



# Pentecost 15 C

Sunday, September 18, 2022

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

# WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We extend in the name of Christ, a welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. May you find here an experience of true Christian worship and fellowship. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to consider joining Peace.

## MISSION STATEMENT

As servants of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who is eager to forgive  
and who loves us beyond our days.

**Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge  
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy and forgiveness,  
**we confess that sin still has a hold on us.**

**We have harmed your good creation.**

**We have failed to do justice,**

**love kindness,**

**and walk humbly with you.**

**Turn us in a new direction.**

**Show us the path that leads to life.**

**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,**

**through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.**

**Amen.**

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven ✝ and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ,  
who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;  
 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;  
 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;  
 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
 stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
 and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Furness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Text © Norman O. Furness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### THIS IS THE FEAST

### ELW P187





1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



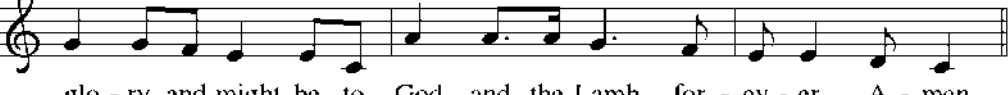
vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



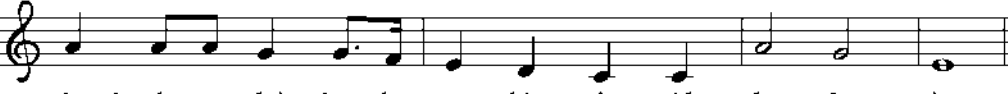
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

## + WORD +

### FIRST READING

**Amos 8:4-7**

*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you that trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

<sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain;

and the sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,  
and practice deceit with false balances,

<sup>6</sup>buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

<sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 113**     *Read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants <sup>1</sup>of the LORD;  
praise the name <sup>1</sup>of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the name of the LORD be blessed,  
from this time forth for- evermore.**

<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its going down  
let the name of the LORD be praised.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD is high a- bove all nations;  
God's glory a- bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Who is like the LORD our God,  
who sits en- throned on high,

<sup>6</sup>**but stoops to behold  
the heavens and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust  
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

<sup>8</sup>**enthroning them with the rulers,  
with the rulers of the people.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD makes the woman of a childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING

## 1 Timothy 2:1-7

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

P. Word of God. Word of life.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 16:1-13

P. The holy gospel according to Luke the 16th chapter.

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

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so

that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’<sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’<sup>6</sup> He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’<sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’<sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.<sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.<sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?<sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?<sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P. The gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**

**Rev. Mary E. Zupansic**

### **REFLECTION: FOR THOSE AT HOME**

In today’s gospel, Jesus tells a challenging parable about a dishonest steward that ends with an unsettling moral: “And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes” (Luke 16:9).

Is Jesus being ironic or sincere? Do the characters in the story somehow represent our relationship with God? Are we supposed to emulate the dishonest steward? This text is filled with questions. If you find Jesus’ words today perplexing, even baffling, don’t worry—you are in good company. Both the details of the parable itself and the lesson Jesus is drawing from it have vexed and puzzled generations of the best interpreters, theologians, and preachers.

There are many plausible ways to explain what is happening and what it means for our lives as Christians that might be explored in your assembly today. At the same time, scriptures like this are a reminder that the life of discipleship does not always come with easy answers and neatly packaged meanings. The gospels frequently report mo-



ments when Jesus' disciples simply could not understand what he was saying to them or profoundly misinterpreted his meaning.

The value of the community you join today does not come from the perfect understandings of either the assembly or its leaders. It comes from the one who continues to speak even when we do not understand, who daily affirms God's love for us through the waters of baptism, who offers his own body and blood at the table each week for those who are still struggling and learning what it means to be his disciples—and that includes all of us. In short, the value of the community you join today comes from a Lord committed to leading us as disciples, even when we are unclear of the way.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*TAKE MY LIFE, THAT I MAY BE*

**ELW #583**

*Refrain/Estribillo*

*To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -*  
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,

*da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón*  
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

*To stanzas* *Last time*

*y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.*  
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

*1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té*  
 1 Take my hands and let them move  
 2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing  
 4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da\_a ti, Se - ñor;  
at the im - pulse of thy love;  
not a mite would I with - hold;  
al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que\_a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -  
take my feet and let them be swift and  
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry  
take my lips and let them be filled with  
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



pul - so de tu\_a - mor.  
beau - ti - ful for thee.  
pow'r as thou shalt choose.  
mes - sag - es from thee.  
be thy roy - al throne.

2 *Que mis pies tan sólo en pos  
de lo santo puedan ir,  
y que\_a ti, Señor, mi voz,  
se complazca en bendecir.* Estribillo

3 *Que mis labios al hablar  
hablen sólo de tu amor;  
que mis bienes dedicar  
yo los quiera\_a ti, Señor.* Estribillo

4 *Que mi tiempo todo esté  
consagrado\_a tu loor;  
que mi mente\_y su poder  
sean usados en tu honor.* Estribillo

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875–1955  
Music: TOMA MI VOLUNTAD, William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956  
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

God our Savior, you keep your church in faith and truth. Accompany those preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all those who share your good news with the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Divine teacher, you instruct your children to be responsible stewards of your creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources, and guide those who work to develop sustainable practices. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority. Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace. Inspire public servants to follow the example of courageous leaders and safeguard the dignity of each person. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Helper of the needy, you lift up those who are oppressed. Breathe justice into economic and social systems that perpetuate poverty and hunger. Sustain food ministries, clothing banks, and emergency shelters. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Sustainer and giver of life, you bless this congregation with abundance. Instruct us in the proper and faithful use of wealth and resources, that we share generously. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us, and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

### THE SHARING OF PEACE

P. The peace of Christ be with you always.

C. **And also with you.**

## + THE MEAL +

### OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We gladly accept your offerings via US Postal Service, Tithe.ly, or direct deposit from you bank.

