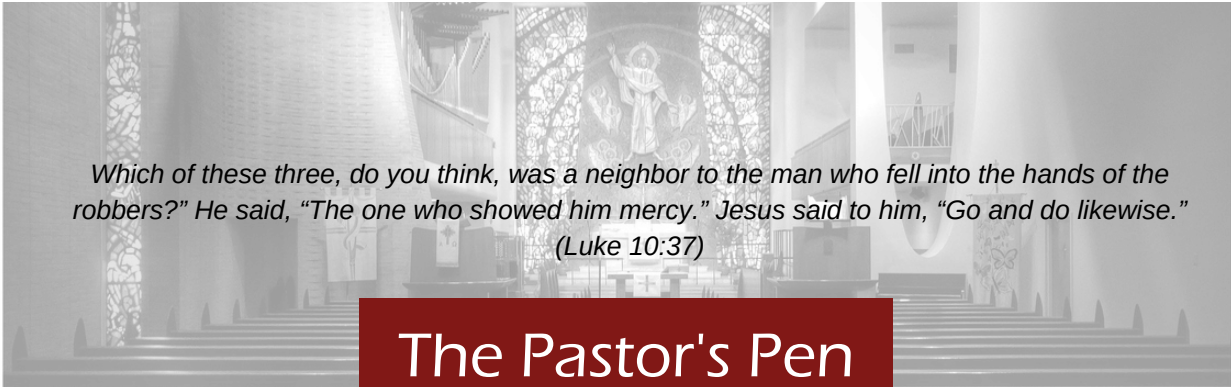


# ReMarks

July 2025

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church



*Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."  
(Luke 10:37)*

### The Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have all, in moments of distress, been helped by the selfless compassion of a Good Samaritan along life's journey. The parable of the Good Samaritan highlights what love looks like. Love is merciful, forgiving, welcoming, and just. These are biblical concepts. They are not an ideology; rather, they are the ethical center of the Hebrew scriptures and the prophets that informed the preaching of Jesus. Mercy and love are the ethical core of our faith.

At times I wonder if we are forgetting these basic principles of Jesus. We are becoming profoundly inward and self-centered, yet the parable of the Good Samaritan reveals someone who is generous and outwardly compassionate to those in need. Jesus chose a foreigner, a Samaritan, to be the one who reveals God's love, reminding us that when we exclude those who are considered "outsiders," we risk excluding the God who works miracles through the people of all nations.

At the end of the parable, Jesus says, "Go and do likewise." Sharing the love of God toward our neighbor is the very center of discipleship to Jesus.

During the summer months, life slows down as we take time for renewal. Yet as we enjoy such moments, we also remember those in our community living on the streets in hunger and loneliness who have no such luxury.

This summer, there are many opportunities at St. Mark's to be a Good Samaritan. Each Thursday we serve a home-cooked meal at the Soup Kitchen to the hungry of our community. If you have never been, consider volunteering. We continue to need bottled water to share with our Soup Kitchen neighbors who live daily in the heat. Social Ministry continues its Summer Food Drive for children and families without enough to eat. Please consider donating non-perishable foods for those in need.

This summer, St. Mark's Council has approved a new summer project of working with Bread for the World. During July and August, we will hear more about how we can make a difference at home and abroad for those living without enough to eat. Please see this month's article for details.

St. Mark's members and friends are generous and loving people. Each of you are Good Samaritans helping those in need. God bless you as you care for others!

In the fellowship of the gospel, Pastor Timothy McKenzie

# June Council Highlights

## Synopsis of St. Mark's Lutheran Congregation Council Meeting (June 9, 2025)

The St. Mark's Lutheran Congregation Council met on Monday, June 9, 2025, and was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Chris Stevenson. After a devotion from Colossians 3:13–15 led by Tom Puky, the council approved the May meeting minutes. Andrea Long presented the financial report, noting no major issues but suggesting the possibility of investing idle funds in higher-interest accounts. Pastor Tim McKenzie highlighted several recent events that increased the church's visibility, including a bilingual memorial service, concerts, and special worship services. He also reported on pastoral visits and conversations with members and prospective members, and the council unanimously approved welcoming the Lepkowski family, Bonnie Eckard, and Jonathan Graham into the congregation. Pastor McKenzie also acknowledged a \$5,000 bequest to the Music Fund and shared updates on logistical support for the upcoming Via de Cristo convention.

