Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500 durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor 267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



September 7, 2025 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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"—to choose life in God as our own.

You can find the live stream at the following location:

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Prelude: "The Wonderful Cross" – Arr. Carol Tornquist GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism as the pastor begins)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Merciful and loving God,

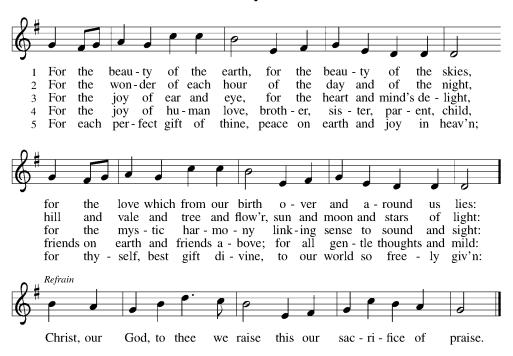
C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 879

For the Beauty of the Earth



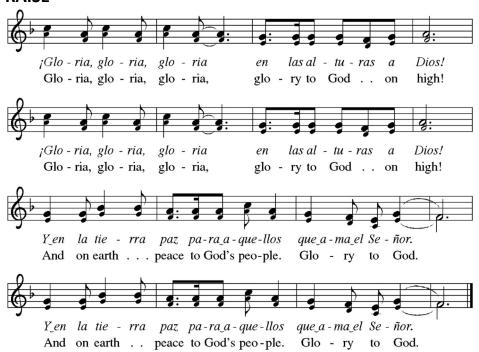
INVOCATION

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

KYRIE-



CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading- Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

L: A reading from the thirtieth chapter of Deuteronomy.

15 "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading - Philemon 1-21

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

L: A reading from Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

(Stand if you are able)



The Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: ELW 667 (Stand if you are able)

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said



Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814–1877, alt. Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely (*especially*). May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

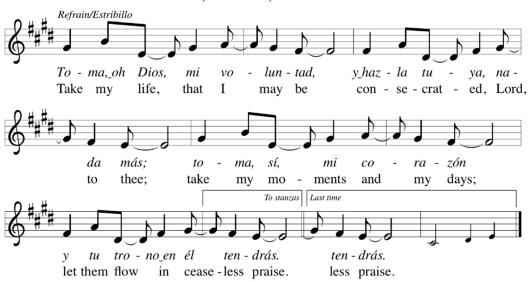
C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Choir Anthem: "Come Thou Fount"

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Take My Life, That I May Be Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad



Offering Prayer

P: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

- P: 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.
- P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:
- C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.



Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)



Prayer after Communion

P: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Announcements

BLESSING

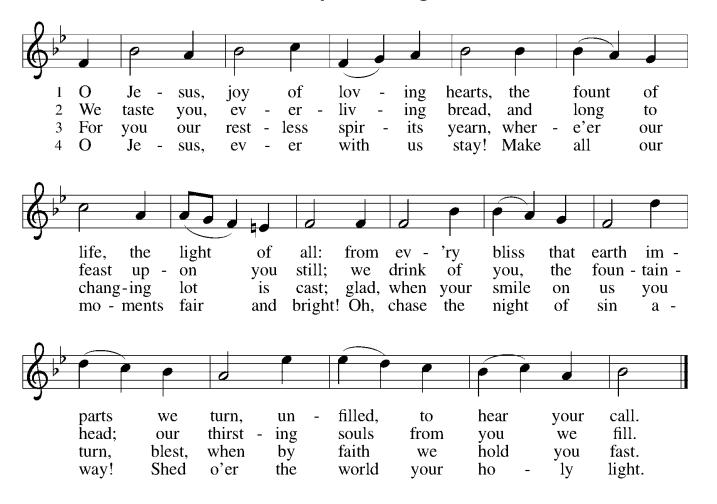
P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,

→ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

Sending Song: ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt. Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.



Our Outreach envelopes September are going to Lutheran Disaster Relief.

