

“Serving Christ as a welcoming community of
grace, so all may know God’s love.”



ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
ANDREA BATES, PASTOR
KYLE BATES, PASTOR
DAVID RHYNE, DEACON FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 17, 2023
Evangelical Lutheran Worship ✕ Holy Communion Setting Four

PRELUDE

Praise My Soul the God of Heaven – Robert Hobby

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
+ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

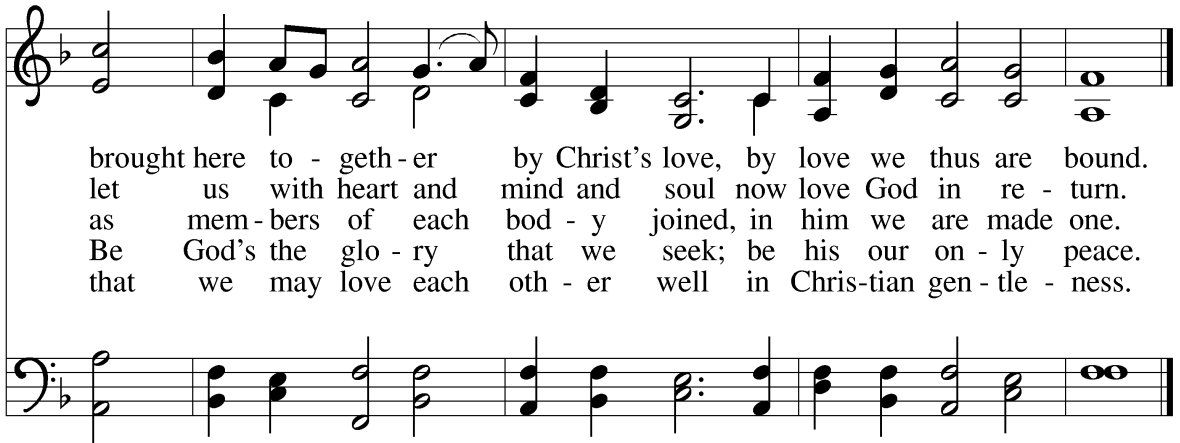
Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

We stand



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

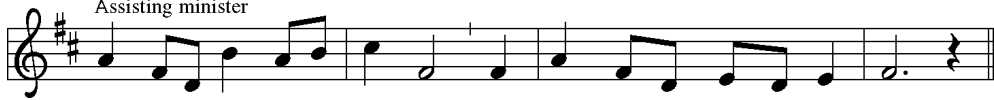
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GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

❖ WORD ❖

The assembly is seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Kyle

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Refrain

Lord, you are full of com - pas - sion and mer - cy,
of com - pas - sion and mer - cy.

Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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; R**
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 chil- | dren of Israel.
⁸**LORD you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R**
⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰**You have not dealt with us accord- | ing | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**
¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove 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 transgres- | sions from us.**
¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We Stand

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.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him

the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

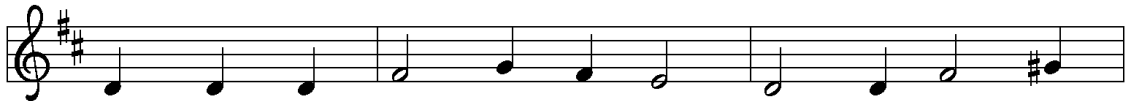
Pastor Kyle

We stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

ELW 716



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all
 2 Break down the wall that would di - vide thy chil - dren,
 3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less
 4 Give me thy cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er
 5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son may I
 Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -
 act and thought - less word. Make me to see the wrong I
 strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self the vic - tim
 Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, wher - e'er I



see my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by thee.
 sue; let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.
 do will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.
 be, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring thee.
 be, may be di - vine - ly touched by thee.

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

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

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Protect and guide us, O God, as the Women of the ELCA gather in Phoenix for the Triennial Convention and Gathering. Help them to discern Your will and learn to be like Jesus to the world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERTORY

8:30

We Are The Lord's – arr. Roland Martin

ADULT CHOIR

11:00

When There's Trust in the Room – Mark Miller

ADULT CHOIR

(The texts of these anthems can be found on the last page of the worship folder)

We stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

ELW 678



1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty, **all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.**
Amen.