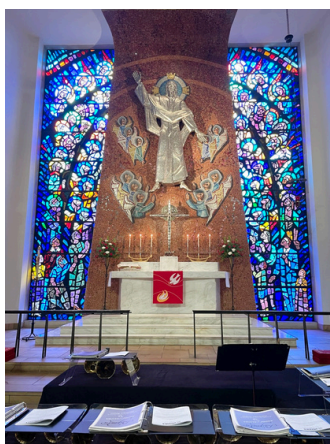
Chris Stevenson reported on the NC Synod Convention, announcing the election of former St. Mark's associate pastor Emily Hartner as the new bishop. He also presented a draft Worship Plan of Action in case of an unplanned pastoral absence. The council reviewed the current structure and leadership of church committees, identifying several vacancies and areas needing revitalization. In new business, members were encouraged to continue outreach efforts and to sign up for altar flower contributions. John Simon provided an update on defibrillator training resources. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Tom Puky  
Council Secretary

## Pentecost Sunday, June 8



Altar Flowers Pentecost in loving memory of Rev. Dr. Carl McKenzie



Pentecost Sunday photo from Patrick Walters

## New Partner



We are pleased to be partners with the Japan-America Society of North Carolina, headquartered in Raleigh and working across the state to promote cultural understanding between these two nations. Their website is [jasnc.org](http://jasnc.org).



# Around St. Mark's

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)

## Charlotte Bach Festival at St. Mark's



The Bach Akademie Charlotte held its 6th annual Bach Festival May 30-June 7, bringing together over fifty gifted musicians from all over North America. Highlights included the entire Brandenburg Concertos and Mozart's Requiem. St. Mark's was pleased to host two concerts: June 3, "All in the Family: JS Bach & Sons Chamber Music," featuring the Cantata: Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt, BWV 68 (For God so loved the world); and June 5, "Follia & Fantasy: The Art of the Trio Sonata," including works by J.S. Bach and Antonio Vivaldi. These well-attended concerts offered the Charlotte community an opportunity to experience marvelous music in our acoustically vibrant sanctuary.

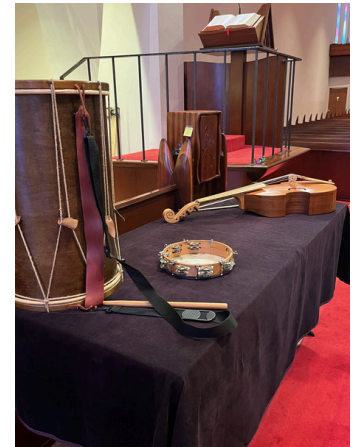




# Around St. Mark's

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)

## Angels in the Architecture



On Sunday, June 15, the ensemble named Angels in the Architecture presented "Under the Skies: 500 years of Music in Paris," featuring music of the 13th-18th centuries.



Seven musicians performed vocal and instrumental pieces featuring over thirty different instruments with Kristen Overdahl as vocalist on several pieces in French. The concert was a magical performance giving life to medieval and early baroque period compositions rarely heard performed today. St. Mark's is proud to partner with many musical ensembles in Charlotte offering quality sacred and classical music that helps create musical community in our church.





# Around St. Mark's

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)

## Senior Sunday



This year's Senior Sunday celebrated the accomplishments of graduating high school seniors, Brady Ferner and Palmer Stevenson. Both Brady and Palmer witnessed to us with statements of faith reflecting upon God's grace alive in them. In the annual "Blanket Ceremony," parents placed blankets on the shoulders of their sons, as we surrounded them with prayers of thanksgiving and Godspeed as they prepare to leave for college in the fall. Brady graduated from South Mecklenburg High School and Palmer from Providence High School. Both young men will attend Appalachian State University. God bless them as they begin new chapters in their lives!



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# Coming Up at St. Mark's

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"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)

## Bread for the World Advocacy



Open your mouth for those who cannot speak,  
and for the rights of the destitute. – Prov. 31:8

18 million U.S. households experienced food insecurity in 2023. As Christians, we are called to seek justice and to care for those experiencing hunger and poverty, and at St. Mark's we have a long history of loving and serving those in need through ministries such as Room in the Inn, Loaves and Fishes, Habitat for Humanity and our Soup Kitchen. Another tool we can use is the power of our voices in advocating to legislators in support of policies that serve the most vulnerable.

