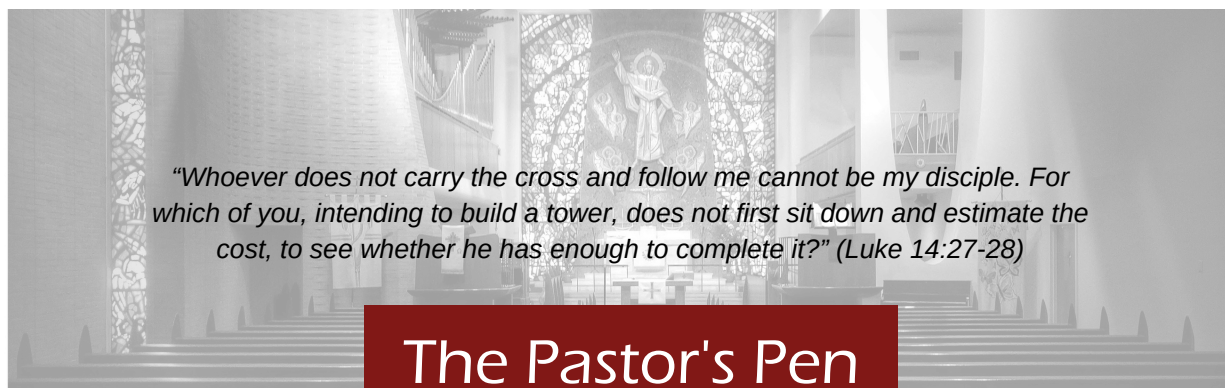


# ReMarks

September 2025

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Dear Friends in Christ,

Christian discipleship is the way of the cross, yet these words of Jesus are not easy. Jesus asks us to count the cost of discipleship because only his cross helps us to complete life's journey.

To be a disciple is not centered upon our power; rather, it is reliance upon his power. To follow Jesus is to imitate Jesus, letting go of ourselves and carrying his cross – doing the work he has entrusted to us over our lifetime. Yet rather than seeking the help of Jesus, we constantly turn to the world's short-lived trends and human saviors, often forgetting his daily help. Daily ask him and he will help you.

The cross and resurrection are the messianic event of Jesus Christ – only by his cross will you also know his resurrection. Like the faithful before you, his cross will carry, shelter, and lead you to resurrection and eternal life. Jesus offers you hope and through you, hope to all whom you meet.

In a world overcome with self-service and self-worship we avoid carrying his cross of self-denial, selfless service, and self-giving love to the poor and the outcast. We instead worship power and the powerful, bowing down before affluence and the wealthy. Instead of looking to the cross, we look to the markets, estimating our profit rather than the cost of discipleship to him.

The shape of discipleship to Jesus is cruciform. It is a faith reaching upward toward heaven and arms reaching outward to others. The cross will lift your flagging spirit heavenward, and from the cross as if from a tower, you will see farther so that you might respond to the needs of today and tomorrow.

We can offer nothing we possess in return for our lives. Jesus invites you to sit down and estimate the cost of your life. Countless before you have carried his cross. He offers you his cross because it is the way to life. Your life is still under construction, and with him your life is already complete. Ask him and he will help you.

In the fellowship of the gospel, Pastor Timothy McKenzie

# Council Highlights

St. Mark's Congregation Council was on break during August.

## New ELCA Presiding Bishop Elected



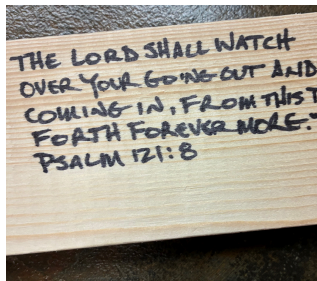
The Reverend Yehiel Curry was elected on July 30 to a six-year term as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ. Rev. Curry has served as the Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019, was re-elected in June 2025, and currently chairs the ELCA Conference of Bishops. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale IL. Bishop Curry is a graduate of the TEEM program at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, earning an M.Div. in 2013. Bishop Curry will begin serving as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA on October 1.

---

## *God's Work. Our Hands.*

---

## Blessing of Lumber for Habitat Fall Build



On Sunday September 7, we will bless a small board to be used as a door lintel in the 2025 Habitat for Humanity Fall Build. The congregation is welcome to sign the board between services. We are grateful to the Social Ministry Committee and to Susan League for our ongoing connection to Habitat for Humanity.

For more information on the build, see the following article.

