

+ **Genth Sunday after Pentecost** +

August 17, Year of our Lord 2025 | DS3

+ **Confession and Absolution** +



The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

+ Service of the Word +

Introit

Psalm 55:1, 12–14, 16; antiphon: v. 22



Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sus- | tain you;*
he will never permit the righteous to | be moved.

Give ear to my prayer, | O God,*
and hide not yourself from my plea for | mercy!

For it is not an enemy who taunts me—then I could | bear it;*
it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—then I could | hide from him.

But it is you, a man, my | equal,*
my companion, my fa- | miliar friend.

We used to take sweet counsel to- | gether;*
within God's house we walked | in the throng.

But I | call to God,*
and the LORD will | save me.

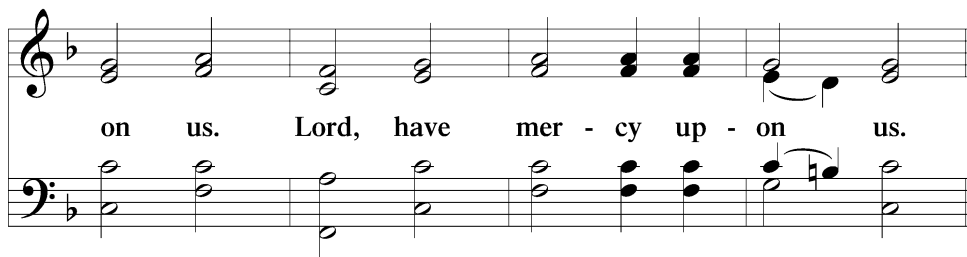
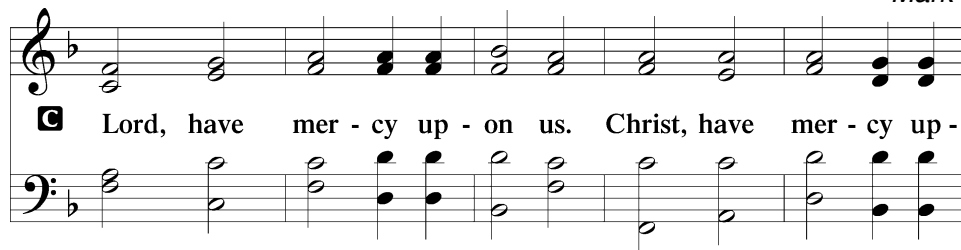
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sus- | tain you;*
he will never permit the righteous to | be moved.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



Gloria in Excelsis, p. 187-189

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

P (sung) Glory be to God on high:

C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray. Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:16-29

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"

For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

“I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

“Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

C Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Epistle

Hebrews 11:17—12:3

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy— wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

Jeremiah 23:29a, 28b

P Alleluia. Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD? What has straw in common with wheat? Alleluia.

Triple Alleluia

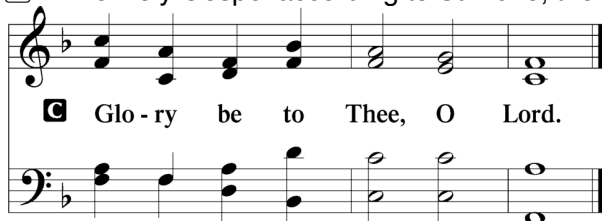


Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 12:49–56

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.



[Jesus said:] “I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed (recited in the Rite of Reception of new members today)

Hymn of the Day: 661 The Son of God Goes Forth to War



1 The Son of God goes forth to war A king - ly crown to gain.
2 The mar - tyr first, whose ea - gle eye Could pierce be - yond the grave,
3 A glo - rious band, the cho - sen few, On whom the Spir - it came,
4 A no - ble ar - my, men and boys, The ma - tron and the maid,



His blood - red ban - ner streams a - far; Who fol - lows in His train?
Who saw his mas - ter in the sky And called on Him to save.
Twelve val - iant saints—their hope they knew And mocked the cross and flame.
A - round the Sav - ior's throne re-joyce, In robes of light ar-rayed.