<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>								
Sept	BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS				
7	Jim Miller							
9	Joanne Ziegenfuss							
10				Ben F. Naska,				
				Annabel Williams				
12	Bob Fox, Barb Naska	1						
	1	THIS \	WEEK'S ACTIVITIES	1				
Sunda	y Sentember 7	10.00 AM	Communion Wo	rshin				

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES									
Sunday, September 7	10:00 AM	Communion Worship							
13th Sunday After Pentecost									
Monday, September 8	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours							
	7:00 PM	Council Meeting							
Wednesday, September 10	9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Office Hours							
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew w/ Pastor Jim							
Thursday, September 11	10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal							
	10:00 AM- 1:00 PM	Office Hours							
	1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Bible Study @ Hlavaty's							
	7:00 PM	PALM Leader's Meeting @ Christ Pipersville							
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES									
Sunday, September 14	10:00 AM	Communion Worship							
14th Sunday After Pentecost		Care-A-Lot Sunday							
Monday, September 15	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours							
Wednesday, September 17	9:30 AM-12:00 PM	Office Hours							
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew w/ Pastor Jim							
Thursday, September 18	10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal							
	10:00 AM- 1:00 PM	Office Hours							
	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Bible Study @ the Hlavaty's							
Sunday, September 21	10:00 AM	Communion Worship							
15th Sunday After Pentecost	After Worship	Durham Dialogue							
Monday, September 22	1:00PM -3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours							
	7:00 PM	PALM General meeting							
Wednesday, September 24	9:30 AM-12:00 PM	Office H							
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew w/ Pastor Jim							
Thursday, September 25	10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal							
	10:00 AM- 1:00 PM	Office Hours							
	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Bible Study @ the Hlavaty's							
Friday, September 26	10:00 AM	WELCA							



Palisades Area CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, September 28th 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

St Peter's Lutheran Church, 720 Edgewood Rd. Riegelsville, PA

The route will go south on the Delaware canal to Trauger's Farm and back.



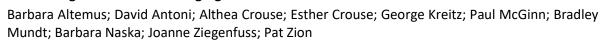
Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman	
Organist Choir Director	Carolyn Williams	
Altar Guild	Miriam Anderson and Scott Gaun	
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick	
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn O'Brien	
Lector	Scott Gaun	
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick	
Council Communion	Mark Harwick+ help	
Counting Team	Bea von Watzdorf and Cathy Mueller	
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson	
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner	
Custodian	Dianna Streletz	

A note from Altar Guild:

Miriam and Linda will be making the schedule for next year in October, church year starts in Advent, so please let us know if there are months you would rather have assigned. We will try to accommodate best as we can. We are short members so if any of you can do three months instead of two that would be great! Thanks so much for all you do!

For Healing of those in our Congregation:



For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Al Boorse; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Nancy Edelen;

Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Gabriella Froehlich; Barbara Foster; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Jim McAnally; Charleigh McCade; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Patrick McNaulty; Stacy Mecham; Nancy Morris; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Dennis Phillipps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Jami Silfies; Holly Snyder; Debbie Statler; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Henry Wong; Wayne Yeisley; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Jayne Miller.

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Stephen Bizon; Mary Budd; Doris Calverley; Cleo Eck; Fred Foerster; Norma Fox; Jason Gourley; Kenneth Hager; Vivian Harwick; Julio Limontour; Frank Mammana; Renate Michener; Silas Rodenbach; Bart Shaw; Ed Xander and Bobby Ziegenfuss

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

Palisades Area CROP Hunger Walk September 28, 2025



Registration Opens @ 1:00 pm Starts and ends at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 720 Edgewood Rd, Riegelsville, PA 18077

Walk as far as you want:

Location	Each Way (Miles)	Round Trip (Miles)
Durham Aqueduct (Routes 212 & 611)	1.25	2.5
Trauger's Farm(Island Rd.)	2.25	4.5

25% of donations go to support The Lord's Pantry in Ottsville, PA 75% goes to Church World Service to feed the hungry around the world. Scan the QR code to register or donate for the Evangelical Durham Team:



For more information: Phone: 610-349-4391

Email: cropwalkcoordinator@durhamlutheran.org
Website: https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/riegelsvillepa

Sponsored by the Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries

The PALM CROP Hunger Walk is three weeks from today, we will gather with others in our community to fight hunger both here and around the world. We need Walkers and sponsors for the Palisades Area.

CROP Hunger Walk on September 28. You can get more information about participating using the QR Code below of more details and to sign up to be a Walker, a sponsor, or both. You may also call Ken Anderson at 610-349-4391. Last year, we raised \$2,450 and are looking to raise \$3,000 this year. Thanks for helping feed the hungry both in our community and throughout the world.