## Habitat for Humanity Fall 2025 Build



St. Mark's Lutheran will be participating in the Fall 2025 Build with our Charlotte Church Partners team! We will be serving as site hosts on 9/20. Financial donations are needed and you may also volunteer to help with construction or help us host on 9/20. Contact Susan League for more information. 704-533-2451. Thanks in advance for your support of this important effort!

The build starts on 9/13 and runs through 12/6. The intended homeowners for the house we are helping to build are a family of 6: Iaaiah, Brittany, and their 4 children. There is a kick off dinner where you can meet thw family at 5:30 on 9/11 at Sedgefield UMC. RSVP by 9/4 to [grandmarwen@gmail.com](mailto:grandmarwen@gmail.com). \$10 per person at the door.



---

# God's Work. Our Hands.

---

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



Because the gospel liberates us from sin, death and evil, we are freed to "love our neighbors" (Matthew 22:36ff). What does this look like? It obviously includes providing food and shelter as we have been doing at St. Mark's for many years, but it also involves a commitment to justice (Amos 5:24).

In its first Social Statement in 1991 ("The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective"), the newly-formed ELCA committed to "work with and on behalf of the poor, the powerless and those who suffer, using its power and influence with political and economic decision-making bodies to develop and advocate policies that seek to advance justice, peace and the care of creation."

We are a church that holds that government is one of many ways God is active in our world. As people of faith, we are called to act and respond to poverty, discrimination, social policies and economic injustice, and this means we must be ready to speak up for those who have no voice and to advocate for change. When we lift our voices together to influence public policies that advance the common good, we further God's work in our world.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, we will provide an opportunity for you to act in this way. Our first Offering of Letters will provide you with the resources to write letters to your legislators in Washington in support of three bills before Congress which all have bi-partisan support:

- Modern WIC Act: digitalize and improve efficiency of administering the critical Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.
- GusNIP funding to help low-income consumers increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables.
- Food Date Labeling act: establishes requirements for the format of quality ("best before") date and discard date labels on food packaging.

Let me be clear: the Offering of Letters does not require St. Mark's to adopt any positions in support of specific policies. It is, instead, an opportunity for the people of St. Mark's to use another tool of ministry – advocacy – 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 (Pastor Tim, Laura Foust, Karen Feezor)

# Coming Up at St. Mark's

## POW / MIA Recognition Day



Did you know that Congress designated the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day? The flag to the left will be recognizable to many who associate it with the Vietnam War, but beyond Southeast Asia, this flag has also become a symbol for POW/MIA personnel from all U.S. wars. In 2019, the National POW/MIA Flag Act was signed into law, requiring the POW/MIA flag to be flown on certain federal properties, including the U.S. Capitol Building on all days the U.S. flag is flown.

In light of the many continuing armed conflicts and wars around the world, we also remember the countless soldiers and civilians of all nations who are imprisoned or missing due to the ongoing tragedy of war. As a church, we pray for peace and an end to war, we pray for our enemies, and we humbly ask God's mercy upon our sinful and divided world. May our Lord Jesus Christ, who himself proclaimed peace, suffered death and was raised, bless and watch over all soldiers and civilians caught up in conflict and war; and may he reunite with their families all who suffer in captivity or who remain missing.

-- Pastor Tim and Tom Sehorn



Scan for PDF

To read more about the U.S. POW/MIA Flag and its history, please hover your phone camera over the QR code to connect.

## October 4, 2025 FALL WORK DAY

8:30 am to 12:00 pm

The Property Committee invites you to participate in the annual Fall Work Day on October 4, from 8:30am until 12:00pm. No special skills are needed, just a willingness to serve your congregation with a little elbow grease. Things to be done include light cleaning, minor yard work if you like the out of doors, and general straightening up prior to Easter. All are welcome!

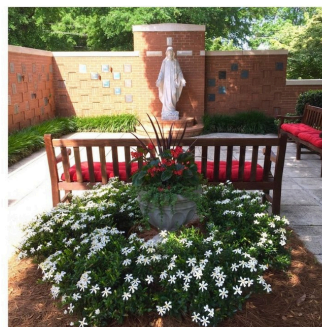


Your hosts: Property Committee

Have you seen something around the church building that needs a little tender loving care? Simple things like:  
Dust the organ.  
Trim some bushes.  
Mop a floor.  
Vacuum an air conditioning register. Clean the wine spots off the carpet in the sanctuary.



## Save the date - November 2 All Saints / Homecoming Sunday



Please join us on 11/2 for All Saints Sunday worship and the Rededication the Columbarium Prayer Garden, followed by a Congregational Potluck Luncheon.