Who best can drink His cup of woe, Tri - um-phiant o - ver pain,
Like Him, with par - don on His tongue In midst of mor - tal pain,
They met the ty - rant's bran-dished steel, The li - on's gor - y mane;
They climbed the steep as - cent of heav'n Through per - il, toil, and pain.



Who pa - tient bears his cross be - low— He fol - lows in His train.
He prayed for those who did the wrong— Who fol - lows in his train?
They bowed their necks their death to feel— Who fol - lows in their train?
O God, to us may grace be giv'n To fol - low in their train!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt. Tune: Henry S. Cutler, 1824–1902 Text and tune: Public domain

+ Sermon +

What Does Jesus Bring?

Offertory p. 192-193

Psalms 51:10–12

**☐ (sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.**

Offering

Rite of Reception of New Members

Bryan & Kaite **Baer**, Colin, Bennet, Jesse, Alora (Profession of Faith)

Glen & Stefanie, Gregory, Isabelle, Oliva **McCarty** (from St. John's North Branch, MN)

Doug & Jan **Spoeerre** (transfer from Christ the King Luth., Memphis)

Lou & Karen **Trebus** (retired pastor, transfer from Celebration Luth., Seymour)

George & Linda **Walker** (transfer from Good Shepherd Lutheran, Ft. Myers, Florida)

Mel & Fran **Wehmeier** (transfer from St. Paul's Lutheran, Cheney, Kansas)

Katie **Wendorf**, Warrek (transfer from Trinity Luth., Ville Park, Illinois)

Greetings of Peace

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Prayer of the Church see colored insert

*Reminder for those watching at home to pray **The Lord's Prayer**.*

Benediction for those worshipping via the livestream.

+ Service of the Sacrament +

A Word to Our Guests and Visitors about Communion at Praise

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death and resurrection until He comes. Scripture warns that those who come forward to eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great spiritual harm. The Lord's Supper is also a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, any who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet to desire to receive the Sacrament (Communion), are encouraged to seek guidance from the pastor.

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

G And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy, p. 195

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C (sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The Words of Our Lord

Mt 26:26-30; Mk 14:22-26; Lk 22:14-23; 1 Cor 11:23-25.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My I body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My I blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

P (sung) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C A - men.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Agnus Dei, p. 198

John 1:29

C (sung) O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution

Please see our pastor for details about baptism, instruction, and vow of confirmation of our church's teachings prior to taking the Lord's Supper (Communion) at Praise.

Distribution Hymn: 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (see hymnal)

Distribution Hymn: 671 Sing with All the Saints in Glory

Distribution Hymn: 619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

Distribution Hymn: 637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

Nunc Dimittis, p. 199-200

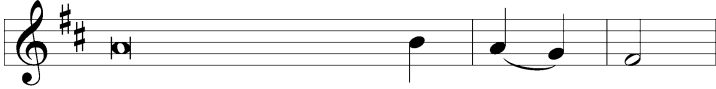
Luke 2:29–32

C (sung) Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1

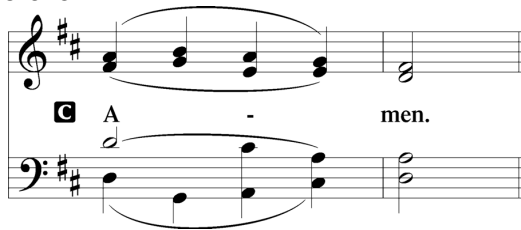
A (sung) O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P (sung) The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

A (sung) Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.



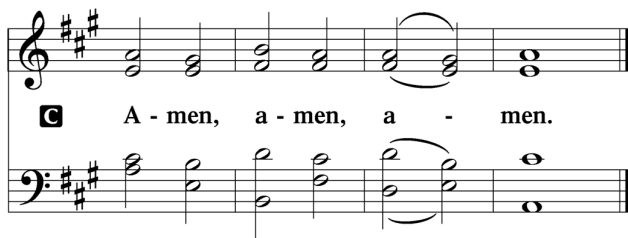
Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.