Bread for the World (BFW or Bread) is a non-partisan, ecumenical Christian organization that has been advocating in Congress for 50 years to end hunger and poverty both here in the US and overseas. Each year, Bread's Offering of Letters (OL) campaign engages people of faith in writing personalized letters to Congress on issues related to hunger. In churches across the country, these letters are presented as an offering to God before being mailed to Congress. Combined, these OLs result in tens of thousands of letters which, over the years, have helped inspire our leaders in Washington, D.C. to pass legislation that has impacted millions of people.

Earlier this year, St. Mark's Council approved a team to organize our first Offering of Letters in support of maintaining funding for critical programs for hungry people. In the coming weeks, we will hold educational sessions to introduce BFW, explore the biblical basis for advocacy, and learn about the specific issues related to hunger and poverty in front of Congress this year. We will conclude with an event providing opportunities to write letters to our Representatives and Senators who have the power to impact funding decisions.

Let me be clear: the Offering of Letters does not require St. Mark's to adopt any political positions in support of specific policies. It is, instead, an opportunity for the people of St. Mark's to learn about and use another tool of ministry – the power of advocacy – that we can use to support those in need. Please pray for this new ministry and how you may be called to participate.

Charles Lakeman, for St. Mark's Bread for the World Advocacy Team

Jason Blanton of Bread for the World will speak at St. Mark's on 7/27 and 8/24.

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## Magnificent Orchestral Music of the Baroque 8/8/2025 at 7 pm



Please join us in welcoming the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra for an inspiring evening of magnificent music by J.S. Bach, Vivaldi, Heinichen, and Boismortier. Artistic director Frances Blaker directs the orchestra which includes baroque strings, baroque oboe, baroque flute and harpsichord. Admission is free.

*The North Carolina Baroque Orchestra is a nonprofit organization composed of professional musicians specializing in historically informed performance of 17th and 18th century music on period instruments.*

<https://www.ncbaroqueorchestra.org/>

Questions? Contact Barbara at [ncbaroqueorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:ncbaroqueorchestra@gmail.com)



# Congregational Life

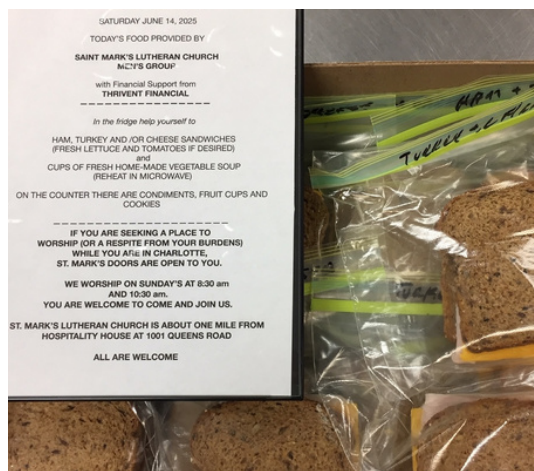
## Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson

### St. Mark's Men's Group



St. Mark's Men's Group will meet Saturday, July 12 at 9 am. Please join us for coffee and to help plan the service project for Lutheran Disaster Response.

All men are welcome!



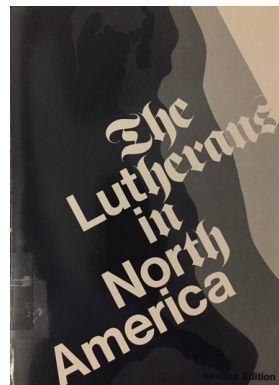
On June 14, St. Mark's Men's group met to prepare a meal for Hospitality House Charlotte and to help clean debris from the church yard following a traffic accident the previous month that destroyed the yard's fence, broke picnic tables, and cracked the masonry on the outer wall of the nursery. The clean up involved cutting up and discarding debris and power-washing the remaining outdoor tables and benches. The meal prep menu included sandwiches, homemade vegetable soup, fruit cups and cookies for people staying at Hospitality House from out of town as they care for families at various healthcare facilities in Charlotte. We are grateful to St. Mark's men who faithfully care for our church building and for those in need in the wider community!