---

# Around St. Mark's

---

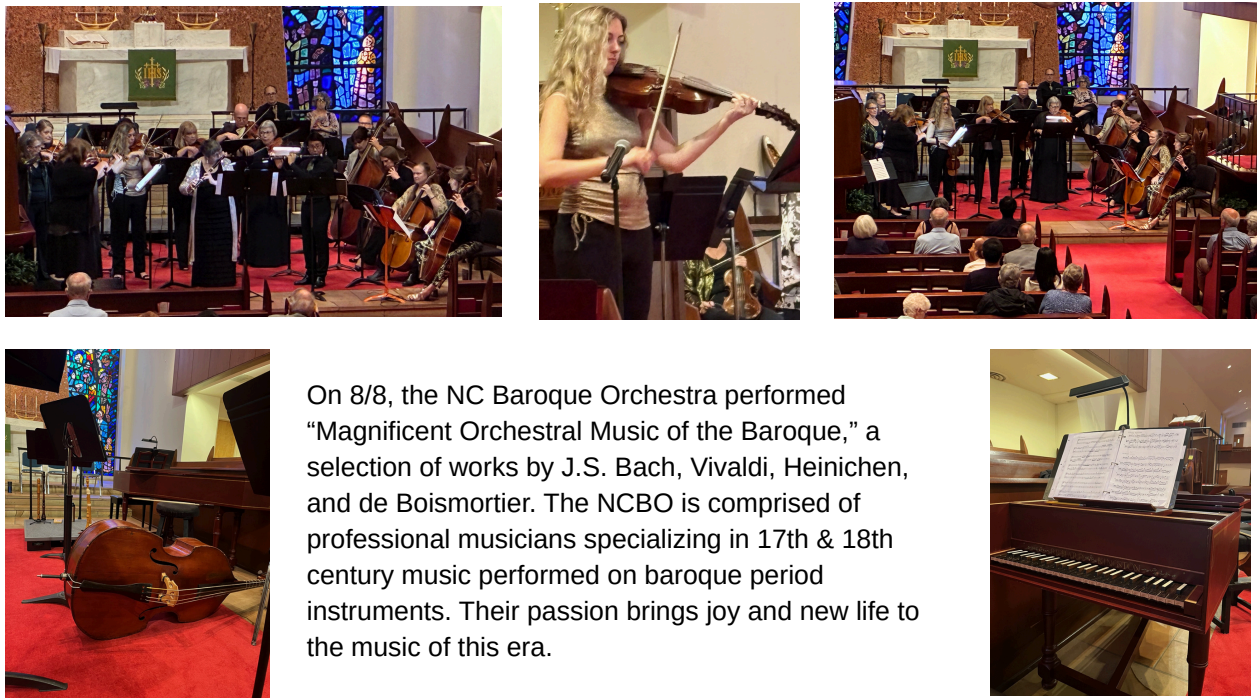
"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)

## Farewell and Godspeed for Gabriel Slesinger August 3



With heartfelt gratitude we said goodbye to Gabe Slesinger, before his move to Finland to begin work with the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra. We have been blessed by Gabe's musical gifts.

## North Carolina Baroque Orchestra Concert August 8th



On 8/8, the NC Baroque Orchestra performed "Magnificent Orchestral Music of the Baroque," a selection of works by J.S. Bach, Vivaldi, Heinichen, and de Boismortier. The NCBO is comprised of professional musicians specializing in 17th & 18th century music performed on baroque period instruments. Their passion brings joy and new life to the music of this era.





---

# Around St. Mark's

---

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

## Staff Appreciation Luncheon August 5



St. Mark's staff, Les Ackerman, Sue Wadgymer, Elaine Johnson, and Pastor Tim would like to offer their thanks and appreciation to the Congregational Life Committee for a marvelous luncheon.

## Synod Camp Sunday August 17



At the 10:30 service on Sunday August 17, we remembered NC Synod camps Lutheridge and Lutherock as Jonathan Lakeman and Sophie Schwartz led the congregation in music from the worship life of these camps. Jon and Sophie also shared their experiences about the meaning of camping for themselves and for the many they encountered during the summer. Thank you Jon & Sophie!



St. Mark's has a New Partner!



Uniting Charlotte-area professional flutists, flute teachers and students, and flute enthusiasts!



