

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor

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August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

You can find the live stream at the following location:

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(Stand if you are able)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

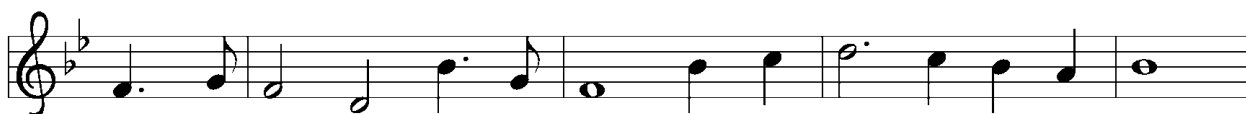
P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."
In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

ELW 623

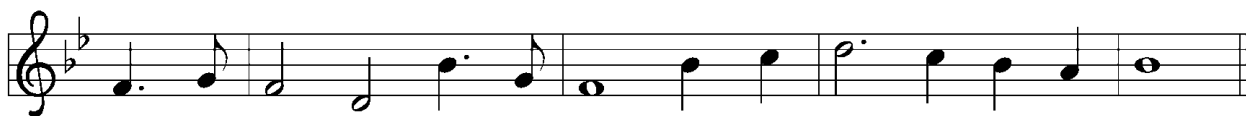
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778

Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

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-

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
 hun-gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam-i-ly; for
 wa-ter and the word; that you



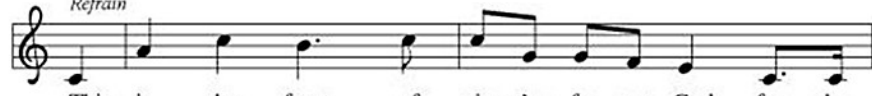
this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



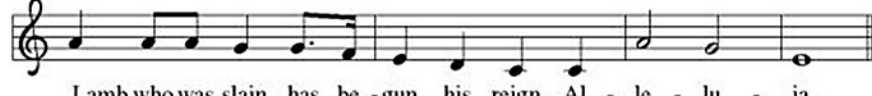
Refrain
 let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

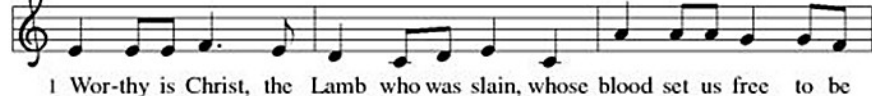
Refrain



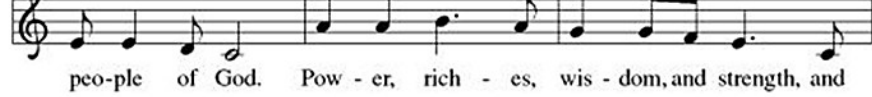
This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



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



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



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

Refrain

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

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

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

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

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

Final refrain

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

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

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading- Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

L: A reading from the fifty-first chapter of Isaiah.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³ For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 138

L: ¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

C: ² I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

L: ³ When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

C: ⁴ All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

L: ⁵ They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

C: ⁶ The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

L: ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

C: ⁸ You will make good your purpose for me; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands

Second Reading-Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapter of Romans.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ

according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

(Please stand if you are able)



The Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

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

My hope is built on nothing less

Assurance and Joy of Salvation — Justified in Christ

298

1. My hope is built on noth-ing less Than Je-sus Christ, my right eousness; I
dare not trust the sweet-est frame, But whol-ly lean on
Je-sus' name. (C) On Christ, the so-lid Rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink ing sand, All
oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Chorus

2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
In Him, my righteousness, alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

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

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: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster (*especially*). Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day *especially those we mention now or in the comfort of our hearts*. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Scan this QR code to give electronically