❖ MEAL ❖

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

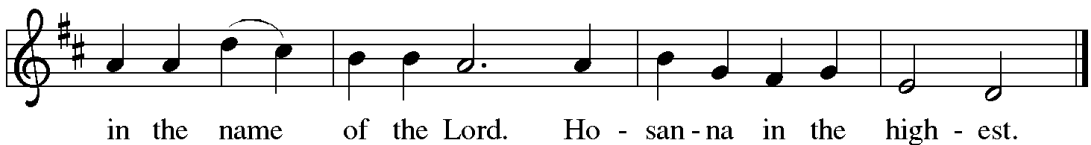
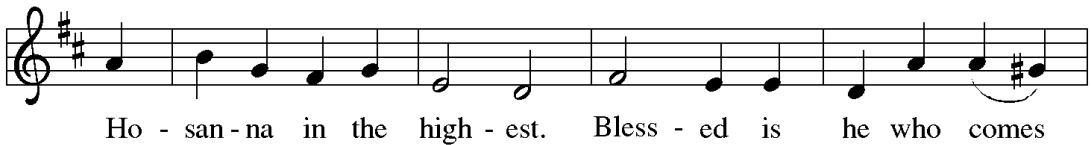
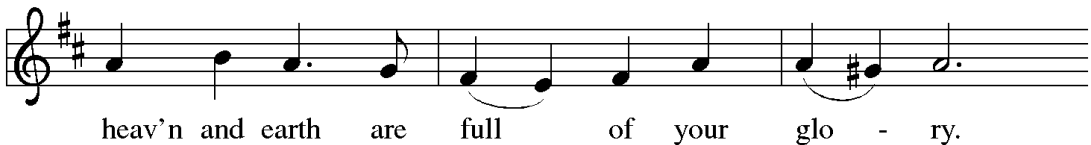
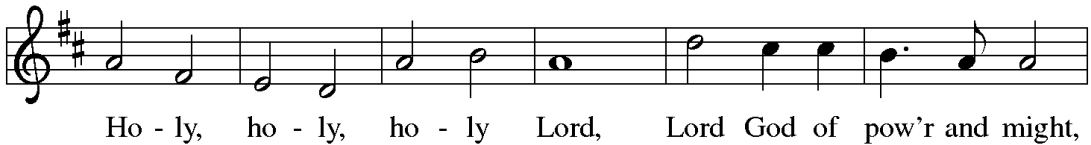
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
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

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's Table, following the direction of our ushers in the center aisle. Please kneel at the rail as able and we will offer bread and pre-filled cups of either wine or white grape juice. Then, we will collect empty cups, and you may return to your seat by the closest side aisle.

Those unable to consume wine or bread/wafers are assured that the crucified and risen Christ is fully present for you in, with, and under each element. Gluten-free wafers are available by request.

COMMUNION SONG



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.

COMMUNION ANTHEM
11:00

ADULT CHOIR

We Are The Lord's – arr. Roland Martin

(The text of this anthem can be found on the last page of the worship folder)

COMMUNION HYMN

Lord, Who The Night You Were Betrayed

ELW 463



1 Lord, who the night you were be - trayed did pray that all your
2 For all your church on earth, we in - ter - cede; Lord, make our
3 And hear our prayer for wan-d'ers from your fold; re - store them,
4 So, Lord, at length when sac - ra - ments shall cease, may we be



church might be for - ev - er one: help us at
sad di - vi - sions soon to cease; draw us all
too, Good Shep - herd of the sheep, back to the
one with all your church a - bove— one with your



ev - 'ry eu - cha - rist to say with will - ing heart and
clos - er, each to each, we plead, by draw - ing all to
faith your saints con - fessed of old, and to the church still
saints in one un - bro - ken peace, one with your saints in



soul, "Your will be done." Oh, may we all one bread, one
you, O Prince of peace; thus may we all one bread, one
pledged that faith to keep. Soon may we all one bread, one
one un - bound - ed love; more bless - ed still, in peace and



bod - y be, through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
bod - y be, through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
bod - y be, through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
love to be one with the Trin - i - ty in u - ni - ty.

