



St. Luke Lutheran Church in Schaefferstown
14th Sunday of Pentecost - August 29, 2021
Worship Service

Telephone Number - Office: 717-949-3375 churchoffice@stlukelutheran.comcastbiz.net
Web-Site: www.stlukelutheran.org

Our Guiding Story and Mission
The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

As the Body of Christ we proclaim the Gospel by serving and doing God's will
in a manner that meets the needs of our changing world.

HEALTH QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FOR ATTENDEES:

Please Do Not Stay If You Answer Yes to the Following Questions:

1. Do you have a cough, fever or flu-like symptoms? (some flu-like symptoms could be: fatigue, chills, fever, muscle pain, cough, headache, sore throat) – **if yes, please go home and call your Doctor**
2. Have you had a COVID-19 test in the past 10 days? – **if yes, please do not stay**
3. Have you come in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the past 10 days? – **if yes, please do not stay**

Being Mindful of Others: Masks, Distancing, and Other Mitigation Protocols

So that we may safely worship together, please follow these steps with due diligence to mitigate the possibility of spreading illness.

If person is fully vaccinated - mask is optional.

If person is unvaccinated or has received 1 dose of a 2 dose vaccine - mask is recommended.

Social distancing is still required if not a member of the same household.

Please use hand sanitizer upon arrival (dispenser is on the table by the stairway).

Please take bulletins home.

Please place Offerings in the receptacle on the table by the stairway – Thank you!!

Passing the peace will take place with gestures.

Returning to Altar Communion with a specific procedure.

Welcome/Announcements

The Prelude

"Je Vous Salue, Marie"

Kirk Garner - Organ

Words of Confession and Reconciliation

Brothers and sisters, we are often so caught up in what is happening around us in our homes, institutions, and community that we fail to notice who walks beside us.

C: Jesus, forgive us. Do not conceal yourself from us; open our eyes to your merciful presence.

Jesus, you are right in indicating how foolish your Emmaus followers were and still can be when we become stuck in this world and lose sight of your good news, lose hope, and therefore not grasp what you have revealed to us.

C: Loose what binds us, Jesus, cause our hearts to burn with your teaching.

Here we stand today, urging Jesus to stay with us and break bread with us,

C: yearning to be filled with the ever present joy that overwhelmed the Emmaus disciples, that caused them to leave all behind, rejoin the community of believers, and discover their individual and communal mission. Stay with us Lord. Amen

Hear the good news. Jesus remains with us, opens our eyes to his presence, and our ears to hear the things about him in the scriptures. His forgiving self-giving life, teaching, death, and resurrection, reconciles us to his Father, our Father,

C: so that our faith is rekindled, our hope is restored, and our mission becomes clear: blessing God and becoming a compassionate blessing to one another in this faith community, and to our neighbors near and far. Amen.

Gathering Hymn WOV #718 “Gather Us In”

Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away-
here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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The Call to Worship

You catch up to us as we sojourn, Risen Jesus;

C: on the road, unexpectedly, in a way we need most, changing everything.

You stand next to us, Rabbi Jesus;

C: where we are, revealing a call, an invitation, the truth.

You enter into our souls, enlivening Jesus;

C: awakening us to a new life, a new world, a new mission.

Therefore we pray. Partnering God, refresh our weary hearts with your Holy Spirit.

C: Inspire us to be your workers, that we may use the gifts you have ignited in us to build your kingdom here in this place, at this time. Burn within us so that we become agents of compassionate transformation in this congregation, this town, and beyond. In the name of the Jesus we pray. Amen.

Special Music: “*May It Be*” (E. N. Bhraonain)

Kirk Garner - Organ and Debra Poling - Recorder

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Second Reading: James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the

elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day WOV #713

"Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

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The Message

Confession of Faith: Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith.

C: I trust in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I trust 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 trust in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Let us share his peace with one another.

(Share the peace with a Gesture)

Offering: Thank you for faithfully mailing your offering envelope or placing them in the container today.

Prayers of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

(A brief silence.)

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

We pray for individuals in positions of authority. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, especially those beginning a new school year. Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful departed who showed us how to honor God with our heart. Inspire us by their example and renew our faith, trusting that we will be united with them in glory. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord Jesus 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.

Blessing

God, the merciful and mighty, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love—
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – send us light and truth to keep us all our days.

**C: May his hand protect us, his holy angels accompany us,
and his blessing envelop us, now and forever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn LBW #561

“For The Beauty of the Earth”

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light: *(Refrain)*

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,

for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: *(Refrain)*

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: *(Refrain)*

For yourself, best gift divine to the world so freely giv'n;
agent of God's grand design, peace on earth and joy in heav'n: *(Refrain)*

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

Sending

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and our neighbors.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude: *"Jerusalem, My Happy Home"*

Organ and Recorder

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Supply Pastor: The Rev. Angela Hammer

Soloist: Sarah Kneller

Lay Reader: Anna Mae Grubb

Minister of Music: Linda Holt

Worship Assistant: Sue DeLong

This Week at St. Luke

Tuesday 10:00 AM Band Together

Thursday 10:00 AM Band Together

Friday 2:30-6:00 PM Spang Crest Chicken Bar-B-Que

Next Sunday - Food Bank Sunday

8:30 AM Holy Communion Service

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It is easy to stay connected to all things happening at St. Luke! Check out our website at <https://www.stlukelutheran.org>. In addition to updates on current events, you will find links on the website to access our online worship services via Facebook or YouTube.