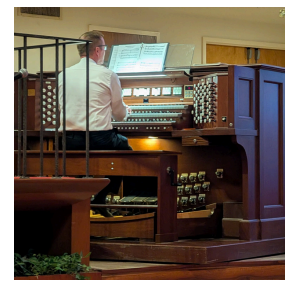
# Around St. Mark's

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

## American Guild of Organists Recital August 17



Jonathan Kaplan, Alex Wilborn, trumpeters, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra



On 8/17 St. Mark's hosted the American Guild of Organists Summer Recital Series with a performance by Les Ackerman, Alex Wilborn, and Jonathan Kaplan who offered a program of "Music for Organ and Trumpets" with works by Purcell, German, Vivaldi, Walther, Tomasi, Viviani, Gawthrop and Holst. We are grateful to the AGO Board of Directors for offering this yearly series and to the Congregational Life Committee for arranging a marvelous reception after the concert.



## Beautification of the Church Yard

We are grateful to St. Mark's Property Committee for continuing to beautify the church yard after a car struck the fence and lower level of the church in March. A new fence is also scheduled to be installed.



---

# Congregational Life

---

## Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson

### Ethnic Restaurant Group

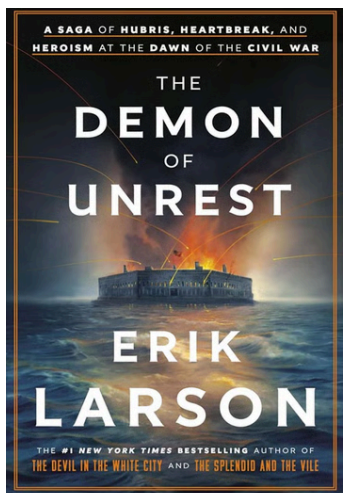
The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Café Monte in Phillips Place on September 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Café Monte is an always interesting French style restaurant that always has excellent food to please every pallet. Café Monte is located at 6700 Fairview Road, Charlotte, NC 28210. From Sharon Road, turn east on Fairview Road and take the first right (Ashley Park Lane) into the parking area. If you are headed west on Fairview, it might be safest to turn south on Sharon Road, and then take the first left onto Ashley Park Lane (work your way counterclockwise around the big building and turn right into the parking lot just before re-entering Fairview Road).

As you enter the restaurant, check out the pastry counter on the right. There usually is enough in that case to make a really tantalizing meal, even before looking at any menu. There's a full bar service. The coffees make good accompaniments while sampling pastries and perusing the salads (creative!), soups (rich!), entrees (duck confit, trout almondine, etc.), lighter fare, and desserts (QC coconut cake, beignets, etc.). Making a choice is the hard part, because there are so many delightful options! While waiting between treats, consider whether the Dean Martin or Ella Fitzgerald recording of "I Love Paris" may be your preferred version.

RSVP to Tom and Judy Tolbert to assure seating. Please confirm by the Sunday afternoon before the dinner. Come and try "French" in September. We'll be sampling a different Mediterranean cuisine in October. All are welcome! Give this a group a chance to enjoy your company!



### St. Mark's Book Study Group



The St. Mark's Book Study Group will next meet on Thursday, September 25, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. This month's study selection is *The Demon of Unrest* by Erik Larson. This is an historical narrative focusing on the five months between Abraham Lincoln's election in November 1860 and the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861, which marked the start of the Civil War. The book explores the escalating tensions surrounding slavery and states' rights that led the nation to the brink of conflict. It delves into the political landscape, the actions of key figures like Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and secessionists, and examines the events that unfolded in Charleston, South Carolina, particularly around Fort Sumter. Larson writes non-fiction in a style that reads like a novel. Please join us for a discussion of our region's history as depicted in this masterful writer's book. For more information, please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert.



---

# Congregational Life

---

## Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson

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

Saturday 9/13 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. All the men of St. Mark's are invited! Pictured: Men's Group street cleaning 8/9



### Love Circle

It's September and we are back! We will be beginning the Gather magazine fall Bible study on Money, Stewardship and Generosity. Come join us Wednesday, 9/10 at 11 a.m. in the Large Conference room.



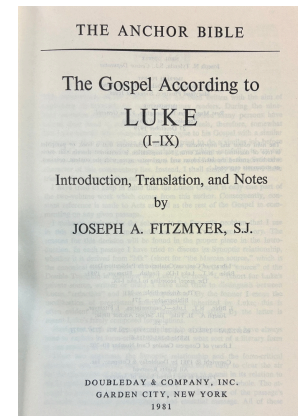
### Book & Puzzle Swap October 26



Our annual fall Book and Puzzle Swap will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 26 in the Gathering Place. Make a real difference, and declutter all at the same time, by dropping off your books and puzzles beginning on September 21. All the remaining books will be donated to Julia's Cafe and Books at ReStore for Habitat for Humanity.

