipes
- Sanitary napkins—regular
- Tampons—regular and super

MCC Volunteers wanted on September 20, 1-3 PM. Call Carol Landis if you will be attending, 717-606-6797.

Free bulletin board that was in the lobby is available to anyone. It is in the library for pick up.

First Steps Inquirer's Gathering

If you have been a guest at Salem Church over the last number of months and you are curious to look a bit deeper at our church, we invite you to join us after the Divine Service on Sunday 24 September 2023 at 11:15 AM in the Multi-Purpose Room. We will get to know one another better, talk about the mission and ministry of the church, a little bit of our history as well as an optional tour. The next steps in joining Salem Church will also be discussed. Lunch will be provided and we should conclude by 1:00 PM.

Photo Directory Update

Our Photo directory team is feverishly working to bring this project to completion. Thank you for your photo submissions! We have met with a printer for a printed directory. Each booklet will be 8.5 by 8.5 and will have 40 pages of photos. The price for each copy will be between \$21.00 and \$16.00. depending on our total order. Once we have a proof copy we will put that on display. At present we would like to ascertain how many are interested. There is no obligation at this point to buy. Simply put your name on the sign up sheet and number of copies you would like. Again there is no obligation at this point. A final pricing will be posted at a later date. The sign up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex.

The Cross and the Crown: How the Solas Work Together

How do we sort out what it means to be Lutheran? Using the little word "alone" or *sola* in Latin, as Martin Luther did, this study will help us get the big picture right: Salvation is all God's doing.

24 September Lesson 3. By the Cross Alone
1 October Lesson 4. By Faith Alone
8 October Lesson 5. By the Word Alone
15 October Lesson 6. By Scripture Alone
22 October Lesson 7. By Grace Alone
29 October Lesson 8. To the Glory of God Alone
5 Nov Break

Greeter	Stephanie Frymyer
Acolyte	Nicholas Keller
Usher	Nathan Hansell
Lector	Laurel Kluck
Communion Assistant	Faith Shiffer
Altar care set up	Edie Sweigart
clean up	Betty Zimmerman and Judy Kauffman

Today		Pipeline articles due
Monday	5:00 PM	TOPS
Thursday	7:00 PM	Holy Communion
Friday	11:00 AM	Pipeline Assembly Rm. 6

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 Theresa C. Lee, Organist
 Michael Frymyer, Sexton
 Jean Wilhelm, Secretary

Office hours: Monday—Friday, 8:30 AM—12:30 PM