### St. Mark's Library and Book Swap

The Library Committee gratefully acknowledges the recent generous donation of books for the Book Swap. St. Mark's is a congregation of eager readers. We will need volunteers for this annual autumn event. Please contact Gretchen Dodge if you're able to help with the Book Swap or work in the Library. Volunteers are always welcome.

### St. Mark's Library Corner

St. Mark's library contains many classic texts. This month we introduce: "The Lutherans in North America" edited by E. Clifford Nelson (1911-2005), who was professor of church history at Luther Theological Seminary (1952-1966) and St. Olaf College (1966-1976). "Lutherans in North America" (rev. 1980) is a massive study of Lutheran history from the



early 17th century to the postwar era of global ecumenism. It is a work of meticulous research and ongoing insights, a reminder that Lutherans came to North America as immigrants, strangers in a foreign land, trusting in God's welcoming grace. (--Pastor Tim McKenzie)

# Congregational Life

## Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson

### Ethnic Restaurant Group

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Ben Thanh Vietnamese Cuisine on July 15, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

Ben Thanh offers fresh and tasty treats that represent the Indo-Chinese region. Soup, pho, pancakes, curries, stir-fries all arrive as delights to be savored.

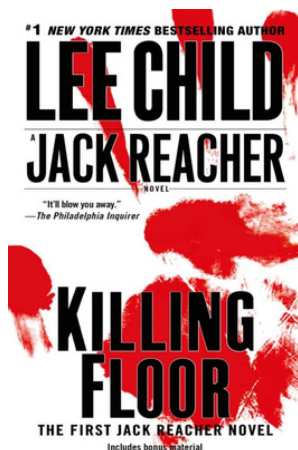
The address is 1806 Windsor Square Drive, Matthews NC 28105. From NC-51, take the Independence Blvd exit toward Charlotte; Windsor Square Drive is the first intersection on Independence Blvd. Turn right at that intersection. Ben Thanh faces Windsor Square Drive.

RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert by the Sunday before the dinner. All are welcome to share in this summertime treat!

*Pictured below at Southern Pecan Restaurant 6/17/25.*



### St. Mark's Book Study Group



The St. Mark's Book Study Group will next meet on Thursday, July 24, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. The Killing Floor by Lee Child is the first of the author's well-known "Jack Reacher" series. Thirty-six-year-old Jack Reacher (ex-military policeman) is a drifter. He's just passing through Margrove GA, and in less than an hour he's arrested for murder. All he knows is he didn't kill anybody. At least not here. Not lately. But he doesn't stand a chance of convincing anyone. Not in Margrove. Reacher's investigative skills combined with his physical prowess make him an intimidating opponent for the novel's antagonist, Kliner, and for those involved in the conspiracy in the (fictional) town of Margrove.

Please join us in studying this intriguing character and his efforts in overcoming the negative forces against him.



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# Family Ministry

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## THEOLOGY ON TAP

On July 17 at 7pm we'll meet at Custom Home Pubs in Matthews in the Galleria Shopping Center, 1640 Sardis Road North.

*Everyone is welcome!*



*Pictured: TOT at Middle James Brewery 6/19/25*

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# Gifts & Memorials

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Jay Jacob Committee Chairperson

Gift / Memorial for Daniel Holecy

Anonymous - Gifts & Memorials

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# Social Ministry

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Susan Ginns Committee Chairperson



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# Social Ministry

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Susan Ginns Committee Chairperson

## St. Mark's Soup Kitchen - 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

May 7th, 2025 marked eleven years of serving our neighbors at the soup kitchen. Someone recently asked what our day looks like at the soup kitchen. A few volunteers arrive at the kitchen around 7 am. Potatoes are washed and peeled. Onions are diced, carrots and celery are peeled and chopped, and this is just for the potato soup that is made every week. One volunteer works on assembling sandwiches to be delivered to the Relatives on Ramp program – the Saint Mark's men's group help with delivering the sandwiches and soup. Depending on the meal, meal prep starts around 8:30 and goes until we are ready to serve at 11 am. Volunteers from Life Span come in around 9:30 and help with rolling silverware and setting out cups at each seat. We open the doors around 10:50 to welcome our neighbors into Fellowship Hall and start serving at 11 am. While we are serving, we have some volunteers who help wash and dry the dishes. When we close the doors at 12 pm, it's time to finish cleaning up and taking out the trash. We welcome anyone who wants to volunteer and help us feed our neighbors. If you are unable to volunteer, please consider a monetary donation to the Saint Mark's Soup Kitchen.