We stand

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, **for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.**
Amen.

❖ SENDING ❖

BLESSING

The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

ELW 544



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Children are invited to join worship leaders at the entrance to the sanctuary for the dismissal, speaking the words "serve the Lord!"

POSTLUDE

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing – David Cherwien

ANTHEMS

We Are The Lord's – arr. Roland Martin

1. We are the Lord's. His all sufficient merit, Sealed on the cross to us this grace accords.
We are the Lord's and all things shall inherit; Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
We are the Lord's, then let us gladly tender Our souls to him in deeds, not empty words.
Let heart and tongue and life combine to render No doubtful witness that we are the Lord's

2. We are the Lord's. No darkness brooding o'er us Can make us tremble while this star
affords A steady light along the path before us: Faith's full assurance that we are the
Lord's. We are the Lord's. No evil can befall us in the dread hour of life's fast loos'ning
cords; No pangs of death shall even then appall us. Death shall be vanquished, for we are
the Lord's.

When There's Trust in the Room – Mark Miller

1. When there's trust in the room, we can breathe; when we don't undercut or deceive;
when there's grace in the air and respect everywhere, when there's trust in the room, we
can breathe.

2. When there's trust in the room, we can see; when the blinders come off, and we're
free; when we're honest and fair, and receptive to care, when there's trust in the room,
we can see.

*Refrain: Hallelujah! Sing hallelujah! When there's trust in the room, we can see; when
we're honest and fair, and receptive to care, when there's trust in the room, we can see.*

3. When there's trust in the room, we can dream, when our motives are just what they
seem; when our thoughts freely flow, and we're challenged to grow, when there's trust in
the room, we can dream.

*Refrain: Hallelujah! Sing hallelujah! When there's trust in the room, we can dream. When
our thoughts freely flow, and we're challenged to grow, when there's trust in the room, we
can dream.*

SERVING TODAY

8:30

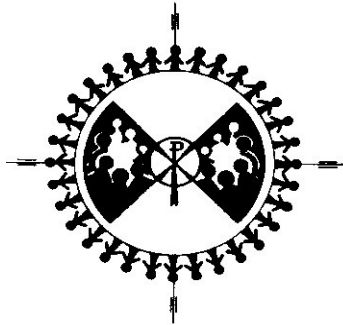
September Altar Guild
Greeters
Assisting Minister
Lector
Acolyte
Safe Hospitality
Nursery Caregivers
Recording Ministers

Jackie Frederick and Nancy Fulmer
Luci Floyd/Tonjia Groblewski
Pat George
Mary Lee Mowry
Marie Castagnaro
Keith Trout

11:00

Camerone Trent/Linda Worley
Kathryn Rhyne
Diane Smith
Reagan Thornton
Nathan Cook
Forrester Family
Mike Hutchinson/John Fulmer

The logo of St. Michael Lutheran Church graphically portrays our congregation's sense of identity and purpose. It depicts the People of God gathered around Christ -- the traditional "Chi-Rho" monogram in the center -- and surrounded at every point of the compass by the people in the world, among whom Christ sends us to live and to serve. As we gather and scatter each week, Christ makes us different, and empowers us to make a difference. While our congregation has called those with particular gifts to equip us for our ministry, each Baptized member of St. Michael Lutheran Church is God's minister in this place and time, "Serving Christ as a welcoming community of grace, so all may know God's love."



STAFF

Andrea Bates Pastor	Kyle Bates Pastor	David Rhyne Deacon	Ellen Bradshaw Administrative Assistant	Johnny Watson Facilities Maintenance
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COUNCIL

Nancy Adair	Marie Castagnaro	Stan Metzger	Jennifer Fenske
John Fulmer	Julie Gibson	Mark Hobbs	Adam Miles
Warren Mowry	Sandy Sughrue	Kendra Thornton	Matt Wofford

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