### St. Mark's Library Corner

The Anchor Bible Series an ongoing international and interfaith project by Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish scholars. Begun in 1958, the series includes translations, exegesis and commentary on the Hebrew Scriptures, New Testament, and Intertestamental Books. For example, the volume shown, the Gospel according to Luke, was written by Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J., a giant in the fields of biblical studies, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and early Jewish literature. Each volume in the series opens the entire corpus of the Bible to new insights. St. Mark's is grateful to Barbara McKenzie for the gift of Dr. Carl McKenzie's nearly complete set of the Anchor Bible Series to our church library.



---

# Family Ministry

---



## THEOLOGY ON TAP

Thursday, September 18 we'll be at Carolina Beer Temple, 215 N Ames Street Suite 1000, Matthews. Food truck that night is Poppycox Nashville Hot Chicken!

Everyone is welcome!

Pictured: TOT at Brewers @ Yancy 8/21. We had a good crowd!



---

# Gifts & Memorials

---

Jay Jacob Committee Chairperson

In Memory of James and Evelyn Smith

Doug and Lynn Sanders - Columbarium

In Memory of Marienne Johnson

Vicky Duncan - Columbarium

In Memory of Leatha Doyle

John and Ruth Doyle - Columbarium

In Memory of Chris and Earl Taylor

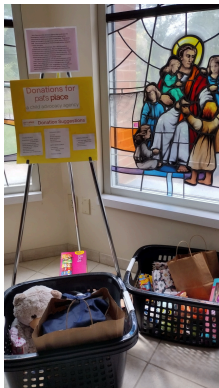
Sue Taylor - Columbarium

---

## Social Ministry

---

### A FALL DRIVE TO ASSIST PAT'S PLACE



*Pictured:  
Sept. 2024*

Pat's Place is a child advocacy agency that coordinates the investigation, treatment and prosecution of guilty parties of the most severe cases of child abuse, or any child witnessing a violent crime. After these young people have been brought to the agency by a parent, police officer or DSS, they are interviewed, medically treated and statements taken privately by trained professionals. The agency then proceeds and the child is free to leave, but not before choosing a gift to take home with them. That's where we can help. We are requesting donations to replenish these gifts as a couple hundred small gifts are needed each year. Suggestions of these items are listed on the poster in the gathering place and below. Please help replace the children's arrival tears with a parting smile!

**Donation Suggestions:** Young children: small dolls (white, brown and black skin), small stuffed animals, matchbox cars, small trucks, books (English & Spanish), coloring books & crayons, cards (Uno, Old Maid, etc), activity books, and hair bows. Teenagers: journals, craft items, colored pencils, stretch bracelets, nail polish, frisbees, and balls.

Arrival Snacks (while waiting for an interview); lunch size chips, pretzels, goldfish, etc., granola bars, Lance crackers, bottled water. Anxiety release items: stress balls, squishy toys, fidgets.

*There are baskets in the gathering place waiting for your donations. Thank you for your generosity to these children.*

### Pat's Place 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House

On 8/7 Pastor Tim represented St. Mark's at a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House for Pat's Place.

# Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

## Worship Highlights



Michael and Susan  
Lakeman, communion  
servers, Sunday, August 3rd



Meg Fielding, lector,  
Sunday, August 3



Andrew Puky, crucifer, Eighth  
Sunday after Pentecost



Jason Blanton, Bread for the  
World, Sunday, July 27th



Andrea Long, lector,  
Sunday, July 27th



Palmer Stevenson,  
crucifer, Sunday, July 27th



Jack Richardson, Amy Woodall,  
8:30 am worship song leaders,  
Sunday, July 27th



St. Mark's Summer Choir, Sunday, July 27th



---

# Worship & Music

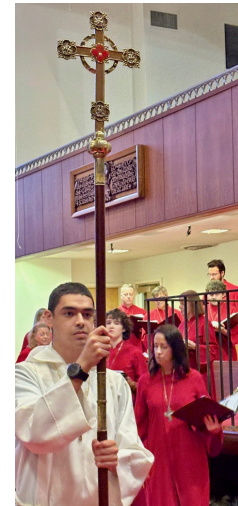
---

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

## Worship Highlights



St. Mark's Summer Choir, Sunday, July 27th



Michael Huang, crucifer, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



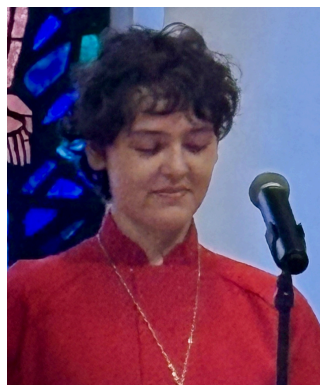
Larry Lippert, lector, Sunday, August 10th