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Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS)

315 Southdowne Dr, Maryville, TN 37801 | (865) 977-5810 | praiselutheran.com

Office Hours | Monday–Thursday, 9:00 – Noon

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Church Calendar: praiselutheran.com/events

Online giving: praiselutheran.com (click the blue “Give” button)

Subscribe to our newsletter at the bottom right of the homepage, and visit us at:
facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch/ | youtube.com/@PraiseLutheran

Office Administration: Elissa Upward, officeadmin@praiselutheran.com

Pastor Derek Roberts, pastor@praiselutheran.com, cell: (865) 421-9988 (Day off: Fridays)

Director of Worship Arts: Caleb Hesse, caleb@praiselutheran.com

Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Vice President: Tim Nunnink

Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Gary Schauerman

Choir Directors: Caleb Hesse, Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson

For prayer requests to be added in the service, please submit by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays. If your contact info has recently changed, please let the church office know. Large print hymnals are available (please check with an usher for availability).



+ Prayers +

World: For **protection** and **peace**. For God to cease the wars between modern-day **Israel** and the **Hamas** and the conflict between **Ukraine** and **Russia**. For **fire, flood, and hurricane** recovery. For **Flood Victims** and their families in Texas and other states with storm and flood.

Concern for the Lost: For family and friends who do not know or have fallen away from the truth, grace, and love of the Savior, Christ Jesus.

Vocation: For **veterans and our military** for **Mason Burkett** (Mary Schopman grandson in-law) being deployed to Poland next week leaving behind his wife and new baby; military servants: **Carter Felt**, **Casey Lawson**, **Tyler Smith** and **William Smolter**. For our singles, parents, grandparents, and families. For our families expecting a baby: **Alex & Shelby Hicks**, **Luke and Blair Johnson**, **Elijah & Faith Miessler** (boy in Sept.), **Sam & Kate Bohnet** (boy in Aug.), and **Samual and Sarah Kropp** (girl in Sept.). For **those serving in hospitals and homeless shelters**. For **teachers** in our community schools. For our circuit's seminary students: **Aaron Wade**, **Sam Bohnet** (vicarage placement in Louisville, KY), **Daniel Bueckman**, and **Alex Ogden** (call placements). **Michael Saxton** was placed as a convertible vicar at Grace Lutheran, Knoxville. For **children and families** dealing with difficult situations due to drugs, alcohol, violence, abuse, stress, and strife.

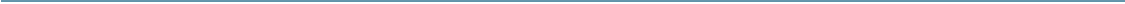
Recent Loss and Mourning: For the family of **Emma Lu Kerekes** (founding member of Praise) who passed on 7/25 (Memorial Service will be 9/6). For family of **Shelby Williams** (granddaughter of Jeanne Lindenfelser) who died tragically in July. **Shauna** (friend of Laura Bisconte) who passed away in Knoxville. **Ruth** (sister-in-law to Phil & Carol Barnett) who passed away in Wisconsin and **Ruth's grandson** who died in a car accident. **Mona** (Angela Gift's mother) who passed away in Alabama.