As the heat and humidity settle in for the summer, **please consider Donating Bottled Water** for our neighbors to take with them. We also ask that you **Save Those Plastic Containers** and bring them to the soup kitchen. We use the containers to send meals with our neighbors as they leave. **Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we continue to do God's Work in our community.**

Just a few of the meals we serve on Thursdays are:

Sloppy joes with our house made coleslaw and tater tots  
Green chili chicken enchiladas, Spanish rice and pinto beans  
Tater tot breakfast casserole and passion fruit  
Cheeseburgers, tater tots and baked beans  
Chili cheese dogs, coleslaw and tater tots  
Kielbasa with roasted vegetables and rice  
Club sub sandwiches and chips  
Chicken salad sandwiches and fruit  
Barbecue chicken, potato salad and baked beans



*There is a place at the table for you and for anyone on Thursdays at the soup kitchen!*



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# Property

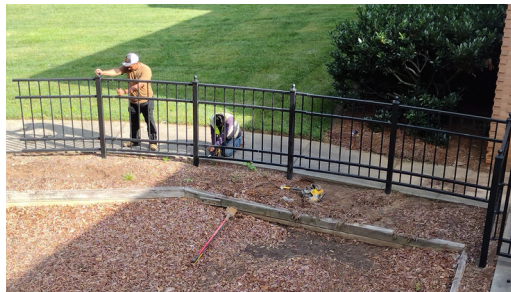
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Genna Hurley Committee Chairperson

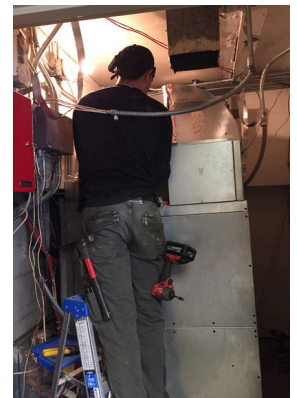
## Masonry Repair



Following a March 24 traffic accident that cracked the lower level exterior wall, the masonry was repaired on June 11, while the fence, destroyed by the accident, was disassembled and removed on June 16. Thank you to the Property Committee for continuing to care for our church building and grounds, diligently working to restore the church yard after the accident.



## New A/C Unit



A second new air conditioning unit was installed on the flat roof immediately adjacent to the chapel roof. This new unit heats and cools the office suite areas of the church building. A seal on the inside of the air handler of the old unit read "1995" and one of the installers commented, "The old unit certainly did its job for a long time!" We are ready for another twenty (perhaps even more) years.

Thank you to the Property Committee whose diligence and care keeps our church home in excellent condition!

# Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson



## 2025 Summer Recital Series

Recitals begin at 4:00 pm unless otherwise noted - Free Admission.  
A freewill offering will be accepted at each recital to support the Stigall Scholarship Fund, which helps offset private organ instruction tuition for organ students in grades 6–12.  
Please refer to our website for the most up-to date schedule. [www.charlotteago.org](http://www.charlotteago.org)

**August 17 Lester Ackerman**

with Alex Wilborn & Jon Kaplan, Trumpets (CSO)

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

1001 Queens Rd, Charlotte



Les Ackerman



Alex Wilborn



Jon Kaplan

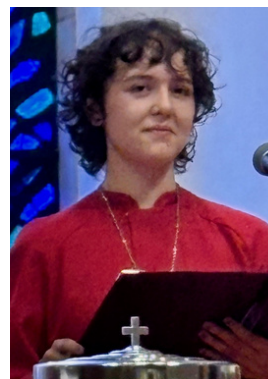
The American Guild of Organists - Charlotte Chapter supports organ and choral music in the greater Charlotte area. Through programs, scholarships, and professional connections, they seek to uplift the importance of organ and choral music by supporting the musician and delighting the listener.