Charles Lakeman, Bread for the World Temple Talk



Cindy Little, lector, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

---

# Worship & Music

---

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing

Reflections by Lester Ackerman

## "Break Now the Bread of Life" ELW 515

At first glance one might assume this is a communion hymn with its mention of bread, but Evangelical Lutheran Worship appropriately places it in the Word of God section of the hymnal. John 6 is the inspiration for this hymn, which is where the gospel's eucharistic theology is found, but Donald P. Hustad (1918-2013), a recognized evangelical church music leader and composer in America says "this hymn is more closely associated with the opening words of the first chapter of John, in which Jesus is presented as the dynamic wisdom and mind of God--the logos, or the living Word of God." Mary Artemesia Lathbury (1841-1913) wrote this hymn for use at the Chautauqua Bible Study Hour on Lake Chautauqua in upstate New York. Her words were set to the music BREAD OF LIFE by William F. Sherwin (1826-1888), Chautauqua's music director.

## "Faith Begins by Letting Go" ACS 1004

Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) has served as an Episcopal priest in Virginia and Connecticut, as well as past director of the Hymn Society in America. This hymn, included in All Creation Sings (Augsburg Fortress, 2020) was first published in Daw's New Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs (1996) Daw writes "this hymn affirms that faith is not a state of being, but a process of becoming what we are called to be in relationship to God, other people, and the world." He pairs his text with the tune RATISBON by German organist Johann Werner (1777-1788), also wedded to Charles Wesley's hymn "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" ELW #553.

## "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ELW 632

The great English hymn writer Isaac Watts (1674-1748) published this text in 1719. Based on the first eleven verses of Psalm 90, Watts brought forth in his writing the themes of the greatness of God, the mortality of humanity, and the vastness of time. American Hymnologist Carlton Young writes: "God was present before the hills stood; God has been our shelter and guide, and continues to be our hope for the future." John Wesley (1703-1791) changed the original first word of Watts text from "Our" to "O", feeling that it reached out to everyone and was more inclusive. The tune ST. ANNE was composed by William Croft (1678-1727) and originally wedded to a metrical setting of Psalm 42, but finally found its place with Watts' text in an 1814 publication.

## "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" ELW 623

Augustus M. Toplady (1740-1778) an Anglican priest and writer, published this hymn in 1776. He was a staunch Calvinist and a contemporary of John and Charles Wesley, with which he carried on an open feud over the role of free will in salvation. This hymn is his response to John Wesley's views. The metaphor "Rock of Ages" is found in Isaiah 26:4, Exodus 33:22, and I Corinthians 10:4. Austin Lovelace writes: "The theme is the gospel message that Jesus' suffering and death alone provide the way to salvation. The water and blood which gushed from his side provide life everlasting, just as the water from the rock provided physical life for Hebrews wandering in the desert." Thomas Hastings (1784-1872) wrote the tune TOPLADY for this hymn.

## "Have No Fear, Little Flock" ELW 764

The first stanza of this hymn and tune LITTLE FLOCK were written by Hans Werner Zimmermann (b.1930) professor of composition and music theory at the State University of Frankfurt, Germany. The text for stanza one is a paraphrase of Luke 12:32 from the Revised Standard Version which reads: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Marjorie Jillson (b.1931) an American writer and

*continued on Page 14*

---

# Worship & Music

---

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing  
Reflections by Lester Ackerman

continued from page 13

musician, wrote the three additional stanzas, first published in the collection *Five Hymns* (1973). This hymn is a cheerful tribute of praise to God, paired with a lively tune punctuated with "Scottish snaps," and supported by a jazz-like bass line. A Scottish snap, or Lombard rhythm, is a syncopated rhythm in which a short, accented note is followed by a longer note. This reverses the usual pattern most commonly associated with dotted notes and rhythms, in which the longer note precedes the shorter. Zimmermann says of his musical composition "I consider jazz and syncopated music to be the most representative of the twentieth century and have endeavored to make its stimulation fruitful for church music."