Health: For **Carol Ehrens** health and good days (hospice care at home). For **Joel Morsch** treatment for a brain bleed. For **Fred Hansen** recovery of strength and health. For **Bob Goodrich** diabetes management and heart health. For **Linda Davis** a fib treatment. For **Rhonda Heckman** recovering from back surgery and for **Bob Heckman's** health. For **Ed Hannah** good treatment of bladder cancer. For **Chuck Pettyjohn** for lung and heart health. For **Stephanie** (Larry & Cathy Wacker's daughter) for cancer treatment and stem cell treatment for **Kevin** her husband. For **Don Hammond** heart a-fib (Joan Large's son). For **Cole Hammond** (Joan Large's grandson) comfort in dealing with epilepsy. For **Marvin Arcari** (Paul Ruble's cousin, Will Wade's brother-in-law) hospitalized and awaiting biopsy results. For **Becky Hamby's brother** with a brain bleed, and another brother **Jeffrey Happel** with ongoing health issues. For **Sandy Bagley** health. For **Margaret** (Justin Gift's great grandma) in ICU. For **Pat Sweet** (friend of Ole & Mavis) fragile health condition. For **June McDonnell** recovering from falls and lung health. For **Tim Smith** heart and blood pressure health. For **Ted Frazier** headaches and blood pressure drops. For **Lee Schuck** and **Gus** taking care of her. For **Pam** (Jim Roberts's sister) heart and respiratory issues. For **Derek Bryant** (friend of Mary Schopmann) kidney reception. For **Ken Kropp** recovering from heart surgery. For **Kim Smolter** health. For **Gary Kubin** hip surgery rehab (now home). For **Ed & Barbara McGillick** health, pain and dizziness management. For **Haley Jenkins** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's niece) esophageal issues. For **Rachel Ernst** upcoming rescheduled surgery. For **Margarete** (neighbor to Jim & Maureen Roberts) dealing with advancing cancer. For **Ron Williams** (back at Foothills) and for his wife Pamela. For **Barbara Moyers** health. For **Marie Guinn** (Jennifer Kropp's mother) cancer treatment and health. For **Mary** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's daughter) health. For **June Latham** (Phyllis Bembas' sister) stroke and vision recovery. For **Fred Goddard** (nephew of Mary Ellen Brown) lung

cancer treatment. For **Carol** (Alex Hick’s aunt) frontal lobe dementia. For **Tom Williams** maintenance chemo treatments. For **Janeen Meier** healing for physical and mental health (Maureen Roberts’ sister and Pastor Roberts’s Aunt). **Debbie Johnston** kidney health. **Bob McDermott** dealing with Parkinson’s symptoms. For **Alan Stremsterfer’s mother** and **Lisa Stremsterfer’s father** health. **Aurora Stevens** back and shoulder pain treatments. For **Kathy Bigger** (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. Andrew Hebar’s Aunt **Kara** (health).

Birthdays: Carol E (8/17), Debbie S (8/17), Sabrina B (8/22), Jane N (8/22), Emily M (8/23), Tim S (8/23), Chris F (8/24), Bob M (8/24), Ray T (8/24), Donna C (8/25), Nicholas J (8/25), J J S (8/25), Chris B (8/26), Susan H (8/26), Alora B (8/27), Karen F (8/28), Gretchen R (8/28), Gracie S (8/30)

Anniversaries: Alex & Shelby Hicks (8/18), Seth & Tina Pierce (8/25), Derek & Gretchen Roberts (8/26), Al & Sharon Felker (8/28), Steve & Rebecca Keyes (8/28)



Church Operations & Christian Stewardship

Building Fund	2024 Receipts	2025 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$211,037	\$38,376	\$1,216,372
Pledged	\$179,106	\$42,744	\$1,065,270
Remaining	\$31,931 [over]	\$4,368 [under]	\$151,102 [over]

Build Project total cost: \$2,973,613 (approximately 38% funded).

Visit **praiselutheran.com/build** to see our build completion video! Gifts to the Build Fund are still encouraged (the extended Capital Campaign ends on December 31, 2025). Our total monthly mortgage payments to Lutheran Church Extension Fund: \$11,413 [breakdown: \$10,309 (new building) + \$1,104 (older building)].

Online Giving is available on our website, praiselutheran.com (see the Give button). You can set up recurring gifts to select funds. “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:7

To select **Kroger Community Rewards**, log in to your account at www.kroger.com, go to “My Account,” then “Community Rewards,” and search for and enroll in Praise Lutheran Church. From the Kroger app, tap the menu (☰), go to “Rewards,” then “Community Rewards,” and follow the prompts to select and enroll your chosen organization.

Children and Youth Ministry

Sunday School for all children and students, age 2 and up; begins at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays. *Confirmed youth are encouraged to join the Congregational Bible Study with Pastor Roberts in the Social Hall.*

Midweek Youth Group meets this Wed, Aug 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. *The following week, Aug. 27, we encourage all youth families (parents and youth) to meet in the Social Hall to discuss ideas and plan for the fall.*

Youth Catechesis begins Sun, Sept. 7 at 12:30 p.m. (followed by Sept. 14). Full calendar will be shared at first meeting. Grab or bring lunch. Bring your catechism and Bible.