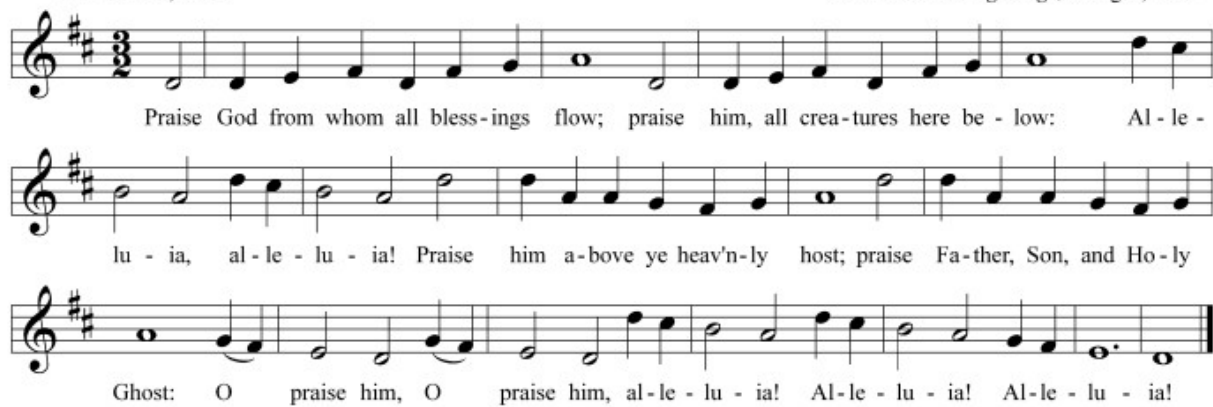
OFFERING –

Choir Anthem: “Give Me Jesus” – African American Spiritual

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Doxology

Thomas Ken, 1709

Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low: Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a-bove ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly
Ghost: O praise him, O praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Image © Oxford University Press
CC1.0/2254188

Offering Prayer

P: Let us Pray: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

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

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

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

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Heaven has come near, Come, share in the feast!



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 692

We Are an Offering

692

The musical score is written on six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is in a simple, melodic style with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. There are several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) throughout the piece.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957
Music: Dwight Liles
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING
PM

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray, Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

Announcements

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen

Faith of Our Fathers



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
 2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and
 3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
 con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate
 all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

Refrain



when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word.
 if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,
 by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.



ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain

DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Our Outreach envelopes for August will go to the Riegelsville Public Library.

August	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
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23			Peter Streletz
24	Kendall Beerer		
28			Adam Phillipps
29	David Sauter		Mary Erceg



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Joan Mammana; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Joanne Ziegenfuss; Pat Zion

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Carolyn Berry; Jason Bigley; Brier Bower; Hans Buss; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Charlotte; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Danny Eck; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Dolores Hess; Penny

Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Priscilla Ballek Kinter; Judy Krick; Tim Koplin; Carole Korupp; Devon Kramer; Jake Kramer; Lee; Kimberly Litzenberger and family; Linda Lyle; Colleen Marshall; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Jennifer McLeod; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Larry Munford; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Jax Reidinger; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Donna Storm; Ellen Sullivan; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Janet Vanderlely; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Todd Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob; Linda Zerfass.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Rev. Dr. Patricia Ann Curtis Davenport; Rose Elcavage; Steven Galetich; Nancy Hogan; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Stephen J Rohs Jr; Ruth Sauter; Jami Silfies; Lillian Staiger; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

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

Worship Assistants

Pastor	Rev. James Heckman
Organist Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Mark Harwick and Bea von Watzdorf
Greeter(s)	Helen Dungan
Acolyte	
Lector	Mark Harwick
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion Coordinator	Mark Harwick
Counting Team	
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, August 23 13th Sunday after Pentecost	10:00 AM After Worship	Communion Worship Worship and Music Committee Meeting
Monday, August 24	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, August 26	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Thursday, August 27	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Admin Office hours

Upcoming Weeks



Sunday, August 30 14th Sunday after Pentecost	10:00 AM After Worship	Communion Worship- Blessing of the Backpacks Durham Dialogue
Monday, August 31	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, September 2	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Pastor Office Hours
Thursday, September 3	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM	Pastor Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim

Sunday, September 6 15th Sunday after Pentecost	10:00 AM	Communion Worship
Monday, September 7		Labor Day Office Closed
Tuesday, September 8	9:15 AM-12:15 AM 7:30 PM	Care-A-Lot First Day of School! Capital Campaign Meeting
Wednesday, September 9	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Office Hours
Thursday, September 10	10:00 AM 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Bible Study at the Hlavaty's- Gospel of Luke



Palisades Area CROP Hunger Walk
Sunday, September 20th 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.