## "How Firm a Foundation" ELW 796

The authorship of this hymn text has always been a mystery to hymnologists. We know it was first published in 1787 in a hymnal compiled by Dr. John Rippon (1751-1836), pastor for sixty-three years at Carter's Lane Baptist Church, London, England. The hymn appeared anonymously in his collection with the author indicated merely as "K", and in later reprints "Keen". Since the music director in Dr. Rippon's church was named Richard Keene, it is generally accepted that he was the author of the text. There are many scriptural references: Isaiah 43:1-5, Isaiah 41:10, 2 Corinthians 12:9, and II Timothy 2:19. It is basically about the promises of God, and our hymnal uses quotation marks for all the stanzas in which various promises are quoted. The original hymn has seven stanzas, Evangelical Lutheran Worship includes four. Here is an additional stanza (7): "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for Repose, I will not, I will not desert to his Foes; That soul, tho' all Hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never--no never--no never forsake." The tune FOUNDATION is one of the many anonymous American tunes that first appeared in an 1832 collection by Joseph Funk, a German Mennonite based in the Shenandoah Valley area of Virginia.

## "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me" ACS 1084

Our Hymn of the Day comes to us from the pen of American writer, composer and theologian Richard Bruxvoort Colligan (b. 1967). This text is a *lorica*, a "protective armor or breastplate". A *lorica* was intended to be sung while dressing, arming oneself for battle, or traveling, as a protection against spiritual enemies. Its meaning is likely to be extended more generally to a prayer for the indwelling and surrounding of Christ with us on our daily journeys. The tune GREEN TYLER was composed by Colligan while he and his family lived on Tyler Street in New Brighton, Minnesota. Colligan says that the tune "started as a lullaby for our newborn son Sam."

## "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" ELW 858

is one of the most exuberant and beloved hymns of praise and thanksgiving that we have in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. The *Julian Dictionary of Hymnology* calls this hymn "a magnificent hymn of praise, perhaps the finest production of its author and of the first rank in its class." Hymn writer Joachim Neander (1650-1680) included the hymn in his collection of hymns and psalm settings, published in 1680. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) did the translation from German to English, and included it in her *Chorale Book for England* (1863). She is also the translator of the well-known hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" ELW 840. "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" is based on two psalms, Psalm 103:1-6, and Psalm 150:6, and originally had five stanzas. LOBE DEN HERREN is an anonymous German tune, which first appeared in a publication from 1665. Even though the first two lines have fourteen syllables each, the tune dances along nicely.



---

# Worship & Music

---

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

## We Sing the Faith

### "Come, Ye Disconsolate" ELW 607

The first two stanzas of this hymn were written by Thomas Moore (1779-1852), a popular early nineteenth-century Irish Roman Catholic poet. Although Moore is the author of thirty-two sacred songs, he is best known for his ballads and other sacred poems, including "The Last Rose of Summer" and "The Minstrel Boy". Moore's original text appeared in 1816 under the title "Relief in Prayer" where he expresses the consolation we may experience as we pray from a place of despair. Thomas Hastings (1784-1872) made a few adjustments to Moore's text, as well as providing a new third stanza, published in *Spiritual Songs for Social Worship* (Boston, 1831), and wedded to the tune CONSOLATOR by Samuel Webbe, Sr. (1740-1816).

### "In the Singing" ELW 466

A native of New Zealand, Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931) wrote this hymn in 1994 with the original title "Invocation" and suggests its nature. It calls on Jesus, "the wine of grace" and "the bread of peace," in light of Christ's presence at the table as the people sing, yet are silent and expectant with question, answer, blessing, acceptance, heart's cry, and healing. Murray is best known as a hymn writer and her texts have appeared in more than a hundred collections around the world. This hymn was published in her collection *Every Day in Your Spirit* (1996). The tune BREAD OF PEACE was written for this hymn by Dr. Carlton Young (b. 1926) a Methodist composer and hymn writer. He writes of his hymn tune "I've tried to keep it uncomplicated with the notion that in time those coming to the distribution might sing it from memory."

### "Come Now, You Blessed" ACS 1059

American theologian, poet and hymnologist Ruth Duck (1947-2024) wrote this hymn in 1979 for One Great Hour of Sharing, an interdenominational mission program to support disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. This hymn is based on the parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46). All Creation Sings (2020) pairs Duck's text with a new tune MATTHEW 25 by Emily R. Brink (b.1940), an American church musician, educator and hymnal editor. Brink composed this tune in 1992 while editing a children's hymnal, *Songs for Life* (1994).

## Hymn Suggestions

### September 7, 2025 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Lectionary 23

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life in God as our own."