Worship and Music Ministry

Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 3 at 6:00 p.m., where we'll explore a variety of choral music—hymns, spirituals, and arrangements—while strengthening vocal technique and growing as musicians. **Instrumentalists** are encouraged to connect with Caleb for opportunities in solo, chamber, and ensemble performances based on your availability.

Piano lessons are coming to Praise! Anyone age 6 and up (with a parent/guardian for children) is welcome to join instructor Caleb Hesse and explore the joy of piano playing.

For any questions and extra information, please reach out to our Director of Worship Arts, Caleb Hesse, at caleb@praiselutheran.com.

Congregational Life & Fellowship

Pastor Roberts will be away next Sunday, Aug. 24 (taking Sophia to college). Please welcome the Elders and Pastor Lou Trebus who will lead the services.

The next **Issues Class** meets at 9:45 a.m. in the Social Hall on Aug 24th discussing the *Church's role in Government* or a closer look at one of the texts from Sunday.

Veterans Pantry Donations are being accepted in the Narthex. All items will be delivered to the Office of Veterans Affairs of Blount County.

Interested in cycling and Christian fellowship? Join us for an interest meeting on Sunday, August 24, 2025, at 3:00 PM in the Social Hall to explore starting a Christian cycling group open to all riders, styles, and skill levels. Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or just getting started, all are welcome. For more info, contact Rick Gift at 865-274-2063 or gifthauss@gmail.com.

Today

Happy Rally Day! It's a day to rally around God's Word and give thanks for His work through the ministries at Praise, including the youth's experiences at Campfirmation and the National Youth Gathering. A heartfelt welcome is extended to new members as they become part of the church family today, with a potluck luncheon to welcome them following the 11:00 a.m. service.



As we celebrate today, there are also opportunities to serve and connect within our congregation. A form was recently shared in the emailed newsletter to gather interest, collect the church picnic headcount, and share info on family devotions using the Lutheran Service Book (with an option to order hymnals through the church). If you have not yet had a chance to fill out the form, it can be found at <https://forms.gle/nMMnDjnQgF4NS3z7> or by scanning the QR code.

This Week

Men's Bible Study on break until September.

Middle and High School Youth both meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Ladies Bible Study Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall with Barbara Morsch.

Pastor Roberts will be away this coming Wednesday through Sunday (taking Sophia to college at Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska). Please welcome Pastor Lou Trebus and the Elders next Sunday to lead the service.

Upcoming

August 21 (Thu) Men's Monthly Luncheon at El Jimador, 1705 E Lamar Alexander Pkwy.

August 23 (Sat) **Germanfest** Join First Lutheran Church & School (1207 N. Broadway, Knoxville) for their 11th Annual Germanfest on Saturday, August 23rd, from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Enjoy authentic German food, a beer garden, live music, and organ concert, along with a car show, wiener dog races, stein-holding competition, and more! Invite friends and family for a day of fellowship and festivities. For more details, registration, and volunteer info at: germanfestknoxville.com

August 24 (Sun) **Cycling and Christian Fellowship** at 3:00 p.m. (see announcement)

September 3 (Wed) Choir rehearsals begin

September 21 (Sun) Fall Picnic, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. More details to come.

September 26–28: Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) Fall Retreat in Tallassee, TN. For more details, please see the information displayed in the Narthex, to the right of the mailboxes.

October 24–26: Ladies Fall Retreat, A Heart After the Lord's Own Heart, will take place at the Tuckaleechee Retreat Center in Townsend, Tennessee. Guest speaker, Stella Beabout of Crossville, brings deep biblical insight and teaching experience, having studied Old Testament Exegesis in the Ph.D. program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. She has led many Bible studies and retreats across the region. Scholarships are available for those in need. To learn more, pick up a brochure in the Narthex or reach out to Kris Smith or Barbara Morsch.