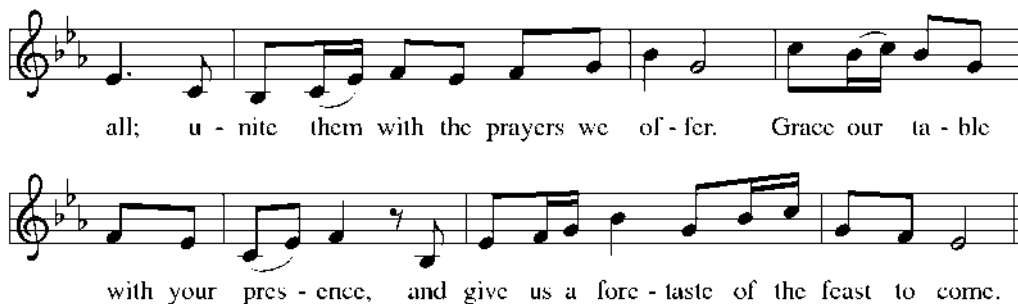
### CHOIR ANTHEMN

#### OFFERING HYMN

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

**ELW #184**

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 dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray. Gracious God:

**C. in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.**

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 190



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

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
 who preached good news to the poor,  
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
 we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,

and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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. In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

### **LAMB OF GOD**

**ELW P. 191**



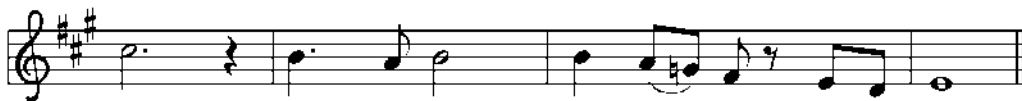
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

**COMMUNION HYMN(S)**

*YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH  
BE THOU MY VISION*

**CONTEMPORARY  
ELW #793**

**TABLE BLESSING**

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

C. Amen.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A. Let us pray. God of the abundant table,

C. **you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

P. God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C. Amen.

**SENDING HYMN**

*AS SAINTS OF OLD*

**ELW #695**



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field  
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;  
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,  
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.  
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.





so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,  
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:  
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.  
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.  
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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## DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

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## ABOUT THIS WEEK'S TEXT

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

## COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

**Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961**

**Sunday, September 18, 2022**

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

## **Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF)**

**Tuesday, September 20, 2022**

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

## **Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**

**Wednesday, September 21, 2022**

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

## **THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:**

Walter Hoyt, Judy Bar Hoover, Harriett Bartell

*If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or know someone who would like to be added to our list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card, send an email to [peace.lutheran@comcast.net](mailto:peace.lutheran@comcast.net) OR call the Office at (217)546-7646. Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks unless otherwise notified. Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name.*

## **ZOOM MEETINGS / IN-PERSON EVENTS THIS WEEK**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18</b> | In Person Worship/Livestream—9:30am            |
| <b>MON., SEPTEMBER 19</b>   | Property Committee—6:00pm<br>Stamp Club—6:00pm |
| <b>WED., SEPTEMBER 21</b>   | Choir Practice—7:00pm                          |
| <b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25</b> | In Person Worship/Livestream—9:30am            |

## **ASSISTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18**

**Assisting Minister:** Michael Horn

**Ushers:** Marleigh Andrews-Conrad & Amanda Kim

**Video:** Linda Rice

**Camera:** Janet Kocis

**Musician:** Brenda Peck

**Presiding & Preaching:** Pastor Mary Zupansic

**Fellowship Host:**



Sign up for  
Altar Flowers

\$35.00

Call the church office  
@

217.546.7646

Or sign up in the  
"Members" section  
of the Website

## FAITH FORMATION TODAY—SEPTEMBER 18

**Little Lambs (Birth– 5yrs):** Meet in Nursery after worship.

**Elementary Disciples:** Take home lesson may be picked up in the narthex.

**Confirmation:** Check with Pastor.

**“Sundays @ 6” (Adults):** New series begins this evening at 6:00p.m. Zoom link may be found in News You Can Use or by calling the church office.

## ALTAR FLOWERS PLACED BY *Marilyn Henderson*

### BIRTHDADYS

9/19 Elijah Hamilton

9/23 Jean Tweet

Thank you to everyone who contributed to GWOH Food Drive! We filled 60 meal kits and delivered them to area micro-pantries! In addition, 80 LWR School Kits were assembled.



**We are in need of 35 toothbrushes and 160 bars of soap!**



If you would like a visit from Pastor Mary OR have a pastoral emergency, PLEASE contact Pastor on her cell phone @ 920-671-4338. You may also call the church office @217-546-7646 and leave a message.



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E-mail: [peace.lutheran@comcast.net](mailto:peace.lutheran@comcast.net)



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