Or, if you prefer, you can access online services directly via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran>, or on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWKROL7HVJEgtCMksioZwoA>.

The bulletin will continue to be emailed out weekly with printed copies available at Sunday worship. So whether you attend in person or tune in online, it is easy to stay connected!

We welcome your feedback--recommendations, suggestions, or improvements regarding the current

online transmissions. We also need volunteers to assist with the technical aspects of livestreaming and all of the legwork and support this requires. Please send your feedback or volunteer availability to the Church Office.

A WARM WELCOME to our supply pastor The Rev. Angela Hammer and all our visitors as we come together to share this day here at St. Luke.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by Donna Rhodes in memory of her Husband, Alfred's Birthday.

Please keep in your prayers those who are ill, recovering, or shut-in, especially:

John Adams, Claudia Addison, Kit Ahnert, Brenda Boyer, Leon Boyer, Mechelle Leshner Bray, Amanda Cupernall, Alexandria (Lexxi) Ditzler, Cathy Dunkelberger, Earl Garman, Deb Glassmoyer, Peg Griffe, Bill Gundrum, Kim Lenhart Hale, John Hassinger, Dean Hettinger, Lilly Higgins & Family, Bill Hoffman, Richard and Nancy Hollen, June Kohr, Landon Kreider, Ruth Kupp, Betty Leedy, Delores Leshner, Richard Leshner, Ken Light, Donald and Sue McClure, Steven McCracken, Casey McGarvey, Dana McKinney, Maureen Marinkov, Dale Matthews, Harold (Spike) Moore, Brian Navarre, Barry and Tom Nolt, George Pastore, Kathy O'Roark, Gerald and Ruth Parson, Ronald Ream, Lance Rhodes, Al Shade, Barry Shriver, Linda Simmers, Lloyd Smith, Richard Strohl, Caitlyn, Gretta and Mike Stuber, Robert Todisco, Landis Wenger, Josephine Wenrich, Janet Wharton, Josie Williams, Eddie Wolfe, Marian Yoder, Dottie and Maggie Zartman, and Ashton Zohn.

Pray for those who are serving in the military, especially:

Christopher Ahnert, Timothy Beamesderfer, David Deysher, Tyler Fleagle, Shane Gettler, Steven Ginder, George Leshner, Jr., Greg Rocker, and Matthew Sanders.

Pray for congregations and ministries with whom we share mutual ministry:

The congregations and pastors of the Heidelberg Ministerium and Lebanon Conference, Agape House, Lebanon Co. Christian Ministries, Lebanon Taizé Violence Intervention Women's Shelter, Lancaster/Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Support Connections of Lebanon County, Our Synod Bishop James S. Dunlop and his staff, and our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff.

Please be in Prayer for and with St. Luke Vision to Mission Team - Kit Ahnert, Richelle Deysher, Elaine Matternas, Judy Plummer, Scott Rights, and Todd Snyder.

THANK YOU to Kirk Garner and Debra Poling for the Special Music they provided this morning.

The Monthly Ministry Emphasis for the month of September will be ***"Domestic Violence Shelter"***. Thank you again for your continued support.

St. Luke History Books are available for \$20.00. Call Anna Mae Grubb 717-273-7035 or email at mrgrubby@comcast.net.

Spang Crest Chicken Bar-B-Que, next Friday, September 3 - 2:30-6:00 PM at \$8.00. Includes Chicken Bar-B-Que, baked potato, roll and apple sauce. See Mabelle Bucher for tickets.

Next Sunday, September 5 is **Food Bank Sunday**.

The items needed are: Canned Vegetables, Spaghetti and Sauce, Pasta/Stuffing and Rice, Canned Fruits, Canned Soups, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Reusable Plastic Containers.

Sr. Choir will begin rehearsals Wednesday evening, September 8 at 7:00 PM.

We could sing the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Please contact Linda Holt as soon as possible.

We welcome all new members for this coming year who love to sing!!

Plan ahead for God's Work – Our Hands Sunday on September 12th, when we will launch Warmth for Winter with a Diaper Drive. Now is a good time to check for coupons and bargains as you shop and stock up on diapers of all sizes which will be distributed through Lebanon County Christian Ministries. Thank you for your support!

The Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, September 16th at 7:00pm in the Chapel. We will be discussing "**The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell**" by: Robert Dugoni.

All are welcome to join the group. If anyone has any questions please contact Richelle Deysher.

We are in need of **boxes for shipping the quilts in October**. Please contact Sue Delong with any questions.

Volunteers are needed Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9 to help gather and pick up quilts and kits at the different churches to be delivered to Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ephrata.

If you are in need of **Pastoral Care** for a Visit, Hospitalization, Baptisms, Funerals, etc. please call the church office at 717-949-3375.