**Please join us on August 17 for an inspiring evening of music!**

## Worship Highlights



Palmer Stevenson, crucifer, Sunday, June 1st



Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors,  
Sunday, June 1st



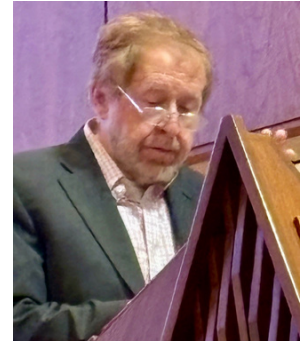
# Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

Worship Highlights



St. Mark's Choir, Seventh Sunday of Easter, June 1st



Larry Lippert, lector,  
Sunday, June 1st



St. Mark's Handbells, Day of Pentecost



Cindy Little



Rebecca Huang



Marty Schwartz

Readers, Day of Pentecost, Sunday, June 8th

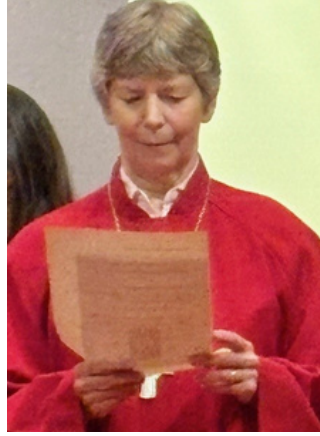


# Worship & Music

## Worship Highlights



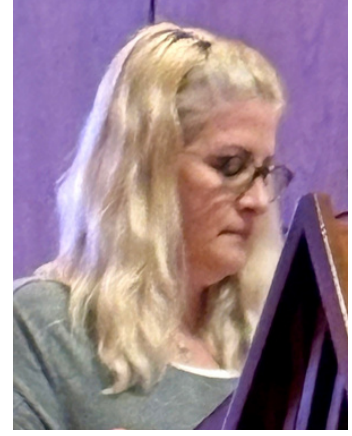
Mari McKenzie



Ruth Barrett



Elsa Wartner



Andrea Long, lector,  
Sunday, June 15th



Gabriel Slesinger, trumpeter, The Holy Trinity,  
Sunday, June 15th



Les Ackerman with Gabriel  
Slesinger, Day of Pentecost



Pastor Tim, Les Ackerman  
& Gabriel Slesinger



Cantors Amy Woodall, Nick Hanewinkel,  
The Holy Trinity



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# Worship & Music

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Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing

Reflections by Lester Ackerman

## "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind" ELW 400

This relatively new Pentecost hymn was first published in 2000 in a collection entitled *Awake Our Hearts to Praise!* The author is Herman Stuempfle (1923-2007) a professor of preaching at Gettysburg Seminary, where he eventually became Dean for five years, and then President of the college for thirteen years. Dr. Paul Westermeyer says of this hymn: "a whole series of images and attributes of the spirit are called out--in this case not the gentle ones, but powerful ones of tempest and whirlwind, blazing and burning, earthquake and thunder, and passion without sleep. The petitions are equally powerful: drive us to costly service, let your flaming Spirit surge and kindle truth against the deceit of injustice, break the chains of sin and walls that divide, and stir in us a restlessness that is not content with evil. Strong stuff!" The Welsh tune CWM RHONDDA (Rhondda Valley) is paired nicely with this text, as well as two additional hymns in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, #618, "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer", and #705, "God of Grace and God of Glory".

## "As the Windsong" ACS 943

Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020) is the author of this hymn from *All Creation Sings* (Augsburg Fortress, 2020). She was born in New Zealand and holds degrees from universities in New Zealand and England. Her hymns are found in more than 140 hymn collections from around the world in European and Asian translations. Murray writes: "This engaging tune was sent to me without a theme by composer friend Swee Hong Lim (b. 1963) of Singapore. Its lyricism gave a feeling of the movement of the Spirit, both gentle and powerful. The tune, which I was asked to suggest a name for, WAIRUA TAPU, Māori for Holy Spirit." The spirit of God is expressed as wind stirring trees, a rainbow after rain, the green of spring, wine at the feast, warming the heart, seem but not heard, the dance of a new life.