Hymns: ELW 660 Lift High the Cross CRUCIFER  
ACS 1000 God's Work, Our Hands EARTH AND ALL STARS  
ELW 798 Will You Come and follow Me (stanza one) (Offertory) KELVINGROVE  
ELW 335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross NEAR THE CROSS

---

# Worship & Music

---

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

## Hymn Suggestions

### September 14, 2025 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Lectionary 24

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope. This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

Hymns: ELW 807 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing NETTLETON  
ELW 789 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us BRADBURY  
ELW 188 Create in Me a Clean Heart (Offertory) Freylinghausen  
ELW 544 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGAN

### September 21, 2025 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Lectionary 25

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.

Hymns: ELW 655 Son of God, Eternal Savior IN BABILONE  
ELW 710 Let Streams of Living Justice THAXTED  
ELW 686 We Give Thee but Thine Own (stanzas one & two) (Offertory) HEATH  
ELW 695 As Saints of Old FOREST GREEN

### September 28, 2025 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Lectionary 26

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

Hymns: ELW 705 God of Grace and God of Glory CWM RHONDDA  
ELW 532 Gather Us In GATHER US IN  
ELW 182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (Offertory) Hillert  
ELW 546 To Be Your Presence ENGELBERG



St. Mark's Summer Choir, Sunday, August 17th

---

# Worship & Music

---

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

## September Serving Schedule

### Crucifer/Acolyte

9/7 C/A: Needed  
9/14 C/A: Needed  
9/21 C/A: Needed  
9/28 C/A: Needed

### Prayer Assistants

9/7 Michael Thompson  
9/14 Charles Lakeman  
9/21 Youth  
9/28 Dave Dunlap

### Greeters

9/7 Dale & Mary Lou Hopp  
Jay Jacob  
8/14 Millie Cansler  
Dave & Eileen Dunlap  
9/21 Neil & Charlotte Dixon  
Michael & Tara Thompson  
9/28 Tom & Kay Sehorn  
Ted Seman, David Thomason

### Sound System

9/7 Alan Harms  
9/14 Neil Dixon  
9/21 John Brumbaugh  
9/28 Alan Harms

### Lectors

9/7 Lisa Barnette  
9/14 Chuck Baynard  
9/21 Andrea Long  
9/28 Flora Chance

### Tabulators

9/7 Janice Miller  
Dawn Schwartz  
9/14 Kevin Feezor  
Doug Milheim  
9/21 Karen Feezor  
Charles Lakeman  
9/28 Meg Fielding  
Dawn Schwartz  
Charles Lakeman

### Communion Helpers

9/7 Kay Finlon  
9/14 Catherine Metze  
9/21 Chris Miller  
9/28 Sandy Rach

### Video Streaming

9/7 Joe Barrett  
9/14 Joe Barrett  
9/21 Charles Lakeman  
9/28 Charles Lakeman

### Communion Assistants

9/7 Barbara Baker, Andrea Long  
Charles & Susan Lakeman  
John Simon  
9/14 Janice Miller, John Simon  
Chris & Palmer Stevenson  
Betsy Wenzel  
9/21 Lisa Barnette, Jay Jacob  
Virginia Molan, A.J. Pridgen  
Nick Wartner  
9/28 Cliff Edahl, Susan Lakeman  
Andrea Long, Virginia Molan  
Nick Wartner

### Ushers

Team B: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, A. J. Pridgen, Sean Fielding

---

## September Birthdays

9/1 Harold Finlon  
9/2 Sybille Brown  
9/4 Melissa Parrish  
9/4 Laurie Feola  
9/6 Sarah East  
9/6 Sheri Stockton  
9/6 Wayne Webber  
9/7 Tom Sehorn  
9/8 Joanne Marz  
9/8 Jerry Poplin  
9/8 Olivia Iannelli  
9/9 Evelyn Gerdes  
9/9 Sean Fielding

9/9 Charles Molan  
9/11 Tom Conner  
9/11 Micalyne Zimmerman  
9/11 Michael Zimmerman, Jr.  
9/11 Amanda Platt  
9/13 Nicholas Howarth  
9/14 Jamie Dotson  
9/15 Kristen Eason  
9/16 Kay Sehorn  
9/16 Roxi Tolbert  
9/17 Derek Dittner  
9/17 Tyler Andujar, Jr.

9/18 Benny Cox  
9/19 Dianne Thomas  
9/21 Jay Harbinson  
9/21 Margarete Gobel  
9/22 Charles Timm  
9/23 Alex Doyne  
9/23 Ron Wenzel, Jr.  
9/25 Ruth Barrett  
9/27 Lisa Barnette  
9/27 Ernie Marion  
9/27 Sharon MacWhirter-Cooper  
9/29 Lauren Miller  
9/30 Kirsten Doyne