## "Come, Join the Dance of Trinity" ELW 412

This hymn is the work of American hymn writer and pastor Richard Leach (b. 1953), who wrote this hymn in 2002 for the 250th anniversary of Trinity Church on the Green, in New Haven, Connecticut. Leach says of his hymn: "Dancing has a very long association with the Trinity, going back to eighth century theologians who used the word perichoresis to speak of the interdependence of unity and Trinity. 'Dance around' is a literal translation of the word, but its sense is 'interweaving,' and I use that in the hymn." In his *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Worship* (2010) Dr. Paul Westermeyer writes of this hymn: "What we get here, then, is the church in motion with a winsome welcome by and to the God of its being--an invitation to dance the Trinity's interweaving dance that 'began' before all worlds began, to see the Trinity's face in Christ's human flesh and bone, to speak aloud the Trinity's wind and flame that frees us to move, and then to shape the rising song in joy." The tune KINGSFOLD is an English folk tune named for the town in Surrey, England.

## "Come, All You People" ELW 819

Alexander Gondo (b. 1936), a pastor and church musician in Zimbabwe, wrote both the text and the tune UYAIMOSE. He was a founding member of the African Association of Musicians. The hymn was written in Shona, a language spoken primarily by the Shona people of Zimbabwe and Mozambique and had its first publication in the World Council of Churches publication *African Songs of Worship* (1986).

## "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW 843

843 was written by Lutheran pastor, writer and composer Rusty Edwards (b.1955), and first published in *The Lutheran Journal* (1986). This popular hymn has been included in ten major hymnals in the United States,

*continued on page 16*

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# Worship & Music

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Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing

Reflections by Lester Ackerman

*continued from page 15*

Scotland, and Canada. Edwards says of his hymn: "It is astounding how much Jesus did in such a brief earthly ministry, yet more astounding is how God's blessing and saving acts continue on through Christ. How can we do other than praise this Light in the darkness?" The American tune NETTLETON, first published in Harrisburg, PA in 1813, captures the spirited essence of Edward's text. The tune NETTLETON was named for Rev. Asahel Nettleton, a noted American evangelist of the early eighteenth century.

## "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" ELW 611

This hymn is one of over six hundred hymns that come to us from the pen of Scottish author, pastor and editor Horatius Bonar (1808-1889). It was included in the author's Hymns Original and Selected (London, 1846) with the title "The Voice from Galilee." Each stanza is Jesus' call in the first two lines, with our response in the last two, expressing the peace that Jesus brings to us. Our Evangelical Lutheran Worship pairs Bonar's hymn with two contrasting tunes, KINGSFOLD and THIRD MODE MELODY #332.

## "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" ELW 884 & 885

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908) a minister of the Free Church of Scotland, published this hymn in his Hymns of Christ and the Christian Life (London, 1867). The text is based on 1 Timothy 1:17 "To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever." He uses "light" to describe the invisible nature of God. The splendor of God's glory makes it impossible for mortals to see God's full greatness. Smith's text is set to the tune ST. DENIO, a lively Welsh tune "discovered" by John Roberts (1807-1876) a self-taught musician who wrote down folk tunes in his native Wales.

## "Be Thou My Vision" ELW 793

This anonymous Irish hymn dates to the eighth century. It was translated in 1905 by Mary E Byrne (1880-1931) and then versed by Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935) published in Poem-Book of the Gael (London, 1912). This text is a personal prayer for the vision of God throughout life, as we acknowledge God to be "my light...my treasure...my power...Ruler of all." This hymn was first joined to the Irish folk tune SLANE in the Irish Church Hymnal (Dublin, 1919), named for the hill where Saint Patrick is supposed to have defied the king by lighting the new fire at the Easter Vigil.

## "Here I Am, Lord" ELW 574

Daniel Laurent Schutte (b. 1947), an American Jesuit priest, and composer of Catholic liturgical music, wrote this hymn for commitment and sending forth of Christ's disciples for a service of ordination in 1979. It is based on Isaiah 6:8 "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'" God's mission and purpose is clearly stated, with each stanza telling the needs of the people and then the care God will provide. This hymn comes to Evangelical Lutheran Worship from With One Voice (1995). Schutte composed the tune HERE I AM, LORD. He has written over 150 hymns and Mass settings.

## "All My Hope on God Is Founded" ELW 757

Written by Joachim Neander (1650-1680), a seventeenth-century pietistic German pastor and hymn writer, this hymn began as a five-stanza hymn intended to be sung as a "grace after meal". Based on 1 Timothy 6:17, this is a hymn of praise to the Creator and Sustainer of all creation: God, never-failing, constantly good, just, and caring. British composer Herbert Howells (1892-1983) wrote the tune MICHAEL for this hymn. It was named for Howell's son Michael, who died as a child.



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# Worship & Music

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Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

## Hymn Suggestions

### July 6, 2025 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost-Lectionary 14

God is the source of nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat...take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

Hymns: ELW 575 In Christ Called to Baptize ST. DENIO  
ACS 1000 God's Work, Our Hands EARTH AND ALL STARS  
ELW 182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (Offertory) Hillert  
ELW 663 Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty WordGOTT SEI DANK

### July 13, 2025 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost-Lectionary 15

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

Hymns: ELW 522 As We Gather at Your Table IN BABILONE  
ELW 800 Spirit of God, Descend upon My HeartMORECAMBE  
ELW 182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (Offertory) Hillert  
ELW 696 Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult GALILEE

### July 20, 2025 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost-Lectionary 16

Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears." God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

Hymns: ELW 834 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ST. DENIO  
ELW 754 Jesus, the Very Thought of You ST. AGNES  
ELW 884 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Offertory) OLD HUNDREDTH  
ELW 820 Savior, Precious SaviorANGEL'S STORY

### July 27, 2025 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost-Lectionary 17

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

Hymns: ELW 544 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN  
TFF 149 Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God LAFFERTY (print words and music)  
ELW 182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (Offertory) Hillert  
ELW 742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Communion) CONVERSE  
ELW 543 Go, My Children, with My Blessing AR HYD Y NOS

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# Worship & Music

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Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

## July Serving Schedule

### Crucifer/Acolyte

7/6 C/A: Needed  
7/13 C/A: Needed  
7/20 C/A: Brady Ferner  
7/27 C/A: Needed

### Prayer Assistants

7/6 Michael Thompson  
7/13 Charles Lakeman  
7/20 Youth  
7/27 Dave Dunlap

### Greeters

7/6 Jackie Ellington  
Evelyn Gerdes  
7/13 Eddie & Carol Goodall  
Patrick & Rebecca Huang  
7/20 Dale & Mary Lou Hopp  
Jay Jacob  
7/27 Millie Cansler  
Dave & Eileen Dunlap

### Sound System

7/6 Alan Harms  
7/13 Bob Chernet  
7/20 Neil Dixon  
7/27 Kevin Feezor

### Lectors

7/6 Flora Chance  
7/13 Karen Feezor  
7/20 Meg Fielding  
7/27 Kay Finlon

### Tabulators

7/6 Joe Barrett  
Charles Lakeman  
7/13 Meg Fielding  
Doug Milheim  
7/20 Karen Feezor  
Diane Thomas  
7/25 Joe Barrett  
Doug Milheim  
Janice Miller

### Communion Helpers

7/6 Chris Miller  
7/13 Catherine Metze  
7/20 Kay Finlon  
7/27 Sandy Rach

### Video Streaming

7/6 Ron Wenzel  
7/13 A. J. Pridgen  
7/20 Joe Barrett  
7/27 Charles Lakeman

### Communion Assistants

7/6 Lisa Barnette, Andrea Long  
Tom Puky, John Simon  
Kimberly Zimmerman  
7/13 Rebecca Huang, Virginia Molan  
A.J. Pridgen, Andrea Long  
Nick Wartner  
7/20 Cliff Edahl, Rebecca Huang  
Karen & Kevin Feezor  
Susan Lakeman  
7/27 Tom Puky, Chris Stevenson  
Palmer Stevenson, Betsy Wenzel  
Kimberly Zimmerman

### Ushers

Team C: Kenneth Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley

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## July Birthdays

7/1 Lynda Walters  
7/2 Cara Clausen  
7/2 Shirley Larson  
7/5 Rochelle Dagenhart  
7/5 Susan League  
7/6 Hubert McLendon, Jr.  
7/6 Chris Stevenson

7/6 Nicholas Wartner  
7/8 Joel Ritchie  
7/8 Larry Elder  
7/10 Erin Wall  
7/11 Linda Carter  
7/14 Jackie Ellington  
7/15 Sue Ann Phillips  
7/17 Kim Adden

7/18 Daryn Zimmerman  
7/19 Dave Dunlap  
7/20 Larry Dagenhart, Sr.  
7/20 Dawn Schwartz  
7/23 Beverly Timm  
7/24 Barbara Baker  
7/27 Gretchen Payne  
7/28 Ingrid Chernet